

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting/budget work session
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Reconvened Meeting/Budget Work Session
May12, 2014, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 2 p.m. Chairman Guy McCook reconvened the meeting for the purpose of a budget work session. Commissioners present: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners Bob Davis, Whit Gibson, John Cooley and John Alford. Commissioners not present: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff present: County Manager Kevin Patterson and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman.

Health insurance and employee wellness plan

Mr. Patterson presented the option that employees contribute \$20 a month cost share toward their health plans, which would be returned to them provided they meet a health goal. The goal would be to get a wellness visit in the first year. Mr. Patterson explained that the return of the \$20 a month would be incentive for employees to get the wellness visit. Mr. Patterson explained that wellness visits might catch a health issue early and prevent occurrence of a major, costly event.

Mr. Jack Ficklin, representative for health insurer FCC, said the proposal would encourage employees to visit the doctor in order to avoid the \$20 a month, and the process would make for better claims. Human Resources Manager Susan Butler said one wellness visit in the first year would be realistic and obtainable for employees. Ms. Butler said it would also encourage employees to develop a relationship with a doctor.

County Manager Patterson said the proposal would not change what would be budgeted for health insurance, but it would change policy. The PPO and HSA employer cost still would have to be approved by the Commissioners.

Budget projections and Commissioner requests

County Manager Patterson said expenditures requested for the coming fiscal year, the addition of a trash crew, a 1.7 percent COLA for employees, the purchase of an ambulance, school capital and State required funding for health and the schools currently represent a \$2.2 million budget shortfall. Mr. Patterson asked the Board if there was interest in specific items, activities or programs in the upcoming year. Mr. Patterson said the County is looking at repairing and replacing fascia at DSS but nothing has been budgeted for paving the parking lots. Commissioner Davis said fascia at the library also needs repair.

Mr. Patterson said in another week he would have a better indication of revenues and expenditures. Mr. Patterson said he would request transfer of \$180,000 from the general fund to the 911/EOC Center to finalize repayment. Mr. Patterson suggested at that time that the Commissioners review capital issues and consider establishing fund balance projections and possibly a capital reserve fund.

Landfill

***Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting/budget work session
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC***

Mr. Patterson said if the landfill is closed early it would cost \$1.3 million. The property would still have to be maintained at a cost of \$30,000 a year. That would include monitoring the wells plus mowing. All waste would go through the transfer station. Mr. Patterson said if the Commissioners want to get out of the trash business the Board might consider negotiating with a collection company for a countywide franchise for curbside pickup on paved roads. Mr. Patterson said the cost could be attached to the tax bill. Commissioner Cooley said some people who barely get by would not be able to afford that service. Commissioner Davis suggested the County contact DENR retiree Jim Hickman for an analysis of landfill and disposal services.

Mr. Patterson said he expects discussions to continue but he does not see a change in solid waste operations occurring before July 1. Vice Chair McCall asked Mr. Patterson to bring a plan to the Board that outlines options and also to make a recommendation based on the options.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Gibson said he would like to be proactive about longevity and the Board should work toward 100 percent and full restoration of longevity.

Chairman McCook said dialogue with the schools has begun regarding a possible compromise in school funding. Chairman McCook said he, Vice Chair McCall, Mr. Patterson and Deputy Finance Officer Beth Hobbs met with some elected school officials and the finance staff to discuss the school funding formula.

Chairman McCook said the County would like the schools to consider funding that does not include any increase over the current budgeted \$10.1 million. Chairman McCook said the formula in its current form calls for an 8.8 percent increase in the school budget, which is not sustainable. Because the 2003 amendment allows for compromise during extraordinary economic times, the County is in talks with the schools in the hopes the two parties can come to an understanding regarding a dollar amount.

EOC/911 Center amended Memorandum of Understanding

The Commissioners reviewed the 911 Call Center Memorandum of Understanding approved by the City of Laurinburg. County Attorney Ed Johnston made some adjustments and highlighted areas where he had questions about the document.

(Chairman McCook called a 10-minute break at 3:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:50 p.m.)

County Manager Patterson said according to the MOU approved by the City, the County would incur 100 percent of the costs in three years unless the MOU is renegotiated, and the City would be completely out in 10 years.

Commissioner Cooley said the agreement would shift the tax burden to the County even though the 911 Center is designed to route emergency calls more efficient by eliminating the transfer of calls to another PSAP. Commissioner Davis asked what would happen if County operates the 911 Call Center without City participation and continues to transfer calls to the City. EMS

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting/budget work session
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC*

Director Roylin Hammond said if that was the case, the County would have to repay some of the grant. Mr. Hammond said manpower costs for the City might go up by about four if the City chooses to follow the State best practice method for staffing the PSAPs.

Mr. Patterson said the County controls 911 funds, which funds all PSAPs. He asked if the County would want to continue funding the three answering centers in the City. Mr. Patterson recommended that the funding not continue. He added that all the equipment and radio frequencies used by the City fire departments are paid for by the County. Mr. Patterson said if an agreement on the MOU cannot be reached it could have a significant cost to the City as well.

Mr. Patterson recommended the City and County consider approval of a one-year MOU. Mr. Patterson explained that a one-year agreement would give the City and the County time to negotiate beyond the budget process. He it would give the City and the County a better picture of some real costs. The Commissioners agreed to continue the discussion at another meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to go into Closed Session 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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to recess to 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman