

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 19, 2007**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 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; 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 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Mr. Ken Jones, Director of EastPointe, updated the Board on Mental Health System Reform. Mr. Jones stated the mission continues to be making sure there are services available for the mentally ill. Over the past five years there has been a major transformation in service providers. Eastpointe is contracting with a total of 130 total service providers; and are currently serving 200 clients. Eastpointe feels the need to develop the community, develop more intensive services, and monitor clients more extensively. Eastpointe has a budget totaling \$20 million, which is state, federal and local dollars. Eastpointe has developed a plan for improvements in services over the next three years which include: improvements in transportation for clients, services for National Guard vets, more substance abuse services, educating clients on how to access the system, and the major goal is to make private providers more accountable. The state has not given much guidance in making the providers more accountable. The financial audit has been completed and Eastpointe is in good financial standing. Mr. Bob Canup, Finance Officer for Eastpointe, reviewed the audit information for the Board and members of the viewing public. The audit was an unqualified opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be obtained. Eastpointe runs a very financially cautious organization. Revenues totaled \$36,153,000; expenditures total \$33,407,000; revenues over expenditures totaled \$2.7 million. The Board thanked Mr. Jones and Mr. Canup for the Mental Health update.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Honoring Carolyn Gardner. Ms. Brown read the resolution aloud for the Board and the viewing public. Mr. Gardner is retiring with 30 years of service. Ms. Gardner thanked the Board for the resolution honoring her services. The Board wished Ms. Gardner well in her future endeavors.

Mr. Taylor presented Resolutions to Southwood and Hugo Volunteer Fire Departments Acknowledging the Reclassification of Insurance Ratings. Mr. Taylor read the resolution aloud for

members of the Board and the viewing public. Mr. Stroud presented Resolutions to Deep Run and Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire Departments Acknowledging the Reclassification of Insurance Ratings. Mr. Graham asked what is the process in getting the insurance rates lowered. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, stated a lot of work goes into getting the fire rates lowered in each district of the county.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Humphrey pulled Item No. 7 for clarification. Mr. Hollowell explained the Budget Ordinance Amendment in depth for Mr. Humphrey and members of the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, the Board approved the Consent agenda by a 6 to 1 vote with Mr. Humphrey dissenting.

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: February 5, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$451 Increase Jones/Hollowell
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: CJPP-Day Reporting Center: \$900: Increase Early/Hollowell
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (Immunization Program) Increase: \$8,838 Huff/Hollowell
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Recreation: \$18,250: Increase Jarman/Hollowell
6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (Adult Health Program) Increase: \$25,087 Huff/Hollowell
7. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General/Capital Improvements: Community Development: \$30,000: Increase Jarman/Hollowell

**RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Authorizing Emergency Replacement of ten (10) Ton Heating and Air Conditioner Compressor in Cooperative Extension Building: Ed Phillip’s Inc.: \$3,299. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Baseball Equipment for County Recreation Programs: \$5,687.20. The baseball equipment is to be used in six (6) athletic leagues in the county. Bids were received from three (3) vendors and the lowest bid was accepted. This equipment will be used for youth baseball season. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Harper, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing the Lenoir County Health Department to Execute a Purchase Order Contract to Trans-Verse, Inc.: \$6,930. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director stated the

Board is asked to grant permission to Lenoir County Health Department to contract with Trans-Verse, Inc. to conduct a tabletop exercise of the Lenoir County Health Department Pandemic Influenza Plan. A requirement of the state Disaster Preparation Planning Grant funding is that the Pandemic Influenza Plan be tested as an interagency exercise by May 31, 2007. 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. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by, Mr. Harper Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a New Server: Logics: \$8,750. Mr. Joey Bryan, MIS Director, stated Lenoir County's financial server has been operating for over 5 years. The real-time before failure rate on this equipment is listed at 4 years of standard operations. We are also in the process of doing an entire system upgrade of the financial systems software. It is necessary to move forward and put into place a server that has fail-over capability as well as the power to handle the new software. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving the Acceptance of a One-Year Extension of Contract: Applebus. Mr. Bryan stated in 2005 Lenoir County Transit (LCT) solicited through public notice, Request for Proposal (RFP), competitive proposals to secure professional transportation management services to manage, operate and maintain a countywide public transit system in Lenoir County. The system is structured to coordinate trips from the general public and provide demand type route services requested by human services' agencies within the county. The LCT entered into an initial two (2) year contract with the service provider Apple Bus Company with the option of non competitively negotiating renewal of the contract for up to two (2) additional one-year periods. LCT is approaching the first year of our two-year extension with Apple Bus Company. LCT has not only increased in miles and trips, but has increased in services provided to the Citizens of Lenoir County. LCT has currently implemented a Project which consist of a Deviated Fixed Route and is growing daily. Applebus Company has proposed for this first year extension period a five (5) percent increase per mile totaling \$1.46 per mile minus the \$.08 per mile which would equal to \$1.38 per mile based on the Vehicle Insurance reimbursement approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation beginning July 1, 2006 and Wait Time charges increasing from \$10.00 to \$10.50. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Haper, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Approving the Funding for the Alternative Monitoring Program; Hiring of a Liaison Deputy and the Purchase of Associated Equipment: \$49,677.25. Sheriff Smith stated the new officer would have to be trained to utilize the equipment and program. The position will pay \$40,000 per year and will be budgeted in the future. As of February 19<sup>th</sup> the jail population is 147 inmates, 35 misdemeanor, and 112 felony offenses. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and Mr. Davis a second by, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments.

<b><u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u></b>	<b><u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>TERM EXPIRATION</u></b>
<b>Kinston-Lenoir County Tourism Development Authority 2<sup>nd</sup> Appearance</b>	Jackie Brown (Re-Appointment)	<b>February 2010</b> M: Harper S: Humphrey
<b>Kinston-Lenoir County Parks &amp; Recreation 2<sup>nd</sup> Appearance</b>	Keith King (Appointment)	<b>March 2010</b> M: Humphrey S: Brown
<b>Lenoir Memorial Hospital 2<sup>nd</sup> Appearance</b>	Leslie Reynolds (Primary) Michel Haddad (Alternate)  Ray Collier (Primary) Randy Smith (Alternate)  Oscar "Skip" Greene, III (Primary) Loren Edwards (Alternate)	<b>January 2011</b> M: Brown S: Harper  <b>January 2011</b> M: Brown S: Harper  <b>January 2011</b> M: Brown S: Harper 5 to 2 vote for Oscar "Skip" Greene Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Taylor dissenting.

**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 – 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**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Stroud, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 4:50 p.m. and the following cited: Number four (4) To discuss matters relating to the location of expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the (public body). Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, a second by Mr. Harper and unanimous approval, closed session was adjourned and open session reconvened at approximately 5:15 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Harper, open session reconvened at approximately 5:15 p.m.

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

Item No. 16 was a memo from Mr. Jarman regarding Items of Interest. Mr. Jarman stated the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has adopted as their goals to look at other revenue options for counties. The local government burdens are increasing at a faster rate than the tax base is growing. The NCACC has proposed a Local Options Sales Tax to help fund public school construction. Mr. Jarman stated a ½ cent local option sales tax increase is being pushed by the NCACC and would require voter approval. If the sales tax is approved this would result in \$2 million for Lenoir County. The NCACC is also looking at a real estate transfer tax, which would be a 1% fee any time property is transferred. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud and a second by Mr. Taylor, the Board authorized the County Manager to continue discussion with state legislators to raise local options sales tax by ½ cent by a 6 to 1 vote with Mr. Humphrey dissenting.

The Board agreed to hold a Budget Work Session on March 5, 2007 after the Board Meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. The Board agreed to meet with the Town of LaGrange on March 12, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.; Town of Pink Hill on March 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.; for Budget Work Sessions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch  
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager