

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
7 p.m. September 11, 2006, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, September 11, 2006 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 (*arrived at 7:05 p.m.*) and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles "Scoofer" Jordan, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. 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 made a few comments before Public Forum. Chairman Willis said over the past several months the Commissioners have been called names by those who support and oppose a landfill being sited in the County. He said from this day forward, the Board of Commissioners no longer would tolerate insults from the public. Those who wish to speak at Public Forum would follow the three-minute procedure, and anyone who insults the Board of Commissioners during Public Forum would be cut off from speaking.

(Vice Chair Gholston arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Chairman Willis said a flyer circulating in the County encourages citizens not to support businesses that favor the landfill. Chairman Willis said the landfill would be taking household trash only, and facts, not rumors, about the landfill should be discussed.

Public Forum

Ms. Bettie McNair, African American Heritage Committee president: Ms. McNair said the cost of holding the Kuumba Festival is increasing, and the Festival has expanded its format from a one-day to a three-day event. She asked the Commissioners to consider a request for an additional \$2,000 to help cover expenses.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve an additional \$2,000 to the African American Heritage Committee.

***Discussion:** Commissioner Butler said other festivals like those in Wagram, Laurel Hill and Gibson do not ask the Commissioners for funding support. Vice Chair Gholston said that the Kuumba Festival promotes African American heritage, which makes it unique compared to the other festivals. Chairman Willis said that the expanded Kuumba Festival helps promote tourism. He added that eventually the governing board should look at all festivals in the County and consider whether overall coordination should be associated with Parks and Recreation. Commissioner McPhatter said events that take place in a specific town should not be compared to an event by a cultural organization. Commissioner Alford said there is a perception that organizers of other events might consider the funding of this particular event as unfair.*

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Vote: In Favor: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners Alford, Jordan, McDow and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioner Butler. Motion approved.

Mr. Bob Davis: Mr. Davis said that Scotland County of Tomorrow (SCOT) had no knowledge of and had nothing to do with the flyer encouraging people not to patronize businesses that support the landfill. "That's not what we're about," Mr. Davis said. Mr. Davis asked the Commissioners to consider waiving the fee of \$407.50 on a recent request made by SCOT for information on the landfill project.

County Manager Crumpton said in the past fees were not attached to smaller requests for information, even though the first five pages are free, but the request referred to by Mr. Davis was a large one. Chairman Willis said it is important to be consistent, and if the fee is waived for one party, it must be waived for another party.

County Manager Crumpton said Waste Management asked for and received the same information and paid the \$407.50.

Mr. Bob Bierbaum: A former Scotland County resident, Mr. Bierbaum discussed a company proposal 15 years ago to site a low-level nuclear waste facility in the County. He said the public was made aware of the ugly facts of that particular case. Mr. Bierbaum said Waste Management studies and targets less affluent, able and educated communities. He said the project was derailed because people stood up and spoke for that segment of the population. He said Waste Management is back, knocking at the door, believing Scotland County will sell its future.

Item 1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) update

LRCOG Housing Coordinator Adrian Lowery provided an update on the closeout of the 2003 funding cycle and the upcoming cycle, which includes a \$400,000 award. Mr. Lowery discussed the application process and the new performance measure component portion of the program. He said until the State and federal agencies smooth out a few glitches, the CDBG program is in a holding pattern right now. Mr. Lowery said he is hopeful access to the funds would be made available in the next month. Mr. Lowery said the program will no longer be able to use unlicensed contractors, which would increase costs by about 10 to 15 percent.

Item 2. Parks and Recreation update

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Becca Hughes said three proposals would be discussed that are very important to economic development and the quality of life in the County. She asked that investment in recreation helps recruit active seniors as well as people who would want to work and live in the County.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 25-year Master Plan. She said the Master Plan has received support from all municipalities and Laurel Hill and reflects the wishes and desires of the community at large. Ms. Newton asked the Commissioners to consider approval of a resolution supporting the Master Plan.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the Resolution in support of the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Resolution Supporting the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan

WHEREAS the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan lists community needs based on citizen input through a series of community forums, and

WHEREAS recreational development projects described in the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan have received endorsement from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the governing boards of East Laurinburg, Laurinburg, Gibson and Wagram and the citizens they represent, and

WHEREAS the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides recommended guideline for long-term recreational development only;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland supports the goals and objectives regarding recreational development in the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that support of the Master Plan provides the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland with direction in which to fund recreational development in Scotland County only when adequate capital is available and only when deemed necessary by the Board of Commissioners of Scotland County.

Approved this 11th day of September, 2006

Mr. Bob Bell, Laurinburg/Scotland County Greenways Committee chairperson, then discussed a recommendation by citizens to develop a walkable/bikeable community through the use of greenways. Mr. Bell said in order to create a greenway system, there would need to be a plan and a design. He said the Committee does not have that expertise and grant funding is based on community greenways plans. He said Greenways, Inc. could develop such a plan for a \$35,000 fee. He asked the Commissioners to consider splitting the cost of Greenways, Inc. with the City of Laurinburg at \$17,500. Mr. Bell suggested that any grants received as a result of the plan could be split between the City and County to make it a true joint effort. He noted the positive benefits greenways would have on the economy, transportation, tourism and recreation.

The Commissioners said they would like to have more information about greenways before making a decision and suggested that a Greenways, Inc., representative provide a more in depth explanation of greenways and be available to answer questions.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to table the greenways funding request until a later date pending further information. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Item 3. Scotland Recreation Foundation fundraising proposal

Mr. Terry Garner, Scotland Recreation Foundation member, asked the Commissioners for what in essence would be a loan in the amount of \$30,000. He said the funds would be used to contract with Capital Strategists Group, the company that organized the successful fundraising effort for the Hospital's new emergency room. Mr. Garner said the campaign goal would be to raise enough funds to complete Phase I of the Recreation Complex. Mr. Garner assured the Commissioners that the first \$30,000 raised would be paid back to the County. Mr. Garner described the \$30,000 as seed money that would be used to get the "final leg of this journey completed."

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to advance \$30,000 to Scotland Recreation Foundation for the contracting of Capital Strategists Group. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

- a) Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners August 7, 2006 regular meeting.
- b) Approve Current Year Tax Settlement and Settlement for Delinquent Taxes for FY 2005-2006.
- c) Approve Tax Department request to release of funds in the amount of \$112.03 and in the amount of \$1,206.19.
- d) Approve Tax Department request to refunds in the amount of \$398.54.
- e) Budget Amendments:
 - 1) **Solid Waste:** Transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund — \$25,000 for attorney fees and \$25,000 for consultant fees.
 - 2) **Library:** Approve an additional grant funding in the amount of \$6,500 and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
 - 3) **Criminal Justice Partnership Program:** Approve State funding increase in the amount of \$4,902. No County dollars involved.
 - 4) **Tourism Development Authority:** Approve release of \$16,000 from the TDA fund balance to the TDA capital budget.
 - 5) **Health Department:** Approve receipt of \$25,000 in State funds and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
 - 6) **DSS:** Approve receipt of \$172,636 in additional funding 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 Jordan to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

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Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said expenditures were about \$4.5 million at the end of August. He said property revenues are at 18 percent. Total cash and investments is \$17.7 million.

Mr. Patterson said the prescription discount card is now available. He explained how the card works and that it would represent a significant savings for those who use it. The card cannot be used in conjunction with any prescription benefit plan.

Item 6. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to appoint Mr. David McLamb to an unexpired term on the Tourism Development Authority. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to appoint Mr. Walter Rogers to a two-year term on the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. County Manager's Report

County Manager John Crumpton said the Springfield Mills discussion continues on the transfer of sewer service. The cost for extending the sewer line is between \$500,000 and \$1.2 million, said Mr. Crumpton. He said the County would apply for grants and help where possible, but it is the responsibility of Springs Mills to involve itself in resolving the sewer service issue. He said all parties would meet next Tuesday.

An I-74 corridor community meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., September 28, and it is very important that the community attend.

Mr. Crumpton said he would spend this week at the BRAC relocation fair in Atlanta with Chamber President Jim Frank Henderson and Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt.

A tentative date of October 19 has been set for an economic summit.

The County Manager said Fort Bragg has requested that "war games" be conducted at the old prison some time in November. Fort Bragg is asking for a letter of support from the Commissioners since the old prison site is not in the Town of Wagram.

County Manager Crumpton discussed the high school not having a dedicated ambulance at the scene during athletic events. He said three calls to EMS were received two Friday nights ago, and the ambulance at the game responded to a call from Laurel Hill. Mr. Crumpton said there is a fee of \$100 per hour for a dedicated ambulance manned by a fourth crew. School Superintendent Shirley Prince asked for a one-time fee waiver for a dedicated ambulance until the issue could be considered further.

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The Commissioners discussed the possibility of contracting with Braveheart for that service. Commissioner Jordan said the Board chose not to waive a fee from a request earlier in the evening, so how could it waive one now.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus agreed not to waive the fee on a one-time basis for the schools.

The County Manager updated the Commissioners on Big Shoe Heel Creek/X-Way Bridge/Bridge Pond. Mr. Crumpton said the DOT proposed to eliminate the dam, dry up the pond and build a bridge across it. Mr. Crumpton said DOT is beginning to get citizen feedback, so the DOT will hold a public hearing 3:30 to 7 p.m. October 3 at Scotland Place.

Mr. Crumpton said Public Building Supervisor Hyder Massey would compile a report on the number of man hours and in-kind services he and his staff devote to various festivals in the community.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to go into 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 and 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

(Closed session was held in the Health Education Room).

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to extend by three years the time period with which QualPak, LLC, and Marketta, LLC, may qualify for incentive grants pursuant to the inducement agreement with Scotland County dated September 30, 2003. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman