

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting
January 18, 2007, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Reconvened Meeting
5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2007
Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg**

At 5:30 p.m. Chairman J.D. Willis reconvened the meeting recessed from January 16, 2007. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Guy McCook and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton and Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson.

RCC President Diane Honeycutt said \$2.4 million is the most recent cost estimate for construction of a local RCC facility to house the nursing program. She said the local legislators currently are writing legislation, which would allow for \$2 million in State funding.

Meanwhile, Dr. Honeycutt said RCC is asking for pledges from the City and the County in the amount of \$500,000 each. Dr. Honeycutt said if the State provides the \$2 million in funding, which would satisfy the EDA grant requirement of a local match, the County would not have to pay the pledge.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the resolution pledging \$500,000 to RCC for the Scotland Campus Project as part of an EDA Grant Application. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SCOTLAND COUNTY TO SUPPORT AN
EDA GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF LAURINBURG FOR THE
RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE – SCOTLAND CAMPUS PROJECT WITH
THE COMMITMENT OF A \$500,000 MATCH**

WHEREAS, the City of Laurinburg, working with Richmond Community College (RCC) and Scotland County, wants to construct a state of the art nursing and job training campus at the old Scotland Memorial Hospital site, and;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has been approached by the County's local delegation to support the new construction, but funding was not obtained in the recent short session, and;

WHEREAS, to apply for the EDA Grant for this project, a local match of \$1 million is required before they are willing to commit funding for this project, and;

WHEREAS, the application for the EDA Grant must be submitted before February 1st, 2007 to have any chance of award, and;

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners feels that this project is vital and necessary as an economic catalyst for our community, and;

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT: The Board of Commissioners hereby supports the submittal of the EDA grant, and hereby authorizes \$500,000 of General Fund Balance to be used as the match for the grant, contingent upon the following:

- A) That Richmond Community College continues to pursue \$2,000,000 in State funding for this project. If the College is awarded the \$1,000,000 EDA grant and \$2,000,000 from the State, then this \$500,000 will not be needed and payment will not be made.
- B) Payment of the \$500,000 match will occur when the EDA grant is approved and the total funds other than the City of Laurinburg and Scotland County pledge have been obtained to construct the facility. Total project cost is \$3,000,000.
- C) If the County has to make the payment of \$500,000 to the project, the RCC Board of Trustees will consider deeding the Speller Building to the County in consideration of this payment.

Adopted this the 18th Day of January 2007

At 6 p.m., the Laurinburg City Council joined the Commissioners for a joint dinner/business meeting. City Council members present were Mayor Ann Slaughter and Council members Lisa Griswold, Rembert Deberry, Curtis Leak and Tommy Parker. City staff in attendance was Manager Craig Honeycutt and Deputy Clerk Jenny Tippett.

Drew Williamson presented the Economic Summit Final Report, which included the following seven priorities: extension of I74 through Scotland County, development of a spec building, completion of the Recreation Complex, creation of an economic and community development position, revitalization of the downtown business district, improve the appearance of Scotland County and development of a marketing plan.

Mr. Williamson said a 44,000-square-foot spec building would cost an estimated \$880,000, with 50 percent of the funding coming from a CDBG loan at two percent interest and a 50 percent match.

The governing boards then watched a PowerPoint presentation on greenways presented by Mr. Bob Bell, Chairman of the Laurinburg/Scotland County Greenway Committee. Hickory Parks and Recreation Director Mac McLeod discussed the Hickory plan, which involves 48 miles of greenways.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said greenways were listed as the number two priority in the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She said greenways are a means of transportation and recreation, and they can provide historical and cultural information and promote economic development.

After the greenway presentation, the Commissioners returned to economic development discussions.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to accept the report from the economic summit. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston authorizing site identification and the required preliminary work for a spec building. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The Commissioners and City Council members discussed the pluses from a revenue standpoint of locating a spec building at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport rather than in the City.

The City Council approved the Economic Summit Report and approved development of the siting and preliminary work of a joint spec building with the understanding that the City and the County would share in the costs.

The City Council by consensus agreed to the recommendation of a new economic development position.

The City Council by consensus agreed that the Chamber of Commerce should proceed with the development of a new marketing plan.

The County Manager and Laurinburg City Manager discussed the request to the DOT to place a pedestrian walkway near WalMart.

Laurinburg City Councilmember Deberry said citizens in the Lincoln Park area do not want the basketball goals. They would like, instead, to have a playground for young children.

Ms. Newton said the current budget allows for the installation of a playground at Lincoln Park.

County Manager Crumpton discussed repairs to Scotland Yard in the spring.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to 6 p.m. February 1 at Scotland Place for a joint session with the Social Services Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman

(Minutes compiled from notes taken by Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson)