

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 2, 2004*

MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, February 2, 2004
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC

At 7 p.m., Chairman David Burns called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman David Burns, Vice Chair Nancy J. Shelley, Betty Blue Gholston, Charles "Scoofer" Jordan, Sam Snowdon, Clint Willis and J.D. Willis. Staff in attendance: County Manager Scott Sauer, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Burns delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to alter the order of the agenda and go into closed session in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee immediately following Public Forum.

Public Forum

Ms. Pat Webb, Office of Emergency Medical Services Regional Systems Specialist: Presented the EMS Systems Certificate to the Board of Commissioners and EMS Director Roylin Hammond. The presentation was made as a result of a review and approval of the EMS System Proposal for Scotland County, which Ms. Webb described as a lengthy proposal, which outlines how an area EMS will provide for emergency care of its citizens.

Mr. Joe Wampler, 1216 Woodburn, Laurinburg: Mr. Wampler praised County Manager Sauer for the numerous projects he impacted during his tenure. He said the County Manager demonstrated leadership and integrity and was respected by the County employees as a team leader. Mr. Wampler asked the Board to evaluate Mr. Sauer favorably, to help him in areas that need improvement, and to praise him for what he has done well.

Mr. Tom Dendy, Pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Laurinburg: Mr. Dendy asked the governing body to uphold the greatest good for the County and not to let personal prejudice or personal discomfort guide their reasoning or decision making. He asked the governing body to wait until the County efficiency/assessment review is in their hands before it evaluates the performance of the County Manager.

Mr. Rodger Decker, 13380 Maplewood, Laurinburg: Mr. Decker said he is disappointed in the way the issue of the County Manager position has been handled. He described Mr. Sauer as a gigantic asset to the County, even through the most difficult years.

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Ms. Daphne Riggins, Scotland County resident: Ms. Riggins spoke in support of the County Manager and asked the Board of Commissioners to please rethink what it was about to do. As a former Health Department nurse, she said the County Manager offered a great deal of support to the agency and to her professionally.

Ms. Becca Hughes, Scotland County resident: Ms. Hughes said the County Manager fostered the spirit of cooperation among organizations and agencies in the community. She spoke in support of the County Manager explaining that without his leadership, the community may lose that spirit of cooperation.

No one else came forward during Public Forum.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clint Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Nancy Shelley to go into closed session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Chairman Burns called the meeting back to order. County Manager Sauer was no longer present.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to accept County Manager Scott Sauer's resignation as presented and that the County Attorney, Human Resources Officer and Finance Officer work with Scott Sauer during this transitional period. Vote: In Favor: Vice Chair Shelley and Commissioners Jordan, Snowdon and J.D. Willis. Vote: Against: Chairman Burns and Commissioners Gholston and Clint Willis.

Chairman Burns said that until further notice the Commissioners would meet every Monday evening. Chairman Burns instructed the Department Heads to contact him when necessary and to contact the County Attorney if any legal issues needed to be addressed.

Chairman Burns recognized Mr. Mark Curfman of MGT of America, who asked to update the governing body on the progress of the County assessment study.

A description of each of the Departments and their current operation and organization as it now exists will be transmitted to Department Heads. Recommendations to improve the organization in draft form will be submitted to the governing body in a few days.

Mr. Curfman distributed consolidation studies that MGT has conducted with other municipalities.

Item 1. Community Child Protection Team Annual Report

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CCPT Chair Beckie Kimbrell discussed the establishment and history of the Community Child Protection Team. She summarized its activities for 2003. She said substance abuse is still a major issue for families reviewed. The need for domestic violence services and support increased. There is a concern of increased stress for families due to job loss, limited daycare resources and a weak economy.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Ms. Juliet McMillan and Ms. Betsy Massey to the Community Child Protection Team. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Child Abuse Prevention and Child Fatality Response Community Protocol

Ms. Jean Miller, Chairperson, Guardian ad Litem, discussed the Child Abuse Prevention and Fatality Response Community Protocol included in the Agenda package for the Commissioners.

BACKGROUND: In 2002, the Scotland County community lost the lives of two small children. Upon completion of the State Child Fatality Review regarding both children, it was determined that additional training should occur across agencies and that a written protocol for taking a multi-disciplinary approach to child maltreatment and fatalities should be developed. The Community Child Protection Team and the Child Fatality Protection Team created the Child Fatality Task Force to develop the written protocol.

PURPOSE: The mission of the Child Fatality Task Force is to examine existing protocols among agencies in Scotland County and develop a written protocol that all agencies would follow to ensure more effective communication procedures.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, January 5, 2004 regular meeting and January 20, 2004 special meeting.**
- b) **Budget Amendments**
 - 1) **DSS: Approve additional funding in the amount of \$44,270. There are no County dollars involved.**
 - 2) **DSS: Approve \$30,000 from Appropriated Fund Balance for Juvenile Detention for unanticipated expenditures for the remainder of FY 2003-2004.**
 - 3) **Register of Deeds: Approve \$11,000 from Appropriated Fund Balance to fund unanticipated expenditures related to the recent upgrade of the Cott's Resolution System.**
 - 4) **Board of Elections: Accept \$31,922.20 in State funding for from the Help America Vote Act. *(no amendment needed)***
 - 5) **Health Department: Accept \$750 donation from Scotland Memorial Hospital Foundation to Healthy Carolinians.**
 - 6) **Health Department: Accept \$16,189 in additional funding through the State for the WIC Program. *(this would reduce the County appropriation by \$14,000)***

- 7) **Health Department:** Approve the budgeting of \$7,500 in anticipated revenue for Healthy Carolinians as a result of the January 5, 2004 approval by the governing body of a \$10 registration fee for the “Great Ex STEP tations” walking program.
- c) Approve request by Healthy Carolinians Chronic Disease Committee to solicit donations from local businesses to be used for weight loss incentives.
- d) Declare the following salvage vehicles as surplus: 1984 Nissan Truck 1N6ND01SXE365749; 1988 Chevrolet Blazer 1GNEV18K3JF122487; 1993 Ford Crown Victoria 2FALP74W5RX101426; 1995 Chevrolet Caprice 1G1B152P9SR148775; 1996 Ford Crown Victoria 2FALP71W4TX107455; 1996 Ford Crown Victoria 2FALP71W7TX117641; 1997 Ford Crown Victoria 2FALP71W1VX216071; 1997 Ford Crown Victoria 2FALP71WXYX101650.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clint Willis and **duly seconded** by Commissioner J.D. Willis to include approval of Letter of Agreement with Robert S. Segal CPA to administer the State Criminal Alien Administration Program (SCAAP) for FY 2002-2003 in the February 2, 2004 Consent Agenda. **Vote:** Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clint Willis and **duly seconded** by Vice Chair Shelley to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the addition of the Letter of Agreement with Robert S. Segal CPA. **Vote:** Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Tax Department Report and Update

Tax Collector Rhonda Saffel reported in accordance with NCGS 105-369(a) that real property taxes as of February 1, 2004 are \$2,315,811,87 outstanding for the current year as billed. Collected to date was \$13,921,003.02, which is down from the same time last year, Ms. Saffel said, due to the economy and an increase in bankruptcy filings. The percentage collected is 85.74% for the month ending January 2004.

Ms. Saffel expects the collection to increase in March with the advertising of names in the newspaper the first week of March and the mailing of the second notice by the second week of February.

Item 5. Emergency Management Report and Update

EMS Director Roylin Hammond read from the following report:

EMS: The Critical Instance Stress Management Team for the five-county region lost its funding source for liability insurance. The LRCOG Board at its December meeting endorsed a shared funding of the insurance from the five COG counties. Mr. Hammond asked the Commissioners to consider supporting the COG endorsement. Mr. Hammond

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said that if the Board did agree, the County would fund the insurance through the COG's annual membership dues.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to support the Lumber River Council of Government's Board of Directors endorsement of a shared liability insurance coverage for the region's Critical Instance Stress Management Team. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The number of EMS vehicles in the rotation run has been reduced from six to five. He said EMS Unit 198 was taken off rotation because it no longer was considered reliable.

An EMS employee with 27 years in the department is retiring. That employee will be replaced by part-timers until a full-time EMS person could be hired.

The EMS Medical Director Dr. Keith Henderson will be retiring. EMS is working with Scotland Memorial Hospital in the search for replacement candidates.

A \$13,442 Health Resources Service Administration Grant approved in September 2003 will be used for a software upgrade.

EM Grants: A \$43,687 Department of Homeland Security 2003 Grant (Part I) will be used to update the emergency communications system, which currently is transmitted via one structure. There have been positive talks with Progress Energy to locate the system on an additional structure.

An \$110,803 Department of Homeland Security 2003 Grant (Part II) might be used to fund some equipment possibilities.

A \$35,266 grant will fund the upgrade of the Scotland County Emergency Operations Plan, due to the NCEM June 30, 2004.

E-911: Old recording and computer equipment is in the process of being replaced. An upgrade of the leased 911 telephone equipment for Enhanced 911 will be discussed with Positron and BellSouth. Work continues on providing Phase II wireless service to Scotland County.

Transportation: Mechanical and electrical drawings of the 1,500-square-foot Transportation building expansion must be approved by NCDOT upon completion.

A 2004 van with wheelchair lift will be delivered in the next few weeks.

Fire: Spring Hill Fire Department received delivery of a Tanker. It is the 14th and last of the replacement apparatus for the County's fire departments.

The Fire Commission is considering the merits of going to six-mile fire insurance districts. It also will be looking at re-valuating its ISO insurance rating.

Item 6. Scotland Place Civic Center, Inc., Memorandum of Understanding

Commissioner Jordan said that he would present to the Board of Commissioners a new Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Scotland County Stadium/Civic Center, Inc., which would include a provision where Scotland County would pay rent for the facility.

Commissioner Jordan briefly discussed the history of the original agreement between the two parties and why the need for a rental fee has been proposed.

He asked that further discussion on the issue be resumed at the governing body's Midyear Planning Retreat February 20 to 21.

Chairman Burns directed the County Clerk to place the item on the Planning Retreat agenda.

Item 7. County Government Week Report on Proposed Activities

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton and Health Department Director Jane Murray distributed proposed activities for County Government Week, which has a national date of April 18 to 24.

Commissioner J.D. Willis said he would like to see more activities during the week, particularly ones that would engage high school history/social studies students in county government.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to include Ms. Judy Riggins as a member of the local committee coordinating County Government Week. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 8. County Engineer's Report

WATER DISTRICT II -- The operation and maintenance of the water system has been turned over to the City of Laurinburg. There are still a few outstanding items to be completed by staff, which will be completed this month. We are still awaiting state approval on the line additions to the system. Final construction will start as soon as we get approval.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPANSION -- The contractors are completing the finishes and final touches on the expansion. We expect to finish this month if everything goes well.

ACCELERATED ACADEMY SEWER -- All of the line work for the project has been completed and tested. The right of ways, which were disturbed, have been re-graded and seeded to Department of Transportation specifications. The remaining work is the

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completion of the pumping station and connection to the school. Weather has hampered construction the last couple of weeks but the project is expected to be completed and under budget by the end of March.

Commissioner Snowdon asked about the design fees, which were not included in the Rural Center Grant.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said that the County would not pay for it. Mr. Blackwell said Hobbs Upchurch had made it clear to the County and the school system that those fees would be reimbursed. Rural Center said it would not pay for any funds expended prior to the contract. Mr. Blackwell said that the County would hold Hobbs Upchurch responsible for those funds if it cannot resolve the issue with the Rural Center.

RECREATION COMPLEX UPDATE -- Work is progressing well on the recreation complex. The clearing for the splash pad and adjoining areas has been cleared. We are finishing the bid package with expectations of advertising for bids this month. As soon as the consultant completes the drawings for this area we will start construction of roads, and city staff will install underground utilities. The project is on a fast track schedule, which is being controlled by the design consultant.

SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT -- In January we had a complete inspection of our solid waste facilities by the state solid waste division. I am pleased to report we received an outstanding report from the inspectors. We received the highest rating of any transfer station in the region with no deficiencies noted and are one of only two facilities in the region which passed the inspection. Neighboring facilities have been advised to visit our transfer station to see the proper method for operation. I am extremely proud of our Public Works Director, Steve Edge, and our staff for their efforts in making us one of the best trained and operated solid waste facilities in the state.

SOLID WASTE OFFICER'S REPORT -- Criminal Summons issued, 11; Cases Resolved, 6; Cases Pending in Court, 2; Community Service Cleanup Hours, 27; County Jail Inmate Cleanup Hours, 10.

Item 9. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to elect Ms. Dee Hammond as Chair of the ABC Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to appoint Mr. Billy Langford as the County appointee to the DSS Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Ms. Judy O'Brien to the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to reappoint Commissioner Clint Willis and Mr. Marcus Norton (ex officio) to the Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 10. County Manager's Report

Chairman Burns directed the Sheriff to assess the Electronic Monitoring information and provide an opinion to the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible. Chairman Burns directed the Clerk to inform the Sheriff of the request.

Chairman Burns directed the Clerk to notify the Board of the time and place of the rescheduled consolidation of services meeting with the City of Laurinburg.

Item 11. Other Information

Chairman Burns directed the Clerk to arrange for the registration of himself and Commissioners Snowdon and Clint Willis to attend the NCACC conference in Southern Pines.

Chairman Burns said the Board of Commissioners would meet 7 p.m. every Monday until further notice. Department Heads should inform the Clerk of any issues to be placed on the agenda.

Chairman Burns directed the Clerk to publicize the February 9 meeting with appointed school board members to discuss local school funding for FY 2004-2005.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Chairman Burns said that discussion on the search process for a County Manager should be scheduled for the February 9, 2004 meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to recess until February 9, 2004. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk

David L. Burns
Chairman