

*Joint Meeting: Scotland County Board of Commissioners/Laurinburg City Council
October 4, 2004, Health Department Conference Room, 1405 West Boulevard*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Joint Session with the Laurinburg City Council, 5 p.m., October 4, 2004,
Health Department Conference Room, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman David Burns, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Sam Snowdon and J.D. Willis. Commissioners not in attendance: Vice Chair Nancy Shelley and Commissioners Betty Blue Gholston and Clint Willis. Staff in attendance: Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, Tax Assessor Mary Helen Norton and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Incoming Commissioners Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter also were present.

At 5 p.m. Chairman Burns called the recessed meeting to order and Mayor Ann B. Slaughter called the recessed City Council meeting to order.

City Manager Joe Huffman distributed information on the perceived positives and negatives of a County/City tax collection consolidation.

Mr. Huffman said if both governing bodies choose to move forward, staff from the County and City would meet with their attorneys to draft an agreement. He said tax collection consolidation would result in neither a savings nor loss for either entity.

He compared City tax collection rates to the County tax collection rates from fiscal years 2001 through 2003, in which the City realized a higher collection rate than that of the County. He offered figures for how the lower rate would result in a monetary loss for the City.

Chairman Burns said that if the tax consolidation was a success, the County might consider discussing consolidation possibilities with the towns of Gibson and Wagram.

City Council Member Lisa Griswold said regardless of the meeting outcome she wanted it known that she was not pleased with the County placing a separate school tax rate on the County tax card.

City Council Member Tommy Parker said the \$13,000 the County would be paid to provide the service might be low. He suggested the governing boards consider payment to the County on a sliding scale depending on the collection rate percentages.

Motion was made City Council Member Tommy Parker and duly seconded by City Council Member Lisa Griswold to approve continued tax consolidation efforts between the City and the County. Vote: For: City Council Members Tommy Parker, Lisa Griswold and Rembert DeBerry. Against: City Council Member Curtis Leak.

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Motion was made Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to approve continued tax consolidation efforts between the City and the County. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Both governing boards agreed that staff and attorneys representing both entities begin drafting an agreement to be presented at the November 1, 2004 regular meetings of the County Commissioners and City Council.

There was a consensus by the County Commissioners and City Council that the agreement include payment by the City to the County be made on a sliding scale based on percentage of the tax collection rate with \$13,000 being the lowest payment for service.

The City Council adjourned.

Motion was made Commissioner Snowdon and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to recess until 7 p.m., October 4, 2004 for the regular meeting. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk

David L. Burns
Chairman