

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
September 10, 2007, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, September 10, 2007  
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Chairman J.D. Willis. Staff in attendance: Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Butler delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Forum**

Vice Chair Gholston presented the Public Buildings staff with Certificates of Appreciation and thanked them for the work they do in keeping the County's parks and buildings maintained. Vice Chair Gholston also thanked them for their work on the grounds at the Recreation Complex. She said she has great admiration for the Public Buildings staff and the way they do their jobs day in and day out without complaint.

Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham presented gifts of appreciation to the Commissioners from the State Cooperative Extension administrators, NC State University and NC AT&T.

**Item 1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) update**

LRCOG Housing Administrator Adrian Lowery provided an update on the current CDBG program and a status report on the 2008 program. Mr. Lowery said all work connected with the 2005 program would be completed on schedule by March 20, 2008.

Mr. Lowery asked the Commissioners to consider awarding a contract to Strickland Construction in the amount of \$19,317 as the low bidder for final rehab work on the Emanuel Jones unit.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to award a contract to Strickland Construction in the amount of \$19,317 for the rehab of the Emanuel Jones unit. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Lowery said the application process for the 2008 program will be advertised in the paper, and applications will be available at the County Manager's Office and also mailed to all those who previously applied to the program.

Mr. Lowery discussed a timeline for the 2008 program from the acceptance of applications to the February or March 2008 approval of the final list by the Board of Commissioners.

Vice Chair Gholston asked if there were any other similar grant programs that would be available to Scotland County. Mr. Lowery said the North Carolina Financing Agency provides funds for rehab on

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moderately deteriorated units. He said Hoke County received funds from the agency, and Scotland County might receive funding, too. He said there is a maximum of \$400,000 based on population.

Mr. Lowery introduced Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McMillan of Wagram. The couple received a new unit as part of the 2005 CDBG grant program.

**Item 2. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners August 6, 2007 regular meeting and August 10, 2007 reconvened meeting.**
- b) **Approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,235.81 and in the amount of \$2,194.39.**
- c) **Approve request by the Lumber River Council of Governments to amend the loan amount on the Interlocal Agreement.**
- d) **Budget amendments:**
  - 1) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$9,990 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 2) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funding in the amount of \$16,402 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 3) **Health: Approve the receipt of grant monies in the amount of \$552 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
  - 4) **Health: Approve the receipt of a State allocation in the amount of \$15,000 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 5) **Health: Approve FY 2005-2006 Bad Debt write off in the amount of \$4,933.33.**
  - 6) **Health: Approve fee increase for the laboratory through LabCorp and increase in fee for PapTest.**
- e) **Approve Health Department services charges to the level of expenses permissible by Medicaid.**

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

**Item 3. Update from the Interim County Manager/Finance Officer**

Interim County Manager Kevin Patterson provided information on ticket sales and concession sales from the first softball tournament at the Recreation Complex.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners of upcoming meetings:

- Springs Wastewater Plant, 2 p.m. Friday, September 14, 507 West Covington Street.
- Methane Gas Project, 8:30 a.m. Thursday, September 13, 507 West Covington Street
- Chamber Community Forum, 12 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, Clinton Inn

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Mr. Patterson said hopefully the Annex renovation will be completed this week. He said the County would then begin to look at space changes in the Courthouse.

Mr. Patterson said as of August 31, the County has processed \$7.5 million in revenues and expended \$6.1 million. He said the County also processed \$4.5 million of property taxes from the current year levy.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$227,026 to cover the increase in school capital and other contractual obligations.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$227,026 to cover the increase in school capital and other contractual obligations. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

The Commissioners discussed the three-year Medicaid phase out and the revenue options by local referendum for a land transfer tax or a .25 percent increase in sales tax. Commissioner McCook said that in his opinion a sales tax increase would bring more revenue to Scotland County compared to a land transfer tax.

Mr. Patterson said the LRCOG annual banquet is scheduled for Thursday, October 18. Any one wishing to attend should contact the Clerk to the Board.

Mr. Patterson said he distributed proposed Personnel Policy amendments on overtime for the Commissioners to discuss and review at some point in time. Mr. Patterson said the amendment addresses a change by FEMA in how it reimburses employees of local governments when responding to disasters.

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

Commissioner Leon Butler asked that appointments be tabled until the October 1 meeting.

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

Mr. Patterson said as part of the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal there is a need for a staff person to oversee this as a special project. Mr. Patterson said it is very important that the County get as complete a count as possible and that the County spread the word to community leaders, social groups, churches and businesses about the critical nature of the Census and how an exact counting depends on the funding it receives.

Vice Chair Gholston said she would like to serve on the Census committee.

Commissioner McDow thanked the staff for organizing the September 6 reception to recognize the County's local legislators.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess until 5 p.m. Tuesday, September 25, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Betty Blue Gholston  
Vice Chair