

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 1, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, August 1, 2005  
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, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner John Alford (*excused*). 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.

Chairman Willis welcomed County Manager Crumpton.

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

**Mr. Frank Jacobs, President of the Panther Creek Pit Bull Terrier**

**Association:** Mr. Jacobs said he protests the Animal Control Ordinance, which will become effective September 1, 2005. He said bull terriers by nature dig and climb. It would be difficult to keep them in a fenced area. Mr. Jacobs distributed packets to the Commissioners providing information about bull terriers and their nature, the association and what he feels is the best method to keep them contained. Mr. Jacobs said it is better to keep them tethered with the right kind of equipment.

Chairman Willis said the Commissioners would take his concerns under advisement and respond in writing within 30 days.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee 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**

Chairman Willis explained why Commissioner Alford was not in attendance.

**Item 2. Public Hearing: 2005 Hurricane Recovery Act**

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Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the Crisis Housing Assistance Fund application.

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

Lumber River Council of Governments Housing Coordinator Adrian Lowery said the property of each of the 22 applicants would be visited by State certified housing inspectors to assess the properties and to determine whether they sustained hurricane damage. The inspections would determine eligibility. He said it would take about 45 days to complete the assessment.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the information received thus far. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Before continuing to the next item, Chairman Willis called on Ms. Nancy Walker of the Housing Authority to provide an update on Central School.

Ms. Walker said the Housing Authority would like to turn Central into a facility for elderly housing similar to what was achieved with a high school in Dallas, North Carolina. Ms. Walker said the Housing Authority would like to conduct some environmental and structural work. Ms. Walker asked the Commissioners to consider approving an option on Central School, which would allow her agency to do the necessary, preliminary work to determine if the project is feasible. Ms. Walker said the agency also would investigate funding sources and tax credit possibilities. Ms. Walker said it could take as much as 18 months to get funded, if successful. A funding application would be submitted as early as January 2006. She said the agency might know by summer 2006 if it would receive a tax credit.

Ms. Walker said it would take about \$2,000 to patch Central's roof to prevent further damage to the building. Ms. Walker said part of the option is a request that Scotland County patch the roof, not replace it.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to authorize the signing of the option on Central School pending review by the County Attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 3. Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond, representing the Scotland County Fire Service, said the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshall recently extended "Fire Insurance Districts" boundaries from five road miles to six road miles. He said this would allow residences greater than five miles but within the six-mile district to now have their insurance rate lowered from 10 to 9, which would be an approximate savings of 10 percent on their homeowners insurance rates.

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Mr. Hammond said the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) requires a written agreement stating two things in order to extend the Fire Insurance Districts. He said two fire departments must always be automatically dispatched to the report of any structural fire or structural fire alarm. Mr. Hammond said the second fire department providing the automatic mutual aid must send a piece of fire apparatus that has a minimum of 1,000 gallons of water. Mr. Hammond said the OSFM requires all participating departments to sign an agreement stating the two requirements would be fulfilled. It also requires a set of maps showing the response boundaries of each Fire Insurance District. Mr. Hammond said the County maps would be brought to the Commissioners for approval once they are corrected based on OSFM recommendations.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to adopt the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners: July 11, 2005 regular meeting and July 19, 2005 special meeting.**
- b) **Appoint County Manager John Crumpton as Budget Officer according to G.S. 159-9, effective immediately.**
- c) **Approve updated agreement for Lions Park between Scotland County and Laurel Hill Lions Club.**
- d) **Budget Amendments**
  - 1) **Administration: Approve receipt of a HUD EDI grant in the amount of \$148,800 for demolition of the old hospital and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money; appoint the City of Laurinburg as the Administrative Agent for the HUD EDI grant; and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to sign any and all documents with regard to the grant.**
  - 2) **Scotland Memorial Library: Approve receipt of an LSTA Automation Grant in the amount of \$8,894 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
  - 3) **Scotland Memorial Library: Approve receipt of an LSTA Planning Grant in the amount of \$15,000 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
  - 4) **Lumber River Council of Governments: Approve budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,019 to cover the LRCOG annual dues for FY 2005-2006 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
  - 5) **Healthy Carolinians: Approve decrease of County appropriations for FY 2005-2006 in the amount of \$2,515 for Healthy Carolinians.**

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

**Item 5. Monthly Update from the Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager**

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said there were three budget transfers to close the fiscal year made within the authority of budget ordinances sections 14e. He said the transfers totaled \$7,734 from General Services to the Library and Humane Society as pass through monies and the Medical Examiner, which was \$6,000 for four autopsies. He said this closes out FY 2005, and no further action is necessary.

Mr. Patterson discussed a Register of Deeds request to consider a reclassification. He said employee Patricia Brown received her certification in March 2005. The position is budgeted for an Assistant Register. Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider a reclassification to 61-3

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the reclassification to 61-3 for the Assistant Register position. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said that a seven to 12-member Task Force must be appointed as part of the Hurricane Crisis Assistance grant discussed earlier in the meeting. He said Ms. Jan Hester has volunteered to be the LRCOG representative to the Task Force with the Board's approval. Mr. Patterson asked the Board to consider the appointment of additional members to the Task Force at the September 12, 2005 regular meeting.

Chairman Willis asked the Board to submit names to Commissioner Butler.

Mr. Patterson submitted an expenditure report for the end of the year, which includes both the General Fund and the School Fund.

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

Chairman Willis said it was time to officially "fire" him as Budget Officer now that Mr. Crumpton has been appointed Budget Officer.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to relieve Chairman J.D. Willis from the duties of Budget Officer, effective immediately. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Mr. Charles "Scoofer" Jordan as the Commissioner representative on the Four County Community Action Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Mr. Gerry Johnson as the Community-Based Organization representative to the Lumber River Workforce Development Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 7. Other Information/Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners**

Chairman Willis referred to the letter from Ms. Nina Ingram concerning the state of a canal ditch system in the Laurel Hill community. He said the County must draft a letter to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Corrections giving permission to work on the drainage ditches.

Commissioner Jordan discussed the positive nature of work being conducted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He said the meetings have been creative and productive, and at the last meeting, the possibility of developing a week of activities surrounding the John Blue Cotton Festival.

He said the Board also discussed the possibility of developing small picnic areas within the County lines.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk

J.D. Willis  
Chairman