

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2010, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, February 1, 2010
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC

At 7 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner McCook delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Ms. Jodi Harding, an employee at X-Way Road Animal Hospital, expressed concern about mistreatment of horses. She told the story of a horse named Justice who had minimal access to shelter, food of a nutritional nature and medical treatment.

Ms. Nancy Stanton, a representative with the U.S. Equine Rescue League, said there are horses living on Barnes Bridge and Smith roads that are dying for lack of appropriate care and food. She said a provision in the County Animal Control Ordinance states animals must have access to food, shelter and medical attention. Ms. Harding said volunteers and the Rescue League would like to work with animal control to help resolve this hardship and to ensure the ordinance is being followed. Ms. Stanton said animal control officers should receive training in equine care.

Ms. Jeanette Herlocker, a concerned citizen, said she has written to Animal Control specifically citing the poor treatment of the horses on Barnes Bridge and Smith roads.

Another concerned citizen, **Ms. Jennifer Bruner**, said Animal Control staff needs the necessary resources in order to enforce the Animal Control Ordinance. Ms. Bruner asked the Commissioners to provide more permanent options for horse rescues instead of relying only on volunteers.

Chairman Willis directed County Manager Patterson to review the information and report to the Board of Commissioners at the Thursday, February 4, midyear planning retreat to discuss what the County might do to strengthen the Ordinance and ensure it is enforced. Commissioner Alford suggested the ordinance be revised to impose a fine on owners who do not provide their horses with the appropriate care.

Mr. Jim Johnston said he is disappointed that landfill talks continue despite the fact the County received Medicaid relief. Mr. Johnston explained that the Commissioners indicated if Medicaid relief passed there would be no need for a landfill. Mr. Johnston asked who authorized the landfill expansion study and when was it authorized.

Chairman Willis said expansion of the current landfill has been a discussion point for the past two to three years and nothing has yet been decided.

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Mr. Johnston said the Commissioners should focus on jobs and airport needs rather than spend money on “mega dumps.”

Item 1. Emergency Services/Transportation Annual Report

EMS Director Roylin Hammond first thanked the Commissioners for addressing the EMS pay system.

Mr. Hammond shared some 2009 EMS highlights. There were 4,713 responses, down a little from the previous year. 3,244 were transported to Scotland Memorial Hospital. 27,000 calls to 911 were answered, 19,923 of which were calls made from cell phones, which is 73 percent of calls. EMS answered 18,000 additional business calls.

To date, \$444,000 has been collected in this fiscal year with \$750,000 projected by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hammond expects an additional 200,000 collected from the State in Medicaid reimbursement.

More than 30,000 people used SCATS (Scotland County Area Transit System) in 2009.

Mr. Hammond also provided the Commissioners with averages by the local EMS compared to statewide and rural averages. Local EMS averages have been better than State and rural averages in most cases.

Item 2. Tax Liens Update and Order to Advertise

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton reported the total of unpaid 2009 taxes, which are liens on real property, at \$3,348,910 as of February 1. Ms. Norton requested the Commissioners order advertisement of the liens, according to State Statute, the week of March 15.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to order the advertisement of the liens the week of March 15, 2010. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

- a) Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners January 4, 2010 regular meeting.
- b) Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$351.02 and in the amount of \$56,201.95 and to make refunds in the amount of \$25.32 and in the amount of \$17,811.34.
- c) Approve North Scotland Fire Department Resolution for Approval of Insurance District Boundaries.
- d) Approve resolution supporting the submission of an application for the FY 2010-2011 Scotland-Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Grant.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF STATE FUNDING APPLICATION FOR SCOTLAND-HOKE COUNTIES CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

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WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties joined together in 1996 to form the Criminal Justice Partnership Board to provide services to probationary offenders with substance abuse problems, and;

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Partnership Board for Scotland and Hoke Counties has obtained State grant funds since its beginning to provide these services which include intensive outpatient substance abuse counseling to offenders on probation referred by the Court system; and

WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties through the Criminal Justice Partnership Program have experienced strong indications which reflect successful behavior modification, educational achievement and life skill development for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Program has operated entirely without cost to either County; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board is applying to the State Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Funding in the amount of \$153,850;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Scotland County Board of Commissioners endorses the application to the North Carolina Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 funding by the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board.

This the 1st day of February 2010.

e) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **Health: Approve receipt of \$1,981 to be expended by May 31, 2010, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **DSS: Approve additional funding in the amount of \$77,218, 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 4. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Mr. Lee Gaunt to an unexpired term on the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

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Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Mr. J.D. Willis as Chair of the ABC Board for 2010. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Ms. Mary Carlson, Ms. Bettie McNair and Ms. Dora Abernethy and to appoint Ms. Hilda Lomax to three-year terms on the LRCOG Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 5.Update from the County Manager

County Manager Kevin Patterson discussed the February 4 retreat and topics currently on the agenda.

Mr. Patterson said the Historic Properties Commission requested earlier this year the release of the Cotton Gin funds in the amount of \$30,723. The County currently holds the funds. No budget amendment is necessary for the release of these funds.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to release Cotton Gin funds in the amount of \$30,723 to the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The state of the County/City will be presented February 10 at 8 a.m. at the Dulin Center and 7 p.m. at the Courthouse. Economic Developer Greg Icard, Laurinburg City Manager Ed Burchins and County Manager Kevin Patterson will make presentations on the local economy.

Marlowe & Company is arranging a trip to Washington D.C. in February or March where local elected officials can meet with federal legislators to discuss funding of local projects.

Resolutions from Harnett and Craven counties opposing the transfer of roads to counties were received. County Manager Patterson said Sen. Bill Purcell indicated his opposition to the transfer of roads to counties.

A resolution opposing allowing illegal immigrants attending State community colleges also was received.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners of upcoming events of interest. He distributed reports from department heads on where departments are currently and what they anticipate operationally in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Patterson said DSS requests recruitment for a Personnel Technician I.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve recruitment for a Personnel Technician I. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Commissioner McDow said the NCACC Education Committee will meet. If the Commissioners have any issues for the committee, please let her know.

Commissioner Davis said the horse issue is a real problem and some teeth should be placed in the policy in order to enforce it and give the Animal Control Officers the backup they need.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to recess to 12 p.m. Thursday, February 4, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman