

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 4, 2008, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, February 4, 2008
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, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Guy McCook. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner McDow delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Mr. Jim Johnston, 13421 Wesleyan Drive, Laurinburg: Mr. Johnston asked the Board of Commissioners to publicly declare the mega landfill project officially dead in Scotland County. He said such a declaration would be important in order for the County to move on. Mr. Johnston said that at a recent landfill meeting in Marlboro County, he noticed the Tourism Director sitting with Waste Management representatives. Mr. Johnston asked if the Tourism Director is a County appointee.

Chairman Willis said the Tourism Director is neither appointed by the Commissioners nor is the Tourism Director a County employee.

Chairman Willis recognized Mr. William Skipper and read the following Proclamation:

A Proclamation Honoring William Skipper

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation community are deeply grateful for the presence of William Skipper at the Summer 2007 All-Star Baseball game in Red Springs, North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, had William Skipper not been in attendance at the All-Star Baseball game, Scotland County would likely have mourned the loss of its Parks and Recreation Assistant Athletic Supervisor Raymond Moody, and

WHEREAS, William Skipper, a coach and volunteer fireman, administered CPR for more than 45 minutes on Raymond Moody when he collapsed and was found to have no heartbeat, and

WHEREAS, William Skipper demonstrated courage, endurance and determination in his tireless effort to save a life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the entire Parks and Recreation staff are indebted to William Skipper for his part in ensuring Raymond Moody is with us today.

Presented this 4th day of February 2008.

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Commissioner Butler said that Mr. Skipper, a Laurel Hill resident, is an asset to the community and a role model to volunteer firefighters.

Commissioner Joyce McDow, who serves on the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees, said the community college needs an additional \$4,857 to bring it to its \$3.5 million goal for construction of the Scotland County Center.

Commissioner McDow introduced new RCC President Sharon Morrissey and RCC Executive Vice President Dale McInnis.

Dr. McInnis said the College is now in the process of selecting an architect. The 18,000-square-foot facility is expected to be occupied by the summer of 2009.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the donation of \$4,857 to Richmond Community College for completion of the Scotland County Center project. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner McDow, Scotland Memorial Library Board Chair, asked the Commissioners to consider the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Library and Scotland County, which would make the Library a County department.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Scotland Memorial Library becoming a County department effective July 1, 2008. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Willis provided an update on Springs and its abandonment of the sewer/wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Willis said the County reached an agreement with Springs where the company agreed to provide \$75,000 to help supplement the cost of septic tank installations conducted by Springfield community residents.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the receipt of \$75,000 from Springs and authorize the Chairman to sign the contractual agreement with Springs. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Willis said County Manager Patterson would administer the funds. Chairman Willis asked the Springfield residents present to coordinate that activity with the County Manager.

Item 1. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners January 7, 2008 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve the order for the Tax Department to advertise the unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property the week of March 17, 2008.**
- c) **Approve awarding a contract to The Wooten Company for the WestPoint Stevens Regional Wastewater study.**
- d) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$253.49 and in the amount of \$1,824.20 and to make refunds in the amount of \$169.47 and in the amount of \$1,745.73.**

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- e) **Approve changes in the laboratory testing procedures and fees for billing as requested by the Health Department and approved by the Board of Health January 15, 2008.**
- f) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **Sheriff: Approve transfer of \$2,717 from the Sheriff's general fund to the drug fund.**
- g) **Approve Register of Deeds Records and Retention Schedule**

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

Item 2. Update from the County Manager

Chairman Willis clarified the affect Medicaid would have on the tax rate. He said the County would save about \$700,000 this year, or the equivalent of four cents on the tax rate. Chairman Willis said the County would work to get the tax rate to \$1.02 in the coming fiscal year. Chairman Willis said from then on, the County could expect to reduce the tax rate in increments. He expects the tax rate to be further reduced by three cents in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Chairman Willis said the tax rate would decrease according to the phase-out period structured by the State.

County Manager Patterson said there are some interesting statistics on the poverty rate in Scotland County compared to the State and the rest of the nation. Mr. Patterson said the poverty rate in the County is high although the median household income of \$31,000 is higher than in some neighboring counties. He said there is a large delineation in income here between people in poverty and people who are not.

County Manager Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider reclassifying two positions in DSS. Mr. Patterson asked that a Human Services Coordinator III be reclassified to an Income Maintenance Caseworker II and that a Processing Assistant V be reclassified to Human Services Coordinator II. Mr. Patterson said salary adjustments would result in a \$612 savings for the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to reclassify the following DSS positions: Human Services Coordinator III be reclassified to an Income Maintenance Caseworker II and Processing Assistant V be reclassified to Human Services Coordinator II. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Patterson said the County received notification from the DOT that it would replace the overpass at 401 and Church Street in 2011 as part of the Transportation Improvement Program. Any input on the possible impact that project might have should be forwarded to TIP.

Mr. Patterson distributed DSS caseload information to the Commissioners. Mr. Patterson said it provides caseload statistics by department at the agency.

Mr. Patterson provided a financial report and said revenues and expenditures are in line with the adopted FY 2007-2008 budget.

Item 3. Appointments to Boards and Committees

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Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Cleo Graham to a second four-year term on the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Bob Davis to a third three-year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Rev. Howard Whitehurst, Dot Coble and Evelyn Thomas to a three-year term on the Aging Advisory Council and to appoint Anne Tindall to a first full term on the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Butler said the Aging Advisory Council is still looking for a Wagram representative.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Lisa Canada to an unexpired term on the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Butler said due to scheduling conflicts Commissioner J.D. Willis can no longer serve on the Mental Health Board. Commissioner Butler said a Commissioner must serve on the Board.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus agreed that Mr. Jim Frank Henderson will continue to serve on the SEDC in an interim capacity until an economic developer is hire.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman