

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
November 1, 2004, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, November 1, 2004
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

Report to the People, a dinner and annual report hosted by Cooperative Extension, was presented at 5 p.m. in the County Annex Conference Room, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg.

At 7:05 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 Attorney Ed Johnston, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Vice Chair Nancy Shelley delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Mr. Clyde Locklear, Laurel Hill Fire Chief and member of the Scotland County Fire Commission, presented Vice Chair Nancy Shelley with a plaque for her years of service and support to the Fire Commission. He thanked Vice Chair Shelley on behalf of the Fire Departments for her assistance in helping them secure 11 of the 14 fire trucks purchased since 1997.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond presented Vice Chair Shelley with a framed photograph of the 14 fire trucks taken at Pate Stadium.

Vice Chair Shelley thanked everyone for 12 years of support and praised Scotland County employees for their hard work and service to the community.

Board of Elections Director Judy Riggins reported that 3,765 of 20,655 registered voters took advantage of Early Vote.

Health Director Jane Murray provided a report on the smallpox exercise and plans for the mass vaccination clinic November 6. She discussed logistics of the exercise and said volunteers are needed to participate in clinic.

Chairman Burns thanked Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham and her staff for the informative Report to the People.

Item 1. Parks and Recreation

Ms. Becca Hughes thanked the four outgoing Commissioners and the entire Board of elected officials for their willingness to serve and for the tough decisions they made. She said that through hard work, they made a difference for the County.

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Speaking as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Ms. Hughes asked the governing body to consider allowing out-of-county children to participate the youth athletics programs now that there is a registration fee. She said requests, particularly on behalf of children in Maxton and Bennettsville, were denied when the County subsidized the programs. She recommended that out-of-county children pay full cost to participate and receive second priority to Scotland County children who wish to participate.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to allow children outside Scotland County to participate in Parks and Recreation youth programs at full cost and admission would take second priority to Scotland County youth. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Hughes provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which would incorporate a vision of Parks and Recreation services and facilities in the County over the next 10 to 20 years. Ms. Hughes said those communities that plan in hard times emerge from those hard times stronger and more successful. She said the positives of developing a plan far outweighs the negatives.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said she, Kevin Patterson, Hyder Massey and Al Blades met with Scotland County Schools staff Mark Barnes, Kerry McLawhorne, Amy Sloop and David Bounds to discuss a revised agreement with the schools.

Ms. Newton said the group met to discuss issues beneficial to children and cost effective to taxpayers. She said the group discussed updates to shared resources, which would be outlined in an agreement with the County school system.

Ms. Newton said it is recommended that the County Commissioners and Board of Education take the following actions.

1. Scotland County Parks and Recreation will use all Middle School fields for sports, with second priority after the school athletic programs.
2. Scotland County Schools will continue to have first priority for their tennis program for the Tennis Center on Atkinson Street.
3. Maintenance would be done as follows: School staff will mow all their fields; they will drag the softball and baseball fields on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Public Buildings will drag softball and baseball fields on Tuesday and Thursday and other days as needed by Parks and Recreation. Public Buildings would line all fields at the schools.

Ms. Newton said in order for the agreement to work and to significantly reduce maintenance duties by Public Buildings, Parks and Recreation requests the following changes:

1. Close Lion's Park in Laurel Hill. All games would be played on the two fields at Carver School and continue to play on the two fields at Laurel Hill Community

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Center. The lease agreement then would revert the land to ZV Pate when not used for recreation.

2. Eliminate all games from By-Pass Park. Games would be played on the ninth grade field at Scotland High and others at Sycamore Lane Middle School. Fields would be used for practice only.

Ms. Newton also encourage that any future Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants be used to improve sports and recreation facilities at the schools that are being used jointly for recreation purposes.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to endorse the abovementioned recommendations. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Work First Plan 2005-2007

Commissioner Clint Willis said that all information including figures have been updated throughout the Work First Plan for 2005-2007.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clint Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Sam Snowdon to approve the Work First Plan 2005-2007. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Revised Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Allocations

LRCOG Area Aging Administrator Brad Allen said a revised allocation provides \$2,878 in additional monies for Scotland County for the FY 2004-2005 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults for home-delivered meals.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to approve receipt of additional funding in the amount of \$2,878 for the FY 2004-2005 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Allen said that he would be moving to a new job in Raleigh, and this would be his last appearance before the Board of Commissioners. He thanked the entire Board for its support of Older Adult Programs.

Item 4. Consent Agenda:

- a) Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners, October 4, 2004 joint session and October 4, 2004 regular meeting.
- b) Approve Community Transportation Program Resolution (*No written comments were received with regard to the application*)
- c) Approve request for the addition of Spradley Trail to the State Maintained Secondary Road System

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d) Approve a request by the Sheriff's Department to lease a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria with the standard police package in the total amount of \$22,114 funded in three payments of \$7,734.

e) Budget Amendments:

- 1) EMS: Approve receipt of FY 2004 State Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$79,077 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. There are no matching local dollars associated with this grant.**
- 2) EMS: Approve receipt of FY 2004 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$16,229 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. There are no matching local dollars associated with this grant.**
- 3) DSS: Approve receipt of additional funding to DSS in the amount of \$128,751 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. There are no County dollars involved.**

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

Item 5. County Engineer's Report

County Engineer Jim Blackwell provided the following report:

Solid Waste Enforcement: Solid Waste Enforcement continues to be very active with additional action on abandoned structures. During the last month seven structures were demolished and disposed of without any expense to the taxpayer or use of the court system. Work is in progress for additional structures to be removed at sites, which have historically resisted regulations. Progress is expected to remain steady with limited enforcement through the court system.

Recreational Complex: The recreation center construction is extremely active with all contractors working well. The features for the splash pad have been installed and plumbed. It is expected the concrete slab will be poured before Thanksgiving. The concession/bath house has been dried in with substantial completion expected within 45 days. County staff is finishing the removal of clearing debris and should be complete this month. We are working on the next phase of softball and soccer fields.

Restructure of Zoning Department: The restructure of the Zoning Department has moved from the transition phase to the operating phase. All staff members have settled into the additional new roles and work is flowing well through the office with very few delays or complaints. The Solid Waste Enforcement Officer has reduced the backlog of zoning violations without a great deal of controversy.

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The chairs of both the Board of Zoning Adjustments and the Planning and Zoning Board are pleased with the level of effort and quality of work completed by the staff. There still is a great deal of work ahead of us, and we will focus on reducing backlog without creating additional problems.

Item 6. Monthly Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager

Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson said that work on tax consolidation continues. County and City staff are developing a sliding fee schedule and securing model contracts. Once developed, a model contract would be submitted to attorneys for review.

Mr. Patterson said the local Boundary Commission met several times in order to reach a better understanding of the County boundary according to the 1903 survey of the Scotland/Richmond County boundary. The first joint meeting of the Scotland and Richmond Boundary Commissions is scheduled for November 16.

Chairman Burns recommended that the governing body consider reimbursing mileage for Scotland County Boundary Commission members who travel between counties for meetings and to conduct research.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gholston and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to approve mileage reimbursement to members of the Scotland County Boundary Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson discussed the attached summary of first quarter expenditures by department for FY 2004-2005 and the summary of ad valorem and sales tax receipts as of October 18, 2004.

Mr. Patterson asked the governing body to consider approving immediate recruitment of two deputy positions, which have been frozen until January, the recruitment of a new Deputy I position and the purchase of two vehicles for use by DSS deputies.

Mr. Patterson explained there is a need for two DSS deputies to serve child support papers. With the freeze on two deputy positions, and the deployment of two additional deputies, the Sheriff's Department issued orders that the two DSS Deputies answer calls rather than serve child support papers. Child support papers are significantly backlogged, and indirect cost allocation used by DSS is threatened.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to advance the hiring date of two deputy positions, authorize the recruitment of a new Deputy I position and approve the purchase of two vehicles for use by DSS deputies for an expense of \$55,796, which is part of the annual State reimbursement. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Mr. Patterson said the City of Laurinburg would host a July 4th fireworks display. The City requests that the County consider subsidizing half the expense at \$5,000 or contribute \$10,000 to the City's \$10,000 for a larger fireworks display.

Vice Chair Shelley suggested the decision be left to the next Board of Commissioners since the expenditure would come from the FY 2005-2006 budget.

Item 7. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to reappoint Mr. Sam Snowdon to the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to appoint Mr. Robert Starner as the Scotland County representative to the Selective Service System Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 8. Other Information

Responding to a second e-mail from a citizen, Mr. Ray Green, Commissioner Jordan asked if the Sheriff's Department could do anything to crack down on video poker machine operations.

Sheriff Buddy Blalock said the Laurinburg City Police and the Sheriff's Department could do little on the enforcement side. He said the Sheriff's Association has been lobbying State legislature to make the machines illegal and that enforcement amounts to a misdemeanor at this point.

He said the situation is difficult not just in Scotland County but statewide. He said the law also is unclear as to whether machines that have been confiscated can be destroyed.

Sheriff Blalock added that 80 percent of the crime in Scotland County is derived from drugs, and law enforcement is focused in that area. He added that the poker machine establishments know nearly all of his officers, which would make undercover work difficult.

Commissioner Jordan expressed his appreciation of Chairman Burns, Vice Chair Shelley and Commissioners Snowdon and Clint Willis for the work they have done as elected officials. Commissioner Gholston agreed, and said she would miss serving with them. Commissioner J.D. Willis also expressed his appreciation for their service and hard work.

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)(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 Closed Session held in accordance with

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N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

The Commissioners provided Finance Officer/Assistant Count Manager Kevin Patterson with a positive six-month performance evaluation.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus offered Mr. Patterson its vote of confidence for outstanding job performance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Snowdon and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk

David L. Burns
Chairman