

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting  
July 16, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Reconvened Meeting, July 16, 2009  
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC**

At 6 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis reconvened the meeting. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Joyce McDow and Guy McCook. Commissioners not in attendance: Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Deputy Clerk to the Board Timothy Martin.

Chairman Willis gave the floor to Rick Stout, School Superintendent.

Mr. Stout introduced Roger Ammons, Facilities Manager for Scotland County Schools.

Mr. Ammons gave a power point presentation on the proposed funding to expand Wagram Primary and move East Laurinburg students to Shaw campus. The Schools propose to apply for a \$3 million no-interest stimulus loan. The loan would be paid back \$250,000 over 12 years.

The proposal would expand Wagram Primary to a K-5 school. This would move grades 4-5 from Shaw campus to the new expansion at Wagram Primary. The Schools plan to close down the East Laurinburg campus and move students to the Shaw campus. The proposal would save the Schools around \$340,000.

Commissioner Alford expressed concern on how this proposal would affect the County Tax Rate.

Mr. Stout informed the Board the schools would be using lottery proceeds to cover the principle on the loan.

Commissioner Gholston asked if we can insure the county will not be liable for payment of bond if Lottery proceeds reduce or legislators change the laws.

Mr. Johnston informed the board that there is no way to control the legislators' decisions on the lottery. He suggested a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the School System.

Chariman Willis voiced concern over other school projects that are needed such as Washington Park, South Scotland and Scotland High School.

Commissioner Davis asked if the \$340,000 savings is a realistic number.

Mr. Ammons assured that the amount of savings was realistic.

Commissioner Alford said he supports the proposal as long as it doesn't cause the Board to raise the tax rate.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting  
July 16, 2009, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

Commissioner McCook said it might be a sound business decision, since the savings will pay for the principle of the loan.

Commissioner McDow asked the schools if lottery funds are reduced would the schools be willing to use their local current expense to reimburse the loan.

Mr. Stout informed the Board that he has used lottery funds to fund capital school project in other school systems effectively in the past.

Chairman Willis reminded the Board of the County's capital needs in the next few years, such as, EMS, DSS and Cooperative Extension.

Commissioner Davis said there must be an agreement between the County and School Board regarding the allocation of monies if lottery proceeds cannot cover payment of the loan.

Mr. Willis directed Mr. Johnston to consult with the School Attorney and write a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Schools regarding repayment of the proposed loan.

Commissioner McCook asked the school system to supply the Board with a facilities plan for future capital projects.

Chairman Willis asked Mr. Patterson how the proposed loan would affect the County's finances.

Mr. Patterson informed the Board that the school system should have enough money to make bond payment even if lottery proceeds change.

Chairman Willis asked both attorneys to meet as soon as possible to write the Memorandum of Understanding, so the School Board could meet its July 31 deadline.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to recess to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at 1405 West Boulevard. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Timothy L. Martin  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman