MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 16, 2020

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 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 4:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Sutton read the from the NC Ethics Law statement.

Public Information
Judge Beth Heath, shared statistics and information via PowerPoint regarding the Family Accountability and Recovery Court (FARC) for the 8th Judicial District of Greene, Lenoir and Wayne Counties: Topics included the following: Family Accountability & Recovery Court, History of Drug Treatment Courts in NC, Funding, Drug Court Trends, Application for Enhancement Grant, How FARC Court Work, FARC Court Core and Community Team Members, How it Work, 8th District Guardian Ad Litem Program Data, FARC 2019 Data, Challenges, FARC Management Committee, Sustainability, and Contact Details.

Ms. Betsy Griffin, Director, Council on Aging, shared information regarding the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Livable States and Communities via PowerPoint. Topics included: Introduction, Network Profile, Eight Domains of Livability, Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect, and social inclusion, Civic participation and employment, Communication and Information, and Community support and health services. Program Cycle: Entering the network, Planning Phase 1-2 years, Implementation and Evaluation, Continuous cycle of improvements, and Network member benefits.

Public Comments
None

Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Harris, Item No. 15 Resolution for Blue Mountain Enterprises, Inc. was amended to reflect the revised changes.
Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, the consent agenda was unanimously approved for Items 1-13, and Agenda Items 14-20.

**Additions/Deletions or Adoptions to the Agenda**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of March 2, 2020, Regular Minutes
   
   
   
   
5. Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month.
   
6. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to purchase Computers for the pregnancy care management program (PCM).
   
7. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to purchase Screener OAE hearing diagnostic device.
   
8. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to purchase Diabetic prevention program (DDP) educational tools.
   
9. Budget Ordinance Amendment increase of state funding for BCCCP for Cancer screenings.
   


12. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Cooperative Extensions’ acceptance of Environmental Trust Fund (PETF) Grant and to purchase items for the personal protective equipment displays.

13. Budget Ordinance Amendment for insurance proceeds received due to water Damage from a malfunctioned fire sprinkler at DSS.

**New Business**

14. Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to purchase Vehicles for their daily operations. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.
15. Resolution Approving Economic Development Grant agreement with Blue Koonce Mountain Enterprises, Inc. $40,000. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

16. Resolution Authorizing the Lenoir County AARP & World Health James Organization Partnership. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved.

17. Resolution Approving purchase of Ford F550 Truck by Sheriff Office. Upon Ingram a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 17 was unanimously approved.

Appointments

18. Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Board Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, Mr. Micajah Anderson appointment was approved for Lenoir County Transit, and Dr. Pradeep Arumugham appointment was approved for Lenoir County Board of Health.

Other Items

Item No. 13 were items from Mike James, County Manager, thanked Jerri King, EMS Director, and Pam Brown, Health Director, for the information and guidance with information about COVID 19. Following the announcement made by Governor Cooper that all K-12 schools in North Carolina will be closed from Monday, March 16th – Friday, March 27th, Lenoir County Government is enacting the following operational adjustments for this same two-week period. If the situation changes and K-12 school closures are extended, we will provide further guidance at that time. County Administration and Human Resources are sensitive to the impact this may cause our employees who will be faced with making alternative arrangements for child care. During events similar to this, the County has activated Section 16 of our Personnel Policy, Adverse Weather, to provide flexibility to staff who will need to make personal arrangements to deal with natural or human-made events that impact normal operations. During the next two weeks, we will be operating under Adverse Weather, and although this is not a weather-related event, the impact is similar. In an effort to make sure that those who need to take time off because of school closures, we will provide flexibility to make up work time as outlined in Section 16, Subsection C “Make-up Provisions” in our Personnel Policy, beginning on Monday, March 16th. We have spoken to Department Heads, and they are preparing to work with staff members who are being impacted by this statewide K-12 school closure while maintaining our ability to serve residents. Here in Lenoir County, our Public Health and Emergency Services agencies are working to ensure we are prepared to provide services while dealing with any potential impact.

It should be noted that the risk of contracting COVID-19 in Lenoir County and the State of North Carolina is low, but preparations are still being made. Lenoir County Government will continue normal operations, while we closely monitor the Lenoir County Government will continue normal operations, while we closely monitor the situation. Our organization has shared a detailed “What You Need to Know” press release to the public on Friday afternoon to ensure that our residents have access to timely and, more importantly, accurate information. We are taking proactive measures as well and have asked our janitorial services contractors to provide a heightened level of disinfection on door handles, access points, and common areas where the public is entering our facilities. Our office will provide further communications to the staff as the situation warrants. Still, please know that we are in constant
communication with state and local officials to protect the safety of all. Mr. James stated he had contacted Bryan Hanks as the Public Information Officer who is on standby if the need warrants. Ms. Jerri King, EMS Director, stated with the ongoing concerns surrounding the VOCID 19 outbreak have prompted some protocol changes for Lenoir County EMS; therefore, Lenoir County is following protocol from the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services. Since Lenoir/Jones County 911 Center is a certified Emergency Medical Dispatch Center, they are able to integrate the new COVID 19 protocols into the dispatch process for 911 calls. Following the protocols provides guidance on what questions staff need to ask citizens and based on the answers determines the call as a high risk, etc. In regards to a high-risk call, EMS workers wear additional protective gear allows them to protect themselves and patients. Also, dispatchers would avoid sending first responders to high risk calls to limit the number of people potentially exposed to the virus. Ms. King stated while they are taking steps due to the virus, it is important for citizens to know the 911 Center, EMS, and the Sheriff’s Department are still available 24/7 to assist in emergencies. If citizens have questions or concerns about the virus please do not call emergency services 911 centers please call the Coronavirus Hotline at 866-462-3821.

Ms. Pam Brown, Health Director, stated Lenoir County Health Department are closely monitoring the COVID-19. At this time, she would like echoed on what Ms. King stated in regards to the safety of citizens. The risk to the residents of Lenoir County is low. They are working with public health partners at the state and federal level assessing this virus. COVID-19 has caused an outbreak of respiratory illness and was first detected in Wuhan China in late December 2019. Ms. Brown shared measures taken to prevent respiratory virus infections. The NC Department of Health and Human Services has compiled a fact sheet with frequently asked questions. There are currently 33 cases in North Carolina with no deaths. Continue to put in practice the washing of hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom. If anyone would like up to date information or COVID 19 general questions, please call the NC State Coronavirus Hotline at 866-462-3821 because the hotline is staffed by knowledgeable individuals who are available to provide any needed information.

Item No. 20 Items from County Attorney/Commissioners Public Comments/Closed Session (if necessary). Mr. Rouse shared Transportation Updates: TIP Projects, R-5703, NC 148 Felix Harvey Parkway Extension from NC 58 to NC 11 on the new location. It was awarded to Branch Civil, Inc. Approximately 80% complete. Contract completion date September 1, 2021, with an incentive for early completion. The contractor’s goal is in September 2020. The Bridge/Pipe Replacement is SR 1121 Davis Mill Road, Replacement of existing pipes with box culvert will be re-advertised.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed by,

Joey R. Bryan
Assistant County Manager