

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners November 6, 2006 regular meeting
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, November 6, 2006
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 and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner 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. 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.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Willis presented a plaque of appreciation to DSS Director Jan Elliott, who will retire December 31, 2006. Ms. Elliott thanked the Commissioners and the staff for their support.

Item 1. Public Hearings: Planning and Zoning

With County Attorney Johnston presiding, the Public Hearing was called to order for consideration of the Conditional Use Application 439-06 and Conditional Use Application 440-06.

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Henry McLeod introduced Conditional Use Application 439-06 and said the Planning and Zoning Board recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the application.

Conditional Use Application Number 439-06 –Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless - Request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a wireless telecommunications facility on Edgar Gibson Road property owned by Thomas Gibson, Virginia Gibson, Gilbert Gibson, Suzanne Gibson and Malcolm McIntyre and is better described as Scotland County Tax Map Number 242, Block 01, Parcel Number 013.

Mr. Gary Pennington of Pennington Law Firm, being duly sworn in, discussed the Verizon Wireless service and its application to construct a new communications tower, which would provide additional coverage to the eastern part of the State with the acquisition of new licenses. Verizon would lease a 100 foot by 100 foot area on a 135-acre tract of land zoned RA. He said the 250-foot-high lattice tower would be built to accommodate five to six carriers. Mr. Pennington showed maps of the area as it now exists and of coverage area that would be supplied by the tower. He asked the Commissioners to consider approving the application as submitted.

No one else came forward, and the evidentiary part of the Public Hearing was closed.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve Conditional Use Application Number 439-06 in accordance with the Section 38 Standards of the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

With County Attorney Johnston presiding, the Public Hearing was called to order for Conditional Use Application 440-06.

Mr. McLeod introduced the following:

Conditional Use Application Number 440-06 –Beacon Towers - Request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a telecommunications 300 foot guy tower on Aberdeen Highway (US 501 North) owned by Christopher Futrell and is better described as Scotland County Tax Map Number 430, Block 01, Parcel Number 005 & 00501.

Mr. McLeod said because the tower is proposed on land zoned OS, a six-foot-high fence would be constructed around each of the guy wires in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. McLeod said the Army was contacted, and no official complaint had been submitted by the Army. Mr. McLeod said the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the Conditional Use Permit.

Mr. Martin Deputy representing Beacon Towers, being duly sworn in, discussed the Beacon Towers location, the change in wireless technology and the growth of broadband internet, which has transformed the entire communications industry. He said there are still many rural and underserved areas that remain. He said the Beacon Tower site would be used as a broadband communication facility. Mr. Deputy said SunCom Wireless, according to a letter, supports the application.

No one else came forward, and the evidentiary portion of the Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve Conditional Use Application Number 440-06 in accordance with the Section 38 Standards of the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Before continuing to the next item of business, Chairman Willis recognized Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham. Dr. Graham said the State administrators with NC Cooperative Extension extend thanks to the Commissioners for their support in 2006 and for a strong future partnership.

Commissioner Jordan commented on his four years as a Commissioner. He said he understands the sense of confusion and frustration among citizens, and that much misinformation contributed to that. Commissioner Jordan said the Commissioners have done a great deal, and things would have been much worse had they not.

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Commissioner Jordan said there was a change in Tax Assessor, County Manager, Finance Officer and Building Inspectors and Planning and Zoning was eliminated as a separate department and the number of County employees went from 334 to 300. He said the Commissioners held taxes steady by more aggressively collecting prior year taxes, and that the governing body worked on two fiscal budgets without a County Manager and cut more than \$1 million from the budget.

He said the soon-to-be-completed Recreation Complex will be one of the main reasons people come and stay. He said it is important to get lights for the regional tournaments.

Commissioner Jordan said citizens who have an issue with the “school floor” must take the issue to the Board of Education and local representatives because the Board of Commissioners has no legal standing to do anything about it. Commissioner Jordan said he believed a referendum would be the only way to resolve the issue.

Commissioner Jordan discussed the joint GIS agreement between the County and the City and the upcoming revaluation, most of which would be done in-house. Both projects would save the County money.

Commissioner Jordan explained how the landfill issue was voted down and how it came up again. He said the County must look at long-term revenue needs since nothing else was in sight.

He praised County Engineer Jim Blackwell for the work he has done to save money for the County. He praised County Manager Crumpton for the work he has done. Commissioner Jordan said the perception that Mr. Crumpton is doing bad things is not true.

Item 2. Scotland County/City of Laurinburg GIS Agreement

County Manager Crumpton discussed the efforts by the County and City to develop a countywide GIS system. He explained some of the details of the agreement.

County Attorney Johnston suggested that the GIS agreement be approved subject to some minor tweaking by the attorneys.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Interlocal GIS Agreement between the County of Scotland and the City of Laurinburg. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Republic Resolution

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Landfill Extension Option Resolution with Republic Services. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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**Resolution Approving Landfill Extension Option Between the County of Scotland
and Republic Services, Inc., through December 31, 2012**

WHEREAS, Republic Services, Inc., was recently awarded a landfill expansion permit at the Uhwarrie Environmental Landfill in Montgomery County, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, as permitted by Article XIII, page 14 of its agreement with Republic Services dated January 1, 1998, allows the County of Scotland to extend the original agreement by two additional terms of five years each.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland would like to commit to the first five-year extension option offered in the agreement dated January 1, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with the approval of this Resolution the extension, which under the original agreement was set to expire December 31, 2007, will now be extended to December 31, 2012.

Adopted this 6th day of November 2006.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners October 2, 2006 regular meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release of funds in the amount of \$208.63 and in the amount of \$18,512.69 of property taxes and approve refunds in the amount of \$40.00 and in the amount of \$14,299.11.**

c) **Approve petition that the NCDOT abandon a portion of Sycamore Church Road from the State-maintained road system.**

d) **Approve a petition that the NCDOT add Partridge Drive to the State-maintained road system.**

e) **Approve as surplus a 1986 Ford Ranger truck VIN# IFTCR10T6GUB91073.**

f) **Budget Amendments:**

1) **General Services: Appropriate \$85,000 of designated fund balance to move Administration, Information Technology, Inspections, Planning and Zoning and Mapping from the Annex to Covington Street, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money.**

2) **Cooperative Extension: Approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$10,000 in University Extension Grants, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**

3) **Health: Approve receipt of \$14,186 in State funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved. No County**

dollars involved.

- 4) **DSS:** Approve receipt of State funding in the amount of \$8,135, which requires a County match in the amount of \$1,162, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.
- 5) **DSS:** Approve receipt of State funding in the amount of \$13,943, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.

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

Item 5. 2006 Recreational Trail Grant

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the County has been awarded a 2006 Recreational Trail Grant in the amount of \$25,000. The City of Laurinburg will provide the required \$5,000 in matching funds in the form of cash and donated in-kind services.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to accept the grant. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said as of October 31, 2006, the County expended 27 percent of its budget and collected 37 percent in revenues. He said the current cash balance is \$20,178,908 of which \$2,234,964 is restricted for school debt and capital needs.

Mr. Patterson distributed the first quarter expenditures report and explained that there would be a projected over expenditure in the Jail for medical services for some of the high risk medical problems of detainees.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to approve a budget amendment of \$38,500 in interest revenue for the Youth Center Task Force project grant money. He said the interest is on grants and carries the same restrictions as the grants.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the amended \$38,500 interest on the Youth Center Task Force grant funds. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to reappoint Dr. Olivia Guzman, Ms. Hattie McCallum, Mr. William

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Matthews and Mr. Dave Raley to the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Ms. Hilda Lomax to an unexpired term on the Scotland County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Ms. Melinda Salley, Ms. Tina Ellis and Ms. Linda Cutchin to the Child Fatality Prevention Team. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Butler encouraged citizens to apply for positions on Board and Committees by printing out applications from the website or contacting the Clerk.

Item 8. County Manager's Report

County Manager Crumpton asked the Commissioners to consider applying for a Department of Commerce 21st Century Communities Program Grant, which helps counties increase their long-term economic sustainability by establishing a more competitive economic development environment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan authorizing the County Manager to make application for a 21st Century Communities Program Grant. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Crumpton said Laurinburg Institute has asked the County to consider donating a surplused 1994, 24-passenger van to the school to transport the basketball team to daily practice in Laurel Hill.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the donation of a 24-passenger surplused van to Laurinburg Institute. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Crumpton asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a resolution asking NCDOT to place Scotland High 4A Baseball Champions acknowledgement signs on Scotland County welcome signs.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Resolution Requesting the NCDOT Place Signs Acknowledging the Scotland High School 4A Baseball Champions. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**Resolution Requesting the NC Department of Transportation Place
Signs on Scotland County Welcome Signs Acknowledging the
Scotland County High School 4A Baseball Champions**

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WHEREAS, the Scotland County High School Baseball Team won the 2006 4A Baseball Championship; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland along with every County citizen wishes to show heartfelt appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the players, coaches, parents, fans and all those involved with the success of the Team; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has agreed to place signs on the County Welcome signs honoring the Team's Championship.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation place the signs donated by the City of Laurinburg on the County Welcome signs at each major entrance into the County.

Adopted this 6th Day of November 2006.

County Manager Crumpton said Sheriff J.R. "Buddy" Blalock asked that his service revolver be surplused and awarded to him and that his badge be retired.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the Resolution Acknowledging the Service of Sheriff J.R. "Buddy" Blalock and Awarding His Service Revolver to Him. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**Resolution Acknowledging the Service of Sheriff J.R. "Buddy" Blalock
and Awarding His Service Revolver to Him**

WHEREAS, Sheriff J.R. "Buddy" Blalock has served Scotland County as Sheriff for the past five years, and;

WHEREAS, Sheriff Blalock has dedicated his life to law enforcement and public service first as a member of the State Highway Patrol and then as a member of the Scotland County Sheriff's Department, and;

WHEREAS, Sheriff Blalock, who has been with the Scotland County Sheriff's Department since 1995 and served as Sheriff since October 2001, will be retiring from law enforcement in December, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioner of the County of Scotland, in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, do hereby award Sheriff Blalock his service revolver (FNH-USA, Inc., Serial #386105206) in exchange for consideration of \$1.00.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland also elects to retire the Sheriff Blalock's badge and award it to him for his dedicated service to the County.

Approved this 6th day of November 2006.

The Commissioners were reminded of upcoming events:

November 16, 6 p.m., City five-year plan meeting
November 22, 2 to 4 p.m., Transportation building open house
November 29, 12 p.m., kickoff of the new RCC campus site
December 5, 3 to 5 p.m., Library celebrates 65 years

Item 9. Closed Session

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

Closed Session was held in the Health Education Room.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Vice Chair Gholston thanked Commissioner Jordan for his talent, hard work and contributions to the community.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman