

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 3, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES**  
**Scotland County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting, August 3, 2009**  
**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, Bob Davis, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Willis welcomed Laurinburg City Mayor Matt Block and Councilmember Tommy Parker, who were in attendance.

**Public Forum**

No one spoke at Public Forum.

**Item 1. Public Hearing: FY 2010 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application**

Chairman Willis called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the Rural Operating Assistance Program FY 2010 application. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the FY 2010 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) application. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 2. Mental Health: Local Management Entity update**

Area Director and CEO Sharen Prevatte gave an update on the Mental Health System and Local Management Entity. Ms. Prevatte distributed statistical data on providers with offices in Scotland County.

Ms. Prevatte discussed the number of Scotland County consumers served in screenings and adult and child admissions.

Ms. Prevatte said the receipt of a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation grant would provide for possible walk-in services locally on a limited basis.

She said SRMH is now fully accredited following a recent accreditation review. Ms. Prevatte added that there would be a reduction in force and administrative cuts as the result of the economic downturn. She said State funding is still unknown.

**Item 3. Letter of Intent: Proposal to purchase WestPoint Stevens Water Plant**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 3, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Village of Pinehurst Manager Andy Wilkison discussed the Village's letter of intent to purchase the WestPoint Stevens water/wastewater plant located on an estimated 200 acres of land.

Mr. Wilkison said the Village sees the facility as a solution to a regional problem on water availability. He added that the Village of Pinehurst need is critical at this time because the current water supply is not sufficient compared to growth. Mr. Wilkison acknowledged that the facility also would meet the water needs of the region.

He explained that since the WestPoint Stevens facility is in Scotland County, the Local Government Commission requires approval by the Board of Commissioners in order for the proposed purchase by the Village of Pinehurst to move forward.

Mr. Wilkison asked the Commissioners to consider the proposal and to respond soon. He explained that the current owner would like a timely response and the Village of Pinehurst would like to bring its proposal to an LGC meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Wilkison said the Village of Pinehurst would be willing to operate the entity with local partners. He added that in his opinion it would be important to keep the facility in public hands rather than have it in the hands of a private owner.

Mr. Wilkison said the Village began working on the project in February. Chairman Willis asked why the Village only now is coming to the Commissioners to open dialogue about it.

Mr. Wilkison said the Village just reached an agreement with the owner, and the Village wanted to have an agreement first. That happened in July.

Chairman Willis asked what would happen if the Board did not approve the request.

Mr. Wilkison said the facility could fall into private hands and a regional public partnership would not be likely.

Chairman Willis said if the Board approved the proposal the 200 acres would be removed from the tax books. Chairman Willis added that before the Commissioners made a decision, they would invite input from the Lumber River Council of Governments, the City of Laurinburg, Gibson and the towns of Wagram and Maxton.

**Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners July 6, 2009 regular meeting, July 9, 2009 joint meeting, July 13, 2009 public hearing, July 16 reconvened meeting and July 22 reconvened meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$38.56 and in the amount of \$1,065.96 and to make refunds in the amount of \$142.48 and in the amount of \$2,255.73.**

c) **Budget Amendments:**

1) **DSS: Approve additional funds in the amount of \$30,650 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money. No County**

dollars involved.

- 2) **Health:** Approve resubmission of budget amendment approved June 1, 2009, for receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$25,606 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money.
- 3) **Economic Development:** Approve additional funding in the amount of \$480,000 from the NC Rural Center for building reuse and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 4) **Economic Development:** Approve additional funding in the amount of \$25,000 for a UNCP study planning grant and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.

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

#### **Item 5. 2008 Tax Settlement**

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton reported charges to the Tax Collector totaled \$20,748,747.18 for the FY 2008-2009 tax year. Ms. Norton said settlement for delinquent taxes totaled \$3,932,059.66.

Ms. Norton said the Tax Office attempts to collect delinquent taxes through garnishments, attachments to bank accounts and debt setoff, which brought \$37,000 in its first year.

Commissioner Davis said delinquent taxes are a concern because nearly \$4 million is a significant amount.

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Davis and **duly seconded** by Commissioner Alford to approve the 2008-2009 tax settlement. **Vote:** Motion unanimously approved.

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

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

**Motion was made** by Commissioner McDow and **duly seconded** by Commissioner Alford to appoint Ms. Beatrice Sams to a three-year term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. **Vote:** Motion unanimously approved.

#### **Item 7. Update from the County Manager**

County Manager Kevin Patterson reported the following:

Mr. Patterson said the State currently is not planning on issuing a consolidated bond for the Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) program that the School System is interested in. The County would

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 3, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

either have to commit to a private placement bond or, more likely, an installment purchase contract. The LGC is advising that currently no banks have expressed an interest in these tax credits. BB&T is expected to have an interest in the program but it is not known to what scale.

Mr. Patterson had conference calls with S&P and Moodys for a bond rating as part of the process for refinancing the 98&99 School Bonds. S&P upgraded the bond rating from A to A+.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton and Mr. Patterson met with the Town of Wagram, the engineer and PARTF officials to discuss the Wagram Recreational Center. Mechanical plans for the building will be forthcoming. The bid process should begin the end of August. Late summer 2010 is the estimated completion time.

Parks and Recreation now offers online registration for athletic programs. This should increase ease of access for citizens and it will improve data management for the department. The costs of the program are nominal and are being absorbed in the Department's current budget.

A resolution from Warren County opposes the transfer of child Support enforcement responsibilities from the State to the local level. Scotland County is not affected by this as the County already provides its own child enforcement responsibilities.

It is expected Cotton Gin funds will be transferred to the Historic Properties pending approval by the Commissioners.

Mr. Patterson reviewed once again the request to waive tipping fees at the landfill for nonprofits. Mr. Patterson reported that volume is down at the landfill to the level where it did not reach its break-even point. Mr. Patterson said he does not anticipate a volume increase in the year to come and any loss of revenues at the landfill would have to be subsidized by the General Fund.

**Item 8. Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow 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**

***Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners***

Vice Chair Gholston asked the Board to recognize an individual who wanted to speak at Public Forum but arrived late to the meeting.

Gerard from Hamlet asked the Commissioners to approve a resolution supporting fathers taking their children to school on the first day. Gerard said if fathers were unable to do so then male volunteers should step forward for the children.

Chairman Willis asked Gerard to forward the information to the Clerk to the Board.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 3, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to support the concept of the resolution. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Davis said after reading a *Laurinburg Exchange* article about tournament activity at the Recreation Complex and reviewing an email on the same subject, could more be done to market the Complex as a tournament site that would bring people to the community for overnight stays.

Commissioner McCook said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board plans to discuss the subject at its next meeting. Commissioner McCook said he would report back to the Commissioners on the outcome of the meeting.

Commissioner Alford said an individual who could travel to other tournaments to market the Complex would be most helpful. Commissioner Alford said booking tournaments is very competitive.

Commissioner McCook said the issue is funding since an additional person at Parks and Recreation would have to be hired in order to take on that responsibility.

Commissioner Davis said he was informed by the local legislators that Mr. David Burns is being considered to replace Mr. G.R. Kindley on the State Transportation Board. Commissioner Davis said having a Scotland County citizen on the State Transportation Board would be an asset. He asked the Commissioners to support the local legislators in their effort to get Mr. Burns appointed.

Commissioner McPhatter said he would like the request for support to come from Mr. Burns.

Commissioner Davis said he was concerned with the increased traffic that would occur in Scotland and Richmond counties if the South Carolina landfill becomes reality.

Chairman Willis said the Commissioners were concerned, too, and if the landfill located in northern Scotland County it would be far away from the populated areas.

Commissioner Alford said landfill traffic would be coming down 74 and 401 and it is much closer to residential areas than it would have been if the landfill was in Scotland County.

Commissioner McCook asked Economic Developer Greg Icard to present a full report on how industry is doing in the community.

Commissioner McDow said numerous representatives from Washington, D.C. attended the NACo conference. She said they emphasized the green theme as a way to be successful in securing stimulus monies.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 3, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**Resolution to Support the Million Father March in Scotland County,  
Sandhills Region, North Carolina, the USA and the World.**

**Whereas**, the Million Father March (MFM) has grown out of recognition of the power of male involvement in the education of students; and,

**Whereas**, the Million Father March (MFM) is an opportunity for men to show their commitment to the educational lives of their children on the first day of school and throughout the school year; and,

**Whereas**, a father who actively participates in the educational and social development life of a child is invaluable and irreplaceable; and

**Whereas**, research clearly and consistently shows that children whose fathers take active roles in their educational lives earn better grades, get better test scores, enjoy school more, are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college, and have fewer behavior problems when fathers speak and listen to their children regularly and are active in their lives; and,

**Whereas**, a father who actively participates in the educational and social development life of a child is invaluable and irreplaceable; and

**Whereas**, men and male caretakers of all races and faith backgrounds are encouraged to accompany children to school on their first day of school.

**Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners supports the yearly Million Father March (MFM) and urges men, fathers, male relatives, caregivers, and all citizens concerned about the future of our youth to play a significant role in the success of this March.

Adopted this 3rd day of August 2009.