

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, January 4, 2010
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Alford delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Ms. Brenda Hunt, BART Program Director, asked the Commissioners for \$5,000 in Community Assistance grants to help fund emergency assistance to the agency's HIV/AIDS clients. Ms. Hunt said funds are used for emergencies, doctor co-pays, transportation, housing assistance and prescriptions. She said the need is particularly critical for those clients who do not have Medicaid. Ms. Hunt said in 2009 BART fund-raising efforts raised \$5,000 for Scotland County clients. Ms. Hunt said BART currently serves 130 clients in five counties. There are 32 clients in Scotland County, which represents an increase in clients.

County Manager Kevin Patterson explained the new "Thank You" program where County employees, via email, can thank co-workers for exceeding in the performance of their jobs and making the day improved for employees and/or customers.

Chairman Willis then thanked Mr. Keith Faulk of Public Buildings. Mr. Faulk was recognized as the fall 2009 fourth quarter "Thank You" recipient for buying food from the vending machine for a hungry child.

Item 1.DSS Annual Report

DSS Director Joe Knott said the 08-09 total budget was \$105 million with annual expenditures at \$93.5 million, which means DSS was under budget by 11.3 percent. Mr. Knott noted that one-third of the County continues to receive Medicaid.

Highlights of the annual report presented by Mr. Knott included the provision of child care subsidies for 433 children and assistance for 40,052 people who visited the agency. Food Assistance was up as was the number of families who received assistance. New children coming into care was 33. Permanency for 34 children was achieved. 94 Work First recipients got work. 6,643 adults and families were assisted through service intake. 162 Program Integrity Claims were established from 192 referrals.

Item 2.Veteran Services Annual Report and Program Updates

An annual report was presented by Veteran Service Officer Mildred Williams, who provides onsite counseling assistance to local veterans and their dependents. Ms. Williams said the

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veteran population in 2008 was 3,162, not including 370 retired military. Total expenditures were \$13,551,000. Ms. Williams then itemized request for service, telephone calls and claims and development over a five-year period. Ms. Williams added that a 2009 project included sending care packages to local military serving overseas.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners December 7, 2009 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$200.75 and in the amount of \$7,972.60 and to make refunds in the amount of \$187.33 and in the amount of \$1,095.98.**
- c) **Authorize the installment purchase on a compactor for the landfill, which is already included in the FY 2008-2009 budget.**

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to approve recruitment of an Adult Medicaid Case Manager. Currently demand in that unit is high.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve recruitment of an Adult Medicaid Case Manager. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said the Library would like to alter its February amnesty program where nonperishable food items can be donated in exchange for late fees. The dates have not yet been set and the food for late fees program will be advertised.

Mr. Patterson said people are parking at the Morgan Recreation Complex after dark, and Laurinburg City Police have agreed to patrol the area and escort people out of the Complex. He said there is evidence the after-dark activities are not appropriate. Mr. Patterson said the Parks and Recreation Foundation will install a gate at the entry road to eliminate automobile traffic into the sports complex parking lot.

Commissioner McPhatter said he did not want to prohibit people from entry if they plan to walk. Mr. Patterson said parking would be available for walkers at the Splash Pad.

Mr. Patterson said Windstream North Carolina, LLC, a telephone service provider, asked that the County reduce or abate the late listing penalty. Utilities must file property listings with the Department of Revenue. Windstream did not file according to the deadline. The Department of Revenue assessed a penalty on the County's behalf. Under normal circumstances the County would not have the authority to reduce or waive the penalty, but the County has some latitude with a utility. Mr. Patterson said Windstream made similar requests in each county where they have property, and all counties declined reduction in penalty. This puts the utility on the same

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standing as all other business citizens in regards to filing property tax listings. Mr. Patterson recommended the Board not reduce the penalty for Windstream.

Mr. Patterson said the County's required retirement contribution for next fiscal year will increase from 4.8 percent to 6.35 percent of covered payroll, an increase in retirement cost by approximately \$150,000. Within the next five years the retirement contribution is expected to increase to 10.53 percent of covered payroll and more than double the cost of the retirement benefit. The increase is due to the loss of value of the employment system's investment portfolio. The State Employees Retirement System had similar losses in its portfolio when the State went for several years without funding the retirement obligation in order to balance its budget. The State's contribution rate is expected to reach 15 percent.

Mr. Patterson recommended the Commissioners approve the hiring two positions, the weigh master at the landfill and the tax appraisal coordinator.

Mr. Patterson said the reappraisal process has begun and results are expected to make it beneficial to switch to a four-year revaluation. Having staff familiar with the entire process would greatly enhance the County's ability to provide the services in the future.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve recruitment of a weigh master at the landfill. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve recruitment of a tax appraisal coordinator. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said Board at its retreat last year agreed to investigate the possibility of developing a County-owned MSW landfill. He discussed creation of an MSW landfill at the current landfill location that would have a permitted capacity of 3,000ATPD serving North and South Carolina.

Mr. Patterson said consultants offered three scenarios and financial evaluations for a landfill expansion — 2,000 ATPD (Average Tons Per Day), 3,000 ATPD and 4,000 ATPD. Total construction costs over five years would be \$13,895,000 with a breakeven period six to seven years from start of operations.

Mr. Patterson said the landfill would be an expansion of the 1983 landfill with the current unlined landfill used as daily cover for the lined MSW landfill. Mr. Patterson explained that moving parts of the unlined landfill into a lined landfill would also greatly reduce contamination. The landfill concept has a 236-acre footprint on nearly 700-acres. Additional land would need to be acquired to operate the facility, including borrow areas and buffers.

Mr. Patterson said Scotland County generates approximately 100 ATPD, while Hoke County generates a similar waste stream. Cumberland and Robeson counties have landfills. Richmond County has a transfer station owned and operated by Republic. Counties close enough to

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participate in a regional landfill are Hoke and Moore. Hoke, Moore and Scotland counties combined would not generate 1,000 ATPD.

Mr. Patterson discussed the origin of the waste since there have been questions about the possibility of waste coming from outside of the North and South Carolina service areas through transfer stations. The County's C&D facility is well under capacity. One of the landfills under consideration when the State enacted the new landfill legislation was a 10,000 ATPD C&D landfill. When this landfill was terminated there was no attempt to bring any waste into the County landfill by sending it through a transfer station. New State legislation requires transfer stations to collect information about the origination of the waste. This information would be provided to the landfill. Since the County would own and operate the landfill, the County could refuse any specific load of waste. Scotland County does this with the current C&D facility.

Mr. Patterson said the County could also refuse to accept waste from specific haulers or even transfers stations. With a 3,000 ATPD limitation there is no need to accept waste from outside North and South Carolina. With a 3,000 ATPD limitation on the permit and a service area of North and South Carolina, this landfill would be safe and profitable for Scotland County.

The County Manager said if the Board agrees to proceed with the landfill expansion, there would be a practical need to partner with Waste Management or Republic. Waste Management controls a significant amount of the waste stream in the Carolinas but it has no landfills in North Carolina and two of their South Carolina landfills are reaching the end of life. Mr. Patterson said he has had preliminary discussions with Waste Management to determine their interest in a partnership with Scotland County, and the company is interested.

Mr. Patterson said during solid waste franchise discussions involving a "mega dump," opponents stated they did not want the County to accept waste from nine states. A landfill to serve only Scotland County or even a small regional is not financially viable. Mr. Patterson said since the County borders South Carolina, a similar permit would make sense and the concept would meet the interest of a smaller landfill, not a "mega dump" with the County owning the permit. That would give the County control of the landfill and what goes in it.

The County Manager suggested it would be beneficial for the Board to hold public forums on the concept to allow as much information to be disseminated as possible. Mr. Patterson estimated the process would take about a year, assuming the Board approves the project.

The meeting with Marlowe & Associates will be 10 a.m. January 14 with a separate meeting at LMA at 1 p.m.

A joint meeting with the Commissioners and the School Board is scheduled for 6 p.m. January 25 in the Commissioners Chamber.

Resolutions from Dare and Columbus counties oppose the transfer of the secondary road program to the counties. Scotland County Commissioners previously passed a similar resolution.

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Commissioner McDow asked that the Scotland County resolution be resent to the County's local legislators.

There is also a resolution from Columbus County to prohibit illegal aliens from attending North Carolina's Community Colleges.

Item 9. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to go into 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.

Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Chairman Willis asked staff to work with the Chamber of Commerce and ESC to host a State of County forum in the first two weeks of February.

Mr. Patterson said a letter of intent was submitted for consideration of a grant to start a micro-loan program for downtown Laurinburg. Chairman Willis advised staff to move forward with that and to go after all available grant monies.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to January 25. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman