

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 19, 2007

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2007 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman, George Graham, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Paul Taylor, Jr., and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey and Claude Stroud.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael Jarman, County Manager; Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager; Robert Griffin, County Attorney; Martha Martin, Grants Coordinator; and members of the general public and the news media.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Dalton Cox of the North Carolina Forestry Service updated the Board on forestry activities. Mr. Cox stated he would like to thank the Board for their support in helping the citizens of Lenoir County. The North Carolina Forest Service is responsible for the protection and development of all woodland in Lenoir County. Lenoir County's land area consists of 255,936 acres of which 101,700 acres is forestland. The Forest Services provides many services to the citizens of Lenoir County such as: emergency response, timber exams, financial incentives, nursery sales, fire prevention and fire control as well as information and education. Fire Control is the main concern for forestry services. For 2006 there were 15 wildfires resulting in 14 acres burned. There were 11 tickets issues for illegal burning and 300 burning permits granted. Due to the very dry conditions this year, these numbers will triple for 2007. Forestry services wrote 65 management plans for a total of 2,700 acres. Mr. Cox concluded his presentation by stating it is to everyone's advantage that forests are well managed for environmental, aesthetic and economical reasons. The Board thanked Mr. Cox and the entire Forestry Service Division for the hard work they do for the citizens of Lenoir County.

Mr. Bill Simmons discussed adding a road to the North Carolina Highway system. Mr. Simmons stated he has a subdivision in Grifton which he has owned since 1991. The road in the subdivision was inspected by the state, but state maintenance was not applied for at that time. In 2003 he petitioned the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for state maintenance – all work as been completed on the highway for state maintenance, but the Board of Commissioners must approve the request as well. Mr. Jarman stated he would like to discuss the matter further with NCDOT officials to make sure all procedures have been followed before the Board approves the request. The Board approved to table the matter until management comes back with a recommendation.

ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS

Item No. 1 was Items from the Chairman and County Commissioners. No items were discussed.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman reviewed minutes from the Lenoir County Planning Board and the Kinston-Lenoir Parks and Recreation Commission. Plant Manager, Jimmy Adams wrote letters to Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, Sheriff “Billy” Smith, and Mr. Mike Wiggins, Director of Lenoir County Buildings and Grounds for the work and services they provided to October 26, 2007 groundbreaking ceremony at West Pharmaceutical. Mr. Pope thanked everyone for his or her help in making sure the ceremony was a success.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Ms Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent agenda items.

- 3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: November 5, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
- 4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust and Agency Fund: Extension Family Caregiver: \$3,352: Increase Kelly/Hollowell
- 5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Library Expansion: \$6,027.04: Increase Jarman/Hollowell

RESOLUTION

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Modifying the Program Agreement for the District 8 Gang Prevention and Intervention Program Grant to Change the Administration of the Program from Family Court to the Methodist Home for Children. Tommy Hollowell addressed the Board and stated the resolution is to modify the program agreement of the District 8 Gang Prevention and Intervention Program Grant to change the administration of the grant from Family Court to the Methodist Home for Children. On July 16th the Board approved acceptance of this grant from the state, since that time Judge Beth Heath determined that an outside agency would be better suited to handle the day to day administration of the program. Mr. Joe Testino, Chief Court Counselor, will be completing the monthly and quarterly reports for the Methodist Home. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Authorizing Contract with Grantham Geographic for ARCGIS 9.2 Training: \$4,750. Mr. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, addressed the Board. Mr. Parrish stated a new employee was hired in June 2007 for the Land Records Specialist position. This was a newly created position that combined the majority of the duties of the Land Records Manager and Real Property Transfer positions, thus allowing the Tax Department to not fill a vacant position. The new employee was a paralegal with extensive experience in land ownership/transfer situations, and was familiar with the ARCGIS software that the Tax Department uses for mapping of land ownership records. The new employee has completed a basic training course for the ARCGIS software, and has had some training from Grantham Geographic; the company that customized the ARCGIS 9.2 software for the Tax Department’s land records division.

At this time, Grantham Geographic has recommended a ten-day training program, to be spread out over the next three (3) months, to complete the training of the new employee on the ARCGIS 9.2 applications used by the Tax Department. The funds from which this training will be paid come from lapsed salaries and office supplies, so no new monies are requested. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property. Mr. Hollowell stated the County owns various properties that are of no useful value to the County. In accordance with procedures set forth in N.C. General Statute 160A-269, County Administration is requesting the approval of the Board to sell the properties through the negotiated offer and upset bid process. The sale of these properties will return them to private owners and add them once again to the tax scrolls. Upon a motion by Brown and a second by Harper, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item. No. 9 was a Resolution Approving the Extension of the Management Contract with Young Williams, P.C. for \$35,417. Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Social Services (DSS), and Mr. Ben Nicholson, Child Support Program Manager, addressed the Board. Mr. Nicholson stated before DSS entered into a management contract with Young Williams, P.C., the Child Support Program was not meeting Federal or State Program goals. Lenoir County's Child Support Program was ranked 87th out of 87 programs (ie last in the state). Recruiting for the Program Manager's position had proven difficult even though the County was willing to pay at the top of our range. On February 1, 2007, DSS entered a management contract with Young Williams, P.C. a Mississippi based Law Firm. They in turn hired Ben Nicholson to serve as the Lenoir County Child Support Program Manager. The Contract called for Young Williams P.C. to conduct a program review, to implement strategies that would increase overall child support collections by 15%, and to bring the program into compliance with Federal and State laws, regulations, and standards.

At the end of September 2007, the department's statewide ranking had increased from last to 66 out of 88 programs, a twenty-two point improvement. The department had 84.88% of our cases under order, thereby exceeding our contract goal of 84.42%. In October 2007, Lenoir County collected \$669,222.72 in child support payments, which was an increase of 21.37% when compared to the October 2006 collections. Young Williams, P.C. has already met or exceeded most of the contract goals and is on track to meet the remaining contract goals. Based on the outstanding success of this contract, we are requesting to extend this management contract through June 30, 2008. Please note that this continuation contract does not require a new appropriation as funds currently budgeted will be used for this purpose. Mr. Harper asked if the department is working on a long-term plan? Mr. Jones said the department was unable to recruit anyone for the position Mr. Nicholson holds. The Department was fortunate to obtain Mr. Nicholson who has 31 years of experiences. The department is hoping to be able to recruit someone to take Mr. Nicholson place by the end of the fiscal year. Upon a motion by Brown and a second by Stroud, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing the Lenoir County Health Department to Impose Fees for Environmental Health Services. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director and Barbara Sutton, Environmental Health Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Huff stated NCGS 130A-39(g) authorizes the local board of health to impose fees for services rendered. The statute requires the fees to be based upon a plan submitted by the local health director to the board of health with direct approval by the local board of county commissioners. The current schedule of fees was approved in March 1999. Proposed fees include an increase in the lot evaluation fee and the establishment of fees for inspecting and permitting private wells and to perform plan review of newly permitted food

establishments. The approval of revised environmental health department fees will bring the department in line with the current costs associated with these services and incorporates new fees. Mr. Taylor asked what account would the funds be appropriated to. Mr. Huff stated the funds would revert back to Environmental Health. Upon a motion by Stroud and a second by Davis, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. There are no applications at this time.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
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CURRENT VACANCIES:

- Lenoir County Health Board – One (1) Vacancy; (1) Veterinarian**
- Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy; ETJ Position**
- JCPC – One (1) Vacancy; 1-Juvenile Attorney**
- Lenoir County Planning Board – District 1, 3, & 6**
- CJPP – Four (4) Vacancies**
- Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**
- Lenoir County Transportation Committee – At Large Member – Business Community**

Mr. Harper commended all the staff and individuals who helped with the Visitors Center Groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Taylor stated several citizens had contacted him regarding an ordinance about barking dogs. Mr. Taylor has addressed the issue with the Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Taylor stated he would like a public nuisance ordinance regarding barking dogs be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Graham wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown the meeting adjourned at 5:05

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager