

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners, special meeting (reconvened)
June 21, 2005, Scotland County Annex, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting, June 21, 2005
Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 3:45 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis reconvened the meeting. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners Leon Butler and Charles "Scoofer" Jordan. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

Mr. Patterson distributed A Resolution Requesting Increasing the State Cigarette Tax to Support Medicaid for review and possible approval.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler 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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to approve A Resolution Requesting Increasing the State Cigarette Tax to Support County Medicaid Relief Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

A Resolution Requesting Increasing the State Cigarette Tax to Support County Medicaid Relief

WHEREAS, New York and North Carolina are the only states that require county governments to participate in all the costs of Medicaid, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York recently took action to lower the costs of Medicaid to its counties, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid costs for counties are far outstripping the ability of county governments to provide for those increases through the traditional source of flexible revenue -- i.e., the property tax, and

WHEREAS, Scotland County expended \$2,397,855 for fiscal year ended 2004 on services to Medicaid eligible citizens and increased its Medicaid budget by more than \$500,000 to \$2,900,000, or 21 percent, for the 2005 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina counties have no opportunity under federal and state law to control Medicaid expenditures, and

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WHEREAS, a plan to completely phase out required county Medicaid expenditures is desirable, and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking contributes to health problems that increase Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina has the lowest cigarette tax in the nation, and

WHEREAS, an increase in the state cigarette tax could yield significant funds to reduce the county share of Medicaid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the General Assembly of North Carolina to enact a significant cigarette tax increase with a substantial portion of that tax to be used to begin a phase-out of required county contributions to fund Medicaid costs.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to members of the General Assembly.

Adopted this the 21st day of June, 2005.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to recess until 3:30 p.m. June 28, 2005 in the Scotland County Annex. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk

J.D. Willis
Chairman