

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 5, 2007

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 5, 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, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey, and Claude Stroud.

Members absent: Jackie Brown

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Taylor, Ms. Brown who was at the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC was excused from the meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Lyle Holland and Mr. Lonnie Blizzard of the Lenoir County Battlefield Commission discussed the relocation of the Civil War Soldier Statue. The Commission recommends that the statute be moved to the Lenoir County Information and Visitors Center. The statue has been moved a number of times with its current location being at the Richard Caswell/CSS Neuse State Historic Site. The Commission would like the statue move one final time to the permanent location of the Visitors Center where the First Battle of Kinston was fought. The State of North Carolina must grant the Commission permission to re-locate the statue. The Commission is looking for support and permission from the Board of Commissioners in relocating the statue. Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor and a second by Mr. Davis, the Board approved supporting the movement of the Civil War Soldier.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Taylor, the Board unanimously approved the Consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: February 19, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
Closed Session Meeting: February 19, 2007 Aytch/Jarman
2. Resolution Approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein Parrish/Hollowell
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (Food and Lodging): Huff/Hollowell
Increase: \$10,712.45

4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Library Expansion: Hollowell/Jarman
Increase: \$71,220.67
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: School Capital Fund: School Building: Hollowell/Jarman
\$830,306.83: Increase

RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Supporting Medicaid Relief for Counties. Mr. Harper read the Resolution aloud for members of the Board and the viewing public. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Taylor, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Supporting Local-Option Sales Tax for Education. Mr. Taylor read the Resolution aloud for members of the Board and the viewing public. Mr. Graham asked if the motion is passed and implemented would the County be able to relieve the citizens of the 5-cent property tax burden, which was recently implemented through a countywide bond referendum. Mr. Jarman stated that if the measure is passed the county could back off the 5-cent tax burden. Mr. Humphrey stated he could not support the resolution because the North Carolina Lottery Commission has not committed the funds toward education appropriately. Mr. Humphrey stated the voters in Lenoir County have approved a 5-cent property tax for schools, and a portion of the county's sales tax already goes toward school construction. Mr. Graham stated the Resolution gives the county the option of decreasing the tax-burden to the citizens, without this option, the county can not decrease the tax burden. Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 7 was approved by a 5 to 1 vote with Mr. Humphrey dissenting.

Item No. 8 was an Amendment Resolution Approving the Acceptance of a One-Year Extension for the Management, Operation and Maintenance of a Community Transportation System per Contract Extension Clause and Authorizing the Execution of Said Contract Extension to Add Article 5. Mr. Joey Bryan, Transit Director, stated that Article 5 gives the county the option to re-commit the original contract to another entity if Applebus was ever bought or sold. It gives the county the option to opt-out of the contract. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper, and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of Land by the Lenoir County Board of Education. Mr. Jarman stated the Board of Education wants to purchase land, but it has to be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The land is located at 2666 H. C. Turner Road, Pink Hill, North Carolina. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey, and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Addendum to the Sales Tax Audit Contract Dated October 18, 2004 with Tax Reduction Specialists: Sales Tax Re-allocation Audit. Mr. Hollowell stated the resolution is an extension of the original contract initiated 5 years ago. Without this audit tool the county would not know if sales tax revenues were being distributed adequately. This resolution extends the contract one additional year. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper, and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing FY 2006-2007 Purchase Order for the Emergency Medical Division's Vehicle Maintenance: \$20,000. Mr. Wesley Carter, Emergency Services Coordinator, stated the EMS Division uses Pope Automotive for vehicle maintenance. EMS has moved monies to another line item in order to encumber monies for a purchase order to be executed by Pope Automotive. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud, and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving Acceptance and Execution of Contract for Independent Audit Services per Proposal Dated February 20, 2007: Fiscal Year 2006-2007: \$37,000. Mr. Hollowell stated Pittard, Perry and Crone, Inc. of LaGrange, NC has conducted the county's audit for the past 13 years and have done an excellent job. This resolution extends their contract for one additional year with a cost of living increase of 2.7% over the prior year's contract. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey, and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Group III Mgt., Inc. of Kinston, NC for the Design, Construction, and Construction Administration of a 40,000 Square Foot Industrial Shell Building: \$1,324,000. Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated bids were advertised twice for the construction of the project. Group III Mgt., Inc. was the lowest qualified responsible bidder. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper, and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved. Mr. Pope stated Lenox China had to lay-off 46 employees which is very unfortunate. Lenox China was bought last year by Department 56. Lenox China has been a wonderful corporate citizen to Lenoir County and the citizens should stand behind them during this tough time. Mr. Pope encouraged everyone to buy Lenox products.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 14 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>
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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

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER/COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ATTORNEY

Item No. 15 was a memo from Mr. Jarman regarding Items of Interest. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of their upcoming meetings with the Town of LaGrange and the Town of Pink Hill on February 12-13, respectfully.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager