

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
April 2, 2007, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, April 2, 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. 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 McDow delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Mr. Larnell Shaw: As a representative of the LaurelFest Executive Committee, Mr. Shaw asked the Commissioners for financial support of the festival. He discussed the history of LaurelFest and its various activities and highlights.

Chairman Willis thanked Mr. Shaw and said the Commissioners would take his request under advisement.

Chairman Willis said since the public hearing on the landfill was canceled the Commissioners would listen to citizen comments on the issue at a later time.

Item 1. Presentation: Mental Health Local Business Plan

Chairman Willis asked the Commissioners if they had any questions for Ms. Sharen Prevatte, SRMH Area Director and CEO, on the 2007-2010 Local Business Plan.

Responding to questions asked by Vice Chair Gholston, Ms. Prevatte discussed the telephone number people could call to talk with a screener, the State dollars available to cover the uninsured and the need for increased publicity on the Plan.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the 2007-2010 Local Business Plan for Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Program bids

LRCOG Housing Administrator Adrian Lowery asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a contract with Strickland Construction in the amount of \$36,512 for the rehabilitation of the Veverly Matthews home as part of the CDBG Scattered Site Program. Mr. Lowery said the company, based in Lumberton, NC, was the lowest bidder.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the contract with Strickland Construction in the amount of \$36,512 for the rehabilitation of the

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Veverly Matthews home as part of the CDBG Scattered Site Program. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Pemo Stewart funding request

County Manager Crumpton said Pemo Stewart is requesting an additional \$5,000 to get its 2007 season started. Mr. Crumpton said the funds Pemo Stewart received this year were used for a team trip to Williamsburg, VA, for the Southeast Regional Tournament. Mr. Crumpton said the additional \$5,000 is not funded in this year's budget.

Pemo Stewart Baseball President Roger Brooks said the number of youth Pemo Stewart serves has nearly doubled. He added the only other revenue it receives is from admission charges.

Chairman Willis commented that Pemo Stewart provides a service that would cost the County dearly if it provided the service.

Commissioner McCook suggested that as a long-term goal the County might want to look into a partnership with Pemo Stewart to help defray the insurance costs.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve \$5,000 from the contingency fund for Pemo Stewart for this fiscal year. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Recreation Center proposal for installation of lights

County Manager Crumpton presented the proposed Marketing Plan for the Recreation Center.

Mr. Crumpton said according to Musco Lighting, cost of light installation would be \$350,000. Mr. Crumpton said BB&T offered the lowest interest rate if the lighting expenditure was to be financed over a seven-year period.

Mr. Crumpton said the Tourism Development Authority would provide 33.3 percent of its revenues from a three percent occupancy tax increase, if approved by the State Legislature. He added that anticipated revenues from the occupancy tax dedicated to the lights would be \$50,736 a year. Mr. Crumpton said the annual payment if financed would be \$57,042. Mr. Crumpton suggested that financing the project would be better than using Fund Balance.

Commissioner McDow said she was concerned that other fields would close, which would cause a transportation problem for participating youth.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said playing fields in Laurel Hill and Wagram would not close, but there would be some field consolidation in Laurinburg.

County Manager Crumpton said it might be possible to develop a plan with Transportation. Chairman Willis suggested the County Manager and EMS Director Roylin Hammond work together to resolve any transportation issues.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Marketing Plan Softball/Baseball Component as proposed. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, March 12, 2007 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve Authorizing Resolution Capacity Building Grants Program.**

Authorizing Resolution Capacity Building Grants Program

WHEREAS, the 1998 Critical Needs Bond Act has authorized the making of loans and grants to aid units of local government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection systems, and water supply systems, water conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, the County of Scotland, on behalf of itself and a consortium of local governments in the Upper Lumber River Basin, has need for and intends to assess the feasibility of purchasing and retrofitting an abandoned surface water intake and treatment plant for the purpose of developing a regional water supply alternative to the current use of ground water resources; and

WHEREAS, the County of Scotland intends to request grant assistance from the Capacity Building Grants Program for the project;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, BY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS;

That Scotland County with assistance from the Lumber River Council of Governments will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project if approved for a grant.

That Scotland County will provide oversight and management of the planning project.

That John Crumpton, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf Scotland County and the Consortium with the NCREDC (Rural Center) for a grant to assist in the planning project as described above.

That John Crumpton, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the Rural Center may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with this application.

That Scotland County has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to the grants pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 2nd of April, 2007 at Laurinburg, N.C.

c) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **Old Hospital Grant:** Approve receipt of grant in the amount of \$148,800 in revenues and expenditures for the Old Hospital Project, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 2) **CDBG:** Approve \$300,000 budget for the Community Development Block Grant Program. No County dollars involved.
- 3) **Health Department:** Approve receipt of \$3,375, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.

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

Item 6. Voting machine purchase request

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said a Federal HAVA grant in the amount of \$40,352 administered through the State would allow the local Elections Office to purchase six additional Optical Scan Voting Machines.

Mr. Patterson said six additional machines would allow Elections to put more machines in larger precincts with a higher turnout. He added that the purchase would give Elections backup equipment to keep precincts up and running rather than rely on provisional ballots. He added that the purchase would save money because a backup would eliminate the need to have a paid technician on the premises during an election.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the purchase of six M100 Optic Scan Voting Machines using a \$40,352 HAVA Grant. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Patterson said expenditures to date are \$27.2 million of the \$43.2 million budget. He said property and sales tax collections are at \$33.5 million. Mr. Patterson said the fiscal budget remains on target. He will present final quarter projections at the May 7 meeting.

Item 8. County Manager's Report

County Manager Crumpton showed a map of the Michigan left lanes at US74 and Old Wire Road proposed by the DOT. Mr. Crumpton said they are a little inconvenient, but they work. Mr. Crumpton said the DOT did not propose a light at the intersection because the Department would like to keep it as a free-flowing highway.

Mr. Crumpton said the DOT would research a few issues – the possible recalculation of the Michigan turn so large trucks would be able to negotiate it and the affect it might have from an emergency standpoint for fire/EMS responding to a call.

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County Manager Crumpton said County Government Week is April 22 to 28, and he is open for activity suggestions.

Mr. Crumpton explained the land transfer tax resolutions, which some of the larger counties are approving. He said land transfer tax is more beneficial to the larger counties and would be beneficial to Scotland County if it had more growth and a need to build more schools.

The Commissioners asked the County Manager to provide more information on a request for support of a Child Care Grant from the Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center.

County Manager Crumpton reminded the Commissioners of the NCACC Legislative Day May 2.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Butler asked the Board for immediate consideration on the LaurelFest request for \$2,500 since the festival was scheduled for May.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the request by LaurelFest for \$2,500 for its 2007 festival. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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 §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

Commissioner John Alford was no longer present.

County Attorney Johnston said the Health Director pursuant to the accreditation process had asked the Commissioners at the April 2 meeting to expand the prohibition on smoking to include prohibition on tobacco products in general. Mr. Johnston said there is no statutory authority for tobacco products.

Mr. Johnston advised that the Board might authorize signage to reiterate that smoking is prohibited and that visitors be asked to not use additional tobacco products.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approving the posting of signage at the Health Department about not using additional tobacco products. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The Commissioners agreed to set May 1 and May 3 as budget work session days at 507 West Covington Street.

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Chairman Willis asked if anyone wished to address the Board at this time.

Mr. Bob Davis: said he felt his right to address the Board earlier in the meeting was denied since the Commissioners had no idea what he planned to speak about. Mr. Davis asked for clarification on a *Laurinburg Exchange* article quoting County Manager John Crumpton about the Republic contract. Mr. Davis said Mr. Crumpton was quoted as saying the County's only option to keep the costs down would be to seek a disposal location in South Carolina once the Republic contract ends in six years. Mr. Davis asked if the County had another five years beyond the six years.

Mr. Crumpton said there would be an additional five years if the County exercises the option with Republic.

Mr. Davis said since Waste Management no longer plans to finalize a host agreement with the County at this time, he asked the Commissioners to issue a resolution to have no further negotiations with any waste company that wants to site a landfill in Scotland County. He said the action would heal the division within this County.

Mr. Jim McMillan of Laurinburg: said he is concerned about the water situation in Scotland County, which is a State and national problem as well as a worldwide problem. Mr. McMillan read items from a four-year water study of the region and its susceptibility to pollutants. He said a shortage of food in 2020 in the world would be due to drought conditions. Mr. McMillan asked the Commissioners to take a look at future water resources in Scotland County.

Mr. Jim Johnston: said he followed every rule and instruction to speak at the meeting, which was denied him when more people were present in the room. Mr. Johnston said he didn't think that was right. Mr. Johnston thanked Mr. Crumpton for answering the questions he asked at the March meeting. Mr. Johnston said that people he questioned were not aware the landfill would accept special waste. Mr. Johnston said most people thought it would just accept household waste.

On another topic, Mr. Johnston said he would be willing to share what Columbus, Georgia, did to become nationally successful in the area of women's softball.

Commissioner McCook suggested that he and Parks and Recreation Director would make plans discuss this further with Mr. Johnston.

Mr. Mark Schenck, representing the Deercroft Homeowner's Association: said Scotland County has potential growth as a retirement area with golf courses, considering the number of baby boomers preparing for retirement. He asked that the Commissioners consider the possibility of this growth area, which would be a lot better for Scotland County in the long term.

Ms. Laurene Stubbs: said she continues to be against the landfill, and she does not want a landfill. Ms. Stubbs said there are a lot of unknowns and possible problems associated with landfills. Ms. Stubbs said she is speaking on behalf of her grandchildren, who cannot speak for themselves, but who might one day have to deal with the problems created by a landfill.

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A Duplin County woman who did not identify herself said Duplin County, which is probably poorer than Scotland County, said no to a landfill six years ago because it did not feel a landfill would be good for its citizens or the environment. She recommended the Commissioners read a book, *The Reckoning Time*, by Dr. Peter Anderson, who has studied the environment extensively. She said that Dr. Anderson reports that every landfill will leak and, when it does, it would be up to the host county to find the budget to clean up the mess. She asked Scotland County do its research and not to make a mistake by going for temporary relief when in years to come something might happen that the County can't correct.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to recess until 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman