

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting  
1 p.m. December 7, 2005, County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street*

**Reconvened Session  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
1 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg**

At 1 p.m., Chairman Willis reconvened the meeting in the County Manager's Office, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg. 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 Manager John A. Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson discussed the \$150,000 in State funds that would be appropriated to the County for the purchase of new voting equipment. He said the County has until January 1, 2006 to sign a contract with one of the three State-approved vendors. He said the Board of Elections would make an official recommendation to the Commissioners.

Mr. Patterson discussed the need for multiple voting machines per precinct, the cost range of the equipment and providing equipment that meets ADA requirements in each precinct.

Commissioner Jordan said Early Vote should be better promoted of that option in order to get people to vote early. Chairman Willis suggested the Commissioners consider an additional Early Vote site.

Chairman Willis then discussed the possibility of giving Scotland County employees a one-time bonus using unappropriated, undesignated Fund Balance. Chairman Willis said revenue from sales tax, increased tax collections and savings from lapsed salaries could be attributed to the \$1.4 million Fund Balance increase. He suggested a \$1,000 bonus for all employees on the Scotland County payroll would be about \$300,000, leaving \$1.1 million in Fund Balance increase.

Commissioner Alford said the employees needed and deserved a bonus.

Chairman Willis said the bonus would be for right now and would not be related to any future budget decisions the Commissioners might make.

Commissioner Jordan said the employees need a pay raise, and it was time they received something other than a token offering.

Vice Chair Gholston suggested that the Commissioners consider a \$500 or \$750 bonus instead.

County Manager Crumpton said if all employees received a three percent raise as of July 1, 2005, that would have been equivalent to \$300,000.

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Vice Chair Gholston said she is concerned with being fiscally careful. She said she wanted to make sure there would be enough funds left in July.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to give all Scotland County employees a one-time \$1,000 bonus. Vote For: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners Alford, McDow and McPhatter. Vote Against: Commissioners Butler and Jordan.**

Commissioner Jordan said he is not against employees receiving a bonus, but he would have done it differently. Commissioner Butler said it was the amount he did not agree with.

*The Commissioners, by consensus, agreed on February 8, 2006, for the Mid-year Retreat.*

Mr. Patterson asked Commissioner McPhatter to amend his motion to authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money.

Commissioner McPhatter amended his motion to give all Scotland County employees a one-time \$1,000 bonus and to authorize the Finance Officer to make necessary budget arrangements to receive and expend this money.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to recess until 11 a.m. Friday, December 16, 2005, in the Annex conference room. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk

J.D. Willis  
Chairman