

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, January 9, 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 “Scooper” Jordan, 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. Commissioner Butler delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Willis said he expects no action tonight on the second reading of the Solid Waste Franchise/Host Agreement because there are still unanswered questions, the Commissioners have received additional information and another company has made a proposal.

Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to remove Item 1. Second Reading: Solid Waste Franchise/Host Agreement from the January 9, 2006 Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Ms. Mary David, 8462 Peeles Chapel Road, Laurel Hill: Ms. David said she and her husband for many years have been paying for the dirt to maintain the upkeep of Spencer Street near their home. She said school buses that use the road tear it up and more dirt must be purchased to fill the holes. Ms. David said the school, when contacted, suggested she discuss the issue with the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Willis asked County Manager Crumpton to contact the State Engineering Department about the Spencer Street issue and report back to Ms. David.

Mr. Jim McMillan, 12900 Woodbridge Drive, Laurinburg: Mr. McMillan said he is against a regional landfill and is concerned about the long term affects it would have on Scotland County and what would remain for the children and grandchildren. He asked the Commissioners to look for constructive ways to raise revenue rather than destructive ways. He said soil types locally are unsuited for a landfill and he worried about heavy vehicle traffic and groundwater pollution and pollution of the area by things you can't see or smell. Mr. McMillan suggested that revenue could be raised by promoting tourism, the collection and sale of recyclables, equestrianism and the County's agricultural roots and natural beauty.

No one else asked to speak, and Public Forum was closed.

Item 2. Closed Session

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford 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

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve a change from Grade 79 to Grade 81 for two full-time Physician Extender positions, abolish the part-time Physician Extender position and authorize the Health Director and County Manager to revise the salaries accordingly to be more competitive within the limits of the budget. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Finistar Investment Banking Presentation

Ms. Melissa Marsal, Finistar Vice President of Sales in North Carolina, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Finistar, an FDIC insured cash management vehicle, which includes a fixed rate of return over time. Finistar also provides community banks in the State with a stable source of funds at competitive interest rates to augment core deposits. Ms. Marsal said Finistar's software application streamlines cash management activities and the movement and monitoring of funds between participating depositors and participating banks.

Ms. Marsal said interest is accrued daily and payable monthly. She said complete daily liquidity, favorable yields, streamlined short term investments, automated reporting tools and putting dollars to work in local communities are advantages to local government who enter into custodial agreements with Finistar.

The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed not to approve a custodial agreement with Finistar until the Finance Officer furnishes further information.

Item 4. Scotland County Imagination Place (SCIP) Funding Request

Ms. Jan Schmidt, Chair, Scotland County Imagination Place (SCIP) Board, asked for the Board's endorsement and financial support for the development of a children's museum, which would serve as an educational facility by day and a community center in the evening.

Ms. Lisa Canada, Chair, SCIP Grant Committee, said the committee would seek federal funding and public/private partnerships, which would leverage SCIP as much as possible. Ms. Canada said support from the County would help fulfill its own mission to promote a high quality of life for its citizens.

Ms. Schmidt said SCIP would be supported by membership fees and sponsorships, and the eventual goal of SCIP would be to become self-sustaining. She said aside from initial location and funding of the facility, it might cost \$150,000 a year to remain operational. She said a preliminary budget was being redesigned and is not yet available for review.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Ms. Schmidt said the SCIP facility would serve as an anchor to bring people to the downtown area.

Ms. Schmidt asked the Commissioners to consider a letter of endorsement and a one-time financial contribution of \$2,000.

Chairman Willis thanked Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Canada for the presentation and said the Commissioners would take the request under consideration.

Item 5. Scotland Correctional Institution Update

Mr. Don Wood, Administrator, Scotland Correctional Institution, said there is a staff of 389 at the facility and 25 vacancies. He said positions that are vacant are for correction officers, nurses and a psychologist.

Scotland County residents account for 155 positions with an average annual salary of \$27,500 each. He said the Scotland County payroll brings \$4,262,500 into the community.

Mr. Wood said there are 975 inmates at this time.

The Enterprise Sewing Plant will be completed in March. Six classrooms will be ready with RCC instructors focusing on sewing, barber school, carpentry, HVAC and electrical wiring, said Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood said a 544 medium custody dormitory is being proposed as an addition to the existing facility, but there is no funding or start date yet. He said the dormitory might add 40 to 50 new jobs and estimated it might cost \$78 million to build.

Item 6. Voting Equipment Purchase Update

Ms. Janna Wegner, Chair, Board of Elections, said State funding for the purchase of voting equipment will be \$153,695 and not \$167,000 as originally stated. She said there is a total of \$185,618 in State funds for equipment purchase. She estimated the County's share of the expenditure would remain at between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

Ms. Wegner said the splitting of the four largest precincts in the County would be inevitable. The four largest precincts are Precinct I at the Annex with 2,804 registered voters, Precinct III at Scotland Place with registered 2,867 voters, Precinct IV at the National Guard Armory with registered 3,591 voters and Precinct VII in Wagram with 2,802 registered voters.

Commissioner McDow asked if Ms. Wegner would at some point inform the Commissioners how many people actually vote in those precincts.

Item 7. Consent Agenda:

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

- a) Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners November 30, 2005 landfill tour, December 5, 2005 regular meeting, December 7, 2005 school tour, December 7, 2005 reconvened meeting, December 16, 2005 reconvened meeting, December 20, 2005 informal gathering.
- b) Approve Grade 67 Step 11 Environmental Health Specialist to Grade 69 Step 10 Environmental Health Program Coordinator.
- c) Approve Grade 67 Step 11 Environmental Health Specialist to Grade 69 Step 10 Environmental Health Program Coordinator.
- d) Approve Grade 70 Step 11 Environmental Health Supervisor to Grade 67 Step 11 Environmental Health Specialist for vacant position.
- e) **Budget Amendments**
 - 1) **Health:** Approve receipt of \$9,283 in State Grant Funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.
 - 2) **Health:** Approve receipt of \$18,108 in State Grant Funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.
 - 3) **Health:** Approve receipt of \$5,000 in State Grant Funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.
 - 4) **Elections:** Approve budget increase in the amount of \$35,500, which would be County dollars, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money.
 - 5) **Capital Reserve:** Approve budget increase of \$163,223, \$131,300 of which would be new grant monies, the remainder would be grant monies received in prior years.

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

Item 8. Updates from the Emergency Services Director

EMS director Roylin Hammond presented the Scotland County Six Mile Fire Insurance District Maps to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hammond said the Commissioners in 1997 approved revised five mile fire insurance district maps. An Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement was approved by the Commissioners on August 1, 2005.

Mr. Hammond displayed the map of Scotland County depicting the six-mile fire districts that was generated by the City of Laurinburg's GIS Department. He then displayed maps of the individual fire districts in the County, also generated by the City of Laurinburg's GIS Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Scotland County Six Mile Fire Insurance District Maps. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Mr. Hammond said the development and approval of six mile fire district maps would reduce fire insurance rates by 10 percent to homeowners who live between the five and six miles. He said homeowners who live between the five and six miles and reside within 1,000 feet of a water source might see a further reduction in their insurance rate.

Mr. Hammond made a request for additional funds due to increased fuel prices, increased vehicle repair costs and his error in calculating the State vehicle tax for the new emergency vehicle.

Mr. Hammond asked the Board to consider approving an additional \$14,500 for fuel, \$10,000 for vehicle repairs and \$2,790 for the three percent vehicle tax on the new ambulance for a total funding request of \$27,290 for FY 2005-2006.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the increase in funding for the three line items in the amount of \$27,290. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Hammond said on a positive note EMS has collected \$375,000 in revenues so far this year, which is \$100,000 more than projected. He said that means EMS might collect \$750,000 in revenue by the end of FY 2006.

Item 9. Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said he discussed modifying the agreement to reduce the interest rate on the current Courthouse debt to a 4.04 percent interest rate from a 4.83 percent interest rate with BB&T. He said \$58,000 in interest has accrued as of January 15, 2006. He said a net reduction in total payments of about \$65,000 would occur with refinancing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Modification Agreement with BB&T to refinance the Courthouse. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider approving payment of the \$58,000 interest currently due.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow approving a budget amendment that would authorize the Finance Officer to pay the \$58,000 interest payment currently due. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said Scotland County has approximately \$17.2 million cash on hand. There have been \$15.8 million in actual expenditures to date.

Commissioner Jordan praised Tax Assessor Mary Helen Norton and Attorney Johnston for bringing the delinquent collections rate to approximately \$200,000.

Item 10. Appointments to Boards and Committees

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. John Cooley to the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Mr. Henry McLeod to the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Smith Hershman, Jr. (Sandy Callan) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Mr. Larry Lanier to a first full term on the Laurinburg/Scotland County Zoning Board of Adjustment. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to reappoint Mr. Robert Busko to the Cable Access Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Ms. Linda Cutchin and Ms. Jocelyn Quick to the Healthy Carolinians Steering Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Ms. Kyle Bethel to an unexpired seat on the Scotland Memorial Library Board, replacing Mr. Bo Butler, who resigned. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to appoint Mr. Charles “Pinky” Odom of Gibson and Mr. Robert Martin of Wagram to the CDBG Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 11. County Manager’s Report

County Manager John Crumpton asked the Commissioners to review the draft agenda for the January 12, 2006 joint County/City meeting.

He reminded the Commissioners of the LRCOG Annual Retreat January 19 to 21.

Mr. Crumpton said Historic Properties is asking for help from the Board of Commissioners to lower the speed limit to 35 between the John Blue House and Museum. Mr. Crumpton said he would seek advice from the DOT Engineer.

Mr. Crumpton said Mr. Ed Mussler, NCDENR, would provide Commissioners with landfill information and answer questions at a 4 p.m. meeting January 26, 2006 in the County Annex conference room.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. January 9, 2006, County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Please submit legislative issues to NCACC by January 27 in time for the national conference in March.

Other Information/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Butler asked if there was follow up to the December 5, 2005 request by BARTS (Borderbelt AIDS Resource Team) for financial assistance with its rent.

County Manager Crumpton said the request would be considered along with other requests during the FY 2006-2007 budget planning process. He said the BARTS request would be addressed sooner if it was the desire of the Board.

Commissioner Butler congratulated Health Director Jane Murray on being recognized for her work with animal control.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to recess to 6 p.m. January 12, 2006 in the Laurinburg City Council Chamber. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman