

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting  
12:30 p.m. May 3, 2005, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Reconvened Meeting, May 3, 2005  
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

At 12:30 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis reconvened the recessed meeting. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Jordan delivered the opening prayer.

The Commissioners discussed the May 2, 2005 PowerPoint presentation delivered by School Superintendent Shirley Prince and how some figures she used with regard to County dollars were inaccurate. Commissioner Jordan said the opportunity to correct her was missed.

Chairman Willis said the Commissioners some years ago agreed to use the restricted sales tax to cover the bond debt and not school capital outlay. He commented that the schools tend not to look at the long term, because financial woes would not be their problem.

Commissioner Jordan said that the benchmarks used by the schools should have been comparing Scotland County to other low wealth counties and not State averages.

Chairman Willis said there is obvious “fat in the budget” when the Scotland County Board of Education can put \$30,000 in miscellaneous fuel expenses, another \$30,000 in a contingency fund and \$750,000 in the fund balance.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

Chairman Willis suggested the Commissioners consider deferring some payment to the school system, and an amount should be decided upon. He mentioned \$401,254 as one figure because that included the 3 percent salary increase and supplements in the local current expenditure.

Chairman Willis said that County employees would not get a raise this year, and the school employees should not get a 3 percent raise using local taxpayer dollars.

Attorney Johnston said both Boards would have to agree to deviate from the 2002 amendment. He said the law does not give the Board of Commissioners the ability to exercise unilateral authority over the Board of Education budget. He said the statute is clear as to the level of dollars required.

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Chairman Willis said a delay in payment until better financial times was what he would like the Commissioners to consider. Chairman Willis said he could not predict when that better day would be.

Attorney Johnston said if challenged, a judge would interpret the law, which is not ambiguous.

Chairman Willis said other alternatives would be to change health carriers, get permission from the Rural Development Authority to use Water District I funds and anticipate stronger sales tax results. He added that since the schools have the money, now would be the time to encourage a joint resolution.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

*(Commissioner Alford was not present. He had been excused during the Closed Session)*

The Commissioners scheduled 1 p.m. May 10, 2005 for continued Budget Work Sessions.

The Commissioners directed Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson to meet with the Sheriff and get an update on revenues and expenditures from the Governor's Highway Safety Program from its inception.

The Commissioners directed Attorney Johnston to develop a draft letter and draft resolution requesting the Board of Education agree to a delay in payment for FY 2005-2006, an amount of which would be decided when the drafts are discussed at the May 10 meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to recess until 1 p.m. May 10, 2005 in the Commissioners Chamber. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk

J.D. Willis  
Chairman