

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
October 3, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, October 3, 2005
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

At 7 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Willis asked if anyone wished to speak at Public Forum.

Ms. Becca Hughes, speaking on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, recognized Mr. Scott Miller and Mr. Duncan McKay for their energy and commitment to the Advisory Board. Both completed the maximum appointment terms. Ms. Hughes thanked them for a job well done.

On behalf of the Commissioners, Chairman Willis expressed his appreciation for their service.

No one else came forward, and Public Forum was closed.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Henry McLeod discussed rezoning application 427-05 submitted by Mr. Graham B. “Brownie” Gainey, who requests to rezone approximately 9.5 acres of property from R1 (Residential Single Family) to HC (Highway Commercial). The property is located on US15-501 (Aberdeen Road).

Mr. McLeod said the applicant plans to locate a real estate office and a vegetable stand on the site. He said the Planning and Zoning Board recommends approval by the Board of Commissioners and that the Commissioners reserve the right to require a buffer at some later time.

Chairman Willis called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak against or in favor of rezoning application 427-05. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve rezoning application 427-05 with the added provision that the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to require a buffer at some future time. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney and 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 Willis apologized to those in attendance for the lengthy closed session.

Item 3. Scotland Community Clinic Facility Location Request

Ms. Doris Douglas, Community Health Clinic Chair, asked the Commissioners to consider locating the Community Health Clinic on County property near the Health Department. Ms. Douglas said the clinic would serve “the forgotten people” and those who cannot afford to go to a doctor. She said the facility the group wishes to locate on County property was donated by Scotland Memorial Hospital, which plans to replace it with a larger facility at the Hospital’s Wagram site.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said the best location for the facility would be on the east side of the Health Department where water, power and sewer service hookup is available.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Scotland Community Health Clinic project, which would be located next to the Health Department. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham introduced 4-Hers Brandi Smith and Clay Brooks. Dr. Graham said a conservative estimate of between 150 and 200 packages of basic necessities and educational items would be sent from the community to Katrina victims in the Gulf States.

Dr. Graham said October 2 to 8 is National 4-H Week. Mr. Brooks discussed what 4-H means to him and to the community.

Item 5. Update: Health Promotion Budget Cuts

County Manager Crumpton said roughly half the amount of the Preventive Health Block Grant earmarked for Health Promotions will be eliminated in January 1. He said the Board of Health is asking the Commissioners to consider funding the program for the remainder of the fiscal year using money from lapsed salaries.

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Health Director Jane Murray discussed how Health Promotions serves the community. She said the two-page summary in the agenda packets outlines the many deliverables the program makes to the community.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to fund Health Promotions through the remainder of FY 2005-2006 using money from lapsed salaries. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. Revaluation Schedule Resolution

County Manager Crumpton said in October 2003 the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to conduct revaluation every four years rather than every eight years. He said although the intent of the resolution was good, provided there was a growing tax base, the Scotland County values fall just short of the market at 97.4 percent. Mr. Crumpton asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a resolution, which would delay the revaluation to an eight-year cycle.

Chairman Willis said there was no point in spending a great deal of money on a four-year revaluation for what amounts to about three percent.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Resolution, which would delay the revaluation schedule from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2011 and to implement subsequent reappraisals every eight years. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION OF THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO DELAY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY REVALUATION SCHEDULE FROM JANUARY 1, 2007 TO JANUARY 1, 2011 AND TO IMPLEMENT SUBSEQUENT REAPPRAISALS EVERY EIGHT YEARS

WHEREAS, Scotland County completed and implemented its most recent octennial reappraisal of real property on January 1, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Scotland County voted on October 6, 2003 to provide for a four-year-in-house revaluation to be effective January 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Revenue's most recent Sales Ratio study for Scotland County is at 97.48 percent of Market Value;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Scotland County that the next revaluation of Scotland County's Real Property will occur on January 1st, 2011. The reappraisal work will be conducted by the Staff of the County Tax Assessor's Office with assistance by an outside consultant. An appropriation for the special reserve fund to cover the reappraisal work will be appropriated for Tax Administration each year as required by GS 153A-150.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded promptly by the Clerk to the Board to the Department of Revenue as required by GS 105-286.

Adopted this 3rd day of October 2005.

Item 7. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners September 12, 2005 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve request by the Health Department to establish a \$200 fee for any Food Handling Establishment Application that requires a permit or transitional permit.**
- c) **Approve recommended valuation of \$164,970 on parcels owned by Mr. Thomas Gilmore, which reflects a reduction from the original tax valuation of \$175,460.**
- d) **Budget Amendments**
 - 1) **DSS: Approve a \$2,504 increase in State funds carried over from FY 2004-2005; and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
 - 2) **DSS: Approve receipt of \$144,855 for Child Daycare – Smart Start, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required**
 - 3) **DSS: Approve receipt of \$980 in additional funding, which requires a 12.5 percent County match of \$113, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**

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

Item 8. Emergency Services

EMS Director Roylin Hammond asked the Commissioners to consider an increase in fee structure for Braveheart Medical Transport. Mr. Hammond said Braveheart has not had a fee increase since 1997. Mr. Hammond said the increase request includes \$200 per trip, \$300 per trip for an emergency, and \$9.00 a mile per loaded mile. Mr. Hammond said the request is very much in line with the fees for the rest of the country.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford approving the Braveheart Medical Transport fee increase to include \$200 per trip, \$300 per trip for an emergency and \$9.00 a mile per loaded mile. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Hammond said two bids were submitted from eight vendors who received bid packages for the purchase of an ambulance. He said Northwestern Emergency Vehicles submitted the lower bid at \$96,443. Mr. Hammond said to keep it within the \$93,000 budgeted for an ambulance purchase, he contacted the company and negotiated the removal of items to get the ambulance price to \$93,000.

Chairman Willis asked if any of the omitted items were critical to the vehicle. Mr. Hammond said that the omitted items would be transferred to the new vehicle from an old ambulance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to purchase an ambulance from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles for \$93,000. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9. Franchise Ordinance for County Solid Waste Disposal Services

County Manager Crumpton said Waste Management contacted the County about the possibility of locating a regional landfill here. He said such a siting is a slow process, which could take up to five years. Mr. Crumpton outlined the steps required to proceed through the process.

Mr. Crumpton said the County could benefit financially because a regional landfill would bring about \$2 million in revenue in just the first year of operation and create up to 100 jobs. Mr. Crumpton said Richmond County also is considering siting the regional landfill.

The County Manager said he brought the Franchise Ordinance for County Solid Waste Disposal Services to the Commissioners for possible approval on first reading to see if the governing board was interested in beginning the process of pursuing the project. Mr. Crumpton said that it would be very expensive for the County to do on its own.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said the regional landfill would accept household waste only and not hazardous materials.

Mr. Crumpton said that a regional landfill would attract industry because industry likes having a solid waste site nearby that's affordable. He added that free dumping for the County could be one of the negotiating points.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the concept and to approve the Franchise Ordinance for County Solid Waste Disposal Services on first reading. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 10. Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said there were \$3.2 million in property tax collections in September with a total year to date collection rate of \$7.9 million. He said \$2.2 million is in a special account reserved for schools as of September 30, 2005.

Chairman Willis thanked Mr. Patterson for the report and directed him to provide the information to School Finance Officer Sharon Hales to keep her current on the account status.

Item 11. County Manager's Report

County Manager Crumpton said the staff is working on updates to the personnel policy, and he hopes to have the updates available for review by the Commissioners at the November 7, 2005 meeting. Mr. Crumpton added that work also has begun on a Safety Policy and Procedures Manual.

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Mr. Crumpton said a big concern now is fuel and travel with a 20 percent mileage reimbursement increase from 40.5 cents to 48.5 cents per mile. He said the Sheriff's Department and EMS expect to fall short based on the current rate by February 2006. Mr. Crumpton said he is open to any ideas the Commissioners might have.

Mr. Crumpton said recreation complex bids are due October 14, and the County is operating in a tight time frame. He said the Board might be called upon to meet before November 7 to consider bids and award a contract.

The County Manager then discussed teacher raises funded by local current expense. He said based on the response from the Superintendent concerning any monies remaining from local current expense for raises, that the funds were used to supplement cuts elsewhere.

Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Vice Chair Gholston thanked the County Manager for the steps he is taking to establish a Safety Committee.

Commissioner McDow recognized DSS Director Jan Elliott for receiving the top Workforce Development award.

The Commissioners discussed a letter they received from Ms. Ann Rieg, who expressed disappointment that Adams Photography did not receive the Parks and Recreation photography contract. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton discussed the bid process and the decision to award the contract to photographer Gary Gallman.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman