

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting  
December 11, 2006, Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg*

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
Reconvened Meeting, December 11, 2006  
Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis reconvened the meeting. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, and Commissioners Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioner John Alford. 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. Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer.

**Courthouse RFQs**

County Manager Crumpton said following a review of four firms that submitted qualifications for the Courthouse Renovation Project, he and County Engineer Jim Blackwell recommend consideration of awarding the engineering and architectural services contract to The Wooten Company of Raleigh, NC. Mr. Crumpton said the Wooten fee schedule is consistent with those that are currently charged to the Town of Wagram and the City of Laurinburg.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to accept and approve a contract for the Courthouse Renovation Project with The Wooten Company of Raleigh. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Tax Relief/Medicaid Resolutions**

County Manager Crumpton asked the Commissioners to review two resolutions — one on Medicaid relief and the other on the protection of the financial stability of the 70 low-wealth counties.

Referencing the Medicaid resolution, Commissioner McDow said the number one priority should be to go for total Medicaid relief and until that time, pursue a permanent cap on Medicaid.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the Resolution Supporting the Continued Legislative Effort on Medicaid Relief for Counties as amended. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED EFFORT BY LEGISLATURE  
TO PROVIDE MEDICAID RELIEF FOR COUNTIES**

**WHEREAS, Scotland County taxpayers spends \$3.4 million a year, or an equivalent of 21 cents of their property tax rate on Medicaid expenses; and,**

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**WHEREAS, 33 percent of the County’s population is eligible for Medicaid benefits; and,**

**WHEREAS, the County must reduce the financial hardships caused to its citizens due to job losses in the community; and,**

**WHEREAS, the North Carolina Legislature enacted a temporary cap on Medicaid cost increases during the 2006 session of the Legislature.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners asks its local legislative delegation, the Association of County Commissioners, the Governor and the full Legislature to support; 1) The elimination of all Medicaid costs to Counties, or 2) In absence of a permanent elimination of the Medicaid cost to Counties, the establishment of a permanent cap on increases in the Medicaid cost to Counties.**

**Adopted this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006,**

Referencing the resolution on protection of the financial stability of the 70 low-wealth counties, Commissioner McCook said the proposal last year to take care of the Medicaid problem would have taken away funds from the larger counties in the form of lost sales tax revenue. Commissioner McCook said that was the reason it was not supported.

Commissioner McCook said item two in the resolution — “That the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners not pursue any redistribution of taxes that results in the taking away of any revenue from ANY of the counties they represent” — would preclude that proposal, and perhaps the Board would not want to do that.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Resolution Supporting Financial Protection of Low Income Counties During the North Carolina’s Fiscal Review Process as amended. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL PROTECTION OF THE  
LOW INCOME COUNTIES OF THE STATE DURING THE  
STATE’S FISCAL REVIEW PROCESS**

**WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners recently asked the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the five wealthiest counties of the State to seek the redistribution of taxes so the wealthiest counties would receive more funds from the State; and,**

**WHEREAS, through actions of the State Legislature, the counties of this State have become overly dependent on Property and Sales Tax as their main sources of revenue; and,**

**WHEREAS, the financial well-being of the 70 low-wealth counties in this State, Scotland County among them, is in jeopardy due to the pressures of providing the same level of**

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services to citizens that larger counties provide, only with very little growth in revenues; and,

WHEREAS, the overall economic condition of the low-wealth counties is suffering because of textile, furniture and other manufacturing plant closings that result in high unemployment and high utilization of Social Services and Public Health programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that 1) The Fiscal Modernization Study Commission establish as a priority in its recommendations to the Legislature the protection and improvement of the financial conditions of the low-wealth counties of this State, and 2) That the Legislature provide alternate methods of raising revenue to Counties so the Property Tax burden can be reduced and so growing counties would have sufficient revenue for infrastructure projects required to support population growth.

Adopted this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006

*The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed to combine numbers 1 and 2 in the suggested Legislative Goals list, which address the elimination of the Medicaid burden and a cap on Medicaid.*

Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson provided an update on the State lottery money and how it is being distributed, and how it might affect the future distribution of school ADM funds.

*The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed to include the preservation of ADM funds as a Legislative Goal.*

**Day(s) off request for employees**

The Commissioners discussed requests by some employees that additional days off over Christmas be approved similar to what was granted all employees the same time last year.

County Manager Crumpton said he contacted other governments, and most have the Monday and Tuesday off. He said in a few cases, some municipalities added the Friday before or the Wednesday after Christmas as an additional day.

Chairman Willis said it is important to not set a precedent. He said when employees did not receive a raise, the extra time off was a way the governing board could compensate them. Chairman Willis said employees received a raise this year, and the days set as holidays should be left as they are.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to maintain the 2006 holiday schedule as it now stands and not give employees additional days off. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Set retreat date**

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*The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, set 12 p.m. Wednesday, February 7 for the  
2007 planning retreat, which will take place in the Commissioners Chamber.*

**Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow 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.**

Chairman Willis excused all staff from the room with the exception of County Attorney Johnston.

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman

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**NOTE:** *(The Scotland County Board of Commissioners met for a holiday dinner in a social setting 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 20, 2006, at The Highlands, Laurinburg. Chairman J.D. Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter were present. Staff present included County Manager John Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. A meeting was not convened, and no business was conducted.)*

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman