

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 1, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, 2014, in the Board of Commissioners' Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown and Commissioners, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse, and Linda Sutton.

Members Absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Robert W. Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Davis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administration of Oaths of Office: Lenoir County Board of Commissioners Newly Elected: By the Clerk of Court, Ms. Dawn Stroud:

Roland Best

Administration of Oaths of Office: Lenoir County Board of Commissioners Re-Elected: By the Clerk of Court, Ms. Dawn Stroud:

*J. Mac Daughety
Eric Rouse*

Mr. Hill congratulated Mr. Best, Mr. Daughety and Mr. Rouse, and thanked Ms. Stroud for the Administration of the Oaths of Office, and turned the meeting over to Attorney Robert Griffin.

Election of Chairman *Attorney Robert W. Griffin*
Ms. Sutton nominated Mr. Craig Hill with a second by Mr. Davis; there was no opposition to the nomination and no further nominees; Mr. Hill was named Chairman by unanimous approval of the Board – One Year Term.

Mr. Hill thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and stated, I look forward to serving for another year as Chairman. We had a very successful year and I am looking forward to the upcoming year.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Attorney Robert W. Griffin

Ms. Sutton nominated Ms. Jackie Brown with a second by Mr. Best; there was no opposition to the nomination and no further nominees; Ms. Brown was named Vice-Chairman by unanimous approval of the Board – One Year Term.

Ms. Brown stated, I look forward to continuing working with the Chairman and other members of the Board.

Mr. Hill officially called the December 1, 2014 meeting to order.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Ms. Sutton read a Resolution honoring Mr. Harold Thomas, DuPont Plant Manager. Ms. Sutton stated, Mr. Thomas has truly been an asset to DuPont and Lenoir County. This is indeed a pleasure and an honor to be able to present this Resolution. I worked with Mr. Thomas for about two years during the time when I was on the Board of Education. He's been an advocate for Lenoir County, and I don't think a lot of people realize how much of a blessing he has been. If it were not for Mr. Thomas, we would not have a DuPont here in Lenoir County.

Mr. Thomas stated, I am grateful and touched by this kind jester. I told Mark, if I knew I was coming to the Commissioners' meeting, I would have put on my Sunday best. However, I just put on work clothes since I have to go back to work. This is a surprise because I thought I was having a meeting with Mark. I would like to thank Mike Jarman and Mark Pope for all the work they have done to help our plant and our company over the past several years. In 2000, when it looked like we were going away and Dacron was shutting down its process, thirteen people decided to pull together and work on a new project called Sorona. Today that wouldn't exist if it were not for those 13 people. Our 13 people had a choice to make because this was a new product at DuPont that had never been developed. Although it had been conceived, no one had figured out how to do it, and we did. I hope Lenoir County will do the same going forward. You can take the high road or take the low road. We decided to become a "can do" plant and make this product work for the company and for the 13 people. Currently, we have a little over 100 employees working for DuPont, 50 resident contractors, and 50-60 other contractors that come and go. We have about 200 jobs with millions of dollars worth of investments. As we speak, we are putting in new equipment to grow that business. So we took 13 people, with nothing existing, and we went from nothing to a multi-million dollar business. The reason we were able to accomplish this is we decided to work together as a team, with no big I's or little U's within our plant, it's about team work. So if Lenoir County, Eastern North Carolina, and North Carolina work as a team, there is no telling what we can accomplish. We went from absolutely nothing with Dacron on its way out, losing a lot of jobs, to the point where we now a multi-million dollar business in Lenoir County.

Competing with other states was one of the things that really helped our business to grow in Kinston. During that time Mike Jarman was Economic Development Director and we went to Raleigh and asked for some assistance. DuPont did not care about the location of the Sorona plant. The question was, did the community really want us to be here, and they did, and that is why the plant is active. We had to work hard to make it as up to date as can be, and we proved that you can take a 60 year old manufacturing plant and modernize it. A lot of places would just tear the buildings down and move on, but we did not want that to happen to our plant. We wanted it to become a successful operation, and that is what we have done for the past 14 years. One of the keys that helped us to do that was Mike working so hard with us to get some economic development money because our competitors said no. If Mike would not have gone to bat for us back then, and went to the Board and asked for assistance, DuPont would not be here today, and neither would the tax base that it has generated. The other key thing we have done is provided a place for future growth. DuPont invents 800 to 900 new products every year. Sorona is one of those, and what we are trying to do is get more new products into this plant. We won't be successful if we don't keep our "can do" attitude. It's an honor for me to be standing here today and I am proud of what we have done. I thank you Commissioners for your support and thanks to economic development for trying to get other industries to come into this area. I have put in 45 1/2 years and it's time for me to do something else.

Mike Jarman, County Manager, stated, Mr. Thomas is a great friend and one who says everybody else does things, when in fact he has been the shepherd of the team. Mr. Thomas was one of the first of the 13 to get the product up and going. He was also a part of our team and it was him who dragged me all over Raleigh. If you hang with Harold, he will make you look good and all you have to do is listen to him.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated, Mr. Thomas has been a true friend and has always supported Lenoir County. We will miss him dearly. We could not have done it without him, and the DuPont facility wouldn't be here. On a good note, I was able to talk him into staying on our Economic Development Board. I know he will be a big part of what we do, and I am glad.

Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Thomas for everything he has done, and stated Lenoir County owes a debt of service to you. We look forward to continuing working with you as we move forward.

Ms. Brown read a Resolution honoring retiring DSS employee, Elizabeth Lofton. Ms. Brown stated, Ms. Lofton has been a very dedicated employee, and will be greatly missed. Many people do not know that every morning faithfully, Ms. Lofton opens Mock Gym at 4:30 a.m., prior to reporting to work at DSS, and I call that dedication.

Ms. Lofton thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to stay, come back, and stay again to serve the citizens of Lenoir County, both at DSS and also with Bill Ellis at the Parks and Recreation Department. It's been my pleasure to serve Lenoir County and I am ready for retirement.

Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Lofton for her service and wished her the very best in her retirement.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, the Resolutions for Harold Thomas and Elizabeth Lofton was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: November 17, 2014
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: \$903.00. Increase.
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Finance/Sheriff's Department: \$999.00. Increase.
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Sheriff: \$1,368.00. Increase.
5. Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 6 was a Resolution to approve Sheriff Ingram to enter into Mutual Assistance Agreements with outside law enforcement agencies. Mike Jarman, County Manager, stated, Sheriff Ingram was elected by the citizens of Lenoir County to serve as the Sheriff, effective December 1, 2014. This Resolution is needed so we can work with other counties providing mutual aid in several different areas, whether it's law enforcement or emergency services. When we have a new Sheriff we need to pass a Resolution authorizing it under his name so we can continue to offer and receive assistance from others. It is deemed to be in the best interests of the citizen of Lenoir County to adopt a reasonable policy and guidelines; whereby, reciprocal law enforcement assistance can be both rendered to and obtained from other governmental jurisdictions. Such reciprocal assistance is necessary for effective law enforcement for the protection of the citizens of Lenoir County. Because we work with other agencies, when we have a new sheriff we must authorize it under his name. Upon a motion made by Mr. Best and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Sheriffs' Department: \$12,483.00. Increase. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated, this budget amendment is for the Sheriffs' Department. Each year they receive an appropriation for SCAAP money.

The additional funds are received from the U. S. Department of Justice, and Office of Justice Programs, for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). These funds are awarded to Lenoir County to help offset expenses incurred by the County in housing undocumented criminal aliens or aliens of unknown legal status who have been convicted of at least one felony or two misdemeanors and have been incarcerated during the reporting of the award. By law these funds are restricted for use by the Sheriff. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution to approve the purchase of Tax Abstract Mailers from Perfection Business Forms & Systems in the amount of \$2,849.60. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated, this is an annual expense incurred by the Tax Department, and is required by North Carolina law. The funds are already budgeted. North Carolina General Statutes require owners of personal property to list the property in the county where it is located for property tax purposes. The abstracts/listing forms are needed to allow for an additional year of personal property listings by the citizens and businesses of Lenoir County. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution to approve an advertising contract with the Lenoir Memorial Foundation. Chris Harper, Transit Director, stated, the Lenoir Memorial Foundation wishes to enter into an advertising contract with Lenoir County Transit. The fee is based on a \$600.00 per month cumulative advertisement charge structure by Lenoir County Transit. One advertisement will be placed on eleven vehicles for a period of one year. The advertisement will focus on stroke awareness and we are anticipating net revenue of about \$4,503.57. Upon a motion made by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No 10 was a Resolution to authorize the Lenoir County Health Department to purchase Equipment from Cardinal Health in the amount of \$8,487.61. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated, Federal and State vaccine storage requirements for 2015 impose new refrigerator and freezer specifications. Expenditures of State Funds will allow us to comply with the 2015 vaccine storage equipment specifications. Non-compliance could result in suspension of our participation in the vaccine for the children's program. Since the Health Department participates in the Federal vaccine for children program, there are certain requirements a provider must abide by regarding the safe handling and storage of the vaccine. The Health Department is responsible for the replacement if it is lost due to expiration, spillage, waste, or if the power goes out, or the refrigerator dies. The inventory we maintain is in the tens of thousands of dollars and we would be responsible for replacing it. We can no longer purchase equipment from local vendors. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: Immunizations: \$8,565.00. Increase. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated, this amendment is to add additional funding which will allow the Health Department to implement an approved communication plan, purchase supplies, educational materials, and media space. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: \$8,790.00. Increase. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated, this amendment is to appropriate a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. These funds will be used to correct drainage issues, grade, and pave the parking lot of the Farmers' Market. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Ms. Kelly stated, Mr. Jarman wanted her to share information with the Board regarding the Holly Days Celebration, which will be held tomorrow. They are doing it a little different this year, activities will take place in the morning and afternoon, as opposed to the evening. It will end in the evening with the tree lighting ceremony. You can have breakfast at Sweetie Pies. Overland Gallery will offer some discounts and most of Heritage Landings' businesses will be open with discounts available. Harmony Hall will have lunch from 11:30am-1:30pm, offering shrimp and grits; however, you have to purchase a ticket. Santa is going to make a visit to Sweetie Pies and Stitches and Stuff around 3:00pm-3:30pm. They are having activities, including making cup cakes and craft activities. There is a \$25.00 fee. Cooperative Extension is doing something very similar at the Farmers' Market with the 4H program designing ornaments with the Frozen Theme from 3:30pm-5:30pm for \$5.00. Then at 6:00pm, we will be lighting the Christmas tree in front of the Court House, with the Boys and Girls Club Chorus and Parrott Academy Chorus performing. Rick Vernon will be hosting the event.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution to approve a purchase order with Gately Communications for removal and installation of radio equipment and furniture for the Jones/Lenoir County Communication Center project in the amount of \$13,787.00. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated, for the past two years, Lenoir and Jones County officials have been discussing and implementing a merger of the Jones County E-911 Center with Lenoir County E-911 Center. We need to bring the equipment back from the temporary location to our new equipment shelter. As part of the merger, an upgraded radio system is needed to enable and enhance communications with responders in both Jones and Lenoir County. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution to approve the purchase of 2 Cisco 48 Port High Speed Switches from CenturyLink in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated, as part of the Jones/Lenoir County Communications Center (JLECC) merger, new CAD equipment

will have to be purchased. It is recommended that we use a virtual connectivity to allow uninterrupted connectivity. In order to meet this requirement, two CISCO 48 port high speed switches need to be purchased and installed at each location.

The purpose of these switches is so the primary center can talk to the back-up center in Jones County. These switches are high speed and allow the CAD Computer Aid Dispatch staff in our regular center to talk to staff in Jones County. We can essentially have people sitting in Jones & Lenoir County dispatching and seeing the same information live. Upon a motion made by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15A was a Resolution to approve one new Social Worker II at DSS. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated, due to the complexity of the In-Home Service cases, we felt that an additional Social Worker position is necessary. The new allocation will be matched with TANF funds already in the current DSS budget. This position will not require any additional county funds. Last year there were several incidents in the Western part of the State involving the quality of work done by the DSS in the Child Welfare Arena. The Legislators have appropriated additional funds for this purpose. They have pro-rated the money for this year since we're getting it so late in the fiscal year. They are offering us \$39,314.00, which we will match with Federal TANF money, to hire this social worker, so no additional county funds are required for this position. The funding for next year's allocation has been approved. This new position will allow us to reduce our case loads closer to the State's standards. When our Social Workers get a call indicating a problem, they are the ones that will go out and make the assessments. Currently the Social Workers are averaging about 12 cases, and earlier in the year they were up to the 20s and we had as high as 25 cases at one time. The recommendation is 10. Our in-home Social Workers are currently carrying 13 cases and they were as high as 18 earlier in the year. We have had to work a lot of overtime to get our case numbers down to this current level, and overtime is not sustainable in the long run. The Legislators are giving us extra money to add a Social Worker. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 15A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: DSS: \$39,314.00: Increase. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated, this amendment is for the new Social Worker position and the funds will be 100% State funded. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 15B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution approving appointments of citizens to boards, commissions, etc. None at this time.

CURRENT VACANCIES: Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Optometrist

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hill asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board?

There were none.

Item No. 17 was items from the County Manager. Mike Jarman, County Manager, stated, the Association of County Commissioners asked him to show a video at the December Board meeting which should take about 7 minutes to view. Mr. Jarman stated he only had a couple of reminders and a correction to the Employee's Appreciation Luncheon. It says December 1st and it should read December 12th. We would like all employees to be there on time, so we can start promptly at 11:30am. The other reminder is for the Christmas Dinner with the Board. It is scheduled for December 15th at the Baron and the Beef at 6:00pm.

Item No. 18 was items from Commissioners.

Ms. Brown mentioned I will be in Raleigh tomorrow for the first meeting of the Mental Health Task Force. I asked the members of this Board, at the previously meeting, if you had any concerns as far as mental health, and if you would to get to me I would share them at the meeting. I have not received any. I have asked Emily Moore and some other members that sit on that Board for some suggestions or comments, so it's not too late if the Board has any you would like to voice your opinion on at the meeting.

Mr. Rouse stated, he was on a conference call today with DOT. Smithfield Way is back under construction. The contractor seems to be struggling, so they are projecting it to be finished sometime in the spring. Skinner's By-Pass is on schedule and they have everything down but the top coat and it will be paved all the way into town. Completion should take another three to four weeks once they relocate a lot of the traffic signals. The RPO met and there was really only one thing of concern. A Resolution requesting NC 11/903/24 and I 40 Corridor from Greenville to Fayetteville to be added to the NC basic transportation corridor and that affects us. They have it as the longest corridor of NC Highway 11/903 I 40/24 between Greenville and Fayetteville. This includes East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, Vidant Medical Center, and the NC Global Transpark. They are trying to link everything together to provide a strategic corridor with I 40, I95, Fort Bragg, and two of the largest agricultural counties, Duplin and Sampson County.

Ms. Sutton mentioned the LaGrange parade was great on Sunday, and reminded the Board of the upcoming Christmas Parades. Pink Hill will be on Sunday and Kinston's will be on the following Saturday.

Mr. Hill stated, the Board was given the suggestion of changing the meeting times on several occasions. I want to know how you felt concerning the issue. Should we remain the same or change the times?

Mr. Rouse made a motion to change the 4:00pm meetings to 6:30pm to make them more accessible to the citizens of Lenoir County.

Mr. Hill stated, he has looked at the proposal along with several different things, keeping one of the meetings in the day and one in the evenings.

Another question is do we stay on Monday's, and if so, we run into interference with the City Council. If we rotate the 9:00am and the 4:00pm times and we change the first meeting to the evening and second to Tuesday then we run into conflict with the City Council and the LCC Board of Trustees. If you move it to another night, we would start running into conflicts with other meeting times, so it's very difficult. I would say that the City Council does have their third meeting starting at 5:30pm as a work session, then they have a 7:00pm meeting.

Mr. Davis stated, he felt like the Board should leave it like it is. A few years ago the time was changed to evening times and it did not improve the attendance during the evenings.

Mr. Hill stated, when we have items that are hot topic items, people will show up for these meetings. In the past, when it concerns people, they have been here. However, I am open to moving it, but at the same time, we need to realize if we move to nights, there will be additional costs, such as Deputies, and employees, which might be a meaningful cost, but at the same time it is going to be an additional cost. In reality we are only required to have Commissioners meetings once a month. Again, do we let it rest and move on, or change the time?

Mr. Best stated, to his knowledge, Mr. Nix is the only citizen who has voiced his concerns regarding the meeting times not being accessible. It would be ok to change the meeting time if it was in the best interest of the community, but not for one person.

Ms. Brown stated, the Board has tried the change of time and we did not have any more people attend. I don't see the need at this time, because if people have issues or hot topics, they will be here no matter the time.

Mr. Jarman stated, staff will be here whenever needed for the meeting. We will have to do whatever the Board wants.

Mr. Rouse stated, how about if we move the second meeting of the month on Monday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Mr. Daughety made a motion to move the meeting time for the second meeting of the month from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Mr. Rouse seconded the motion. The question was called with the following voting summary: Daughety yes, Best no, Davis no, Hill yes, Brown no, Sutton yes, and Rouse yes. Motion approved.

New meeting times will be at 5:00pm on the second Monday of each month.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager