

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 16, 2007

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 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; Vice-Chairman Paul Taylor and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey, and Claude Stroud.

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. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Sammy Hudson, Executive Director of The Refuge, and Mr. Jimbo Perry presented information regarding The Refuge. Mr. Hudson has been the Youth Director at Queen Street Methodist Church for the past 6 years. He has been very involved with activities going on with inner city youth. The Refuge was created through Son Set Ministries. The Refuge will be located just outside of rural Ayden, NC on one hundred acres with 1.7 miles of navigable creek. The Refuge is within an hour drive of Raleigh, Greenville, New Bern and Kinston. The site is not in Lenoir County, but the program should have a positive effect in Lenoir County. The Refuge hopes to attract 600 youth to attend summer camp from the inner cities for free. The Erasing the Lines organization will sponsor 2 additional camps that will go out into the cities. The Refuge will become a year round conference and retreat center. Mr. Hudson stated everyone involved with this project is very excited. Mr. Perry stated it was a privilege to live in Lenoir County and to live in a community where the leaders support projects such as The Refuge to reach out to the youth. Everyone associated with The Refuge believes in reaching out to children one at a time; we are hoping this project will augment that type of attitude. Mr. Henry Street, Director of the Pride of Rochelle Mentor Program, stated the Mentor Program would be sponsoring a Broadway Show for Black History Month. Funds received from the show will go towards sponsoring the Rochelle Mentor Summer Camp. The goal is to have 100 students enrolled in summer camp this year. The Broadway show will be held on February 16-17, 2007; each commissioner is invited to attend. All three gentlemen thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. The Board wished them much success with their upcoming events.

Certificate of Recognition of the Services of Eagle Scout Matthew James Stillwell. Mr. Taylor presented Mr. Stillwell his certificate and read it aloud for members of the Board and the viewing public. Mr. Stillwell thanked the Board for the recognition. The Board congratulated Mr. Stillwell on his accomplishments.

Mr. Harper updated the Board regarding overcrowding at the Lenoir County jail. Mr. Harper stated there had been two (2) meetings with officials of the judicial system and fellow Board members regarding the jail system. A resolution has not been created to date but discussions regarding the issue are still taking place. A full report will be completed shortly.

Mr. Taylor updated the Board regarding the Board of Elections issue. The State will be conducting a training session here in Lenoir County to ensure proper training of each poll worker. All poll workers will have to pass a test after the training session to they have the knowledge to complete/perform the job. Mr. Taylor stated the Chairman of the Board of Elections Mr. Bobby Waller would recruit more poll workers to ensure enough staff is on hand.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved the remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: January 2, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
2. Resolution Approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein Parrish/Board
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$437 Increase Jones/Hollowell
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Process Funds: Homeland Security Grant 03': Jarman/Hollowell
\$2,568: Increase in Appropriation

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 5 was a Public Hearing regarding the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Ms. Brown, the Board opened the public hearing at 4.23 p.m. Major Chris Hill stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office has applied for and received funds from the Local Law Enforcement Grant Program (LLEBG) for several years. The LLEBG has been eliminated and has been replaced with the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Because the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office is a disparate agency the Sheriff's Office and the Kinston Department of Public Safety must jointly apply for the grant. It is expected the Sheriff's Office will receive 50% of an anticipated total award amount of approximately \$24,649. No matching funds will be required for this grant. The Sheriff's Office is expected to receive \$12,324.50 from the JAG. With these funds the Sheriff intends to purchase (2) Vision Hawk digital cameras which will be installed in two patrol vehicles. The Sheriff currently has a complement of 12 Vision Hawk cameras. These cameras have proven to be invaluable when showing the intoxication of impaired drivers, the reckless nature of pursued vehicles, for evidentiary purposes such as at crime scenes, the movement of prisoners of both sex, and for internal matters. The cameras not only visually and audibly record information from the front exterior of the vehicle but also record information from within the vehicle such as the back seat where prisoners are seated. The cost of each camera is \$5500. An additional removable hard drive for each camera is \$200 per camera. Total cost for this project is \$11,400. Currently each patrol shift is assigned a Polaroid camera in which to take photographs of minor crime scenes and injuries sustained by victims of domestic violence. Polaroid photographs, although quick, are expensive and yield poor quality photographs, which have no ability for enlargement. The Sheriff

proposes to purchase four (4) handheld digital cameras, which will take a much higher quality, photograph at little or no cost. Stored photographs can be reproduced on a color printer. Each camera and its flash drive will cost approximately \$200 per camera for a total of \$800. There were no comments from the public. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, the public hearing was closed at 4:25 p.m.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown, and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of ten (10) Mobile Data Terminals (MDT): \$22,627.50. Major Hill stated the office is requesting authorization to execute a purchase order with Coastal Electronics, Inc. for the purchase of (10) Gateway M255-E computers (MDT's) and the associated equipment and services. Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) are laptop type in-car computer terminals that are seated in a mount and are connected to a wireless modem. The MDT allows the officer to enter and receive live data from various state and national databases such as the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Having this ability the officer can access vehicle registration information and determine the owner of the vehicle, his or her address, insurance information, lien holder data, registration status, etc. The MDT (after accessing a state or national database) can inform the officer if the vehicle or person is wanted as well as other important information. Currently the Sheriff's Office has several MDT's which have been in operation for over 10 years. These MDT's are becoming non-functional and the expense of repairing these older MDT's is not financially feasible. The minimum service cost for an older MDT is \$500. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Year 2007 Vehicle Valuation Service: \$4,002.09. Mr. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated the expenditure is an annual expense incurred by the county to update the vehicle pricing system. The pricing updates are needed to allow for an additional year of vehicles and the correction of values for motor vehicles, which are 1 year older as of January 1, 2007. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving a Contract with L.I.F.E. of North Carolina, Inc.: \$80,000. Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Social Services, addressed the Board. Mr. Jones showed the Board a 13-minute video presentation about STRIVE which was featured on 60-Minutes. Mr. Jones stated the Board is requested to approve a resolution to contract with L.I.F.E. of North Carolina, Inc. to provide Job Placement, Job Readiness, Job Development and Job Coaching services through its STRIVE program for Work First clients. L.I.F.E. of North Carolina is a non-profit group that offers Job Placement, Job Readiness, Job Development and Job Coaching services for Work First clients at DSS through the STRIVE Program. This is a nationally recognized program with a long history of successfully helping welfare recipients to find and maintain employment. The STRIVE Program focuses on changing individual attitudes away from welfare dependency and toward self-sufficiency through sustained and successful employment. L.I.F.E. of North Carolina contracts with many eastern North Carolina DSS's and has been an important partner with these counties in successfully meeting their Work First goals. When Work First was first initiated in Lenoir County, there were 1,800 clients; there are only 300 clients to date.

Mr. Chris Harper, Work First Employment Supervisor stated DSS has been in negotiations with STRIVE for 4 months. STRIVE is located in Greenville, NC; they will do the classes and job placement, and they will work with the participants for a lifetime. STRIVE makes sure the participants keep up the good work. It will be beneficial for Lenoir County to have this type of program in operation. Ms. Susan Moore, Work First Program Manager, stated STRIVE has had a 70% success rate in Wilson County. Mr. Graham asked if the other job placement services in Lenoir County could do the same job. Ms. Moore stated the biggest obstacle for the county's other employment agencies to overcome is the attitude of the participants. STRIVE is already equipped to deal with the attitudes of the participants of the program. Ms. Moore stated if only one person is helped through this program it would be well worth the money spent. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of one (1) Vehicle for the Emergency Services Department: \$22,616. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Dail stated the Lenoir County Emergency Services has one vehicle with very high mileage which is scheduled for replacement. The vehicle is a 1997 Ford Explorer with 156,000 miles. Staff has researched and determined that based on price and usage, a 2007 4-wheel drive Ford Expedition be purchased. The 1997 Ford Explorer will be replaced with a 2007 Ford Expedition 4-wheel drive, to be utilized by the Emergency Services Department. The state contract price of the Expedition is \$22,616. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to Execute a Purchase Order Contract to Trans-Verse, Inc.: \$5,880. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director stated the Board is asked to grant permission to Lenoir County Health Department to contract with Trans-Verse, Inc. for consultant services to develop a Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan per requirements established by CDC and NC Division of Public Health. The N. C. Div. of Public Health has provided local health departments with funding for Pandemic Influenza Preparation. Priorities are to include: 1) Pandemic preparedness planning, 2) Medical surge capacity development, 3) Mass prophylaxis, 4) Isolation and Quarantine, and 5) Communication. CDC's Critical Tasks related to these priorities include 1) Prevention 2) Detection and Reporting, 3) Investigation and 4) Control at local levels. Activities supported by this funding are to continue to accomplish planning, exercising of control and response measures, communications and recovery capacities for pandemic influenza response on a local, regional and statewide level. The action is necessary to provide sufficient accounting of expenditures and to comply with applicable laws. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Taylor, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Requesting Authorization to Utilize N.C. Division of Public Health Vaccination Initiative Funding: \$8,838. Mr. Huff stated as part of the state's continuing efforts to assist local health departments to provide quality immunization services to targeted populations among the residents of N.C., the state has provided funds in the form of a one-time award to the local health department to conduct off site immunization clinics for the purpose of administering short dated MCV4 (Menactra) vaccine to any high school student intending to attend residential college, regardless of financial or insurance status. This action is necessary to provide sufficient accounting of expenditures and to comply with applicable laws. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving Continuation of Office of Minority Health and Health disparities Grant – Adolescent Diabetes Prevention Program – (Closing the Gap) - \$25,087. Mr. Huff stated the grant was initially awarded in FY 2005-2006 to address the issues of children between kindergarten and 12th grade who are overweight or diabetic. The purpose of the program is to assist youth with developing a healthy lifestyle including physical activity, nutritional awareness and self-esteem building. This action is necessary to provide sufficient accounting of expenditures and to comply with applicable laws. This action is requested in order to utilize the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Grant funding in order to continue to support the Adolescent Diabetes Prevention Program. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second Mr. Graham, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Authorizing the Award of an Engineering Services Agreement to The Wooten Company – NTE: \$5,825. Mr. Jarman stated at this time there is only one sewer district active, Deep Run Sewer District, with a total of 91 customers. Employees of the Town of Pink on a part-time basis are now handling the maintenance of the Deep Run Sewer System. The Town of Pink Hill has a contract with the District for the treatment of the wastewater. The billing to the customers is now being handled by the County's Finance Office based on water usage provided by Deep Run Water Corporation. Since this is the only sewer system active in the County at this time and since the Town of Pink Hill is handling most of the day-to-day operations of the system, the County and the Town of Pink Hill have agreed for the Town of Pink Hill to take control of the Deep Run Sewer System. The Wooten Company is familiar with the project since they worked with both the District and the Town of Pink Hill, and has agreed to handle all aspects of transferring the Deep Run Sewer System to the Town of Pink Hill. Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and Mr. Harper a second by, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15A was a Resolution Approving Payment of Funds to Greene County: \$18,741.83. Mr. Jarman stated North Carolina General Statutes requires cable companies to pay a 5% franchise fee to counties in which they operate. On June 5, 2006 Lenoir County received notification from NewWave Communications that when NewWave Communication acquired the cable system in Lenoir County from Enstar/Charter Communications, the subscriber data by franchise was transposed for Lenoir and Greene Counties. This resulted in the amount of franchise fees remitted to each county being transposed as well. The amount of franchise fees due Greene County was paid to Lenoir County through the third quarter of 2005, and vice versa. This error was discovered and corrected in the fourth quarter of 2005. Franchise fees received from cable companies are hard to audit since they are based on revenues received by the Cable Company. Lenoir County has reviewed fees received from NewWave Communications and verified that payments did increase significantly, the third quarter of 2005 and continued at this higher rate until December 2005. Greene County has also verified this error in fees received from NewWave Communications. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown, and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 15A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Finance: \$18,742: Increase. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 15B was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments.

| <u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u> | <u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u> | <u>TERM EXPIRATION</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Lenoir County Planning Board 2nd Appearance | Frank G. Swindell Ashely Jarman (Re-Appointments) | August 2009 M: Brown S: Harper |
| Lenoir County Economic Development Board 2nd Appearance | Mayor “Buddy” Ritch Harold Thomas (Appointments) | December 2007 December 2009 M: Brown S: Harper |
| Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) 1st Appearance | Walter D. LaRoque (Re-Appointment) | January 2010 |
| Eastern Carolina RPO 1st Appearance | Chris Humphrey (Re-Appointment) Need an Elected Official from Municipality | January 2009 |

CURRENT VACANCIES:

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

Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy

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

Lenoir County Planning Board – K-6 Precinct & At-Large

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

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER/COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ATTORNEY

Item No. 17 was a memo from Mr. Jarman regarding Items of Interest. Mr. Jarman stated everyone who plans on attending the NACo Legislative Conference should notify Ms. Aytch no later than January 19, 2007. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Stroud, Ms. Brown was selected as the NCACC Legislative Liaison for Lenoir County.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Ms. Brown, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 5:35 p.m. and the following cited: Number five (5) To establish or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other materials terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. The Board decided to take action on the purchase of commercial property in open session. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper, a second by Mr. Humphrey and unanimous approval, closed session was adjourned and open session reconvened at approximately 5:39 p.m.

OPEN SESSION and ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Davis, The Board approved the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property (Commercial); 200 South Queen Street: \$32,000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager