

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners budget work session  
May 24, 2012, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
May 24, 2012 Budget Work Session/Reconvened Meeting  
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 8:30 a.m. Chairman Bob Davis reconvened the meeting for the purpose of a budget work session. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley, Carol McCall and Guy McCook. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer Charles Nichols and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis opened the meeting with a prayer.

**RFP for audit services**

Finance Officer Nichols referred to the list of audit services RFPs and said he discussed the cap with Gustaf C. Lundin as requested, and Lundin will guarantee its cap.

Commissioner John Alford moved to approve and then amended his motion to the following:

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve a three-year-contract for auditing services with Gustaf C. Lundin. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Scotland County tax card**

County Manager Patterson said an increase in size for the tax bill from postcard to 8.5 x 11 or 8.5 by 5.5 would increase the cost of mailings from \$24,000 to \$31,000. He said the larger size would be double-sided with a return envelope.

*Commissioner McCook asked staff to make a presentation at the June 4 regular meeting on the tax card and what the larger size might look like.*

**Proposed schedule for the purchase of fire trucks**

County Manager Patterson said a replacement schedule for fire trucks has not been developed. Staff would meet with fire chiefs for input. Mr. Patterson said a one-cent fire tax increase would generate \$113,000 a year. Mr. Patterson said a one cent increase over 20 years would purchase six trucks while a two cent increase would purchase 10 assuming there is no increase in the cost of the fire trucks.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond explained the fire insurance and how insurance rates are affected by largest structures in the district, size of district and age of equipment.

**Report on County vehicles**

Mr. Patterson said nine employees who are not in law enforcement or with the jail take County vehicles home. He explained under what circumstance the employees would have a need for a County car.

Commissioner Cooley questioned how great that need might be. He said every cost savings should be studied to avoid putting burden on the taxpayers. Commissioner Cooley said either the County makes cuts or those who pay taxes have to make cuts in their own budgets. Commissioner Alford said he would

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners budget work session  
May 24, 2012, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg*

not want to strip employees of every little perk they might receive when they have already given up so much. Commissioner Alford suggested this option be set aside while Commissioners consider where else cuts might be made.

**Finance Officer report on school capital outlay**

Finance Officer Nichols discussed the school capital budget and how the school system arrived at the budgeted amount. Mr. Nichols also distributed information on current and prior year tax collections, which showed a slight increase. Commissioner McCook said he would like to see accounts that are up to seven years behind.

Chairman Davis said after reviewing the local appropriation for the schools, he still has questions.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to set up a joint meeting with the Board of Education. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Patterson said the County's capital budget has funds set aside for IT, two defibrillators, the Sheriff's three vehicles and \$70,000 for Public Buildings repairs.

Commissioner McCook suggested the County might consider disposing of the Speller Building since it is not included in the capital budget. Commissioner McCook said upkeep of older buildings is more costly.

*(A break was called. The meeting resumed at 10:05 a.m.)*

**Discussion: Proposed FY 2012-2013 budget using a \$1.02 tax rate**

County Manager Patterson said a budget with a \$1.02 tax rate would have total expenditures of \$36,364,000. Assessed valuation is \$2.020 billion, but the budget would reflect assessed value at \$2.005 billion, which is \$15 million under assessed value. Mr. Patterson projected \$121,366 in excess revenues. He said the excess revenues could be used to reduce employee furlough from 2.5 percent to 1.25 percent. Mr. Patterson said this is a conservative budget he believes would be reasonable and achievable. Mr. Patterson said the \$1.02 would also cover the \$500,000 shortfall in the current budget.

Commissioner Cooley said he is still concerned that the budget might get spent down to the last dime and the County would be over-committed. Commissioner Cooley said it is his hope the County could avoid a tax increase.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of a referendum for a one-quarter percent sales tax.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall directing staff to develop a 2012-2013 budget with a \$2.005 billion assessed valuation and a \$1.02 tax rate. Vote For: Chairman Davis, Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners Alford, McCall and McCook. Vote Against: Commissioner Cooley. Vote: Motion approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to hold the public hearing on the budget 5:30 p.m. June 25. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Landfill budget**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners budget work session  
May 24, 2012, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg*

Mr. Patterson said current tipping fees per ton are \$50.50 for MSW and \$40.50 for C&D. Volume collected at the landfill decreased. 1.575 million tons was predicted with 1.3 million tons collected to date. Mr. Patterson said \$90,000 was budgeted for the convenience centers, but they have a net loss of \$100,000 to \$125,000.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said the landfill and transfer station are the only revenue generators, and they support the convenience sites, none of which are at a break-even point even though days of operation per week were decreased from five to three. Mr. Blackwell predicted if the days of operation were reduced again, more trash would wind up in the woods and along the roads.

Mr. Patterson said there are growing capital needs at the landfill. The transfer station needs to be resurfaced and a bulldozer replaced.

Mr. Patterson recommended a 5 percent increase in tipping fee to \$53 at the transfer station and \$43 at the landfill. Fees at the recycle centers would remain the same.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to increase the gate fee by five percent and not increase fees at the recycle centers. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

The County Manager distributed a list of County vehicles, which included the departments where they are assigned.

*Commissioner McCook suggested the County Manager work with Department Heads to see where the number of County vehicles could be reduced.*

*Commissioner McCook asked for projected figures at the landfill using the increased tipping fee.*

Mr. Patterson said area State legislators will introduce a local bill on behalf of Scotland County regarding fees at internet gambling establishments.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis  
Chairman