

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 17, 2017

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 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, Roland Best, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse, and Mac Daughety.

Members Absent: Ms. Jackie Brown.

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Joey R. Bryan, Assistant County Manager, Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Officer, Lashanda Hall, Deputy Clerk, 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. Rouse, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Rouse, to excuse Ms. Jackie Brown from the meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Mr. Andrew Odom, Founder of Tiny House NC, and host of the Tiny House NC Street Festival in Pink Hill, NC spoke. He stated the Tiny House Festival held this year on April 21-23 attracted over 5,100 people to Pink Hill, NC. People who are interested in tiny/small houses have joined that particular movement to show how alternative housing can transform the American landscape. He stated he was present to recognize an individual and office that has been a longtime supporter of Tiny House NC and the tiny house movement in North Carolina. Back in 2009, he and his wife came to this gentlemen's office wanting to build a tiny house on wheels and place it in Pink Hill, NC. Mr. Odom stated he is glad to say that it was his pleasure to work with Mr. Gary O'Neal. On behalf of Tiny House NC and the Tiny House NC Street Festival, he would like to present this plaque of appreciation to Gary O'Neal for his support and vision of the Tiny House Community.

Mr. Gary O'Neal stated he appreciates the plaque and he always tries to work with homeowners in doing what's needed to accomplish their goals. At this time, the state has not come on board one way or another with tiny houses, but he's been told within a year the State of North Carolina will come up with a chapter for tiny houses.

Mr. Ethan Cahoon, South Lenoir High School, one of three Civics Contest finalist spoke. He stated several months ago he visited one of the commissioner's meetings to learn more about county leaders and their jobs for a civics contest sponsored by the NC County Commissioners Association. At that time, he was merely a contestant. A few weeks ago, he was notified that he was one of three finalists in the competition.

One of the requirements of the competition is to speak publicly at a County Commissioners meeting prior to attending the NC Association of County Commissioners Youth Summit Annual Conference in Durham on August 11, 2017. Mr. Cahoon stated he is really interested in getting youths more involved in politics, specifically voting. Young voters are very important on all levels of government, and it is necessary for these potential voters to be properly informed. Many of the younger voters know very little about local, state, or national politics. Very often what they do know came to their attention through some form of social media. To show the disinterest shown by young voters in this county, Lenoir County had 37,997 registered voters in 2016 election, and in that election, less than 1% of those registered voters were ages 19-21. This percentage does not represent the young adult population very well. With this information, it appears that this group of potential voters needs to be enlightened and encouraged to exercise their voting rights. Mr. Cahoon stated he believes he can begin to educate locally and help make a difference to improve the statistics in Lenoir County. He thanked the board for allowing him the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Hill stated it takes a lot of courage as a young man to step in front of the microphone and speak to a group of adults, and he did it very well. We look forward to him representing the county in Durham at the annual conference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Emanuel Blount, Youth of the Year, stated he has been a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Kinston for over seven years. The Boys and Girls Club has had a huge impact on his life. The club has changed him in many ways. The Boys and Girls Club has made him into the young man he is today, and because of that, he is able to remain positive and active. He has learned to be respectful, helpful, courteous, outgoing, and caring which is not the person he was prior to joining the club. His relationship with the leaders at the club is one of mutual respect. He is grateful for the change, and the impact that joining the Boys and Girls Club has made on his life. He takes on responsibilities within the club to help out in any way in addition to being a junior staff. He is also active in the club's choir, other organizations, and the youth of the year program. He strives every day to be a great example to the younger members so they can have someone to look up to. Even though he is busy with high school, he finds the time to participate in many of the club activities. He is grateful for the opportunity he has had to be a part of a great club.

Mr. Hill stated he appreciated the work the Boys and Girls Club is doing, and is very proud of Emanuel's progress.

Mr. Eric Cantu, Veterans of Foreign Wars stated he wanted to share and praise Vietnam war veterans. In 2008 the National Defense Department authorized the contract to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Two years ago, they partnered with Lenoir County as a partner in this endeavor. During that time in 2015, they allowed that event to have a special day. They asked Mr. Rockie Lynne of USO Fame to come and do a concert for the veterans. This time they decided to do something a bit more fun. This year they will host Carolina Woodstock 2017, a Patriotic Music and Art Festival, August 18-20 at the Lenoir County Fair Grounds. The event will be free to all veterans with identification and military auxiliaries.

General Admission is \$20 daily or \$50 for a weekend pass. So far fourteen bands have agreed to perform. They are looking for food and arts vendors. Military displays, exhibits, America skydivers, and aerial flight teams will be available. For more information, please visit their website www.carolinawoodstock.com.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Cantu's organization for organizing this upcoming event to show praise and honor to those who have served our country.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: June 19, 2017.
2. Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 3 was a Proclamation Honoring Ms. Gwendolyn Bell Orr. Mr. Hill stated Ms. Orr will be turning 100 on August 1, 2017, and the family wanted to present her with the proclamation at a private event they are planning in her honor. Mr. Hill read the proclamation. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of Permit Fees for Internet Sweepstake/Gaming Business. Mr. Gary O'Neal, Planning & Inspections Director, stated at the request of the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners, Planning and Inspections was asked to provide a fee schedule for issuing permits for Internet Sweepstakes owners. NCGS 153A-354 allows County Inspection Departments to fix reasonable fees for issuing permits, for inspections and for other services of the inspection department. The requested action will allow Lenoir County to charge Internet Sweepstakes/Gaming Business owners to be charged a rate for permits to be renewed annually at \$100 per machine. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Rouse, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to Nexgen: \$5,100. Ms. Blanca Faasii, MIS Director, stated Lenoir County has maintenance/lease obligations that allow for all of the county's services to continue. These maintenance/lease contracts allow MIS to get upgrades, place calls for service, and allow use of the software/equipment. Nexgen Web Hosting Services allows for the public and outside companies to access tax data (i.e. tax cards, sales data, tax bills). Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Blanket Purchase Orders to the Following Vendors for Emergency Maintenance Expenditures: \$6,714.73. Mr. Hal Oliver, Landfill Manager, stated Lenoir County Solid Waste Department's loader broke down and needed to have its gas tank removed and cleaned in order for the loader to be in good working order. Also, one of the trash hauling trucks transmission broke down and is in need of repair. These repairs will allow the Landfill to remain in good operating condition. 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 Lenoir County Cooperative Extension to Contract with Eastern Carolina Council of Government – Area Agency on Aging: \$2,186. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated Lenoir County Cooperative Extension assumed the role of host to the SHIIP Program in FY 2006-2007. The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counsels Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and long-term care insurance. The program is implemented by a staff of trained volunteers and supervised and administered by Lenoir County Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are trained and updated by the division of Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offer free, unbiased information regarding Medicare health care products. SHIIP volunteers also help people recognize and prevent Medicare billing errors and possible fraud and abuse through our NC Senior Medicare Program. Budget for the funded amount has been established with the North Carolina Department of Insurance. The SHIIP Program is currently housed at Cooperative Extension offices in several surrounding counties. The SHIIP program is an important resource for the senior citizens of Lenoir County. This is critical information available in assisting seniors in choosing the type of insurance they need. Last year approximately 550 Medicare recipients were assisted in selecting a prescription drug plan during open enrollment. Plans are to assist a similar or greater number this year. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Authorizing Agreement with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspector Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services Division: (\$7,800 and Contract for Participation in the Beaver Management Assistance Program: \$4,000 (total) \$21,800. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated The BMAP was created by State legislative action in 1992 with the express purpose of helping manage ever increasing damage caused by beaver on private and public lands. Lenoir County residents, landowners, and businesses have experienced problems associated with beaver activity. The NC Cooperative Extension in Lenoir County was contacted to develop a program designed to assist with the management of this problem. Lenoir County joined BMAP in 1997 and has continued to reap benefits of this program. Through this program, Lenoir County received approximately one-third of a work-year through the BMAP at \$4000 participation fee. In addition to the participation fee, the county also contributes an additional \$17,800 towards the Wildlife professional. During the 12-month period, June 30, 2016, through June 30, 2017, beaver damage problems were resolved at 25 sites throughout the county. Sixteen (16) were private landowners and businesses; the remaining 9 were Department of Transportation sites. Private landowners also benefit from these DOT sites since the damage usually caused impacts surrounding private property. The intent of the program is not to eradicate beaver in Lenoir County but to lessen the damage caused by the population. These numbers do not include any work done in the City of Kinston or the Global Transpark. BMAP activities in Lenoir County prevented the loss of or damage to \$157,019 in resources. Total resources saved includes, (\$69,375 in timber, \$68,800 in roads/bridges, \$14,344 in crops/pasture and \$4,500 to general properties). Comparing Lenoir County expenditures to savings, the estimated cost-benefit ratio was a favorable 1 to 7.20, in other words, for every \$1.00 spent, over \$7.20 in resources was saved. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Contract with Eastpointe Human Services to Operate an Evidence Based Youth Prevention Program: \$32,973.93. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated These dollars support the 4-H Prevention Program, including the Coordinator for the Program. The program is designed to educate elementary, middle and high school age youth. Some of the target topics include Risky Lifestyle Choices, Goal Setting, Character Building, Positive Self Esteem, Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, Team Building, Bullying and other 4-H related curriculum. The 4-H Prevention Program also works with afterschool programs, Kennedy Home, Early College, Dobbs Youth Detention Center and others. The program hosts many events such as Red Ribbon Week, Great American Smoke Out, Prom Promises, Kick Butts Day, Students Against Destructive Decisions and an Impaired Driving Simulation Experience. 4-H Prevention serves the populations throughout Lenoir County. This program is in its 10th year of operation. Students and program participants are given a pre-test and a post-test to determine knowledge gained and behavior changed as a result of program efforts. Some topics that are covered by the testing procedure include education in the areas of Substance Abuse Prevention for the youth. Youth reporting in post-test having a better plan for a career path and a reduction in incidences of youth being referred to court. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of FY17-18 Blanket Purchase Orders: \$103,801. Ms. Dana King, Board of Elections Director, stated each year, the Board of Elections issues purchase orders to various vendors for supplies and services needed to operate the department. All purchases \$500 and greater require the issuance of a purchase order. Purchases of \$2500 and greater require the Board's approval. Election Systems & Software provides the Board of Elections with software licensing, programming, election night reporting hardware, a maintenance agreement, and upgrades for 145 iVotronic voting machines and 2 M100 voting machines. Election Systems & Software also provides the layout, coding, and audio for all ballot styles. The Board of Elections contracts with Print Elect/Owen G. Dunn for the printing of ballots and elections supplies. Board of Elections purchases, Election Supplies and Ink Cartridges from CDS Networks & Services. The Board of Elections contracts with Daughety's Office Equipment, for the copier and printer. A. G. Smith Janitorial Services provides monthly cleaning for the Board of Elections' offices and the delivery and setup of voting equipment for each election. Office and Election supplies are purchased from Corporate Resources in Kinston. Required advertising for elections are placed in the Kinston Free Press (Halifax Media), The Weekly Gazette, and Duplin Times (Cooke Communications). Anza Mailing Systems will be paid for the Annual Maintenance Agreement on the Postage Machine, Neopost will be paid for the monthly Lease and Meter Agreement, Dell Financial Services will supply our laptops for Election Day and One Stop. This is a four-year contract of leasing the laptops. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing Payment for L2 P25 Core Lease Agreement: Motorola: \$129,620.20. Ms. Jerri King, EMS Assistant Director, stated the Jones/Lenoir Emergency Communications Center purchased its own L2 P25 Core, making a bulk payment of \$198,530.44 in a lease to own agreement with Motorola Solutions. Per the agreement, an annual payment of \$129,620.20 for a total of five- (5) years would begin in FY17-18.

This will be an annual cost for five years, and upon the completion of the lease terms, Jones/Lenoir will be the owners of the Core. This lease purchase agreement was previously approved by the Board of Commissioners on February 2, 2015, Item #7. An initial bulk payment of \$198,530.44 was made with the balance of monies from the E911 grant awarded by the NC911 Board, with the remaining balance of the cost of the Core to be paid in annual recurring payments. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Authorizing Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department to Purchase One (1) 2018 Peterbuilt Tanker: \$235,000. Ms. Jerri King, EMS Assistant Director, stated 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 1982 E-ONE Tanker. Factors for replacement include the age, call volume, and high cost of maintenance of the truck. Staff has met with the Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department and discussed financial records. The truck will be purchased for \$235,000 from Freedom Fire Equipment in Marietta, GA, with a \$138,500 loan from Local Government Federal Credit Union. Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department will provide a \$96,500 down payment. The \$138,500 will be financed for eight- (8) years with a 2.75% fixed rate. Staff recommends the purchase of the 2018 Peterbuilt Tanker for a total price of \$235,000. Sand Hill Volunteer Fire Department will provide a \$96,500 down payment. These funds will be provided from a designated truck fund account. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing Purchase Order and Contract Execution: Maximus, Inc.: Cost Allocation Plan and EMS Medicaid Reimbursement Report: \$6,000. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for the Department of Social Services is a required report to determine the allowable costs incurred by the County to support and administer Federal programs. These costs are reported and reimbursed to the County on a monthly basis. The EMS Report is also vital to the Emergency Services Department since it is the basis of the annual EMS Medicaid Reimbursement. Emergency Medicaid trips are considered in this report, and the reimbursement to the County is based on average costs per trip of all EMS systems in the state. Maximus has agreed to prepare the Cost Allocation Plan at a rate of \$5,000 and the EMS Medicaid Report at a rate of \$1,000 for FY 17-18. Upon a motion by Mr. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: School Capital: Increase: \$371,510. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to roll forward \$371,510 in capital funds appropriated in FY16-17 for the roof repairs at Kinston High School and Northwest Elementary. Lenoir County Public Schools were unable to complete the projects in FY16-17 as a result of delays caused by Hurricane Matthew. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Budget Amendment Capital Fund: \$660,000. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to appropriate fund balance fund 400 capital improvement for the county's cost in repair of the Livestock Arena in the amount of \$371,943 and to roll forward unused insurance proceeds in the amount of \$288,057 from FY16-17 for the Livestock Arena project. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No.16 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved for Mr. Reece L. Smith's and Mrs. Phyllis O. Smith's appointment to Nursing Home & Adult Care.

Item No. 17 was items from the county manager Mike Jarman. Mr. Jarman stated the board did have some concerns at the last meeting regarding husband and wife team on advisory boards. Mr. Bryan and the clerk Ms. King have looked into it, and for your information, she prepared a statement. Mrs. King stated she has checked with several advisory board chairpersons, her fellow clerks, and researched the by-laws regarding the situation of a husband and wife team on the same board. There have been many occasions when both spouses served in that capacity. I think this is a unique situation because they applied at the same time. However, nothing pertaining to spouses was mentioned in the conflict of interest section or membership. The only information listed pertaining to family is as follow: "members of an immediate family shall not be employed within the local board if such employment will result in one member of the immediate family supervising another member of the immediate family, or if one member of the immediate family will occupy a position which has influence over another member's employment, promotion, salary administration, or other related management or personnel considerations".

Mr. Jarman stated the board needed to designate someone as the voting delegate to NCACC Annual Conference coming up in August. The information must be submitted by 12 Noon on Friday, August 4, 2017, and the board will not meet again until August 7th, therefore, it needed to be done today. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Sutton, Mr. Best was chosen as the voting delegate for Lenoir County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Jarman stated the last thing he had was tax foreclosure property being a vacant lot at 911 Chestnut Street; the bid amount was \$560. Mr. Jarman stated he would recommend at this point that the board accept the bid so that it will go back on the tax roll and become someone else's responsibility. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton, the county approved the bid proposal of \$560 for 911 Chestnut Street Property, Item No. 17 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Best stated ECC will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The celebration will take place at the beach, and all of the commissioners are invited. It will be held on October 28, 2017, at Pine Knoll Shores. This will be a very special event as they are expecting all of the council members and commissioners to attend. Mr. Best stated as soon as he receives more information he will be glad to share it with the board.

Ms. Sutton stated the Highway 70 Corridor Committee will be meeting Thursday, July 20th in Morehead City at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Hill stated NC Department of Transportation will be having a meeting on Monday, July 24th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Global Transpark Center for local officials. They will be sharing updates on projects and discuss milestones in the project schedule.

Mr. Hill stated it's been about four years since they sat down with Lenoir County Public School Board and Lenoir Community College to start a process of strategic planning. The school board is to be commended for their efforts and actions they have taken in reducing some square footage and dealing with some of their facilities. To date, they have closed the old Teachers Memorial facility and have made moves, and they continue to move some things around. Those things did not happen just because they decided to. It happened because this board took the time to go on the different site visits and attend the different meetings. The situations that happened in our community did not happen overnight, and it will not change overnight, it will take time and patience. It will also take the board having to apply some pressure as well as relieving pressure at times. Mr. Hill stated he wanted to take the time to thank them publicly for the actions they have taken because it was not unanimous or popular for them to do. Mr. Hill stated they had planned last week to meet with the City of Kinston. Mike and I are beginning the early phases of some strategic planning and the possibility of combining of some services that we talked about. That meeting had to be cancelled due to a conflict with schedules. We will reschedule the meeting and start that process. Our hope is that conversation will take place the later end of September or early October and pull the two boards together.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed by,

Joey R. Bryan
Assistant County Manager