

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
March 12, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, March 12, 2007  
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, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter (*arrived at 7:05 p.m.*). 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 McCook delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Willis called Public Forum. Chairman Willis reminded everyone of the three-minute limit per speaker.

**Mr. Jim Johnston** -- questioned preliminary franchise items that referred to actual acreage and whether another site was being considered and whether the regional landfill would accept commercial and special waste. Mr. Johnston questioned whether the Commissioners would actually approve the dumping of special waste in the County, which could contaminate the groundwater.

**Ms. Sheryl Icard**, 21442 Boondocks Road, Laurel Hill – said she is concerned about the risk of potential leaks because contamination from leaks cannot be cleaned up.

**Mr. Bob Davis** – is saddened and ashamed that the Commissioners intend to pursue a solid waste franchise agreement. He questioned whether the nature of Poyner & Spruill attorneys when it comes to working for the solid waste industry and the County.

**Mr. Marcus Norton**, 20700 Marston Road, Laurel Hill – said he is against a mega dump in the County. Mr. Norton said if the revenues generated from a landfill are so good why other counties wouldn't line up to get them. He asked how and where the leachate would be treated once it was pumped from the landfill.

**Mr. Phil Morgan** – opposes the mega dump. Mr. Morgan said a 2004 landfill report by G.N. Richardson contradicts his most recent report. Mr. Morgan said the landfill would be less than five miles from Camp Mackall where military air training takes place and would be bounded on three sides by game lands.

No one else spoke, and Public Forum was closed.

**Item 1. Audit Report: FY 2005-2006**

Mr. Carl Head of Gustaf C. Lundin & Company provided the Commissioners with an unqualified opinion on the FY 2005-2006 financial statements.

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Mr. Head recommended three areas in need of improvement – that the County use a proprietary fixed asset program; that the County implement a formal accounting manual; that the County rearrange responsibilities among personnel to strengthen internal controls and financial reporting.

**Item 2. Tourism Development Authority: Funding Proposal for Lights at Recreation Complex**

The Commissioners discussed a proposal by the Tourism Development Authority to fund the construction of lights at the new sports complex. The proposal passed by a five to two vote of the TDA. County Manager Crumpton said the two TDA members who voted against the proposal did so because there was a lack of a marketing plan and the County did not intend to hire someone to market the facility.

The Commissioners discussed in general the manpower required to maintain the Rec Complex and the cost of utilities if the fields were lighted.

The County Manager said the cost of the lighting project would not be known until it was put out for bid.

The Commissioners expressed concern about funding the lighting project before the State Legislature approved the County's request for a three percent increase on the occupancy tax.

Chairman Willis suggested the staff report back to the Board with a plan and options for the Board to consider so it would not have to use Fund Balance. He asked that the utilities estimate also be presented to the Commissioners.

**Item 3. Scotland County Schools Lottery Funds Request for Capital Needs**

County Manager Crumpton said the school system is requesting \$145,430 in State lottery funds for capital needs. Mr. Crumpton said the request is for lottery funding that should be held until the next fiscal year according to the joint resolution between the Schools and the County and the funding agreement for capital needs.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to revise the funding agreement and approve the request by Scotland County Schools for lottery funds in the amount of \$145,430. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$145,430 and authorize the Finance Officer to release the funds. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, February 1, 2007 reconvened meeting; February 5, 2007 regular meeting; February 7, 2001 planning retreat; February 21, 2007 special meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds for the month of January in the amount of \$361.12 and in the amount of \$4,131.12 of property taxes and approve refunds in**

**the amount of \$419.97 and in the amount of \$4,325.41.**

**c) Approve Tax Department request to release funds for the month of February in the amount of \$539.12 and in the amount of \$3,885.23 of property taxes and approve refunds in the amount of \$73.81 and in the amount of \$680.31.**

**d) Approve Resolution Allowing Richmond County, NC, to Join the Southeastern Economic Development Commission.**

**e) Declare as surplus a 1990 Ford E-350 ambulance VIN #1FDKE30M6MHA53383.**

**f) Approve Sick Leave Policy clarification and update to guidelines on Comp Time, Annual Leave, Sick Leave and Personal Leave.**

**g) Approve Resolution in Support of Local Fees for Food and Lodging.**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FEES FOR FOOD AND LODGING**

**WHEREAS,** the State of North Carolina mandates that local government provide Food and Lodging support and inspections; and

**WHEREAS,** the State provides less than \$4,000 per year in support of providing Food and Lodging support and inspections; and

**WHEREAS,** it costs the local taxpayers of Scotland County upwards of \$140,000 to meet the State mandated requirements of the Food and Lodging Programs; and

**WHEREAS,** the Scotland County Food and Lodging Program has been 97 percent compliant with the State mandate for the prior ten plus years; and

**WHEREAS,** Local Health Departments fully support holding the State Environmental Health Division harmless for the funding to develop and maintain the environmental health data system; and

**WHEREAS,** the Scotland County Board of Health believes fee for service funding for Food and Lodging support and inspections would be more equitable than asking county residents to bear the cost of this State mandated service through the use of ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** other State mandated services such as the On-Site Sewage Program are funded using a fee for service approach; and

**WHEREAS,** Food and Lodging facility owners and operators are the ones who draw financial benefit from such facilities;

**THEREFORE,** the Scotland County Board of County Commissioners, meeting in regular session, hereby requests the General Assembly to enact legislation empowering local government to enact and collect fees for providing Food and Lodging support and inspections from such enterprises operating within their boundaries.

This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007

**h) Approve amendment to Resolution Expanding Area in which Smoking is Prohibited at**

**Scotland County Governmental Complex from “No Smoking” to “No Smoking/Tobacco Use.”**  
i) **Approve reclassification of Maintenance Technician at 58-6 to Maintenance Supervisor at Grade 69 Step 5.**

j) **Approve petition by town of McDonald to become a member of the Lumber River Council of Governments.**

k) **Budget Amendments:**

- 1) **Health: Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$2,676.33, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **DSS: Approve receipt of \$270,000 in additional funding, the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**

Chairman Willis asked the Commissioners to consider approval of the Consent Agenda with the removal of item h. Approve amendment to Resolution Expanding Area in which Smoking is Prohibited at Scotland County Governmental Complex from “No Smoking” to “No Smoking/Tobacco Use.” pending further review.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item h. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Item 5. Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager**

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said the County as of the end of February expended \$25,907,770, which is 61.6 percent of the appropriated budget. Mr. Patterson provided an update on the collection of General Fund revenues and property taxes.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to appropriate \$62,285 to Public Buildings because the cost of utilities will exceed what was budgeted by that amount.

County Manager Crumpton said the City of Laurinburg increased the cost of its utilities and the utilities for Covington Street were not previously budgeted. Mr. Crumpton said the development of an efficiency study is being reviewed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the appropriation of \$52,285 from Fund Balance for Public Buildings to cover utilities for the remainder of the fiscal year. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said Parks and Recreation paid for half the cost of replacing three poles at Legion Park in the amount of \$8,925. He asked the Commissioners to appropriate \$8,925 to Parks and Recreation because the funds for the pole replacements were to be used for the purchase of playground equipment at Lincoln Park.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the appropriation of \$8,925 to Parks and Recreation for the purchase of playground equipment at Lincoln Parks. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
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Mr. Patterson said the Jail Canteen Fund will have total revenues of \$61,000 this year instead of the \$35,000 originally budgeted. He asked the Commissioners to adjust the budget accordingly. Mr. Patterson said the extra revenue would be used for a third payment on a leased vehicle and replace jailor uniforms.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to amend the Jail Canteen Fund to receive \$61,000 for FY 2006-2007 and to increase the appropriate expenditures accordingly. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson updated the Commissioners on the discount prescription card program.

**Item 6. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. Jim Graham to a four-year term on the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Mr. Pat Dozier, Mr. Walter Rogers, Mr. Ken Haney and Mr. Sam Cribb to the Board of Equalization and Review for 2007 and to appoint Mr. Leon Butler as the Commissioner-representative to the Board of Equalization and Review. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Vice Chair Gholston suggested that a female be considered to serve on the Board of Equalization and Review.

**Item 7. County Manager’s Report**

Mr. Crumpton said the County was officially notified that it received \$100,000 from the Rural Center for the Springfield Wastewater Project.

Mr. Crumpton said a group of citizens traveled to Raleigh to meet with local legislators and discuss various community concerns. One item that developed was to ask the Department of Commerce for emergency help due to the County's high unemployment rate and recent loss of jobs at West Point Stevens. Mr. Crumpton asked the Board for support in writing a letter to the State asking for immediate assistance in addressing the economic/unemployment situation.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler authorizing the County Manager to write a letter to the State requesting emergency assistance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Crumpton said the DOT will hold a public hearing 7 p.m., March 20, at Laurel Hill Community Center on the US 74 and Old Wire Road improvement project.

**Item 8. Closed Session**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
March 12, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney and Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*(Closed Session held in the Health Department Education Room)*

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler authorizing the County Manager to respond in writing the answers to questions asked by citizens at the Public Forum. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman