

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 4, 2006, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, December 4, 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, Guy McCook, 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 welcomed new Commissioner Guy McCook.

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 2007.

**Commissioner Alford nominated Commissioner Willis. There were no other nominations. Commissioner McDow moved to close nominations.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston that nominations for Chairman be closed and J.D. Willis be elected Chairman by acclamation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Willis asked for a nomination for Vice Chair.

**Chairman Willis nominated Commissioner Gholston. Commissioner Butler seconded the nomination.**

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

Chairman Willis recognized former Commissioner D.B. Quick, who was in the audience.

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

**Ms. Janice Farmer:** Ms. Farmer read from a prepared statement about the poor road conditions on Lee Lane in Wagram, where she lives, which has numerous potholes, dips and ditches that cover the entire length of the road. Ms. Farmer said it is a safety hazard and is particularly bad when it floods after a rain. Ms. Farmer said land developed Anderson and Breeden Land Company informed her it is not their responsibility. Ms. Farmer said she and her husband, Ken, have twice over the past five years paid to have the road filled with dirt. She said no one will accept responsibility for the road maintenance. Ms. Farmer asked the Commissioners for assistance in resolving the problem.

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Chairman Willis said County Engineer Jim Blackwell will visit the area for an assessment, contact NCDOT and report back to the Board on possible options that might resolve the problem.

**Mr. Ray Fidler, 12321 Woodrun Drive:** Mr. Fidler offered a proposal to get the attention of the State Legislators on the tax dilemma in Scotland County, particularly with regard to Medicaid relief. Mr. Fidler suggested that the Commissioners organize with other low wealth counties to stage a march on Raleigh to demand that the State take over Medicaid payments like the other 49 states in the country. Mr. Fidler said this should be the number one priority in the state budget. Mr. Fidler said he would work with the Commissioners to organize and promote the effort.

Chairman Willis said the issue has been lobbied heavily, and the County's three local legislators are aware of this need for Medicaid relief. Chairman Willis said since richer counties are not affected by this, it makes the lobbying effort more of a challenge.

Commissioner Alford said he would do whatever it takes to help in the Medicaid relief effort.

Chairman Willis recognized new Sheriff Shep Jones.

Chairman Willis presented a plaque of appreciation and recognition to Charles "Scoofer" Jordan for his four years of public service as a County Commissioner.

**Item 1. Public Hearing: Planning and Zoning**

Planning and Zoning Director Henry McLeod introduced the following:

**Conditional Use Application Number 441-06 –Alltel Communications, Inc.** - Request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a wireless telecommunications facility on Aberdeen Road (US 501 North) property owned by Patrick Usher and Paula Darden and is better described as Scotland County Tax Map Number 430, Block 01, Parcel Number 001.

Mr. McLeod said the application complies with Section 38 of the Zoning Ordinance. He said the US Army was advised of the application and has no problem with it. He said the Planning and Zoning Board recommends approval of the application.

With County Attorney Johnston presiding, the Public Hearing was called to order for consideration of the Conditional Use Application 441-06.

Speaking on behalf of Alltel, Ms. Jill House, having been duly sworn in, said she was in favor of the application and added she would be available to answer any questions about the project.

There were no questions, and no one else came forward to speak for or against the application. Mr. Johnston declared the hearing closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve Conditional Use Application Number 441-06 in accordance with the Section 38 Standards of the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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Before continuing to the next item, Chairman Willis recognized Tourism Development Authority Interim Director James "Sunbeam" Sutherland.

Mr. Sutherland said the TDA is in favor of a three percent occupancy tax increase and requests the Board support and endorse this increase.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to support a three percent increase in the occupancy tax. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 2.VIPER Homeland Security Grant**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond asked the Commissioners to accept a 2006 Homeland Security \$400,000 pass-through grant with the understanding the funds would revert back to the NC Highway Patrol to support the VIPER radio system, which would be installed on the Progress Energy Tower in Laurinburg. Mr. Hammond discussed the history of the VIPER pass-through grant.

Mr. Hammond said there has to be an agreement between NC Highway Patrol and Progress Energy in order to do this. He said the win part for the County is the NC Highway Patrol has agreed to put the County's radio equipment on the Progress Energy Tower, which would provide a communications backup for emergency services.

Mr. Hammond said it was recently discovered, however, that the agreement between Progress Energy and the NC Highway Patrol omitted the Laurinburg site. Mr. Hammond asked that if approved, the Commissioners stipulate that it is agreed to pass this money through Scotland County back to NC Highway Patrol with the understanding that NC Highway Patrol has an agreement with Progress Energy to put a tower in Scotland County and agree to put that equipment on the tower in Scotland County.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the \$400,000 Homeland Security Grant pass-through funds with the stipulation that NC Highway Patrol and Progress Energy to put a tower in Scotland County and agree to put that equipment on the tower in Scotland County. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 3. Request for Qualifications: Courthouse Renovation/Repair Project**

County Manager Crumpton asked that the RFQ decision be delayed and tonight's meeting be recessed pending further review of qualifications by staff to the four responses. Mr. Crumpton asked that the Commissioners revisit the issue within the week.

**Item 4.Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, November 6, 2006 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approval of fidelity bonds for various County officials and employees as per G.S. 58-72-10.**
- c) **Hold Public Hearing and consider approval of FY 2007-2008 Community Transportation Program Application (*no written comments were received*)**

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- d) Approve Resolution Awarding Major Billy Campbell with His Service Revolver
- e) Approve Tax Department request to release of funds in the amount of \$266.97 and in the amount of \$3,516.86 of property taxes and approve refunds in the amount of \$161.52 and in the amount of \$2,287.34.
- f) Approve petition to add Laviner Clark Drive from Harold Morris Drive to Aberdeen Road to the State maintained road system.
- g) Budget Amendments
  - 1) **DSS:** Approve receipt of funding in the amount of \$152,000 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. No County dollars are involved.

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

**Resolution Awarding Major Billy Campbell with His Service Revolver**

**WHEREAS, Major Billy Campbell will retire from the Scotland County Sheriff's Department December 4, 2006, and;**

**WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland wishes to recognize Major Billy Campbell for his dedication and service to the County.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioner of the County of Scotland, in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, does hereby award Major Billy Campbell his service revolver (Beretta Model 8040F, Serial #097097MC) in exchange for consideration of \$1.00.**

**Approved this 4th day of December 2006.**

**Item 5. Funding Request: Storytelling Festival of Carolina**

Ms. Jan Schmidt, speaking on behalf of Storytelling Festival of Carolina, was recognized, and requested the Commissioners consider \$3,500 in funding she described as critical to continue the planning process. Ms. Schmidt said that in future years event organizers hope the festival would become self-sustaining. Ms. Schmidt said although the original request to the Commissioners was \$2,500, organizers determined there was a need for additional funds. Without the funds, she said, it would be more difficult to pay all the bills with monies raised upfront. She said organizers intend to pursue an aggressive marketing campaign. Total event cost is \$34,500.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve funding the Storytelling Festival of Carolina in the amount of \$3,500. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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

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Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Patterson said total expenditures are at 35 percent of the budget while revenues are at 46 percent. He said there is \$19 million in cash and investments and property tax collections will top 90 percent by the end of January.

Mr. Patterson provided an update on the discount prescription card program sponsored by NACo.

Mr. Patterson updated the Commissioners on the current CDBG grant, which is expected to serve approximately seven homes. Vice Chair Gholston said she is not satisfied with how many people are served by the CDBG grant and considerably more people should benefit. Vice Chair Gholston said home replacements uses most of the funds when so many more citizens are in need of home repair and could benefit from the grant.

The Commissioners discussed possible options and other grants, which might serve those citizens who need home repairs. Vice Chair Gholston suggested that perhaps the County consider hiring a part time grant writer to pursue grants focused on home repair for those who need such repairs.

Mr. Patterson requested the creation of a capital project fund for the courthouse roof project. He asked that \$50,000 be transferred to the fund from the General Fund.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the capital project fund and authorize the Finance Officer to expend this money. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said DSS has received additional funding in the amount of \$33,131, and no County dollars are involved. He asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a budget amendment.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve additional funding to DSS in the amount of \$33,131 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 7. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Ms. Cecilia Bennett to the Aging Advisory Council and appoint Ms. Evelyn Thomas, Ms. LaVerne McDougald, Mr. William Matthews, Ms. Brenda Erskine, Ms. Phyllis Cox and Ms. Dot Coble to the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Butler said there are two applicants for the seat on the ABC Board relinquished by Sheriff Shep Jones.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler to appoint Ms. Dee Hammond to the unexpired term on the ABC Board.**

Chairman Willis said he would like to be considered for appointment to the ABC Board.

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*The motion died for lack of a second.*

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to appoint Mr. J.D. Willis to the unexpired term on the ABC Board. Vote: For: Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners Alford, McCook, McDow and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioner Butler.**

Commissioner Butler said former Commissioner Charles “Scoofer” Jordan would like to continue on the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board. He said Mr. John Alford currently serves as the Commissioner-representative.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Charles “Scoofer” Jordan to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Butler said Commissioner McDow will transition from citizen member to Commissioner-representative on the Library Board to replace Mr. Jordan.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Charles “Scoofer” Jordan to Commissioner Joyce McDow’s unexpired term on the Library Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Commissioner Guy McCook as the Commissioner-representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 8. County Manager’s Report**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Chairman Willis to appoint Commissioner McDow as NCACC Legislative Conference voting delegate. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Crumpton reminded the Commissioners of upcoming NCACC meetings and workshops and other local events as well as a January joint meeting with the City of Laurinburg to discuss greenways.

Mr. Crumpton said the Tourism Development Authority has asked for office space at Covington Street for the Interim Director. The County Manager said a rental fee will be negotiated.

Mr. Crumpton said as a result of the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored economic summit in October, creating a position for a community grant writer was listed as one of the priorities.

The County Manager said he would prepare resolutions on Medicaid and the property tax structure for consideration by the Commissioners at the recessed meeting.

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Commissioner McPhatter said he heard from some employees asking whether there would be extra days off over the holidays again this year. Chairman Willis said this could be considered if the Board wishes to do so.

Commissioner McDow reminded the Board of the Library drop-in December 5 in honor of its 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Item 9. Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*Closed Session was held in the Health Education Room.*

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

*Other comments*

County Manager Crumpton said the Joint Solution Committee on Environmental Justice, which is studying the landfill issue, will meet December 19 at the A.B. Gibson Center.

Commissioner McDow said the NCACC asks that Boards of Commissioners select a legislative liaison. Commissioner McCook said he would serve as the NCACC legislative liaison.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to recess until 4 p.m. Monday, December 11, 2006, in the County Manager's office, Scotland County Annex Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman