

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners January 3, 2005 regular meeting  
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, January 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: Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Butler delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Willis asked if anyone wished to speak at Public Forum. No one came forward, and Public Forum was closed.

**Item 1. County Engineer's Report**

County Engineer Jim Blackwell provided the following report:

**Proposed Amendments:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently completed a revision to the countywide Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map for Robeson County. Although Scotland County is unaffected by the updated flood hazard information, it does lie within several of the revised maps. The County is required to update its Flood Plain Ordinance to include the revised maps. The effective date is January 19, 2005. The update will be forwarded to the state and federal agencies in order to maintain Flood Insurance in Scotland County. A revised copy of Article 3, Section B has been included in the agenda package for review by the Commissioners.

Chairman Willis called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the proposed amendments. No one came forward. Chairman Willis closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the amendments to the Scotland County National Flood Insurance Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Consideration of construction and demolition tipping fee:** A request has been made by the owner of the 401 South Truck Stop to waive or reduce the tipping fee for the demolition of the site. The estimated cost for the tipping fee for this building is \$15,000.

Commissioner Jordan said tipping fees for building demolition have never been waived in the past. Commissioner Jordan provided background information on the request from this particular property owner.

Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners Alford and Butler expressed concern that waiving or reducing tipping fees for one property owner might set a precedent for future property

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owners to make similar requests especially if there are no intentions to rebuild on the property to further support the tax base.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to deny waiving the tipping fee for construction and demolition waste. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Blackwell continued his report. The County continues to work on the plan for the permit of the next landfill, which should provide disposal for Scotland County for the next 20-plus years at the present rate of growth. The long-term benefit of the landfill is the ability to have more control of solid waste costs, particularly during times of economic slowdown. Cost estimates and a business plan will be presented during the budget process.

Chairman Willis asked Mr. Blackwell also to provide a condensed version of the landfill expansion plan for the upcoming Retreat.

**Community Recreation Center:** Water has been run to the splash pad, and the sewer lines should be completed this week. The splash pad has been poured, and the building has been painted. Bids are now being prepared for the landscaping, fencing and paving, which will complete the splash pad phase of the project.

**Water Districts:** USDA Rural Development approved the Water District to contract with the County Public Works Department for the installation of final line extensions of Water District II. As soon as the contracts are approved and signed construction will start on about 10 miles of line.

Before continuing with the Agenda, Chairman Willis recognized Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham, who then introduced Ms. Hazel McPhatter and Ms. Donna Faye Barton, Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) employees. Federal funding comes to EFNEP through NC State.

Ms. Barton discussed what she does to serve adults from limited resource families while Ms. McPhatter discussed her job serving youth ages 5 to 19. Both presentations were given in recognition of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EFNEP. Pedometers were distributed to the Commissioners.

**Item 2. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team update and support request**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond, a member of the steering committee for the Lumber River Council of Governments Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team, requested support from the Commissioners to fund liability insurance policy for the CISM. Mr. Hammond said the CISM team is made up of volunteers who serve as peer debriefers who respond to critical incidents in the LRCOG area.

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Insurance for the team previously had been funded by State and federal sources through the LRCOG. Mr. Hammond said the funding is no longer there, and the four counties served by the LRCOG are now being asked for support of the CISM Team.

Mr. Hammond said Homeland Security funds in the EM budget could be used for the CISM insurance for FY 2004-2005, but he couldn't predict the funds would be available next year.

He said insurance support of the CISM by the Board of Commissioners would be a commitment in which the LRCOG would assess the amount as part of its annual dues. Support of \$500 from each of the four counties, with the exception of Richmond County, is being requested.

Commissioner Jordan suggested the Scotland County CISM members could be insured through the County's policy.

Chairman Willis asked Mr. Hammond to bring the issue before the Board at its February 7, 2005 meeting so more complete information could be provided.

**Item 3. Designate voting delegate for Legislative Goals Conference**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to designate Chairman Willis as the voting delegate who would attend the January 13 to 14 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman J.D. Willis asked the Board of Commissioners to amend the December 6, 2004 appointment of Commissioner Alford to the DSS Board to become effective July 1, 2005.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to amend the December 6, 2004 motion making the appointment of Commissioner Alford as the Commissioner representative to the DSS Board effective July 1, 2005. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

- a) Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, December 6, 2004 regular meeting
- b) Approve request by the Health Department to charge tattoo artists a \$300 non-transferable permitting fee per establishment.
- c) Approve Community Transportation Program Resolution (*No written comments were received with regard to the application*)
- d) Approve amendment to the agreement with Gustaf C. Lundin & Company, L.L.P. to audit accounts.
- e) Support request by DSS to pursue a Children's Trust Fund grant.
- f) Approve Resolution Seeking North Carolina General Assembly Funding for the Support of the Fort Bragg/Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC)

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

**Item 5. Monthly Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager**

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson discussed the draft financial statements, which would be mirrored in the presentation of the audit next month for the 2004 fiscal year. Mr. Patterson said the County used only half the Fund Balance, approximately \$1.2 million of the \$2.6 million appropriated amount.

Commissioner Jordan commented that it is frustrating to work with numbers the governing body does not yet have in order to prepare the budget. Mr. Patterson agreed and explained that projections are difficult, especially in the last few months when figures could swing wildly.

Commissioner Butler asked Mr. Patterson to prepare a financial update quarterly for review by the Board.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a budget amendment for Elections for the receipt of \$6,698 for the purchase of new technology.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve receipt of \$6,698 from the State for Elections and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 6. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

Commissioner Butler said he would assume responsibility for Appointments to Boards and Committees.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Dr. William Stroud and Mr. Douglas Yongue to the Board of Health and to appoint Mr. David Bridgeman to the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to reappoint Mr. A.L. "Joe" Jones and Mr. Roylin Hammond to the Aging Advisory Council and to appoint Mr. Burt Dean, Ms. Mae McIntyre and Reverend Dr. Howard Whitehurst to the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. John A. Ferguson to the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to appoint Mr. Jim Frank Henderson to the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Mr. Shep Jones to the ABC Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Fred Fox to the unexpired seat of Ms. Ann Kurtzman to the Community Channel Access Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 7. Other Information**

Chairman Willis said he distributed five County Manager applications to the Board members, which might be of interest. He said the remaining applications are available for review in the office of the Personnel Administrator. He encouraged the Commissioners to select additional applicants of interest for review by the Board.

The Board discussed whether to conduct the search by committee or by the entire Board. Commissioner McPhatter said that since the County Manager works for all seven Board members, it should be the responsibility of the full Board to conduct the search.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to involve the entire Board of Commissioners in the selection process for a County Manager.**

*Discussion:* Commissioner Jordan said now would be the time to approach the City Council about looking into the possibility of hiring one Manager for the County and the City since City Manager Joe Huffman is leaving.

**Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to invite the Laurinburg City Council to a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of hiring one Manager. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Vice Chair Gholston said that after attending a risk management workshop last year in Asheville she would like to see a similar one arranged for Department Heads. Vice Chair Gholston suggested a better knowledge of risk management would reduce insurance costs.

Commissioner Jordan suggested that by pooling insurance with surrounding counties and enlarging the population and insurance group those costs might be reduced.

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Commissioner Butler thanked the Department Heads for the way they handled staffing during the extra three day-holiday so as not to interrupt County services.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess until the Board of Health annual meeting 6 p.m., January 18, 2005 in the Education Room at the Health Department, 1405 West Boulevard. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk

J.D. Willis  
Chairman