

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, December 7, 2009
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 Bob Davis, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner John Alford. Staff in attendance: 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.

The meeting was then turned over to Attorney Johnston for the purpose of Board reorganization. County Attorney Johnston asked for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners for the year 2010.

Commissioner McDow nominated Commissioner Willis. There were no other nominations. Commissioner McPhatter moved to close nominations and elect J.D. Willis as Chairman by acclamation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis that Betty Blue Gholston be elected Vice Chair by acclamation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Henry McLeod presented the following:

Conditional Use Application Number 458-09 – Gryphon Group Security Solutions, LLC Request for a Conditional Use Permit for combat training at the Laurinburg Maxton Airport Commission. This is 55 acres on the west and south side, contiguous to the existing property. The Planning and Zoning Board recommends approval of the conditional use application. No ammunition will be used other than paint ball.

Chairman Willis called the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the application.

Mr. Paul Davis, speaking in favor of the request, said Gryphon Group originally received approval on conditional use for training on two other parcels, but the properties were found not to be acceptable to FAA. The Airport and Gryphon Group came to an agreement to swap out the properties.

No one else came forward and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve Conditional Use Application Number 458-09. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Public Hearing: Amendment to the FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant

LRCOG Housing Coordinator Adrian Lowery asked the Board to approve an amendment to the 2008 Community Development Block Grant to add two homes to the program. One home is at 7301 Fletcher Road in Gibson while the other is at 8820 Peeles Chapel Road in Laurel Hill.

Mr. Lowery said that any program amendment to the CDBG Program requires that a Public Hearing be held to solicit comments. Mr. Lowery asked the Commissioners to consider approval of the amendment after the Public Hearing.

Chairman Willis declared the Public Hearing opened and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the amendment or to make a general comment. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the addition of the two specified units to the CDBG Scattered Site Program. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Lowery if there was any way completion on these homes could be expedited. Commissioner Davis said he is concerned by the condition of the homes and another tarp was just added to the roof of the home in Laurel Hill.

Mr. Lowery said the State would first have to approve the program amendment, and a title search would follow. Mr. Lowery said work could begin immediately once the title search is in place. Mr. Lowery said due to the severity of the cases, he would ask the State on behalf of the Commissioners to expedite the process.

Item 3.Update: State's Mental Health System and Local Management Entity

SRMH/DD/SAS Area Director Sharen Prevatte distributed first quarter FY 2009-1010 statistical data.

Ms. Prevattes said mental health since August experienced a sizable reduction in State funding. Ms. Prevatte said mental health and providers are making adjustments to the provision of services in light of funding reductions. She said every attempt is being made to minimize impact on direct services.

Ms. Prevatte said community support services will end July 1, 2010 in favor of comprehensive services in critical access behavioral health, which will begin development in January 2010. Ms. Prevatte said the transition would ensure that qualified clinical services are provided. She said applications are being accepted now at the State level.

Commissioner Joyce McDow said there is a need for clarity across the State in the area of mental health reform.

Item 4. James L. Morgan Recreation Complex tournament overview

Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Executive Director Cory Hughes outlined a plan to market the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex. The following is a summary of the plan:

There were 11 Tournaments 2008 -- zero tournaments 2009. Thirty-three tournaments were "booked" in 2009, but none were "made."

Reasons booked tournaments were not made include limited effort on the County's part to push, limited effort on Tournament Director's part to pull in teams, booking of fields to block others and to a small degree, the economy. The challenge is to get over the perception (of not making tournaments) and start on the road to success.

An overriding rule is Scotland County Parks and Recreation cannot and will not be placed in a position of risking or losing money while trying to attract and/or hold tournaments.

The TDA has taken on a project to analyze and develop a business plan for this program by talking with those involved, looking at competition and meeting with possible partners. The solution is an approach that partners Parks and Recreation with the TDA, the "risk" partner in the effort.

Approach:

- Limit the number of tournaments (4-5 in each) to a handful of major sports -- primarily baseball, girl's fast-pitch softball, men's softball, soccer (over time).
- Supplement the "travel" program with local intramural weekend "tournaments" and inter-town rec tournaments (increases participation and self esteem of local youth).
- Marry the program to a single Director in each sport.
- Now is the time of year to make things happen since December is "scheduling month."
- Better promote the Morgan Complex, town, events and accommodations.
 - Dedicated web site for our tournament program.
 - Work with hotels and restaurants on promotions.
- Be creative in funding.
 - The traditional approach has been to generate revenue via field fees and concessions – May be situations where we trade field fees for gate receipts, or lower field fees for one tournament to be recouped at a later event – always managing our risk.

TDA Support/Next Steps

- Initial negotiations indicate the new tournament program will be self-supportive.
- Finalize our partners and schedule.
- The TDA has pledged up to \$5,000 to provide marketing and support.

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- The TDA will finance, develop and maintain (with Parks and Recreation input) a tournament website.
- TDA will partner with Shannon Newton and Al Blades to manage the overall program.

Commissioner McDow asked what the “carrot” might be in order to attract tournaments. Mr. Hughes said the County should provide a good complex, well-run tournaments and giveaways. Mr. Hughes said it is a buyer’s market, and being a small community presents a challenge.

Commissioner McCook commended Mr. Hughes and the TDA for their work and partnership.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners November 2, 2009 regular meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$84.77 and in the amount of \$7,800.90 and to make refunds in the amount of \$4.50 and in the amount of \$3,732.95.**

c) **Approve amendment to correct wording in Section 13 of the FY 2009-2010 Budget Ordinance regarding annual compensation for Chairman from \$10,820 to \$9,636 and for each Commissioner from \$7,191 annual compensation to \$6,276.**

d) **Approve request by Public Buildings to surplus a 2000 Chevy S-10 VIN# 1GCCS1448YK149220.**

e) **Budget Amendments:**

- 1) **Parks and Recreation: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$7,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **Parks and Recreation: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$3,656, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 3) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$49,605, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 4) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$26,601, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 5) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$18.89, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 6) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$676.20, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 7) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$180.00, 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 Vice Chair Gholston to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. Contract for Fire Protection Services

EMS Director Roylin Hammond discussed the background of the Rural Fire Service contracts. Mr. Hammond said the contracts originally were written in 1978 and have not changed since. Mr. Hammond said the fire chiefs would like to update the contracts. The contract included in the agenda is new and appropriate to the current Fire Departments.

County Attorney Johnston said he reviewed the contract and there are a few things he would like to iron out and tweak.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to authorize approval of the contract pending adjustments by the County Attorney and contingent upon all Fire Departments agreeing to sign the contracts. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Appointments to Board and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Mr. Dave Raley (Engineer), Dr. Olivia Guzman (Veterinarian) and Mr. William Matthews (Public-spirited citizen) to three-year terms on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Ms. Cynthia Morton (Registered Nurse) to a three-year term on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to reappoint Mr. Henry McLeod and Mr. John Cooley to four-year terms on the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Mr. Robert McDow to a second three-year term on the ABC Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 8. Update from the County Manager

County Manager Patterson said he is drafting a letter to State legislators to summarize a few of the needs of the County. Looking forward this coming budget year, there is no expectation of increased revenues at the State or local level, Mr. Patterson said. The demands on State and local governments are going to remain high until employment increases significantly. Only after employment increases will revenues see any significant increases. The letter will be an attempt to give additional information to legislators to fight the sense of need to push service costs from the State to counties and municipalities. Mr. Patterson said he hopes to articulate in the letter

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why a county fund balance should not be perceived as an “open target.” He asked the Commissioners to contact him if there are concerns they would like to voice in the letter.

Two resolutions from Bertie and Gaston counties were received opposing the transfer of the secondary road program to counties. The Scotland County Board of Commissioners approved a similar resolution June 2, 2008.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to set a date and time to meet with the School Superintendant and School Board. The Commissioners tentatively agreed on 6 p.m. Thursday, January 14, in the Commissioners Chamber.

Mr. Patterson also asked the Commissioners to set a date for the annual retreat. The date was set for 12 p.m. Thursday, February 4, at 507 West Covington Street.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners of the December 14 Federal Resources Summit hosted by Representatives Kissell and McIntyre. There also will be a meeting with Marlowe Company December 18 in the City Council Chamber

A resolution received from Gaston County asks State legislators to prohibit illegal aliens from attending community colleges in North Carolina.

The County received notice from the Housing Finance Agency of the availability of Urgent Repair Program funds. Four County Community Services applies for and administers the program.

Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Willis summarized a meeting on the WestPoint Stevens water plant attended by County and City officials and Village of Pinehurst officials. Chairman Willis said he was concerned that the County not get in the middle of something between Moore County and Pinehurst.

Chairman Willis said he asked Pinehurst for a financial summary and how much customers might have to pay. Chairman Willis said Pinehurst indicated it would not do an analysis or financial summary until the Commissioners approved the Letter of Intent. Chairman Willis said it is a concern the Village of Pinehurst might purchase the property and walk away from it.

He said the informal meeting ended when Pinehurst was informed the County wanted the City of Laurinburg to complete its study so it would have some of the answers it wanted.

Commissioner McDow said some citizens told her they were relieved the Commissioners did not act in haste. Commissioner Davis agreed and said he felt there was no need to let a water resource get away from Scotland County.

Vice Chair Gholston asked that the Veterans Service Officer present the Commissioners with a report at the next meeting.

Item 9. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute 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)(5) to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

County Manager Patterson said the business property audits conducted by the company contracted by the County is bearing fruit. Mr. Patterson discussed some of the business property discoveries.

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

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman