

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session/reconvened meeting
June 20, 2012, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
June 20, 2012 Budget Work Session/Reconvened Meeting
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 6 p.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 Cooley, Carol McCall and Guy McCook. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, Finance Officer Charles Nichols and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis opened the meeting with a prayer.

Resolution: Support for SB433

Chairman Davis said he does not support SB433 because it includes good things and not so good things. Chairman Davis said as it is written today, Senator Bill Purcell does not support the bill either. Chairman Davis said he does not approve of the consolidation aspect of the bill which, despite the flexibility permitted counties, comes with a lot of baggage.

Vice Chair McDow and Commissioner McCall said they support the bill because it gives counties more flexibility and local control over the provision of human services.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the Resolution in Support of SB433. Vote For: Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners Cooley, McCall and McCook. Vote Against: Chairman Davis. Vote: Motion approved.

**SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 433**

WHEREAS, the membership of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners adopted a legislative goal to “allow county flexibility to organize local human services” so counties can offer a more streamlined and efficient government to minimize administrative costs and maximize services for citizens; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina county governments are responsible for administering social services and community health programs with county employees; and

WHEREAS, counties cover more than \$500 million per year on DSS administrative costs while State dollars cover less than three percent of these costs; and

WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the General Assembly recommended that counties be given flexibility in determining how to organize their local human services delivery programs; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 433 would provide all counties with the option to determine locally how they can best provide human services to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 433 overwhelmingly passed the Senate in 2011 with a majority of Senators in both parties in support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners adopts

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this resolution in support of S433 to “**allow county flexibility to organize local human services**”.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Scotland County to let them know of our support for this issue.

ADOPTED, this the 20th day of June 2012.

Agreement: Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults

County Attorney Johnston said he made the requested changes to the agreement. Commissioner McCook pointed out a typo on a monetary amount that was missing a -0-.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to approve the 2013 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults agreement as amended and corrected. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Request: Exhibition of fireworks by the City of Laurinburg

Chairman Davis said a letter was received from the City of Laurinburg requesting approval by the Commissioners to hold an Independence Day fireworks exhibition.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the request by the City of Laurinburg to hold a fireworks exhibition. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Budget Amendment: Increase Library Special Revenue account by \$2,000. No County dollars involved. Passage of the budget amendment would allow Scotland County to record already existing Library funds on its books.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to Increase Library Special Revenue account by \$2,000. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion: Town of Maxton Queheel Volunteer Fire Tax District request

County Manager Patterson said the area of Maxton in Scotland County is closer in miles to the Queheel Fire District than it is to the Laurinburg Fire Department. Mr. Patterson said the community is a low-call area and it pays no fire tax because it is in a municipal area.

The Town of Maxton requested that properties in the incorporated area of Maxton be extended into the Queheel Fire District. Mr. Patterson said this could be accomplished via a resolution. He said Robeson County already approved a resolution of support. The Town of Maxton would have to do likewise.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said since the residences and businesses are closer to the Queheel Volunteer Fire Department, they would see a decrease in fire insurance costs. He said the property owners currently pay the highest fire insurance rate because Laurinburg Fire Department is farther away.

The Commissioners discussed the issues and concurred that they have many more questions than answers at this point.

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The Board of Commissioners by consensus agreed to postpone any action on the Town of Maxton request until representatives from the Town and Queheel could make a presentation and answer questions.

Discussion: Proposed FY 2012-2013 budget using a \$1.02 tax rate or a \$1.03 tax rate, which would support the Board of Education capital request

The County Manager said a \$1.02 tax rate would balance the budget but there are no school capital funds in it beyond the funds restricted for school capital and for debt service. The schools asked the County for \$130,000 for roof replacement on Sycamore Lane and for immediate repairs to Pate Stadium. Mr. Patterson said the Sycamore Lane project is estimated to cost \$180,000. The schools indicated the remaining \$50,000 would come from either fines and forfeitures or lottery.

Mr. Patterson said the \$130,000 to repair Pate Stadium is just an estimate and not a bid. He said if a crane is required for the project, it could cost significantly more.

Mr. Patterson said a \$1.03 tax rate would provide the \$130,000 for Pate Stadium. He suggested the County finance roof replacements at Sycamore Lane and the County's administrative building at 507 West Covington Street over a three-year period with a low interest loan. Mr. Patterson explained the extra penny on the tax rate would fund an estimated \$104,000 annual debt service for the three years.

Chairman Davis said he still has questions \$300,000 in uncommitted monies in the school fund balance. Commissioner Cooley said if the schools have available uncommitted capital funds, why not use them, especially if it is more readily available than what the County could provide.

Commissioner McCook said the schools are being squeezed as much as the County and timing is an issue for Pate Stadium repairs. He said it is important to get the stadium repaired and then look at ways to replace payment with private funds, perhaps through a communitywide fundraiser.

Chairman Davis said he intends to call Superintendent Rick Stout in order to get more information about the uncommitted fund balance.

County Manager Patterson asked for consensus from the Board as to an intended tax rate in advance of the June 25 public hearing.

Chairman Davis, Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners McCall and McCook by consensus agreed that the County Manager should present a FY 2013 budget with a \$1.03 tax rate.

The four Commissioners said it is not what they want to do but it is a necessity. They said they are concerned about raising the tax rate but see no other option given the urgency of the Pate Stadium project.

Commissioner Cooley said he couldn't agree with raising the tax rate and he would rather look for other options.

Vice Chair McDow asked if the County would have available funds in the event of a hurricane or catastrophic weather event. She also questioned how successful a fundraiser might be after a project is paid for. Commissioner McCook said he believes the community would support the cause because of the numerous activities that occur at Pate Stadium. Commissioner McCook said he is concerned that costs continue going up while revenues go down.

Comments from Commissioners

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Commissioner McCook said he would like to review the list of County vehicles in order to determine whether to continue using some vehicles or to take them off the road. Commissioner Cooley said he would like to review information on County vehicles going home.

County Manager Patterson said he is in the process of gathering vehicle information from the various departments. Mr. Patterson said he hoped to develop a framework for a recommendation by the end of July. Chairman Davis suggested the County Manager be prepared to report on County vehicles at the August meeting.

Commissioner Cooley said it was important not to neglect the fund balance and to do what is necessary to put money into it.

County Manager Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider permitting employees to take three extra days off between Christmas and the New Year as has been done in the past. As for the three furlough days, Mr. Patterson said he would poll Departments Heads to determine what days would work best during the course of the 2013 fiscal year and make a recommendation.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to recess to 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 25, at the A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, for the purpose of the public hearing on the budget. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman