

MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting, July 9, 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 and Guy McCook. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Mr. Charles Parker asked questions about County monies appropriated to Commissioners for non-profit funding. Mr. Parker said there are non-profits in the community that conduct their own fundraising without coming before the Commissioners with an open hand. Mr. Parker said he felt non-profits should come before the Board as a whole to request funding and not ask for funding from one Commissioner. He asked the Board to consider rescinding the policy.

Chairman Willis discussed the Policy requirements that all agencies must meet in order to be considered by a Commissioner for funding. Chairman Willis said the funds would not get farmed out as freely as people might think.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Rezoning Application Number 442-07

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Henry McLeod presented the following information:

Rezoning Application Number 442-07 – Scotland County Tax Department – Request to rezone approximately 45.2 acres in accordance with Scotland County Zoning Ordinance, Article IV from I-2 (Heavy Industrial) and RA (Residential Agriculture) to RA (Residential Agriculture) The property is owned by John D. McInnis and located on Airbase Rd (SR 1407). Property is also described as Scotland County Tax Map Number 419, Block 01, Parcel 002.

Mr. McLeod said the land was zoned Heavy Industrial when Springs Mill located there, but there is no need for that now.

Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or against the rezoning application. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve rezoning application 442-07 in accordance with the Section 38 Standards of the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Public Hearing: Financing of the Courthouse Roof/Jail

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Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson said the purpose of the hearing is to gather citizen views and comments prior to the application to the Local Government Commission for an installment purchase or lease contract. Mr. Patterson said the County is requesting financing of up to \$800,000 in installment financing for a new roofing system. The total project cost is \$1 million; 20 percent of which will be provided by the County.

The Public Hearing was opened for anyone who wished to speak in favor of or against financing the roof for the Courthouse/Jail.

Mr. Charles Parker commented that the Courthouse roof has been problematic and expensive through the years. He asked if the problem would ever be solved so repairs to the Courthouse would finally end.

No one else came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the Intent to Issue Debt for the Construction/Repair of Roofing System on the County Courthouse and Jail. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 3. Landfill Methane Gas Project

Mr. Stan Steury, Appalachian State University Energy Center, discussed a potential landfill gas project in Scotland County, which would be funded by a grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation. Mr. Steury said the project is designed to look at every possible form of energy available to meet the demands in this country.

Mr. Steury said similar projects in other counties have been successful in creating jobs and promoting economic development. Mr. Steury said the landfill in Scotland County, although not huge, has potential. He said the Scotland County landfill generates enough methane gas to heat 100 homes, and enough would be left over for use in something else.

Mr. Steury asked the Commissioners to allow the Energy Center to work in Scotland County to develop and energy plan. Additionally, he asked the Commissioners to put together a local task force to decide what could be done with the energy to create new jobs and economic opportunities in the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to organize a local task force and to approve the proposal by the Appalachian State Energy Center to develop a plan for use of the methane gas at the Scotland County landfill. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Update

Chief Court Counselor Rogena Deese discussed a legislative study commission which would look at Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding every year to determine whether it would continue. She said the study commission would have an impact on JCPC programs in 2008 and possibly jeopardize continued program funding.

Ms. Deese said previously JCPC could depend on continued State funding that kept established juvenile programs across the State focused on preventive measures and intervention as alternatives to sending youth into the court system.

Ms. Deese provided statistics locally on how JCPC programs have been a benefit to youth and their families.

Ms. Deese asked the Commissioners to approve a resolution asking for the continued implementation of a comprehensive system of juvenile justice.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve a resolution asking for the continued implementation of a comprehensive system of juvenile justice. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF A
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

WHEREAS, budget negotiations taking place in the General Assembly may result in a continuation review of the many prevention programs within the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the continuation review puts the Department's community programs in jeopardy of continued funding, which would impact 494 programs and negatively affect the services provided to more than 40,000 youth in all 100 North Carolina counties; and

WHEREAS, the prevention programming targeted for continuation review helps communities across the State address public safety and juvenile crime prevention through Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, Support Our Students and One-on-One Mentoring; and

WHEREAS, in Scotland County alone more than 300 youth benefit from JCPC programs and more than 55 youth benefit from One-on-One Mentoring every year; and

WHEREAS, required community matching funds nearly double the State's prevention funding in order to maximize the number of youth served through these programs, thus reducing the number of violent crimes and repeat offenses through early intervention.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners that the State Legislators please consider the far-reaching and long-term benefits to youth served by these programs that result in stronger families and productive communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners asks the General Assembly to continue decision-making as its has in the past eight years that allows North Carolina to implement a comprehensive system of juvenile justice through prevention, intervention and rehabilitation services that divert youth from being processed through the juvenile court system.

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Item 5. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners, June 4, 2007 regular meeting and June 26, 2007 reconvened meeting.**
- b) **Approve release of funds in the amount of \$17.11 and in the amount of \$4,922.80 and approve refunds in the amount of \$109.14 and in the amount of \$1,523.14.**
- c) **Authorize the Tax Collector to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Scotland County Tax Department.**
- d) **Declare three used FERNO model number 35-A stretcher cots at EMS as surplus.**

Commissioner McCook asked that the June 26, 2007, minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda pending a correction on the action taken at the Public Hearing on the CDBG application grant.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the June 26, 2007, minutes. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. Board of Elections: State Funding Update

Board of Elections Director Dell Parker said a new HAVA grant program approved by the State Board of Elections would provide \$3,000 to each precinct for ERAPP, electronic access at the polling place. Scotland County, with 10 polling places, would be eligible for \$30,000.

Ms. Parker said voters would be processed at the precincts using the laptops, which would eventually save the County money. Ms. Parker said ATV labels and forms and the 1,800 page voter registration book would no longer be needed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Elections Board going forward with the process of having the precincts equipped with laptops using a State Board grant. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Attorney Report: Deed to King Cemetery in Williamson Township

County Attorney Ed Johnston asked for additional time to review the Kings Cemetery deed request due to the lateness of his receipt of the information.

Chairman Willis asked Mr. Johnston and Mr. Patterson to review the request in time for presentation to the Commissioners at the August 6 meeting.

Item 8. Update from the Interim County Manager/Finance Officer

LRCOG Executive Director Jim Perry asked the Commissioners to approve an amendment regarding the financing for construction of the new building. Mr. Perry said tax-free financing is now available for the LRCOG. The amendment of the interlocal agreement between the COG and county participants

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identifies the COG as the development corporation instead of the Lumber River Development Corporation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Perry then asked the Commissioners to consider participating in the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Assistance Grant Program. Mr. Perry said Scotland County, in cooperation with Bladen County, would act as the lead applicant for the project.

Mr. Perry said each county would have to conduct a public hearing, the results of which would be incorporated in the final application.

Mr. Perry said the grant would help existing business in Scotland County that employ between 20 and 100 people to sustain the businesses and hopefully help them grow.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to proceed with the application process and schedule a public hearing for the August 6, 2007, meeting. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Interim County Manager Patterson said three firms responded to RFQs for the West Point Stevens water/wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Patterson said it is recommended that the Wooten Company be designated as the engineering firm to look at the plant.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston approving the Wooten Company as designated engineering firm for the West Point Stevens water/wastewater treatment plant. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to designate a voting delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference.

Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to designate Commissioner Joyce McDow as the NCACC Annual Conference Voting Delegate. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson provided a current finance report.

Mr. Patterson said numerous vehicles and other items that have been surplused will be auctioned August 4 at the County Annex. He asked the Commissioners approve an order for auction.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the order for auction. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said Scotland Memorial Hospital requested that one surplused vehicle, a Suburban, be used by its security personnel.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to sell the Suburban to Scotland Memorial Hospital for \$1. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said an amendment to the Personnel Policy requires that certain personnel – the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Clerk to the Board, Emergency Management Director, Director of Social Services and Health Director – reside in the County.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policy regarding county residency requirements. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Bob McNair to a two-year term on the Jury Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Hal Jernigan to a three-year term on the Laurinburg/Scotland County Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to reappoint Beacham McDougald, John Alford and Jim Walker to four-year terms on the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint John Schmidt to a one-year unexpired term on the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to reappoint John Alford and to appoint Dan Smith to three-year terms on the Tourism Development Authority. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Ron Riggins and to appoint David McLamb to three-year terms as hotel/motel representatives on the Tourism Development Authority. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Charles “Scoofer” Jordan and Page Pratt to two-year terms on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to reappoint Jay Todd and Cathy Poole as private sector representatives, Gerry Johnson as community-based organization representative and Joe Knott as social services representative to two-year terms on the Work Force Development Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Wendy Stanton, Chris Young, Jonathan McInnis, Jane Murray and Steve Smith to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 10. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to go into Closed Session 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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman