

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, December 5, 2005  
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

At 7 p.m., Commissioner J.D. Willis called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Betty Blue Gholston, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Joyce McDow, Clarence McPhatter and J.D. Willis. 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 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 2006.

**Commissioner Alford nominated Commissioner Willis. Commissioner McPhatter seconded the nomination.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler 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.

**Commissioner Butler nominated Commissioner Gholston. Commissioner Alford seconded the nomination.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan that the nomination for Vice Chair be closed and Betty Blue Gholston be elected Vice Chair by acclamation.**

Chairman Willis said it has been a pleasure working with the Board of Commissioners. He said the governing body has done an outstanding job for the citizens by making the best decisions possible. He said although the Board agrees to disagree, it has worked very well together. He thanked the Commissioners for their hard work.

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

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

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Henry McLeod introduced rezoning application 429-05, a request to rezone 5 acres in the middle of a 42.757-acre Open Space tract to Residential Agricultural. The applicants wish to build a home site and eventually a horse farm. Mr. McLeod said the site is 700 feet off Aberdeen Road. He said Ft. Bragg/Pope Air Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission was notified of this application, and RLUAC requested that the remaining

***Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg***

tract be left as Open Space. Mr. McLeod said the Planning and Zoning Board recommends the application be approved.

Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the application. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve rezoning application 429-05. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

In a second item, Mr. McLeod said the Planning and Zoning Board is requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to rezone all of Springfield Village from Residential Agricultural to Residential Single Family.

Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the application.

Ms. Carol Watford spoke on behalf of the citizens of the Springfield community. Ms. Watford said the community dates back several generations when the original owners received covenants along with deeds stating there would be no mobile homes in the area. She said the 19 lots proposed for rezoning do not have such a covenant attached to them. She said she is in favor of the amendment to rezone Springfield Village to Residential Single Family.

No one else spoke for or against the amendment, and Chairman Willis closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the amendment to the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance to rezone all of Springfield Village from Residential Agricultural to Residential Single Family. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 2. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, November 7, 2005 regular meeting and November 21, 2005 information work session.**
- 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 2006-2007 Community Transportation Program Application (*no written comments were received*)**
- d) **Approve petition request to add Carnostie Drive, Troon Circle and Fairway Drive to the state maintenance system**
- e) **Approve petition request to add Banawie Circle to the state maintenance system**
- f) **Approve petition request to add Braemar Circle to the state maintenance system**
- g) **Approve petition request to add Fox Crossing Road to the state maintenance system**
- h) **Budget Amendments**
  - 1) **DSS: Approve receipt of federal funding in the amount of \$20,000 and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to**

- receive and expend this money. No County dollars are involved.
- 2) **Board of Elections:** Approve transfer of Anne Tindall's salary from Administration to Elections for the remainder of the FY 2005-2006, appropriate an additional \$10,034 for salary and fringe and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money.
  - 3) **Jail:** Approve transfer of \$19,219 from the Jail to Public Buildings for an employee transfer, and authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money.

Chairman Willis noted that Mr. Leroy Walker should be corrected to "Watford" in the November 7, 2005 minutes.

Chairman Willis asked EMS Director Roylin Hammond about the FY 2006-2007 Community Transportation Program Application. Mr. Hammond said that no written comments were received as a result of the Public Hearing notice.

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

### **Item 3. Final Public Hearing: FY 2006 CDBG Program**

LRCOG Housing Coordinator Adrian Lowery provided an update on the current CDBG grant. He said 64 of 86 applications distributed were submitted. He said the environmental review is complete and no significant impact was noted. Mr. Lowery said the comment period for the new program concludes December 12 at which time a request may be made to the State to release the funds.

Mr. Lowery said an Advisory Committee must be appointed and should include a representative from each municipality. Mr. Lowery said he, the County Manager and two Commissioners also should serve on the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lowery said he is waiting for a State response on the previous CDBG program, and monies cannot be drawn down until the previous program is closed.

Mr. Lowery said three families from the previous program would be eligible for the upcoming program. An additional five to seven families will be selected based on a point system, which Mr. Lowery explained.

Commissioner Jordan suggested that stick buildings might be considered rather than modular homes as a replacement because they might be better price wise.

Mr. Lowery said at least one rehabilitation project would be included in the upcoming program.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing for the FY 2006 CDBG Program and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the Program. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to accept the FY 2006 CDBG Program as presented and to move forward. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4. Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to go into 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.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Item 5. Borderbelt AIDS Resources Team (BARTS) Presentation**

Ms. Brenda Hunt described the HIV/AIDS case management services provided by the Borderbelt AIDS Resources Team (BARTS) to five counties, including Scotland. Scotland County cases account for 35 of the total 135, and BARTS helps its clients secure housing, medication and medical help.

She explained how BARTS cases increased locally when the County eliminated the program. Ms. Hunt said BARTS, at the request of the State, assumed responsibility for the County's HIV cases. Ms. Hunt said because of the caseload, BARTS rented office space in the County.

Ms. Hunt said the cost of maintaining services for 20 to 30 cases in a small community is difficult. She asked the Board of Commissioners to consider funding half the rent per month for a year for its Scotland County offices. Ms. Hunt said BARTS receives funding from Medicaid, State grants and private donations.

Chairman Willis said the Board would take her request under advisement and contact Ms. Hunt with its decision.

**Item 6. Tourism Development Authority Funding Request**

Tourism Development Authority Executive Director Jim Livingston asked the Commissioners to approve transfer of \$50,000 from the TDA's fund balance to its current FY 2005-2006 operating budget. Mr. Livingston said \$30,000 would be used to update the website and create new brochures and \$20,000 is a grant to the Scotland Historical Museum.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to transfer \$50,000 from the Tourism Development Authority Find Balance to the Authority's FY 2005-2006 operating budget. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 7. FY 2004-2005 Audit**

Mr. James Brown, Lundin & Company, rendered an unqualified report on Scotland County's financial statement for FY 2004-2005. Mr. Brown noted that the County has \$5,217,000 in net assets, which are attributed to increased tax collections over the previous year, deferrals in unspent funds and savings from unfilled staff positions.

#### **Item 8. Elections Update and Voting Equipment Needs**

Board of Elections Chair Janna Wegner said the State has required that all lever machines be replaced with new voting equipment. She said three companies approved by the State would be permitted to contract equipment with the counties.

Ms. Wegner said the County previously received \$30,000 toward equipment purchase and will receive an additional \$120,000 from the State plus \$11,000 for associated software. She is not yet sure if the funds would be sufficient to cover the entire purchase of new machines for the County.

Ms. Wegner said the State is recommending that three Scotland County precincts be split, which means the 10 precincts could become 14, which would include Early Vote as a precinct. She explained that the State Board of Elections recommends the ideal precinct as one with 1,500 voters.

The Commissioners and Ms. Wegner discussed the possibility of holding two Early Votes, although recruiting the manpower for an additional Early Vote location would be a challenge. Ms. Wegner said the Elections Board would soon make a formal recommendation to the Board of Commissioners with regard to entering into a contract for voting equipment.

#### **Item 9. DSS Budget Update**

DSS Director Jan Elliott gave a PowerPoint presentation on the impact Social Services has on the local economy. She said the impact is positive, not negative, and the \$5 million investment made by the County generates considerably more revenue for the local area.

She said, for instance, \$7.8 million in 2005 went to grocers and other businesses authorized to accept Food Stamps.

She said DSS daycare payments help create jobs. Ms. Elliott said 61 percent of parents who work have children under the age of five.

In Medicaid payments, 78 percent stayed in Scotland County, with the hospital the biggest recipient of the funds.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

She said if all the programs mentioned were pulled out of Scotland County, there would be a significant loss of jobs.

Additionally, Ms. Elliott said, DSS staff generates \$5.5 million in child support from absent parents. She said the absent parents don't necessarily live in Scotland County, and child support dollars bring revenue into the County.

Ms. Elliott said DSS employs 93 people and more importantly creates numerous other jobs through the \$68 million that comes into the community as a result of work done by DSS staff.

**Item 10. Parks and Recreation Updates**

County Manager Crumpton said the Recreation Complex grant deadline has been extended to December 31, 2006. He said the City agreed to work on the storm sewer while the County would conduct grading, both of which would help bring the project in under budget.

Commissioner Jordan asked that a letter be sent from the Commissioners to the local legislators thanking them for their assistance in securing the grant extension deadline.

County Manager Crumpton said the Legion Park lease agreement between Scotland Post 50 and Parks and Recreation is included in the agenda for review.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the Legion Park lease agreement. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 11. Risk Management Policy**

County Manager Crumpton said the proposed Risk Management Policy was reviewed by a committee of County employees. He said one change was made to the document, which is the inclusion of a playground checklist. Once approved, Mr. Crumpton said the NCACC would help provide workshops to County employees.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the Risk Management Policy as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 12. Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager**

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said \$9.8 million in current property taxes and \$800,000 in prior year property taxes were collected as of November 30, 2005. He said sales tax revenue is about \$3 million, although the projected revenue from sales tax is expected to dip in February and March, bottom in April and recover in May and June. Mr. Patterson said there is \$16 million on hand in cash and investments.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Chairman Willis thanked Tax Assessor Mary Helen Norton and County Attorney Johnston for their efforts in increasing the collection rate.

**Item 13. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Dr. Joey Harris to an unexpired term as Optometrist member on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Dr. Paul Fuchs to a first full term as a Physician member on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to reappoint Mr. Nathan Monroe to a third term on the Board of Health and appoint Mr. William Matthews to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Dr. John Slaughter as a Dentist member on the Board of Health. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Buddy McCarter and Mr. Ken Nichols to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to reappoint Mr. Wayne Evans to the ABC Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Mr. Jake Coughenour, Mr. Henry McLeod and Mr. Spurgeon McMillan to the Fire Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 14. County Manager's Report**

County Manager Crumpton said Boards and Committees are now posted on the County web page, and the goal would be to also list on the web page all Board and Committee openings as terms expire.

The County Manager outlined County and Courthouse closures and openings from December 22, 2005 through January 2, 2006.

The Commissioners discussed scheduling a Midyear Retreat for the middle of February.

*The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed there would be no facilitator.*

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
December 5, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Chairman Willis said a regional landfill, mid-year financial report and the development of a three to five-year long-range plan should be on the agenda. He said Commissioners should contact the Clerk to the Board with additional discussion items they would like scheduled for the retreat.

Commissioner Alford said dog owners questioned whether it was an oversight to not address the use of electronic fencing in the Animal Control Ordinance. Chairman Willis asked the County Manager to contact Health Director Jane Murray about electronic fencing and report back to the Board at the January meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to recess to 10:30 a.m. December 7, 2005 at Scotland High School. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman