

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 5, 2006**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 5, 2006 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; Vice-Chairman Paul Taylor and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey and Wayne Pittman.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager; Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager; Robert Griffin, County Attorney; Lashanda Aytch, Clerk to the Board; and members of the general public and the news media.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pittman 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 addressed the Board regarding the Annual North Carolina Forestry Report. Mr. Cox thanked the Board for supporting the NC Forestry Service. 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 NC Forest Service provides emergency response, timber exams, technical assistance, marketing advice and numerous other services. The NC Forest Service tries to prevent the occurrence of forest fires in several ways. They constantly monitor weather conditions to determine when the risk of fire will be high and keep citizens informed of fire hazards. During the period of high fire danger, they conduct aerial and ground patrols to detect fire rapidly. They assist woodland owners with hazard reduction burning to reduce the accumulation of vegetation that provides fuel for forest fires. Mutual aid from local volunteer fire departments, Kinston Fire Department and Weyerhaeuser Paper Co. help keep fire loss to a minimum. There were a total of 22 wildfires in 2005; a total of 46 acres were burned. Nine (9) tickets were issued and 250 burning permits were submitted. The NC Forest Service has also assisted in hurricane relief in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. The NC Forest Service also provides forest management assistance. The forest management program assists Lenoir County landowners with detailed written management plans to establish, manage and enhance their woodland for timber production, wildlife, recreation and water quality improvement. Financial assistance is available to landowners interested in starting a new forest or improving an existing one. Cost share payments totaling \$79,534 were paid to 35 Lenoir County landowners through federal programs and the states Forest Development Program. Mr. Cox ended his presentation by stating forestry is one of the most important economic basis in Lenoir County. To continue to enjoy all the benefits of the forests, everyone must protect the present forest resources; estimate future needs and intensify our efforts to increase forest production. It is to everyone's advantage that forest are well managed for environmental, aesthetic and economical reasons. The Board thanked Mr. Cox for his presentation.

Item No. 6 was a Proclamation Honoring Lenoir Memorial Hospital's 100 Years of Service. Mr. Harper read the proclamation aloud for the members of the viewing public. Mr. Don Bolt, Chairman of LMH thanked the Board for the proclamation. Mr. Bolt stated the Board of Directors, employees and medical staff are dedicated to providing outstanding health care to the residents of Lenoir and surrounding counties. During the past year LMH has received three (3) major recognitions through Health Grades the national organization that evaluates healthcare outcomes. LMH was named one of the top 250 hospitals nationwide for outcomes in common diagnoses such as pneumonia, heartcare etc.; LMH was one of four hospitals in the state to receive this recognition. LMH has been recognized as a top hospital in North Carolina for general surgery outcomes. LMH has also been named as one of the best hospitals for heart attack patients. A national training film was completed at LMH and seen across the nation. Lenoir Memorial is a tremendous economic engine for Lenoir County; with 1200 employees they are the second largest employer in the county, with the largest payroll in the county totaling \$50 million. Because of LMH recruiting efforts, doctors employed at the hospital have increased from 60 to 110 over the past 15 years. Lenoir County has been provided excellent health care over the past 100 years, and LMH is committed to providing outstanding healthcare services far into the future.

Ms. Lucy Marston, Lenoir County Tourism Director, addressed the Board regarding upcoming tourism in Lenoir County. Ms. Marston stated Lenoir County has been published in the North Carolina Scenic By-Ways Newspaper, which is published only every 3 to 5 years. The Lenoir County Visitor's Center Plans have been drafted and submitted for approval. Ms. Marston has applied to be apart of the Motor Coach Association; this organization holds day tours through select counties. The Lenoir County "Smiles" Program has started; the program is designed to help initiate better service in the county's businesses. Hotels and restaurants are participating in the program. Cycle America will come through Lenoir County in October. Ms. Marston has applied for permits for two boat ramps at the Wildlife Center for better boat access on the Neuse River. The area high schools have received a grant to do a "Magical History" tour of Lenoir County; the tour will be filmed. Mr. Graham asked about promoting antique car shows in the county. Ms. Marston stated the county has a very good opportunity to explore the car shows in depth. A lot of calls have been received from groups wanting to hold these types of shows in the county. The tourism department has a link on the economic development web site and the Chamber of Commerce web site.

Mr. Ronald Davenport, and Mr. Neil Lassiter, of NCDOT, addressed the Board regarding the NCDOT Secondary Road Improvement Program Report. Mr. Lassiter stated NCDOT is behind on last year's secondary road improvement program. This year NCDOT will try to get everything up to date. Mr. Davenport reviewed last year's priority report for unpaved secondary roads. The following roads were addressed: SR 1816 Causey Road is 1.10 in length; SR 1730 Humphrey Road is 1.30 in length; the road behind Monrovia Growers will be constructed once all right-of-way issues are handled the road should be paved in the fall. Mr. Lassiter reviewed the 2006-2007 Secondary Road Improvement Program with the Board. Mr. Lassiter stated the total Anticipated 2006-2007 Total Allocation is \$1,415,000 for paving the secondary roads. The roads scheduled for funding are as follows: Pauls Path Road, Hugo-Grifton Road, Pioneer Road, Harvey Rouse Road, Garris Road, N. Charles Street, Charlie Herring Road, Barwick Station Road. Maintenance funds for stabilization, piping and paved road improvements total \$176,000; county wide surveys and right of way acquisition totals \$80,000 and overdrafts and other contingencies total \$99,000 making the grand total for completion \$1,415,000. All programs are subject to availability of funds, right of way and environmental review. If right of way is unavailable on any of the above projects, alternate projects will be set up in priority order. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, the 2006-2007 Secondary Road Improvement Program was approved.

Mr. Jimmy Edwards, citizen of Lenoir County, addressed the Board regarding loud music in Lenoir County. He would like the Board to make some type of amendment to the existing County Noise Ordinance to create stricter penalties for violators of the ordinance. Major Chris Hill stated Mr. Edwards could file a complaint with the Magistrates office and file a summons against the people responsible in his area.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: May 15, 2006 Aytech/Jarman  
Closed Session Minutes: May 15, 2006  
Budget Retreat Minutes: May 1, 2006
2. Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein Parrish/Hollowell
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Finance/Sheriff: \$5,315: Increase Jarman/Hollowell
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Solid Waste Management: Landfill: \$14,000: Increase Miller/Hollowell

**PUBLIC HEARING/LENOIR COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

Item No. 5 was a Public Hearing regarding the FY 2006-2007 Lenoir County Submitted Budget and Introduction of FY 2006-07 Lenoir County Budget Ordinance. Mr. Graham opened the Public Hearing at approximately 9:53 a.m. There were no comments made by the public. Mr. Jarman stated \$2 million was used from the General Fund Savings to balance the budget. The tax rate was increased by \$0.05 to cover the bonds approved by the citizens. Mr. Graham commended the Board and Department Manager’s for their input in putting the budget together this fiscal year. Mr. Graham stated the county has a very good budget considering the size and population of the county as a whole. Mr. Humphrey stated he is concerned about the \$3 million tax increase; he is a proponent of less government. He is against the county providing non-emergency transport; competing with private enterprise. Mr. Jarman stated the goal is to provide the best service to the citizen at the most affordable cost. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and second by Mr. Davis, the Board approved the FY 2006-2007 Budget by a 6-1 vote with Mr. Humphrey dissenting.

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCE**

Item No. 7 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Community Development: \$42,377: Increase. Mr. Jarman stated Lenoir Community College receives \$100,000 in Capital Outlay and the balance is rolled forward; this resolution completes this rollover. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Authorizing the Lenoir County Health Department to Execute a Purchase Order Contract to the Kinston Indians for Tobacco Free Night: \$3,600. Upon a motion by Mr. Pittman a second by Ms. Brown Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Parts and Repair of a 2006 Crown Victoria: \$6,314.49. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Server for Bar Coding Purposes: \$7,530.33. Major Hill stated during the past months the Sheriff's office purchased bar coding software and equipment to better track documents that pass through the Sheriff's office. During the process it was determined that the system would be better utilized if it was run from a dedicated server, which would store all of the bar coding data. In working in conjunction with the MIS Director, Joey Bryan, a server fitting the needs of the Sheriff's Office was configured and a price was obtained from CDS Networks and Services for the server and associated server software. The price is provided through a state contract, which CDS Networks provided. The total cost of the software and server is \$7,530.33. The funding for this purchase will come from the Sheriff's Civil Process service expense line. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Taylor, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing Pressure Washing of all Exterior Walls, Steps, Columns, Walkways, and Retaining Wall of the Lenoir County Courthouse: Boomer's Pressure Cleaning & Painting: \$8,500. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Harper, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving the Acceptance of a Lenoir County Transit (LCT) Pilot Project: Titled: "Project Transit." Mr. Joey Bryan, Transit Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Bryan stated the deviated fixed route would allow the bus to deviate up to (1) one mile off a fixed loop route. LCT will have bus stop signs posted in various areas of the route for the citizens of Lenoir County to be aware of the transportation services being offered. Initially the loop routes will be ran on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's, with a 30-minute loop running from 8: a.m. until 12:00 p.m., with an hour loop running from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Cost will be \$1.00 for the general public, and \$.50 for Senior Citizens possessing a valid Medicare card and photo ID. Advertisements through the newspaper, television, and brochures will be distributed throughout the areas of service. If service performs like we envision the county can expand dates and times to further increase the availability of public transportation to the citizens of Lenoir County. Mr. Humphrey stated he is concerned about the competition against the cab companies. Mr. Bryan stated the new program is just an extension of the Rural General Public (RGP) program. The new route will just maximize the profits for the program. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving the North Carolina Health & Wellness Trust Fund Commission – Community and School Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Initiative Grant (Phase III Teen) - \$102,050: (Total Grant Award - \$300,000 Over Three Year Period). Mr. Joey Huff, Lenoir County Health Director addressed the Board. Mr. Huff stated that purpose of the grant is to fund preventive programs to stop tobacco use in our county's schools. The grant will also fund programs with the African American churches to promote non-tobacco use amongst teens. Upon a motion by Mr. Pittman and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13A was a Resolution Authorizing Repairs and Mandated Upgrades to Underground Petroleum Storage Tank at the Lenoir County Courthouse: P & F Environmental, Inc.: \$3,615. Mr. Mike Wiggins, Maintenance Coordinator, stated the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources is required to certify that all underground petroleum storage tanks are structurally sound and have the necessary protective equipment and upgrades to prevent an environmental hazard. These repairs and upgrades are mandated by the State and the County must comply before certification can be issued. Failure to comply will result in the assessment of fines for code violations. Approval of this resolution will allow the encumbrance of funds and the eventual payment upon completion of the work performed. Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13A was unanimously approved.

## APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor and a second by Ms. Brown the Board approved appointing Mr. Earl Harper and Mr. Joey Bryan to the US 70 Corridor Commission. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
<b>Lenoir County Transit Advisory Board</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Appearance</b>	Carolyn Gray	<b>May 2008</b> <b>M: Brown</b> <b>S: Harper</b>
<b>Board of Trustees: Lenoir Community College</b>	Grady Bethel	<b>June 2010</b> <b>M: Brown</b> <b>S: Humphrey</b>
<b>Lenoir County ABC Board</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	Claude Stroud (Re-Appointment)	<b>June 2009</b>
<b>EastPointe Human Services Board of Directors</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	Rita Hodges (Re-Appointment)	<b>June 2010</b>
<b>Home &amp; Community Block Grant Advisory Committee</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	Audrey Tyson (Re-Appointment)	<b>June 2009</b>
	Ava Humphrey	<b>June 2009</b>
	Cora Mattocks	<b>June 2009</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP)</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	Earl Harper Dawn G. Stroud Meredith Golembieski Annette W. Strickland (Re-Appointments)	<b>May 2009</b>
	Carla Bass (Re-Appointment)	<b>May 2008</b>
<b>Kinston-Lenoir County Tourism Development Authority</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	Guy Smith (Re-Appointment)	<b>February 2008</b>

**CURRENT VACANCIES:**

**Lenoir County Health Board – One (1) Vacancy; (1) Veterinarian**

**Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy; Expired Term; Does Not Desire Re-Appointment**

**JCPC – One (1) Vacancy; 1-Juvenile Attorney;**

**Lenoir County Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy; Resignation: District Six**

**CJPP – Four (4) Vacancies**

**Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER/COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Item No. 15 was a memo from Mr. Jarman regarding Items of Interest. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham followed by common consent the Board cancelled the July 3, 2006 meeting. The July 17, 2006 meeting will be held as scheduled. The NACo national conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois in August; the state conference will be held in Winston-Salem in August or July. Mr. Graham stated that it is very important that everyone tries to attend the state conference in Winston-Salem this year. Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated the Economic Development web site is up and running and looks very good. June 30-July 5, 2006 the “Tall Ships” will be in Carteret County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Graham the Board adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch  
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager