

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners special meeting
4 p.m. Monday, June 29, 2006, Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting, 4 p.m. Thursday, June 29, 2006
Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 4 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis called the special meeting to order. 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 and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer.

I. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney and 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 and Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

(The Closed Session was held in the County Manager’s office).

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

II. Award water line extension contract for Water District II

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said that Dixon Construction Company, Inc., of Bennettsville, SC, was low bidder for Water District II watermain extensions. Mr. Blackwell asked the Commissioners to award the contract to the low bidder.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to award the Water District II watermain contract to Dixon Construction Company, Inc., of Bennettsville, SC. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

III. Presentation of information regarding regional solid waste authorities

County Manager John Crumpton referred to the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority financial statement included in the packet for the Commissioners. He said the Authority is strong financially.

Mr. Crumpton then discussed the Authority Proforma for Scotland County prepared by GN Richardson and Associates. Mr. Crumpton said \$20 million, based on 2006 construction costs that does not include contingencies, would have to be borrowed to get the facility started, assuming the County captures the tonnage from the other counties. He said a minimum tipping

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fee would be \$26.50 per ton with Scotland County receiving a host fee of \$786,000 by 2011-2012.

Mr. Crumpton said the Authority would not make a net profit until 2013. Mr. Crumpton said competition from the private companies would present a big challenge, and if the solid waste went elsewhere, tipping fees would have to increase.

Because the Authority would be a separate entity, Mr. Crumpton said the County and its municipalities would not get free disposal. He added that financial assurance would have to be given guaranteeing the taxing authority to assure the Regional Authority would not fail. Mr. Crumpton said about 26 agreements in the four-county area would have to be signed.

Commissioner Butler said he saw no additional revenues coming to the County from the Authority other than the host fee.

Chairman Willis said it was his understanding that if the Authority came up short, each county would be responsible for providing enough finances to make it solvent.

County Manager Crumpton said the counties would be responsible for the upfront costs, which would be reimbursed, but not immediately. Mr. Crumpton said that in visiting the other counties, he said there was interest in what could be offered from a price standpoint. He said the counties he visited would like to see more formalized proposals, which would be a long term effort. He added that in the meantime, potential competition has already contacted the counties.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell reviewed the history of Scotland County's unlined landfill, which is 62 acres. He said the groundwater since 1993 has been extensively monitored for 212 different constituents. Mr. Blackwell said of the 11 wells tested, eight would pass the drinking water standard while three show decreased concentrations. He said leachate does not leave the site much further than 100 feet. He said the 212 constituents in the landfill have begun to degrade and break down, and as gas leaves the landfill, it is being vented out and burned.

Commissioner Jordan asked if an environmentally safe site could be assured. Mr. Blackwell suggested that could be achieved if staff can be assured the quality of construction and if staff can be on site during the operation.

Vice Chair Gholston asked the Commissioners to think about their decision. She discussed the proposed State moratorium, which would eliminate gray areas, and the promising outlook for the County securing some Medicaid relief. Vice Chair Gholston said there are many things the County can be proud of, and a mega dump would be a negative. She said she feels the majority of citizens do not want a landfill.

Chairman Willis said it was time for the Commissioners to make a decision either way and to move on.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to authorize the preparation and execution of an option to purchase 2,000 acres or less

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property from Jordan Timber Company at a price of \$50,000 for one year. Vote: For: Chairman Willis and Commissioners Alford, Butler, Jordan and McDow. Vote: Against: Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioner McPhatter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to locate a privately owned landfill in Scotland County. Vote: For: Chairman Willis and Commissioners Alford, Butler, Jordan and McDow. Vote: Against: Vice Chair Gholston and Commissioner McPhatter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman