

**MINUTES**  
**Scotland County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting, August 4, 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 Leon Butler and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford, Guy McCook and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager 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.

**Public Forum**

**Ms. Doris Douglas**, Scotland Community Free Health Clinic, said there is a need to add about 26 additional feet, the equivalent of 600-square-feet, to the existing facility. Ms. Douglas asked if the County would allow the clinic to use additional County property, which extends from the clinic toward the maintenance shop.

Executive Director Donna Young said as part of an application for a Kate B. Reynolds Foundation grant, the clinic first needs permission by the Commissioners to expand.

Chairman Willis suggested that the clinic continue with its application process while the County Engineer conducts research on the property in question.

**Item 1. 2007 Tax Settlement**

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton provided the Commissioners with the current year tax settlement, which include the charges to the tax collector (\$21,213,441.23) and the credits to the tax collector (\$21,213,441.23) and the settlement for delinquent taxes, which include the charges to the tax collector (\$3,629,847.89) and the credits to the tax collector (\$3,629,847.89).

Ms. Norton discussed the collection percentages, the possibility of contracting with outside collections agencies and foreclosure proceedings.

**Item 2. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners July 7, 2008 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$410.91 and in the amount of \$1,682.89 and to make refunds in the amount of \$63.83 and in the amount of \$465.13.**
- c) **Approve surplus of 2004 Ford Crown Victoria VIN# 2FAHP71W94X100587 and 1995 Ford Crown Victoria VIN# 2FLAP71W6TX107456.**
- d) **Budget Amendments:**
  - 1) **Parks and Recreation: Approve two new line items in the Recreation Complex for \$7,000 in gate fees revenue and \$7,000 in expenditures for entry fees paid for hosting tournaments.**

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

Chairman Willis said although he prefers not to revisit decisions the Board has made, he would like to bring up the BRAC funding request for \$10,000, which failed to be approved by a four to three vote.

**Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler authorizing the County Manager to write a letter to the Scotland Economic Development Corporation asking the Corporation to fund from its account the BRAC request for \$10,000. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

### **Item 3. Update from the County Manager**

County Manager Patterson said Hospice of Scotland County has requested a 10 percent match in the amount of \$16,340 for the block grant for in-home aid services. Mr. Patterson said Hospice had received the County match the previous two years for this service. He added that due to the size of the request there was an interest on the part of some Commissioners to discuss this as a Board since it would be difficult to get the total funding from individual Commissioners.

Hospice Executive Director Jane Murray said the program provides personal care services to residents 60 and older who do not qualify for any other services of this nature. Ms. Murray said about 44 individuals receive the service at any given time. Ms. Murray said even with the match Hospice absorbed about \$30,000 for unreimbursed care.

Ms. Murray said if Hospice decides it can no longer provide the service, the Council of Governments would put it out to bid to another agency or organization.

Chairman Willis said the Hospice request for the 10 percent match would be taken up at the next regular meeting when the full Board would be present.

Mr. Patterson said BRAC RTF is applying for a Golden LEAF grant that would put 3D stereoscopic systems in high schools, community colleges and universities in the 11-county region. BRAC RTF requests a letter of support from the Commissioners.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve a letter of support to BRAC RTF for its application to Golden LEAF for 3D stereoscopic systems. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said BRAC RTF also is attempting to create a \$16 million package to upgrade communications to interoperable systems in the BRAC region. Mr. Patterson said this would mean \$600,000 for Scotland County.

The County Manager said The Nature Conservancy has purchased 246 acres. Mr. Patterson said the tract of land is different from the one the State plans to purchase for its game lands.

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Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to review rules and regulation signage that would be posted at all County parks. Mr. Patterson said the only change included in the signage is exact times when citizens can use the parks.

Chairman Willis said item number four regarding pet waste disposal would only be good if it was enforced. The Chairman commented that if there are rules that would not be enforced, why have them?

Chairman Willis suggested that access be restricted to areas where animals would be permitted, especially if pet waste presents a problem on the walking track.

Mr. Patterson provided the Commissioners with the County's tax exempt listings, which total \$386 million.

Mr. Patterson said the BB&T Capital Markets Division informed him that the 1997 school bond might be converted into an installment debt, which would save the County an estimated three percent. Mr. Patterson said the LGC must first approve the conversion.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow authorizing the County Manager to pursue the installment debt option for the 1997 school bond. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Patterson reported that there are still some roof leaks in the Cronly Street Annex. Mr. Patterson said since the air conditioning unit in the conference room is not working County staff has been unable to get the humidity out of the room and the carpet smells. Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider accelerating the energy savings contract project, which calls for the installation of new air conditioning and heating units and lighting at a cost of \$154,500. Mr. Patterson said if the carpet and flooring was replaced, total cost would be about \$175,000.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to proceed with the energy savings contract and replace the Annex air conditioning, heating and lights and proceed with replacement of the damaged carpet and flooring for an estimated cost of \$175,000. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to appoint Jan Schmidt and Daniel Dockery to three-year terms on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to appoint James E. Baggett to an unexpired term on the Four County Community Services Board of Directors. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to reappoint Norma Jones and Toulva Van Houser to the Scotland Memorial Library Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners*

Vice Chair Gholston reminded the Commissioners of the August 13 job seminar designed to help individuals apply for jobs at a Scotland Correctional Institution.

Chairman Willis said he, the County Manager and the Sheriff will meet in the next few weeks to discuss the State's concerns about the Jail. Chairman Willis mentioned that if the County does what the State wants it to it might add two cents to the tax rate since seven additional positions would have to be filled.

Chairman Willis added that the least costly Jail capital projects also would be addressed. County Manager Patterson added that a number of building-related problems have already been repaired.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow 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.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman