

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
April 7, 2008, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, April 7, 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, 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 Alford delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum: No one came forward to speak.

Item 1. Child Fatality Prevention Team 2007 Annual Report

Health Director Ron Sapp said in 2006 Scotland County had the lowest recorded child fatalities since 1998. Mr. Sapp said although this is good news for 2006, the number of child fatalities increased in 2007.

Mr. Sapp discussed the accomplishments and activities of the Child Fatality Protection Team. He said the Team reviewed five child fatality cases, three of which occurred because of medical conditions and two that were vehicle related.

Mr. Sapp said the Team is working with the NC Department of Transportation on a review of two intersections in the County – Barnes Bridge and 501 and Sneads Grove Road at Old Wire Road and at McFarland Road.

Item 2. Community Child Protection Team 2007 Annual Report

Community Child Protection Team Co-Chair Sandy Skamperle said the Team reviewed the cases of 11 families, which included 23 children. The families were served by DSS and 10 different agencies in the County.

Substance abuse and domestic violence were contributing factors identified in each case reviewed by the Team. Ms. Skamperle said limited resources in the area create greater barriers for families in need of services.

Ms. Skamperle said Team accomplishments included increasing awareness of resources available for children in the community and increase awareness in gang violence. Ms. Skamperle said the Team was not successful in completing the County-wide methamphetamine protocol but strides are being made in accomplishing that activity in 2008.

Ms. Skamperle asked the Commissioners to approve the Community Child Protection Team member list for 2008.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the Community Child Protection Team member list for 2008 as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting on March 10, 2008.**
- b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$237.35 and in the amount of \$1800.55 and to make refunds of \$117.18 and in the amount of \$999.64.**
- c) **Approve adjustment of annual salary for the County Manager in the amount of \$88,992.**
- d) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funding in the amount of \$4,000 and authorize Finance Officer to make necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
 - 2) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$947, and authorize Finance Officer to make necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
 - 3) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$9,738 and \$4,892.49, and authorize Finance Officer to make necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
 - 4) **EMS: Approve receipt of additional funds of \$6,088.25 and authorize Finance Officer to make necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**

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

Chairman Willis recognized County Engineer Jim Blackwell, who presented bids for the four soccer fields at the Recreation Complex. Bids received were: Dixon Construction Company, \$136,220; Hudson Paving Inc., \$226,400; Horne Construction, \$271,143; and Wilson Gold, LLC., \$278,009.47.

Mr. Blackwell said that in the request for bids the companies were given the option of using on-site material or bringing material in from off-site.

Chairman Willis asked if the bidding would have changed if the request asked for on-site materials only. Mr. Blackwell said that in some cases, it costs less for companies to bring material from off-site, which is why that is part of the request for bids.

Mr. Blackwell recommended that the Commissioners consider awarding the contract to Dixon Construction Company at \$136,220.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to award the contract in the amount of \$136,220 to Dixon Construction Company for construction of four soccer fields at the Recreation Complex. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Budget Request for Sheriff

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Sheriff Shep Jones requested \$40,000 for fuel, which has increased sharply, and \$50,000 for the Jail to offset the cost of housing a larger-than-anticipated inmate population. Sheriff Jones said the additional revenues would be for the remainder of FY 2007-2008.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appropriate an additional \$40,000 to the Office of the Sheriff to cover unanticipated fuel costs and appropriate an additional \$50,000 to the Jail for the remainder of FY 2007-2008 due to an increase in the inmate population. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 5. Budget Request for EMS and Transportation

EMS Director Roylin Hammond asked the Commissioners for an additional \$20,000 for Transportation and an additional \$20,000 for EMS to cover increased fuel costs for the remainder of FY 2007-2008.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to appropriate an additional \$20,000 to Transportation and appropriate an additional \$20,000 to EMS for the remainder of FY 2007-2008 due to an increase in the in fuel costs. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Willis suggested that Sheriff Jones and Mr. Hammond budget on the high end for these line items in the FY 2008-2009 budget to avoid their having to come before the Commissioners to request additional funding.

Item 6. Update from the County Manager

County Manager Patterson updated the Commissioners on the budget preparation timetable. Mr. Patterson expects budget work sessions to occur May 27 and May 29. Personal property listings will not be available until April 15. Property tax collections cannot be accurately made at this time. Mr. Patterson said that with the exception of the Humane Society and recipients of pass-through grants, nonprofit organizations would not be included in the proposed budget.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners to turn in feedback on potential capital projects.

Mr. Patterson said he and Commissioner Butler attended a 21st Century Communities program orientation. He said the program will allow Scotland County to use Department of Commerce resources to help it better adapt to a new economy, promote workforce development and to better leverage grant opportunities.

Mr. Patterson described the program as a two-year process that is effective when viewed as a true community effort that involves the partnered participation of numerous community leaders as a broad representation of the community.

Commissioner Butler added that there is a lot of money available through grant opportunities.

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Mr. Patterson said that the Commissioners have been invited by the City of Laurinburg to meet in joint session sometime early in May.

Item 7. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Mr. Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Mr. Pat Dozier, Mr. Walter Rogers, Mr. Ken Haney, Mr. Sam Cribb, Mr. Leon Butler and Mr. Aubrey Jones to the 2008 Board of Equalization and Review. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Chairman Willis to appoint Ms. Betty Blue Gholston as the Commissioner-representative to the Southeastern Regional Mental Health Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Commissioner McCook said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will receive input and advice from citizens on long-range plans and directions for parks in their communities. Commissioner McCook said the Hammond Park Community Forum will be held 6:30 p.m. April 21 and the Market Park Community Forum will be held 6:30 p.m. April 22. Commissioner McCook said similar forums on community parks will follow.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said fliers will be distributed, announcements made through the local paper and radio and calls will be made to people who live within one-quarter mile of the parks will help publicize the forums.

Commissioner McDow said the RCC Board of Trustees is grateful to the Commissioners for the support the community college received in its campaign to construct a facility on the site of the old hospital.

Commissioner Butler said concerns raised by Mr. Pearson at the March meeting about the possible destruction of his father’s pond were resolved by the State Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Butler recommended that a BRAC Steering Committee made up of representatives from the municipalities, Laurel Hill, Maxton, Laurinburg-Maxton Airport and the Chamber be appointed to promote Scotland County to BRAC officials. Commissioner Butler said he would take the lead and extend the invitation to the municipalities, Airport and Chamber.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to establish a BRAC Steering Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman