

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg April 5, 2004*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, April 5, 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 and J.D. Willis. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners Sam Snowdon and Clint Willis. Staff in attendance: County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Vice Chair Shelley delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Burns said that Commissioner Snowdon is recovering from surgery, and Commissioner Clint Willis is out of town.

Chairman Burns opened public forum. No one came forward, and public forum was closed.

**Item 1. Planning and Zoning**

Chairman Burns said a mistake made in the Zoning Office allowed a doublewide mobile home to be placed on a lot zoned Residential Only. The mobile home has been underpinned, and a porch has been added. A certificate of occupancy cannot be issued because it is not zoned properly.

**Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley authorizing the Planning and Zoning Board to review the zoning issue and present the Board of Commissioners with a recommendation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 2. Scattered Housing Grant Applicant Recommendations**

LRCOG Housing Coordinator Adrian Lowery said 12 homes were selected by a point system to receive CDBG grant monies out of about 86 applications. Six of the homes are scheduled for replacement, while the remaining six are scheduled for rehabilitation. Mr. Lowery said enough funds are available to perhaps complete work on six replacements and four rehabilitations. He said 2005 CDBG grants could be used for the remaining homes.

Mr. Lowery said notification for participation in the 2005 CDBG program would arrive some time in May. He explained that the order of the process has changed. Selections will have to be made before the application is submitted, including the environmental review.

Mr. Lowery said of the 12 homes, five of the owners have overdue taxes. They will be given the option to work out a method payment with the Tax Office. If they refuse, their houses would not be replaced/rehabilitated.

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He said he is soliciting bids from attorneys who would conduct the title search.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to proceed with processing the applicants and authorizing Mr. Lowery to enter into a contract with an attorney to conduct the title search. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 3. MGT Assessment/Efficiency Study**

Mr. Mark Curfman, MGT of America, said the final draft would be complete by the end of April, depending on the number of revisions that are made.

Chairman Burns said that all names should be eliminated from the final draft.

Mr. Curfman said the final draft would include a time-based implementation schedule along with positive and negative dollar amounts. Mr. Curfman said although the study calls for a lot of investment dollars up front, it would eventually result in improvements, efficiencies and cost savings, particularly in the area of Information Technology. He said the cost savings is definitely in the back, not up front.

Commissioner J. D. Willis said despite the recommendations he could not see at this time implementing programs or adding positions considering the current economic picture.

Mr. Curfman encouraged the governing body to let him know of any changes they wish to make via e-mail, telephone call or by mail.

**Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners, March 8, 2004 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve FY 04-05 Rural Operating Assistance Program. (*The Public Hearing for ROAP was advertised and is scheduled for the April 5, 2004 Board of Commissioners meeting. No written comments were received.*)**
- c) **Approve a Resolution Adopting a Reserve Fund for the 2007 Scotland County Reappraisal in accordance with GS 153A-150.**

**A Resolution Adopting a Reserve Fund for the  
2007 Scotland County Reappraisal**

**WHEREAS**, General Statute 153A-150 requires the County Budget Officer to present to the governing body a budget for financing the cost for the next reappraisal, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners on October 6, 2004 voted unanimously to provide for a four-year in-house revaluation, and;

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**WHEREAS**, 2007 would be the year in which the in-house revaluation for the County of Scotland would occur.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the cost of a four-year in-house revaluation is estimated at \$475,000, and the amount to be placed in Revaluation Reserve over the next three years based on \$475,000 would be \$158,334.

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004.

- d) Approve reclassification of Sheriff's Department Lieutenant (66-9) to Captain (70-2).**
- e) Approve reclassification of Sheriff's Department Deputy (62-6) to Detective (67-2).**
- f) Approve reclassification of Sheriff's Department Civil Secretary (61-4) to Adm TechII/Civil Processor (62-4).**
- g) Approve Resolution in Support of the Southern Coastal Plain Ground Water Program.**

**A Resolution Supporting the Southern Coastal Plane Groundwater Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Coastal Plane (SCP) Ground Water Program was created on behalf of local governments and other ground water users in southeastern North Carolina, and;

**WHEREAS**, the recently completed SCP Comprehensive Ground Water Study and Assessment was completed providing valuable information and highlighting the need for regional cooperation in managing water resources in the region, and;

**WHEREAS**, the comprehensive study also provided an Action Plan outlining specific tasks and activities concerning the region's ground water; including the continuation of a regional stakeholder advisory council, the creation of a regional monitoring network, conservation and reuse projects, and educational programs, and;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Scotland has determined that it is in the best interest of its citizens to participate in continued planning and intergovernmental cooperation concerning the area's groundwater resources, and;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the governing board of Scotland, does agree to support and participate in the 2004-2009 Regional Action Plan as part of the continuing SCP Ground Water Program, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this participation includes a voluntary per capita assessment of \$.10 (ten cents) for the Fiscal Years 2005-2008 to be used for the purposes of maintaining regional ground water staff at the Lumber River Council of Governments and leveraging other funds that will be used to implement specific projects identified by the regional advisory council, and;

**BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County of Scotland agrees to participate in a county caucus of participating governments to fill slots available on the Advisory Council effective July 2004.

The resolution being adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004.

- h) Approve new Environmental Health Fee Schedule**
- i) Approve Health Department Primary Care Fee Recommendations.**
- j) Budget Amendments**
  - 1) Health Department: Approve receipt of State funding in the amount of \$27, 287 for Family Planning.**
  - 2) JCPC: Accept receipt of \$4,226 in State funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.**
  - 3) Public Works: Accept receipt of a \$2,650 Scrap Tire Disposal Account Grant from the State.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 5. Tax Office Request to Accept Credit/Debit Cards for Payment of Taxes**

Tax Collector Rhonda Saffel asked the Board to consider the purchase or lease/purchase of a credit/debit machine through BB&T for the Tax Office. She said an outright purchase would be \$559 and a lease/purchase would be \$40.65 a month for 24 months. At the end of the 24 months, the County would have the option to buy the equipment for 10 percent of the purchase price. She also discussed the cost of supplies.

Ms. Saffel said there are fees associated with using a credit/debit machine, and she discussed the range of fees. Money from the transaction would be deposited in the County's account within 24 hours.

She said the credit/debit method would create some conveniences for the taxpayer, particularly in situations where a vehicle is blocked. She said a blocked vehicle situation could be resolved with a single visit to the Tax Office

Health Director Jane Murray said that her agency as well as others might be interested in credit/debit equipment.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley authorizing the Tax Office to enter into an agreement with BB&T for the purchase of credit/debit equipment. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Jordan said he would look into the possibility of a better price if the County purchased the equipment in multiples to satisfy the needs of other departments.

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**Item 6. Enabling Resolution for Tax Certification**

Commissioner Jordan said he would like to table this item until the May 3, 2004 meeting as it would give him more time to explore the issue and respond to questions and concerns raised by attorneys.

**Item 7. County Government Week Update**

County Government Week Coordinator Judy Riggins provide the governing body with a full schedule of events. She asked if the schedule was acceptable or if there was anything the Board would like changed or removed.

She said the budget for County Government week is set except for Employee Appreciation Day, which would change depending on how many employees plan to attend.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to approve the 2004 County Government Week schedule including the budget for the event. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Both Commissioners agreed that County Government Week should become an annual event. Ms. Riggins said it is an effective way to reach many of the County's citizens.

**Item 8. Scotland Stadium/Civic Center, Inc. Memorandum of Understanding**

Commissioner Jordan said Scotland Stadium/Civic Center, Inc. through a Memorandum of Understanding is requesting that the County assume a \$3,000 annual rental fee for Scotland Place.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said that the County receives \$5,000 annually in State funds as part of the senior operating budget, and \$3,000 could be set aside for the annual rent. Ms. Newton asked the Board's permission to designate the \$3,000 toward the rent.

Ms. Newton could not predict that the State funds would be available beyond three to five years and indicated that the County might have to absorb the responsibility for the rent at some point in time.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis authorizing that rent be paid on Scotland Place by absorbing State money and authorizing the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.**

Interim Finance Officer Anne Tindall pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding has a liability clause, which states, "Provide liability insurance for all activities at the Center."

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Ms. Newton said at present the County assumes liability for County programs, while outside groups who rent the Center have assumed liability.

*Vice Chair Shelley withdrew her motion, and Commissioner J.D. Willis withdrew his second.*

The Board of Commissioners directed Ms. Newton to have the insurance issue researched and present the information at the May 3, 2004 meeting.

**Item 9. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to appoint Mr. Mike Alford to the Human Relations Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to appoint Ms. Essie Davis to the Healthy Carolinians Steering Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to appoint Ms. Frances Frye to the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Ravonda John. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to appoint Ms. Anita McMillan to the Community Child Protection Team in place of Ms. Vevely Malloy, who is no longer available to serve. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 10. Other Information**

Commissioner Jordan said that after volunteering for the most recent Spring Clean, there is still much that can be done to clean up the County. He said he would approach the local ministerial association to see if churches would either adopt a County road or participate in clean up efforts on a regular basis.

Vice Chair Shelley said she is concerned with the rapid increase in Adelphia's cable bills. She said the franchise contract should be carefully researched when it comes due in the next year or so.

Chairman Burns said the LRCOG Ground Water Study will be presented to the governing bodies of the municipalities and those same boards at that time will elect a municipal appointee to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Chairman Burns directed the Clerk to organize the meeting for 7 p.m., May 10 in the Health Department conference room.

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Rep. Hayes would be in town the morning of April 6 to present a \$70,000 federal grant to the Board of Education for its reading program.

Chairman Burns said HealthKeeperz would vacate the West Covington Street facility in early January. A Mental Health representative would begin looking at facilities in Scotland County this week.

Direct Deposit for County employees would become mandatory in August. Vice Chair Shelley said she still disagrees with the mandatory program because the employees should have the option to choose.

Chairman Burns said that the demolition of English Fence has left the County with a small cost overrun, which might be difficult to collect.

Commissioner J.D. Willis said there should be no increases in the FY 2004-2005 budget and no increase to the tax rate. He said the time is wrong. Hard decisions must be made so the tax rate won't go up, even if it means taking last year's budget and cutting it by 10 percent.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to Closed Session 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 and 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 and in accordance with 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to negotiate a final contract with Mr. Kevin Patterson as Chief Financial Officer/Assistant County Manager. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk

David L. Burns  
Chairman