

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, February 6, 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 “Scoofer” 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 McPhatter delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Ms. Bettie McNair, Scotland County of Tomorrow (SCOT) member: Ms. McNair asked the Commissioners to do some deep thinking about a decision that would leave a lifelong impact on all areas of life in the community. She asked where the “dump” would be located and why it is being kept a secret. She said don’t let the sandhills and forests become a “once upon a time.”

Mr. Mutt McCoy, speaking on behalf of SCOT: Mr. McCoy suggested a disinterested person should be the one to review all the affects locating a landfill in Scotland County might have on the area. He asked if a landfill in the County would attract industry or run industry off. He said the momentous decision by the Board of Commissioners should be considered very carefully. Mr. McCoy said he is worried about the affects on the environment and groundwater.

Mr. Jim McMillan: Mr. McMillan distributed information packets to the Commissioners that include issues of concern to him. He discussed the ozone elevation, which is high at times, and asked how high it would be with a landfill located in Scotland County. Mr. McMillan said he is concerned about animal and plant life that would be threatened by a regional landfill. He suggested the Commissioners consider recycling and hazardous waste removal programs that could be funded through grants and financial aid.

No one else spoke, and the Public Forum was closed.

Item 1. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow 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

Chairman Willis said beginning with the regular meeting in March, the Commissioners would conduct their closed session in the Health Department conference room so as not to inconvenience those who attend the meeting.

Item 2. Home and Community Care Block Grant Update

LRCOG Area Aging Administrator Margaret Kelly discussed several budget changes in the FY 2006 Home and Community Care Block Grant funding. Ms. Kelly said the budget changes result in a net savings to the County of \$1,662.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the FY 2006 Home and Community Care Block Grant funding changes as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Sheriff's Department Financial Update

Sheriff Buddy Blalock said due to the unpredictable cost of fuel and the need for additional funds in Jail food and the Jail medical line items, he would like the Commissioners to consider additional funds in the three areas for the remainder of FY 2006.

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said \$93,000 is the conservative estimate that would cover the three line items.

Sheriff Blalock said fluctuations in the Jail population drive the price of the meals. He added that two fulltime County employees transitioned to employment with ABL, which contracts the Jail food service. Sheriff Blalock said that also caused the cost of the food contract to increase.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve an additional \$25,000 for fuel, \$50,500 for Jail food and \$17,500 for Jail medical for the remainder of FY 2006 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Aging Advisory Council: Aging Services Plan

Ms. Juanita Bowen, Chair of the Aging Advisory Board, and Ms. Jan Elliott, DSS Director, discussed a plan that focuses on the future needs of older adults in the County to the year 2020.

Ms. Elliott discussed outcomes and critical actions needed in the following areas: staying engaged, access, healthy lifestyles, accessible/affordable health care, remaining mobile, staying at home and safe supportive neighborhoods.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners February 6, 2006 regular meeting
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC 28352*

Ms. Elliott said the goal is to raise awareness of these issues and do what can be done to support them.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

a) Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners January 5, 2006 landfill information meeting, January 9, 2006 regular meeting, January 12, 2006 joint Count/City meeting, January 17, 2006 joint County/Health Board meeting, January 24, 2006 joint County/DSS meeting, January 26, 2006 landfill information session.

b) Approve reclassification of Level II Inspector (Grade 67) to Level III Inspector (Grade 68).

c) Approve reclassification of Custodian position at 53-6 to Maintenance Technician at 58-6.

d) Approve joint County/City Resolution regarding a speed limit reduction on West Boulevard/X-Way Road.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCOTLAND COUNTY
AND THE LAURINBURG CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING A REDUCTION IN
SPEED LIMIT AND CREATION OF A CROSSWALK AT THE JOHN BLUE HOUSE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council are aware of an increased interest by residents and tourists who visit historic properties in the community; and

WHEREAS, the John Blue House and the Scotland County Museum are two of the premier historic sites in Scotland County; and

WHEREAS, both properties are located across from one another on X-Way road, a heavily traveled thoroughfare with a 45-mile per hour speed limit; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council wish to ensure the safety of everyone who visits the John Blue House and Scotland County Museum; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Laurinburg City Council request the North Carolina Department of Transportation review the possibility of reducing the speed limit from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour on West Boulevard beginning at the US 15/401 south bypass and continuing beyond Turnpike Road, where West Boulevard becomes X-Way Road, to Blues Farm Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Department of Transportation consider establishing a pedestrian crosswalk on X-Way Road between the John Blue House and Scotland County Museum to ensure all those who visit these two historic sites do so safely.

Adopted this day of February 2006

e) Approve joint County/City Resolution regarding creation of a pedestrian connection on West Boulevard to County agencies.

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCOTLAND COUNTY AND THE LAURINBURG CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING A PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION BETWEEN 401/WEST BOULEVARD AND SCOTLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council met on January 12, 2006 to discuss issues that affect both the County and City; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council also are aware of the many people, including very young children, who walk along a narrow stretch of Road on West Boulevard over a foot bridge to get to County agencies such as the Health Department and Social Services and the new Scotland County Recreational Complex; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council wish to ensure the safety of all those individuals who walk on West Boulevard across the foot bridge in order to obtain necessary and essential services provided by County agencies, and

WHEREAS, both the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, and the Laurinburg City Council feel that the project deserves to be placed as a priority project on the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list and would like to request that both the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee and the Lumber River MPO place this as a priority project for our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners and the Laurinburg City Council request the North Carolina Department of Transportation consider establishing a pedestrian footpath on West Boulevard from the US 15/401 south bypass to the Scotland County Complex to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. We also request that agencies that represent both the County and City work with the DOT in placing this project on the NCDOT priority list as well.

Adopted this day of February 2006

**f) Approve Resolution endorsing application to the State for FY 2006-2007
Scotland-Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Program funding.**

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

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

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners February 6, 2006 regular meeting
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

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 2006-2007 Funding in the amount of \$139,866;

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 2006-2007 funding by the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board.

This the 6th day of February 2006.

g) Declare as surplus lever type voting machines used by the Board of Elections.

h) Budget Amendments

- 1) Fire District: Approve receipt of \$5,000 in State, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.**
- 2) DSS: Approve receipt of \$50,000 in State funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.**
- 3) DSS: Approve receipt of \$37,039 in State funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars required.**

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

Item 6. Tax Administrator Report on Outstanding Taxes

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said that as of February 6, 2006, outstanding taxes that are liens on real property amount to \$2,070,263.05. Ms. Norton asked the Commissioners to consider ordering the advertisement of the liens for the week of March 20, 2006.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the order to advertise the liens for the week of March 20, 2006. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners February 6, 2006 regular meeting
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC 28352*

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Patterson provided the Commissioners with a six-month summary of expenditures and projected expenditures through the end of June 2006. Mr. Patterson said the projections, based on trends, show the expenditures might be under budget by \$1.5 million. He said the revenues might also be down at \$1.2 million. He said the County might be looking at a flat fiscal year.

Mr. Patterson also discussed the monthly summary of revenues and expenditures for January 2006. He said there is \$21.3 million in cash and investments and \$2.4 million in debt service and capital funds reserved for the schools.

Mr. Patterson distributed a comparison of 30-day rates from June 2004 to February 2006 comparing Finistar with cash management rates.

County Manager Crumpton said State legislators, with the support of the counties in the State, would consider a proposal for Medicaid relief. He said the proposal would direct the one percent point of sales tax from Article 39 to the State. In return, the State would take over the cost of Medicaid and also would permit counties to impose an additional one percent local option sales tax. Mr. Crumpton said that would mean an eight percent sales tax for those counties that took advantage of the option.

The County Manager said such a proposal would shift the tax burden from property owners to people making purchases. He said the proposal also would create a financial windfall for the State which, he believes, would eventually level off.

Mr. Crumpton said about 10 counties oppose the proposal, and it is his opinion that this is a last shot for counties that wish to secure any form of Medicaid relief.

Item 8. County Manager's Report

County Manager Crumpton said he received a Republic franchise proposal and an updated proposal from Waste Management. He said Scotland County also is looking into the possibility of developing its own regional landfill by forming an interlocal agreement with other counties.

County Manager Crumpton provided an update on Aberdeene Meadows. He said it is his understanding the owners of the nursing home that closed several years ago as the result of a fire are experiencing financial and operational problems. He said the next step would be for the Solid Waste Officer to take the owners to court.

Mr. Crumpton said a BRAC Steering Committee is being created with two representatives each – one County and one representing the municipalities -- from 10 counties. He said the Committee would work to develop a regional committee, which would act as a point of contact for the Department of Defense. He said the base realignment will bring more people into the region, and funds would be available to support the population increase. He said the BRAC Steering Committee would meet frequently during initial setup.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus agreed that County Manager Crumpton would represent Scotland County on the BRAC Steering Committee as long as it does not interfere with his daily responsibilities.

County Manager Crumpton said the Mental Health transition from West Covington Street leaves opportunity for the County to consider an option to purchase the furniture and new telephone system in the building. He said if the space is leased to another agency some time in the future, the County would be responsible for providing the furnishings.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston authorizing the County Manager to negotiate with Southeastern Regional Mental Health the purchase of the furniture and telephone system now in the West Covington Street facility. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Willis said the March 13, 2006 regular meeting would be a good opportunity for SRMH Director Sharen Prevatte to provide an update on the privatization of mental health.

Item 9. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Mr. John Willie McNeill as an Alternate to the Scotland County Board of Zoning Adjustment. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to reappoint Mr. Clyde Marsh to the Cable Access Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Butler asked Commissioners Jordan and Alford to continue serving on the CDBG Advisory Committee as recommended by the LRCOG, which administers the program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Laurinburg residents Ms. Juliet McMillan and Mr. Walter Rogers to the CDBG Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Ms. Evelyn Allen of Laurel Hill to the CDBG Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Mr. Kevin Patterson as the Scotland County administrative representative to the CDBG Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners February 6, 2006 regular meeting
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC 28352*

Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Willis said he would like the Human Relations Committee and the Landfill placed as additional items on the February 8, 2006 Planning Retreat.

Commissioner Alford said a pile of dirt was left on Spencer Street in Laurel Hill, and nothing has been done since, nor does he know where the dirt came from. County Manager Crumpton said he would look into it.

Commissioner Alford said the Commissioners should respond and provide answers to the public about their concerns regarding a regional landfill, which are valid.

Chairman Willis said the Commissioners are still gathering information. He said he would like to know what the questions are so the Commissioners could attempt to answer them provided they have the information

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to recess until 12 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at the Dulin Center, Lauchwood Drive, Laurinburg. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman