

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting
May 24, 2006, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Reconvened Meeting
12:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2006
Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg**

At 12:30 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis reconvened the meeting recessed from May 9, 2006. 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, County Attorney Edward Johnston, Personnel Administrator Susan Butler and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

Personnel Policy

Ms. Butler distributed a draft of the revised Personnel Policy along with a summary of the changes within the Policy.

Preceding Personnel Policy review, Commissioner Jordan discussed Commissioner bonuses versus salary increases. He asked if there was a provision to exempt Commissioners from bonuses.

After some discussion on the subject, Chairman Willis said the Commissioners would be able to make the exemption via a motion.

Ms. Butler reviewed the revisions to the Personnel Policy.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the revisions to the Personnel Policy and include the appropriate resolution in the June 5, 2006 Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Butler was excused from the meeting.

Budget Work Session

County Manager Crumpton said the City of Laurinburg has requested an increase in the water billing from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bill and a water service maintenance fee increase of \$7,000 from \$5,000 to \$12,000.

Mr. Crumpton said the City requested the per water bill increase due to increases in the cost of billing in general. Mr. Crumpton said the City currently breaks even with the \$2.50 per bill rate. On the other hand, Mr. Crumpton said, the City is losing money on the service fee. He added that the City has not requested an increase in water billing or service for 11 years.

The Commissioners discussed whether to approve the water bill increase if the City is breaking even. The Board also discussed the feasibility of assuming its own billing and

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maintenance. County Manager Crumpton said there would be a considerable investment to the County if it was to assume the billing responsibility.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve the water billing increase and water service maintenance increase requested by the City of Laurinburg. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Fire Tax Reallocation Plan

County Manager Crumpton said a Fire Tax Reallocation Plan recently approved by the Fire District Chiefs would sufficiently address fuel and operational increases and any capital needs outside of vehicle purchases.

Mr. Crumpton said the plan would establish a base rate of \$18,000 for each District with the tax base for the service of each district used to distribute the remaining funds.

Mr. Crumpton said if the redistribution is approved, the County would have to address future truck purchases through financing the vehicles or raising the fire tax to build up the reserve at a faster pace, which is not recommended at this time since a new fire truck is not scheduled for purchase until 2015.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the Fire Tax Reallocation plan. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Crumpton said the City of Laurinburg would like to purchase a ladder truck, which would help its ISO rating and be used for the industries its Districts cover. The City is requesting financial assistance from the County in the purchase of the ladder truck.

The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, declined to help the City of Laurinburg with the ladder truck expenditure.

Solid Waste Fees

County Manager Crumpton said there is a need to increase fees at the manned convenience centers in order to curb a loss of revenue and to build up a reserve for the post closure at the landfill.

Mr. Crumpton recommended that the Commissioners consider doubling the rate of fees collected at the manned convenience centers.

Commissioner Alford said he felt doubling the rate might be excessive. Some discussion ensued. Chairman Willis said that it would be less expensive for anyone carrying a truckload of waste to take it directly to the landfill rather than one of the manned centers.

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The Commissioners instructed staff to provide a more structured fee schedule in time for a discussion and possible incorporation in the Budget Ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to go into Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(5) to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to reopen talks concerning the landfill and solid waste. Vote: In Favor: Chairman J.D. Willis and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan and Joyce McDow. Vote: Against: Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Motion approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to recess until 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, 2006 in the Commissioners Chamber. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman