

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2017

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 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, Commissioners, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse, and Mac Daughety.

Members Absent: Vice-Chair, Linda Rouse-Sutton, Ms. Jackie Brown, and Roland Best.

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Joey R. Bryan, Assistant County Manager, Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Officer, Vickie F. 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. Mr. Daughety offered the Invocation and Mr. Rouse, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hill presented Mr. Rouse with a plaque received from the NC Association of County Commissioners for his participation and serving on the Board at the state level for the past two (2) years. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Rouse for the time he spent serving and representing our region.

Mr. Rouse thanked the commissioners for giving him the opportunity to serve in that capacity on the state level. He stated it was very enlightening, it was good for networking, and he has learned a lot.

Mr. Jarman stated he and Mr. Ellis were not ready to present Item No. 7 and asked the Board to remove it from the agenda. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 7 was approved to be removed from the agenda.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: September 5, 2017.

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

## **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:**

Item No. 2 was a Resolution Honoring Bill Ellis. Mr. Hill read the Resolution. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 2 was unanimously approved. Mr. Hill stated this is a great day for Mr. Ellis as well as the commissioners. Bill has a unique approach. He's an artist, engineer, and a visionary, and he has made a tremendous difference in this community. He takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary.

Mr. Bill Ellis thanked the Board for honoring him with a resolution. He stated he appreciates this Board because there has never been a time when he had come and they hadn't said yes in 21 years. Whatever he recommended this Board had the guts to do it, and he appreciates it. It's been a great run, and he had a great time.

Item No. 3 was a Resolution Request to Continue Electing Status for the Work First Program During State Fiscal Years 2019-2022. Mr. Jeff Harrison, DSS Director, stated As State Law mandates, all counties must submit a county Work First Block Grant Plan to the Department of Health and Human Services for Work First biennial planning. This is an opportunity for counties to take full advantage of the local flexibility structure in the Work First Program. The planning process consists of several important criteria including the designation of our county status as either a Standard County or an Electing County. Each county must notify the Department of Health and Human Services as to whether they want Standard or Electing County status. Lenoir County has chosen Electing County Status since 2001. By selecting Electing Status, the county may reduce the county funding for the Work First Program by 10%. Electing County Status also allows the county to use federal TANF funds to provide Children's Protective Services and other TANF services. North Carolina General Statute 108.27 and Work First Policy Section 103 provides instructions for the development of the local Work First plan to meet local needs. Choosing Electing Status has proven very successful for Lenoir County. As an Electing County, Lenoir County has used available Work First Cash Assistance Funds for protective services for children, day care services for children, transportation services for employment and training for Work First Participants. As a Standard County, these services would have only been available with 100% County Funds. The Electing County status saves local tax dollars and makes federal funds available for services described above. To abandon the Electing County Status at this time would potentially cost \$800,000 local tax dollars. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to Tritech Forensics: \$3,584. Major Ryan Dawson, stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office currently uses small digital cameras to take photographs of evidence and crime scenes for evidentiary purposes to be used in court proceedings. The Sheriff's Office currently has seven (7) cameras that are shared between patrol shifts that are taken out each day with a deputy and returned for the next shift to use. This practice has been in place for years but has shown that damage can occur due to the constant use by different personnel. Normal wear on the cameras is increased due to the passing from shift to shift. Cameras periodically have to be replaced in short periods of times due to their continued use.

The patrol division is comprised of twenty-eight (28) uniform deputies, and the Sheriff has determined that it is more cost effective to purchase a camera for each patrol division deputy to keep in their car. This will also assist in better accountability and limit the damage that occurs to the cameras and allow the cameras to last longer than they have in the past. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (Child Health Program): Decrease: \$24,239. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was due to state funds being decreased for the fiscal year 2017-2018 for the healthy mothers/healthy children block grant funds. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving the Award of Contract and Authorizing County Administration to Execute the Contract for Demolition of the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension Building with Bruin Builders, Inc.: \$24,500. Mr. Joey Bryan, Assistant County Manager, stated After Hurricane Matthew and the subsequent flooding it caused, the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension Building was inundated with approximately 36+ inches of flood waters for over a week. The wind and rain damage along with the prolonged exposure to the flood waters caused extensive interior structural damage occurring in the electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems and more. On the June 19, 2017, Agenda of the Commissioner's Meeting, Item #4C, the Lenoir County Commissioners approved to accept a Golden LEAF grant to Rebuild the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension Building along with received insurance funds. We then wrote the request for demolition bid specs and put them out for bid. Lenoir County Administration placed the request for bid on the county's website soliciting base bid prices for the demolition of the building after it had been live burned by the local volunteer Fire Departments for training purposes. Five (5) bid packages were received. NC General Statute 143-129 states that the award should go to the lowest responsible bidder which in this case is Bruin Builders of New Bern, NC for \$24,500. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving a Purchase Order to Tony Williams Concrete: \$30,000. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved to be pulled from the agenda.

Item No. 8 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Budget Amendment: Insurance: \$6,220. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to revise the sheriff and emergency medical services budgets to reflect receipt of insurance funds to repair vehicle damage. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Budget Amendment: Capital Fund: \$53,919. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to revise the capital fund budget to reflect the receipt and disbursement of a rural center reuse grant. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Budget Amendment: Capital Fund: \$83,000. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to revise revenue budgets in the capital fund to reflect a department of agriculture grant received to assist with repairs of the livestock arena. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Budget Amendment: Emergency Telephone: \$10,464.13. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment was to revise the emergency telephone budget to reflect the actual state E911 emergency telephone allocation for FY17-18. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two (2) Laptops and Accessories for the Community Paramedic Program: MobileDemand: \$3,140.16. Mr. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated the Lenoir County Emergency Services Department (EMS) began researching and developing a Community Paramedicine Program in October of 2013. The Community Paramedicine Program is an emerging health care delivery model that increases access to basic services through the use of specially trained emergency medical service (EMS) providers in an expanded role. Community Paramedics care for patients at home or in other non-urgent settings outside of a hospital under the supervision of a physician. Community Paramedics can expand the reach of primary care and public health services by using EMS personnel to perform patient assessments. The Community Paramedic is ideally suited to provide better care for the community through non-emergency interaction with patients in the community, integration, and coordination with a variety of needed services and improved patient navigation. Community Paramedic services will help reduce unnecessary trips to the emergency department, reduce readmission to the hospital, improve the patient's quality of life and decrease overall health care costs. In January of 2014, the first patient that the Community Paramedic visited immediately reduced their dependency on EMS. Since then the program has continued to show success in reducing the number of "familiar faces" for EMS and improving overall care. In January of 2016, the program began to see stroke patients after discharge from the UNC Lenoir Health Care. To date, no patients have been readmitted for stroke, which has also decreased those patient's dependence on the 911 system. The Community Paramedic Program will begin seeing patient's discharged with heart failure this year in agreement with the hospital. For the current fiscal year, funds were budgeted for purchasing this equipment. As a result of the job responsibilities, it is necessary for the community paramedics to be able to document the patient encounters and provide education to the patient with this equipment. The community paramedics will be working out of their vehicles a majority of the time, so it is essential that this equipment is durable and protected. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing Southwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue to Purchase One (1) 2018 Pierce Rescue: \$732,689. Fire Chief Craig Jarman, Southwood Volunteer Fire Department, 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 2000 Pierce Freightliner Rescue. Factors for replacement include the age, call volume, high cost of maintenance of the truck, and needed room for expansion of services. The staff has met with the Southwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue and discussed financial records. The vehicle will be purchased for \$732,689 from Atlantic Emergency Solutions Inc. in Manassas, VA, with a \$732,689 loan from the United States Department of Agriculture. The \$732,689 will be financed for twenty (20) years with a 3.75% fixed rate. Staff recommends the purchase of the 2018 Pierce Rescue for a total price of \$732,689. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. There are no applicants. Therefore, no action needed at this time.

Item No. 15 was items from the county manager Mike Jarman. Mr. Jarman stated he needed some input from the Board regarding the ordinance submitted from Gary O'Neal for the sweepstakes. Commissioner Daughety stated he liked the ordinance. However, he would prefer that the distance be between 1,500-1,700 feet that the sweepstakes must be located from residential, churches, schools, daycare facilities. The ordinance currently has it listed at 1,000 feet. They would like to have the ordinance on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Jarman stated he is seeking guidance as to what number the board would like to place in the ordinance. He spoke with Gary O'Neal with Planning and Inspections, and different communities have different numbers, and there is not a set rule in stone that we would have to follow for a particular purpose so that it would be at the pleasure of this Board. Mr. Hill stated that is he fine with extending the number for the distance to 1,500 because that is a go-between where they are and the distance. Looking at the sites and locations that is already established 1,500 would take care of any grandfathering issues should they go out and someone comes to the same location. Mr. Hill stated he is in favor of accepting the ordinance as is with the change of distance to read 1,500 instead of 1,000 feet. Mr. Rouse asked would that be from the corner of the building not the edge of the property. Mr. Hill replies yes. Mr. Jarman stated with everyone in agreement once the resolution is before the Board they can make a formal vote at that time.

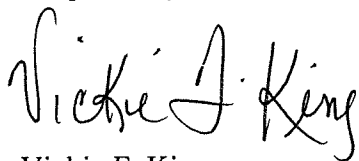
Mr. Jarman stated he would like to reiterate what Mr. Hill said about Bill Ellis. He has been a pleasure to work with. He and Bill have worked together for a long time. One thing that has amazed me about him is the passion that he serves the community and people with. Whether he's working in the capacity of a janitor at a high school or the director of parks and recreation or no matter who he is with, he does it 100% with that passion. Mr. Jarman stated he's reminded of the time during the snow when he had his daughters out in the community sledding, and Bill was out gathering snow with a shovel from other people's yards to make sure the holes were filled so the kids could continue to have fun. He has served this community well.

Mr. Davis stated he sat on the Board when Bill was introduced to the Board by Jimmy Tyer and the first impression was not the best impression he had seen but Bill has surely made up for it.

Mr. Hill stated he has one item that he would like to formalize. He talked to someone about this, and they began a small movement. As a request from the commissioners and one of the initiatives that has been a part of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is addressing opioids in each county, as it continues to be present in our community. Mr. Hill stated he had talked to Mr. Daughety and Mr. Best and they both agreed to serve on a committee with Mr. Daughety being chair of the committee. Mr. Daughety has already begun the process of getting the different groups of people together like law enforcement, medical, health clinic, DSS, counsel agencies, etc. being involved. It is important as a community that we figure out how to pull the resources together and work together to approach this issue as we raise the awareness. He thanked Mr. Daughety for agreeing to chair the committee. Mr. Daughety thanked Mr. Hill and the Board for allowing him the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

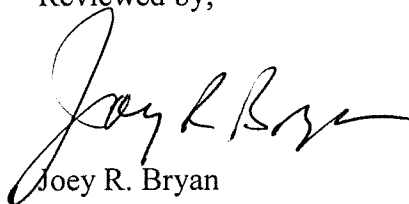
Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Vickie F. King  
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed by,



Joey R. Bryan  
Assistant County Manager