The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 10, 2020, in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Lenoir County Courthouse, 130 S. Queen Street, Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Linda Rouse Sutton, Vice-Chairman Roland Best, Commissioners, June Cummings, Mac Daughety, Preston Harris, Craig Hill, and Eric Rouse.

Members Absent: None.

Also present were: Michael S. James, County Manager, Joey R. Bryan, Assistant County Manager, Vickie Freeman King, Clerk to the Board, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Call To Order

Chairman Sutton called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Harris offered the Invocation, and Mr. Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Sutton reviewed the procedures for election to fill vacant Board seat and opened the floor for nominations for member for Board of County Commissioners.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Daughety, and one dissenting vote by Mr. Harris, Ms. June S. Cummings was appointed as Commissioner filling the vacant Board seat.

Administration of Oath of Office was administered by Clerk of Court, Ms. Dawn Stroud:

Ms. Cummings stated she was humbled and honored to be present today. The honor today is more than being a part of the body; it’s sitting in the seat that a dear friend Reuben Davis held. She has known Mr. Davis for many years, and he did love Lenoir County and the citizens of Lenoir County and he worked diligently to make the county a better place for all. Therefore, it is an honor to be able to sit in this seat. She promised to do her best to work as hard and to look out for everyone.

Chairman Sutton read the following statement from the NC Ethics Law “It is my duty to remind members of the Board that it is your responsibility to avoid all conflicts of interest and potential conflicts of interest as defined in the North Carolina Ethics Law. As public servants, it is your duty to continually monitor, evaluate, and manage your personal, financial, and professional affairs in such a way as to ensure the absence of conflicts or potential conflicts. Does any member know of any conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, with respect to any manner coming before the Board?”

Public Information

Ms. Sutton acknowledged the names, department, and years of service of county employees.
Mr. Jeff Harrison, DSS Director, introduced several members of DSS one Program Manager, and two members of the Investigation Team that would be sharing information regarding Public Assistance Fraud. Ms. Valerie Williams shared a quick overview including the following topics via powerpoint: program integrity, purpose, referrals, types of claims, intentional program violations, trafficking, methods of collection, DA referral process, Lenoir County fraud cases based upon December 2019 data, fraud types and programs, December 2019 collections, total pending collections by programs, and incentives.

Mr. Rouse asked where does the funds go once the agency receives from collections? Mr. Harrison replied back in the general fund.

Public Hearing:

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, a Public Hearing Regarding Economic Development Grant Agreement: Aircraft Solutions USA, Inc. opened at 9:29 a.m.

Ms. Keely Koonce, Economic Development Specialist, stated Aircraft Solutions USA, Inc. has stationed themselves in Lenoir County at the Global Transpark. It is an aerospace industry. Aircraft Solutions will be investing over $118 million in our community and creating 475 new jobs. The average salary will be $47,000. The grant will be a total of $3 million paid over ten years. The first payment would be following the investment and reporting to the Lenoir County Tax Office. Please keep in mind this is a performance-based agreement.

There were no questions or comments made by the public or Board regarding the grant agreement. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Harris, the public hearing was closed at 9:35 a.m.

Public Comments

Ms. Barbara Dantonio, visiting from Wayne County, former chairman of the Democratic party, current president of Wayne County Democratic party, as well as past chairman of the Wilson County Democratic Party for several years. Ms. Dantonio stated she is not unfamiliar with the appointing process carried out by the Board of Commissioners. When Ms. Crawford informed her that the Democratic party in Lenoir County appointed her, she was very excited and offered her support. She has known Ms. Crawford for several years. Ms. Crawford informed her there was some talk of her age, and the forefathers age was above and below 40. Therefore, age should not be a deciding factor or problem. She is shocked and appalled and she would be remised if she did not ask why was Tiffany’s name not brought up since she was the actual nominee. She does not understand how Ms. Cummings, knowing that her party nominated Tiffany, did not support Tiffany. What has happened today is a result of backroom deals, which is not needed anymore and this is a democracy and this Board knows better. Therefore, during the upcoming elections, she will be out knocking on doors in the corners of Pink Hill, and Deep Run getting information out so that she will be on this Board because this Board has done a great disservice to her and the people in the democratic party that voted for her. She would like an explanation of why Ms. Tiffany Koonce Crawford name was not mentioned today. They need to take a look at themselves because what took place today was a democracy and what she witnessed this morning was not, and she thinks Ms. Cummings owes Ms. Crawford an apology.

Ms. Sutton stated a revised Resolution was added to replace Item No. 4 for an amount change.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Harris, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.
Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Hill, the regular agenda was unanimously approved for Items 12-14.

Additions/Deletions or Adoptions to the Agenda

A revised Resolution was added to replace Item No. 4 for an amount change.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of December 2, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes. King/Bryan
2. Resolution Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property. Howard
3. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to Purchase Two Pharmaceutical Refrigerators and One Blood Draw/Immunizations Chair: $10,538.29. Brown
4. Resolution Approving a Four (4) Year Lease with Dell Financial Services and Issuance of a Purchase Order for 61 Devices: $28,350.30. Faasii
5. Resolution Approving the Execution of Purchase Orders: Dell EMC: $17,009.32, SHI $28,531.10, Cott: $2,880.00. Rich
6. Resolution Approval of a Past Fireworks Show for Riley’s Landscaping Christmas Party in the Town of LaGrange on December 14, 2019. J. King
7. Resolution Approving the Bid for Cosmetic Repairs Needed at Lenoir County Emergency Services Station EMS 1 located at 4066 Sharon Church Road: Holland’s Home Improvement: $6,644.70. J. King
8. Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Dell 86-Inch Smart Screen Dell EMC: $10,000. J. King
9. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Grant Awards for Hurricane Florence Recovery: $97,801. J. King
10. Resolution Approving Economic Development Grant Agreement: Aircraft Solutions USA, Inc.: $3,000,000. Koonce
11. Resolution Approving a Purchase Order: Lenoir County Admin Building: Bryan
Hydro Clean: $3,870.

New Business

12. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Two (2) Bids for Lots Declared Parrish As Surplus Property by Lenoir County Tax Department. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

13. Proclamation in Support of National Radon Action Month in Lenoir County, Brown NC. Upon a motion by Ms. Cummings and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

14. Resolution Authorizing a Change Order on the Contract between Lenoir Bryan County and Group III for the Pre-cast, Installation, and Repairs on 30 Steps and Knee Walls on Courthouse Renewal Project: $33,737. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Appointments

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. None at this time, therefore, no action is required.

Other Items

Item No. 16 were items from Mike James, County Manager. Mr. James stated the regular monthly Planning and Inspections and Transit reports were attached for review. Also, as mentioned in the weekly report, he would like for the Board to review the draft copy for the Board of Commissioners Policies and Procedures and Roberts Rules, which is a simple reference guide that reflects Boards operations and state statutes. Each commissioner received a Commissioners Handbook and if anyone has any ideas or information they would like included, please let him know. Mr. James stated in regards to the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education, and it is a unique idea and way to improve the relationship between both boards. A first meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th. Mr. James will add Commissioner Harris to the working group since he is the commissioner’s liaison for the schools.

Upon a motion by Mr. Harris and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved for the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education “Working Group.”

Meeting Adjourned at 9:56 a. m.

Respectfully submitted, Reviewed by,

Vickie F. King Joey R. Bryan
Clerk to the Board Assistant County Manager