

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 20, 2017

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2017, in the Board of Commissioners' Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Vice-Chairman Linda Rouse-Sutton, Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Roland Best, Reuben Davis, Mac Daughety, and Eric Rouse.

Members Absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Joey R. Bryan, Assistant County Manager, Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Officer, Vickie Freeman King, Clerk to the Board, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Ms. Sutton offered the Invocation and Mr. Davis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hill welcomed the audience and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of retired Sgt. Nelson Blizzard who recently passed away

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Ms. Sharon Axelberg, Kinston Host Lions Club, introduced Ms. Avery Taylor to share information regarding an upcoming event.

Ms. Avery Taylor, stated she is 14 years old and a freshman at South Lenoir High School. Ms. Taylor stated she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes on October 11, 2015. She would love for everyone to come out and support their diabetes "Strides" event. Ms. Taylor stated she attended Camp "Needle in the Pines" this past summer and was able to meet other young people like herself with Type 1 diabetes. She is excited about the opportunity to raise money so that other kids with diabetes can participate in the camp. She invited the commissioners and the public to join them in their effort to heighten the awareness of diabetes. The money raised will stay here in Eastern North Carolina, to provide scholarships for Camp "Needle in the Pine", as well as help with the purchase of insulin pumps and diabetes supplies. Individual teams and corporate sponsors were needed to continue touching the lives of those living and coping with diabetes every minute and every day of their lives.

Ms. Sutton read the Proclamation regarding Diabetes Awareness Day.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Proclamation Strides was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sharon Axelberg, stated they would hang the proclamation with pride for the community. She hopes everyone will be able to join them as they fight diabetes, which is the leading cause of blindness. Ms. Axleberg stated she wanted everyone to know people with diabetes are the same as everyone else, except they are insulin powered. Most have to live through insulin shots or insulin pumps. She stated the pumps are very expensive and donations enable them to purchase and provide diabetic items such as pumps for children and adults that cannot afford them. The event will take place at the Woodmen Community Center on Saturday, March 25, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., and again they are in need of individual teams and sponsors. Ms. Axelberg thanked the board for their support.

Mr. Hill thanked both Ms. Axelberg and Ms. Taylor for their time and stated the board is always excited for guest and especially young adults, and he hopes the event is a huge success.

Mr. Dean Horne of Carr, Riggs and Ingram, LLC addressed the audience and presented the FY15-16 audit and financial statements of Lenoir County to the Board. Mr. Horne stated since the audit contained 168 pages, unless anyone specifically objects he would not go through each page, however, he will be glad to entertain any questions. Mr. Horne briefly discussed information from pages 5-12 titled Management's Discussion and Analysis which gives one an idea and a better understanding and comparison of what went on this year versus last year. Mr. Horne explained the opinion of unmodified versus unqualified. In the past, the term was referred to as an unqualified opinion but now it is called an unmodified opinion. He stated the standard report is used when no discrepancies are found so it is unmodified. If you find discrepancies, then you modify the report to explain the findings and it becomes modified. Mr. Horne then shared information regarding the recording of how the county expended funds. He shared information regarding reports, stating the four reports are like in the past, with the former auditor's reports copied, but on front of the actual financial data with the three reports in the back relating to how the county reported, received, and encountered funds which were spent in federal and state grants. He highlighted all four separate audit reports and said all four reports are considered unmodified, which is what the county should strive to have. Even though the county took a small hit it in the fund balance, it was not a significant one and that they were still in line with last year's percentages. Mr. Horne shared financial information from page 21 of the audit detailing how the year went for the county. Mr. Horne stated overall the county had a pretty solid year. Mr. Horne told the group if they had any questions concerning the audit, to feel free to call his office for further explanation.

Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Horne and everyone who took part in the budget. He realizes it was not an easy task to get the county through this year at that level. He appreciates the way administration handled the county money.

Mr. Jarman stated he appreciates the actions from the board that allows them to make the decisions necessary. It would be very nice to be able to come out every year by putting several million into the fund balance. They wanted to keep things as tight as possible so they are not charging extra taxes, etc. It is feasible to have a year where you might put some in and the next year maybe take some out, nevertheless, it comes out of the assigned fund balance specifically for that purpose.

Mr. Jarman stated all of the departments did a great job. Mr. Jarman thanked Ms. Chestnut, her staff, and department heads for the hard work that was done to get the budget in the shape it is in.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: February 6, 2017.
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (Adult Health-MAT): \$628.
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (Adult Health-FP) Line Item Transfer: \$2,161.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Bill Whaley, Transportation Chairman, thanked the board for allowing him to be a part of the transportation committee. It is quite fun and it makes you feel like you have helped the citizens. At their next meeting, they will be working on a long-term transportation plan to coincide with the first traffic plan the county has had. It is quite an undertaking and will probably take another year before they come to the board with specific information. Several things projected will be growth, population, and employment numbers. Mr. Whaley mentioned they do not have that information, however, he wanted to share with the board since it will be forthcoming.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution in Support of Improvements of NC 55 at NC 11 and SR 1341 (Tyree Rd) by NCDOT. Mr. Bill Whaley, Transportation Chairman, stated they are asking for board concurrence for the approval. The design is yet to be determined. From what he understands there are currently four designs available. It doesn't form a perpendicular like other intersections, it is almost like an X. Again, this is a safety concern that DOT has. After the meeting, they provided the transportation committee with data stating that thirty-six accidents have occurred at that intersection since 2012 including four fatalities, and fourteen injuries. The accidents mainly involved passenger cars and pick-ups. Again, at this time they do not have a design and this is only a recommendation to approve an upgrade at this intersection. Mr. Rouse read the proclamation.

Mr. Daughety stated for clarity, any design from the committee will be brought before this board for approval. Mr. Hill replied, yes. Mr. Rouse stated one of the designed was a round-about, one was extended rights, and another was offset traffic lights. Mr. Hill stated he grew up in that area and it is a dangerous intersection. When you merge coming north people crossing over and coming over for some reason there have been a lot of accidents that cross over even with the light. It's been bad.

Mr. Daughety stated in its existence, as it is now, it's a lot safer than some of the alternatives mentioned. He hoped they will do a very thorough study before coming back to the board with the design, because they are going to have to prove to him it is safer than what's out there now. Ms. Amanda Conner shared copies with the board of some of the suggested designs. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 4 was approved with 1 dissenting vote by Mr. Daughety.

Mr. Hill reminded the board that the resolution was only allowing the transportation committee to take a look at safety issues and allowing the board the right to review and being able to approve the final design. Mr. Jarman stated not only is DOT looking at the safety aspects of it, but they are also looking at every aspect of it before making any decisions.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution in Support of Improvements at the Crossover of NC 11 and SR 1161 (Albrittons Rd/Green Haynes Rd) by NCDOT. Mr. Bill Whaley, Transportation Chairman, stated the transportation committee did not have any data for the board to consider other than both projects are safety recommendations that come from state DOT. There have been accidents, mainly crossing over when you are going from one way to the other. While they are asking for the board's concurrence, they don't have the exact design for the improvements. At this time, they recognize there is a need to upgrade the intersections. The plan will probably involve extended right turns coming and going in both directions. Mr. Rouse read the resolution. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sutton asked Mr. Whaley if he would be bringing back the designs before the board. He replied yes. Mr. Daughety stated on behalf of the citizens on the southern end of the county, they appreciate the transportation committee and DOT coming up with an option to help solve the problem because this is badly needed.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving a Van Transfer (vehicle #763) from the Lenoir County Transit Department to the Parks and Recreation Department: \$5,000. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director, stated the Parks & Recreation Department has an 8-passenger van that is 15 years old with very high mileage. This van is used to transport children, seniors and athletic participants to recreation sponsored programs and athletic events. The van has over 185,000 miles on it and is no longer safe to use. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Authorizing Maintenance Buildings/Grounds to Execute FY16-17 Purchase Order to Stallings Plumbing, Heating and AC Company, Inc.: \$14,750. Mr. Chris Harper, Special Projects Manager, stated all requests of \$2,500 or greater require the approval by the Board of Commissioners. The department desires to replace the existing 7.5 ton HVAC system (1 Unit) at the Lenoir County Health Department. Parts of the current system are over 30 years old and have exceeded useful life parameters. The system is no longer operational. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8. was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (General-WIC): \$3,740: Increase. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to allow the Local Health Department to further enhance the ability to continue with the objective of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). This program provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health care for low-income persons during critical periods of growth and development. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving the Amendment of the Lenoir County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance adopted July 6, 1992. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the current Lenoir County Animal and Rabies Control Ordinance was adopted July 6, 1992. As adopted, Article III-Definitions does not include a definition that establishes a minimum standard for housing or sheltering a dog outside. Reports of “inadequate shelter for dogs” is a frequent complaint of ‘animal neglect’ received by the health department’s animal control program, particularly during extreme weather-related events; heat waves, cold spells, and freezing/frozen precipitation. The enforcement option available to the Animal Control Officer is citing the dog owner, if the only shelter available for the dog meets the ordinance’s cruelty requirement as an act. Omission, or neglect on the part of the owner that deprives the animal of shelter or otherwise subjects the animal to conditions detrimental to its health or general welfare or seek voluntary compliance through education and persuasion if there is no cruelty violation. With an effective date of May 1, 2017, dog owners or people in possession of a dog determined by a Lenoir County Animal Control Officer to be in violation of this amendment will be allowed up to thirty (30) calendar days to comply with the amendment upon issuance of a dated notice of the violation. The bottom line is currently, our ordinance is fragile in establishing or identifying what someone would consider adequate shelter for someone to maintain their dog outside of their home on their property.

Mr. Jarman asked Mr. Griffin, if he would shed some light on this situation, since this is a 1992 ordinance and we don’t get exposed to amending many ordinances.

Mr. Griffin stated the particular rule is, an ordinance can only be amended when at the same meeting that it’s presented if the vote is unanimously for it. Therefore, you can vote on it today, and if it were unanimously approved then it would go into effect. Or the board can consider this to be the first reading and bring it back at your next meeting to vote. Mr. Rouse suggested to bring it back because Mr. Huff stated that it was open for public comments. Mr. Huff stated it would be important that they have public comment, because the local SPCA would like the opportunity to present, and they also have received a written statement from a local veterinarian member appointed to the board of health, also, there might be some dog owners available. Mr. Hill stated this is probably something that they should try to do because it would help anyone trying to enforce it and certainly it’s not an overwhelming burden on a pet owner and it’s a very minimum standard. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, to leave Item No. 9 open until March 20, 2017 and allow Mr. Huff to bring it back to the board at the March 20, 2017 meeting was unanimously agreed.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to Execute a Purchase Order to Contract with Patagonia Health for the Implementation of an Electronic Medical Record (EMR). Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Medicaid, Medicare, and other third-party payors require healthcare facilities to transition from hard copy medical records and implement an EMR system to avoid penalties, delays in processing claims, reduced payments, and denial of paper claims. The Division of Public Health has awarded Lenoir County Health Department a one-time \$20,000 grant to assist the agency with the transition from our current paper medical record system to implementation of a Meaningful Use Compliant EMR. Staff have reviewed demonstrations by three commercial vendors, Henri Schein, CureMD, and Patagonia, and visited three local health departments and observed both the CureMD, and Patagonia EMR's. Based on staff recommendation and review of the EMR proposals, the Patagonia EMR is our recommendation. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$20,000: Increase. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to increase the budget agreement addendum to make available \$20,000 to qualified health departments based upon need, so that 100% of all local health departments can submit population health and program service data to Department of Public Health. The transition of this electronic health record system should be by May 31, 2017. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving Acceptance of Extension and Execution of Contract for Independent Audit Services: Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C., LaGrange, NC: \$47,000. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Officer, stated on May 5, 2014, the board accepted a proposal from the certified public accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C. of LaGrange, NC. They were to conduct the annual financial audit and continuing disclosure of Lenoir County for Fiscal Year 2013-14 at the cost of \$44,400; Fiscal Year 2014-15 at the cost of \$45,200; and Fiscal Year 2015-16 at the cost of \$46,100. Carr, Riggs & Ingram L.L.C.'s proposal represented the lowest cost to the County of all proposals submitted. The county has contracted with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C. (formerly Pittard, Perry and Crone, Inc.) to conduct their fiscal year audits for the past several years with only a marginal increase in cost each year. The Finance and Human Resources department began a software conversion at the beginning of FY 16-17. Carr, Riggs & Ingram is familiar with the new software system and the accounts and practices of the County. The purpose of the request is to extend the FY 16-17 audit contract to assist staff members with the transition to the new software during audit examinations. The finance office will solicit new proposals for FY 17-18 audit services in 2017. Upon a motion by Mr. Best and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of One (1) Replacement Raised Roof Van: Creative Bus Sales: \$58,481. Ms. Angie Greene, Transit Director, stated on December 26, 2016, Lenoir County Transit Vehicle ID# 1FTDS3EL1DDB29850 was involved in an accident. The adjuster for the insurance company determined that it was a total loss. The insurance company took possession of the vehicle and will be issuing a check for the amount of \$35,086.22. The replacement vehicle will be paid for partially with these proceeds. The remaining \$23,394.78 will come out of Lenoir County Transit's Fund Balance. Since that loss, Lenoir County Transit has had a difficult time meeting the transportation needs of some county citizens. It has also been difficult to accomplish preventive and unscheduled maintenance for the fleet. The purchase price for a similar vehicle with two wheelchair stations is \$58,481 from Creative Bus Sales, formerly National Bus Sales & Leasing. If there is no replacement vehicle, the total amount of the insurance payment must be returned to NCDOT/PTD since the vehicle lost had not yet met its useful life. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Authorizing Hugo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. to Purchase One (1) Pierce Saber Custom Cab Fire Truck: Pierce: \$429,988. Mr. Samuel Kornegay, Emergency Planner, stated the board is requested to authorize Hugo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. to purchase a Pierce Saber Custom Cab Fire Truck from Pierce for the amount of \$429,963. They will be securing a loan for \$375,000 with a \$54,963 down payment. The contract signed between Lenoir County and the Volunteer Fire Departments states that any purchase of fire apparatus over \$100,000 must be approved by the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners. This apparatus will be replacing a 1984 GMC German Pumper/Tanker. Factors for replacement include the age, call volume, and high cost of maintenance of the truck. The staff has met with the Hugo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. and discussed financial records. The truck will be purchased for \$429,963 from Pierce Manufacturing, with a \$375,000 loan from Local Government Federal Credit Union, and Hugo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. will provide a \$54,963 down payment. The overall loan amount will also include the payoff for Ladder 32. The \$375,000 will be financed for nine- (9) years with a 2.75% fixed rate. Staff recommends the purchase of the 2017 Pierce Fire Truck for a total price of \$ 429,963. Hugo Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. will provide a \$54,963 down payment. These funds will be provided from fundraising revenue. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Order for Tax Collector to Advertise 2016 Taxes Which are a Lien on Real Property. Mr. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated General Statute G.S. 105-369(a) requires the tax collector to report to the governing body the total of unpaid 2016 taxes that are liens on real property and the governing body shall order the tax collector to advertise such tax liens. The total of unpaid 2016 taxes that are liens on real property is \$2,622,705.91. We will advertise these tax liens in the newspaper on March 29, 2017. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Davis asked what percentage of the \$2,622,705.91 will be collected. Mr. Parrish replied, generally by three years out from the current year they are at 99% on the collection rate, so this will be about 92%. Mr. Parrish stated the majority would be collected by June 30th of this year. Once they send the notices out it becomes a busy time for the next 30 days. Mr. Hill asked Mr. Parrish if he will bring a report back to the board in about three months to give them an idea of what's been collected on the outstanding balance. Mr. Hill stated he felt it would be good for the citizens to know that information. Mr. Jarman stated, as Mr. Parrish mentioned, it has been customary for the past several years. Within three years you're at 99% and with the tax records that have been on the books for ten years, they can collect on them and out of the ten years they typically receive 99.9% plus interest and penalties. Mr. Hill stated either June or July would be fine to receive the report as an update of where the county stands on collections. Mr. Daughety asked for an update on re-evaluations. Mr. Parrish stated they are getting in the short rows. They are scheduled to be finished with all of their reviews by the end of this month and they are close. The first couple of weeks in March they will be doing discrepancy check reports, and fine tuning, and from there the plans are to send the notices of value out the last week in March. Mr. Daughety asked how it is looking. Mr. Parrish stated he did not have any exact figures. He did talk with the city council, and the residential market in the City of Kinston has been down these past few years. They will be decreasing there, so obviously, that's going to make the county down a bit. What we have seen is the values out in the county have pretty much been holding their own, some areas might drop some and others might rise a bit. It will not be a dramatic change in the county. Mr. Parrish stated from what he has been told, this is probably the toughest re-evaluation, and it is only the second one he has dealt with, and it is tougher than the first one. Normally when you go eight years you might have a couple of bad years but over an 8-year period there will be a bit of appreciation. The past five years have been a hit and miss. Some areas did ok and some areas have been depressed for a while, and that will show up in this re-evaluation.

Item No. 16. was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Ms. Sutton stated since this is the first appearance for both applicants there is no action required at this time.

Item No. 17 was items from the county manager Mike Jarman. Mr. Jarman stated the board would find the regular planning and inspections reports, transit reports, and the financial summary reports are attached.

Mr. Jarman stated during the last meeting, he asked the board for approval of Dunn and Dalton Architects to provide the plans for the Live Stock Arena. During that time, there was some discussion from Mr. Rouse concerning a source mentioning some funding could be available for building a building that could include others and receiving payback. After further consideration and making contact with a source we found out that some funds could be available for building a building that included others and getting payback from the federal government, but the initial \$3 million outlay would have to come from this board. Financially the county does not have that type of capital outlay. Mr. Jarman stated he wanted to let the board know he did pursue that question.

Ms. Sutton asked if that meant they would move forward with the Extension Office. Mr. Jarman stated there are two different situations, the Live Stock Arena, and the Cooperative Extension office. Mr. Jarman stated he asked this board to approve the resolution because he knew there was a scheduled show coming up at the livestock arena. Based on the numbers that came in from the initial estimates, and due to the construction of the building and the needs of the building, it makes sense to see if they could flood-proof the building. Mr. Jarman mentioned as soon as the storm was over they began to get estimates for both the livestock arena and, the cooperative extension office. Now we agree that it makes sense and that's the best thing to do and now we need to move forward with the livestock arena. We don't need to put it back like it was because there were roof issues, termite issues, and we want to clean up and make it a better building. We are still looking at the options at the Cooperative Extension building. We are trying to see if it makes sense to repair that building, build another building, or purchase an existing building. Although the insurance funds came in and maybe it might be the cheapest option to restore that building, you have to think if that's a wise use of that money when that building has flooded three times in the last seventeen years. We are trying to look at all options and make wise use of the money for the citizens on the Cooperative Extension building. We agree and are moving forward on the livestock building.

Mr. Daughety stated he would hope they would figure out how to expedite this issue. Because the people that depend on that Ag building they now have to come into town, and the staff that worked out of that building is up in a temporary office. He understands there is some thought of new buildings, etc. But since the county has the insurance proceeds he would like to see them expedite and try to get those people back into the Cooperative Extension building, flood-proof it and back to where they are serving the community as soon as possible.

Mr. Jarman stated in talking with the architect, to flood-proof that building might not be possible, because you will have to elevate it as well and you are looking at a huge cost. Why build a building that was state of the art twenty years ago, while replicated now, so twenty years from now we have a forty-year-old building as we were. We talked about the possibility of the open berm, but then you would have to hold everything and stop and check soils because if you build the berm around it, it could bubble up until its full. So, to flood proof it and put it back as soon as possible is not a simple comment. We understand some of the board members are receiving calls. We also realize staff are driving more miles if they live one way or the other, we also realize it might be aggravating having to work out of a temporary building, however, the citizens of the community would probably want to get the wisest and best use out of it.

Mr. Daughety asked if they decided not to go back there and either build or purchase do they have the money to do that. Mr. Jarman replied that they have the proceeds from the insurance and depending on the cost, there might be a currently vacant building that we could modify and give them a better facility than they have for less money. Unless we look into those things we will not know if we are spending the money wisely. If this board thinks it's the cheapest thing to do for them to go back into this building, that is what we will do. However, I will assure you the unwise use of the money is to build something back in the same place that has already flooded three times and may flood again. I don't know if that is smart, but we will do whatever this board says.

Mr. Hill stated he thinks it would be wise for them to take their time. He realizes it is frustrating but he would like to explore options and expedite it as quickly as they can. Watching the last flood and what happened with reimbursements and availability of grants and those type of things that occur being in a holding pattern while it seems difficult might be a wise move to move slowly. He knows of other communities that did that for other facilities that wound up getting more funds than they expected to get Rocky Mt is one example. In his opinion this community needs an Ag center, that not only handles cooperative extension but also is much larger than that, but we are not ready to move in that direction yet. We do have counties around us that have done that. He likes to see them continue to look at options that are available and expedite as quickly as we can.

Mr. Daughety stated his concern is we are at the end of February, and the flood was back in October and we are saying let's take our time. Mr. Daughety stated ideally for him, he loved to see them fix the building as quick as possible and get the people back in it get it back serving its purpose. After that as a board and county sit down and plan out a ten- year plan, or a twenty- year plan to build an Ag center somewhere else.

Mr. Jarman stated the county has a \$1/2 million insurance proceeds to put it back just like it was.

Ms. Sutton stated she understands where everyone is coming from, but she has a big concern. You are not going to get a hog farmer to come and go across town and go upstairs. Neither will you be able to get the elderly to come here and go upstairs and use elevators, and parking is not conducive. She is not saying they don't need to explore options, but if that's what they are doing they need to have somebody looking at buildings that are closest and comparable, close to the livestock building.

Mr. Jarman replied they had approached someone about a much larger property with a possibility of a donation, a one-story building, and other properties, but we can't make it happen overnight. We will continue to do what we are doing and continue to make calls. No one is dragging their feet on it, everyone is pushing as quickly as possible and we will continue to do that. If we need to do differently we will follow the directions of this board.

Mr. Hill stated this is similar to the school's situation and we can't continue in this community to keep going back to what's always been done. Change is important and is necessary and change takes time. He likes to see them walk themselves through it and make sure they explored all the options available that can possible put them in a better situation, and at the end of that, if you can't do it then go back to the drawing board.

Ms. Sutton stated they don't have anybody else in the county buildings that has a situation that they have nor that has to be retrofitted like that building has to.

Mr. Hill stated if they were not in an office and they couldn't function, he would say we got to get back in there asap. However, that is not the case. They have the ability to adapt and do the things that they need to do, they are operational. Although it may not be at the highest level, again, they are very operational in the current existing facility that they have. Ms. Sutton stated they do not have kitchens nor sewing machines. Mr. Hill replied he understands all of that. Mr. Jarman stated he understands their situation.

We have offered to see if we could rent another building on one level and was told that wasn't the ideal thing because they would have to move twice. We understand that, and we are still trying to find out what works better. Calls have been made to some local churches who have commercial kitchens to partner with them. Just like the school systems with the bond, you build a new school and close one down. We don't want to spend \$500,000 or \$600,000 on a building and then turn around and build another one because they will talk about you the same way too, and they would not appreciate that.

Ms. Sutton stated she is a bit concerned with the way they are moving forward because of how long it has been. Mr. Jarman stated he is trying to share what they have been faced with without stating specifics. Ms. Sutton stated she is trying to be realistic she would love to build an Ag building but don't know where the money would come from, if that's the decision they are waiting on

Mr. Jarman stated if we were to make a decision based on that he would tell the board they don't need to build a building at all. If there are existing buildings that might not be ideal that you'll put insurance money in the bank then you will have a building, but he doesn't think that is the best thing either. We cannot tell you which is better until we look at all of the options.

Mr. Davis asked if they would be able to use the livestock arena for the upcoming show. Mr. Jarman stated yes,. Once they receive the plans back, they will work with them to see what can be accomplished. It may be that they have to utilize porta potty's, and there may be some limitations, however, they are not saying that it will be completely ready in its natural state by then.

Mr. Daughety stated so that it is transparent to the public, the Coastal Live Stock Show will go on in that building one way or the other. Mr. Jarman replied yes, again, but it might not be as it was in the past, but by doing what they are doing, in the future, it will be new, improved, and better.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety a closed session was entered into at approximately 5:29 p.m. with the following cited: Number Four (4): To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County.

OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 5:36 p.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at approximately 5:37 p.m. Mr. Hill stated the Board went into closed session to discuss a potential industry in Lenoir County.

Ms. Amanda Conner, Economic Development Administrative Assistant, stated she is asking the Board to approve an Economic Development Grant Agreement with Barnhill Contracting Company.

She stated Barnhill Contracting Company was founded in 1949 by the late Robert E. Barnhill, Sr., Mr. Barnhill and his partner, RW Long, began clearing land, ditching and building irrigation ponds for local farmers. Three years later, Mr. Barnhill bought out Mr. Long's interest in Barnhill & Long and started one of the most successful contracting companies in the country, Barnhill Contracting Company. Widely recognized as a leader in the construction industry, Barnhill Contracting Company is the recipient of numerous awards including five Pinnacle Awards from the Carolinas Associated General Contractors—Best Highway Project (Highway 168, 1997), Best Building Project (Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 2001), Best General Contractor (2002), Best Building Project (Imperial Centre for the Performing Arts, 2006) and Best Building Project (Raleigh Convention Center, 2009). Barnhill employs more than 1,100 people and has 20 asphalt plants and 13 offices located throughout eastern North Carolina. Barnhill Contracting Company's headquarters is in Tarboro, North Carolina. The company has nine operating divisions and offers three areas of service: site development, commercial building and heavy highway construction. In 2014, Barnhill Contracting Company executed and fulfilled a performance agreement to establish an Asphalt facility in the Highway 70 West Industrial Park.

Barnhill Contracting Company wishes to establish a permanent division office and design lab in Lenoir County. The company will invest at least \$600,000 in non-depreciated capital investment in real property, machinery, and equipment and retain 16-20 full-time positions. The County would gift approximately 1.5 acres of land, defined as 1131 Enterprise Blvd. Kinston, N.C. 28504, owned by Lenoir County in the Highway 70 West Industrial Park. Barnhill Contracting Company locating a permanent division office and company design lab in Lenoir County will retain approximately 16-20 jobs and provide a capital investment of at least \$600,000 in real property and machinery and equipment. Facilitating this development will enable a business that has been in Lenoir County for over 60 years to remain a productive part of our community. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 18 Resolution Approving Economic Development Agreement with Barnhill Contracting Company was unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Joey R. Bryan
Assistant County Manager