

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Weekly Meeting, February 9, 2004
Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

At 7 p.m., Chairman David Burns called the previously recessed meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman David Burns, Vice Chair Nancy J. Shelley, Betty Blue Gholston, Charles “Scoofer” Jordan, Sam Snowdon, Clint Willis and J.D. Willis. Staff in attendance: County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman.

Item 1. County Government Week Update

Ms. Judy Riggins, County Government Week Chairman, discussed events, which span from April 26, 2004 to May 3, 2004. She said the schedule caters to all age groups and allows County government to bond with the citizens. She said the *Laurinburg Exchange*, Adelpia Cable and Radio WLNC have agreed to provide free publicity for the events.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to proceed with County Government Week plans and report back to the Board as needed.

Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the Master Plan is a tool to develop parks, greenways and other facets of the Parks and Recreation Department. She described the procedure for setting goals and objectives. The Division of Community Assistance would assist with the process to complete the plan for the County’s Parks and Recreation Department. Cost to the County would be minimal and would be used for travel reimbursement and a small labor fee for the Division of Community Assistance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to support efforts by the Parks and Recreation Department to continue working toward the Comprehensive Master Plan. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Clint Willis suggested that Parks and Recreation consider enlisting additional assistance from the Lumber River Council of Governments.

Item 3. DSS Employment Request

DSS Director Jan Elliott requested the Board’s approval to fill an Adult Care Home Case Manager position left vacant by an in-house promotion. Workload for the position could not be reassigned because current staffing levels did not allow for the reassignment. The position, a Grade 66, is budgeted 25% County, 25% State and 50% Federal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Clint Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston allowing DSS to fill the position of Adult Care Home Case Manager. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

- a. Sheriff's Department – Approve the sale of old guns to the deputies and increase the Sheriff's budget by \$10,214 from the sale of used guns to help pay for the purchase of the new guns.
- b. Sheriff's Department – Rescind the appropriation of \$21,845 previously approved August 4, 2003. (*\$21,845 had already been budgeted for FY 2003-2004 to satisfy the County match for the Governor's Highway Safety Patrol Program*)
- c. DSS – Approve \$328 total dollar increase for Project Share. No County dollars involved.

Motion was made by Commissioner J.D. Willis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 5: Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to appoint Laurinburg City Councilman Rembert DeBerry to the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. County Manager Search

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner Clint Willis to appoint Commissioner Charles "Scoofer" Jordan as Chairman of the County Manager Search Committee, Commissioners Sam Snowdon and J.D. Willis as Search Committee Members and Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston as Alternate. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Burns also said a Finance Committee should be formed to work with Department Heads on the FY 2004-2005 budget.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Shelley and duly seconded by Commissioner J.D. Willis to appoint Commissioner Clint Willis as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Commissioners Sam Snowdon and Charles "Scoofer" Jordan as Finance Committee Members and Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston as Alternate. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Review and Finalize Midyear Planning Retreat Agenda

Chairman Burns suggested that the governing body review the tentative Midyear Planning Retreat Agenda and contact the Clerk with any changes or suggestions. Chairman Burns said the governing body should finalize the Agenda at the February 16, 2004 meeting.

Item 8. Discussion Points

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Chairman Burns said that Library Director Robert Busko is working with the City of Laurinburg on a joint grant called LegUp. The grant would not involve any cost to the County.

Consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to encourage the County and City to proceed with the grant.

Commissioner Jordan raised the issue of land sale contracts and how to enforce the County's ordinance while minimizing the cost to the buyer. He explained that a developer wished to sell two lots and wanted the buyer to straddle a common property boundary with a mobile home. The developer did not wish to pay approximately \$300 to recombined the two lots. Instead the developer had hired an attorney who had pursued this with the staff, County Attorney, and now the County Commissioners. Mr. Jordan discussed how County staff offered the attorney five different options to resolve this routine requirement, but he instead proposed to only make slight changes to the land sales contract. Mr. Jordan explained that the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance forbids the placement of any structure across property lines and staff was only carrying out their responsibilities as directed by the Commissioners.

Mr. Jordan asked Planning Director Marcus Norton for any additional information that the Board of County Commissioners might find helpful. Mr. Norton stated that this was a routine procedure normally handled without issue, and he polled other counties in the state and had received 21 responses indicating that no other local government issued permits for buildings across property lines either. He further stated that two of the counties responding used a standard form to allow lots to be combined, and Scotland County used a similar form. Mr. Norton referred to the five options available to the developer and stated that any of these would involve minimal costs. Mr. Norton suggested that if the Commissioners wish to pursue this further, they might refer the matter to the Planning and Zoning Board and that the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board was present.

County Attorney Johnston added that the language that includes a provision where two contiguous lots under single ownership are considered one lot is not in the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance.

Chairman Burns asked that the Planning and Zoning Board provide the governing body with recommendations concerning this matter.

Chairman Burns said he and Commissioners Clint Willis and Sam Snowdon met with three School Board representatives to discuss local funding of the schools and the possibility of reaching an agreement on how much to fund the schools in FY 2004-2005. Both parties will wait until the County Schools are made aware of their budget before discussion continues.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner Snowdon to go into Closed Session 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

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Motion was made by Commissioner Snowdon and duly seconded by Vice Chair Shelley to recess until February 10, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. for a joint meeting with the City of Laurinburg Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk

David L. Burns
Chairman