

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners and Laurinburg City Council joint meeting with
the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation
August 2, 2016, Small Business Innovation Center**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Carol McCall, Vice Chair Whit Gibson and Commissioners Bob Davis and Guy McCook. Commissioners not present: Commissioners John Alford (*excused*), Betty Blue Gholston (*excused*) and Clarence McPhatter. City Council present included Drew Williamson, J.D. Willis, Dee Hammond, Mary Jo Adams and Curtis Leak. County staff present: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Economic Development Director Mark Ward, Finance Officer Beth Hobbs and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman. City staff present: City Manager Charles Nichols.

Also present were SCEDC non-voting members Mr. Chris English, Ms. JoAnn Gentry, Ms. Regina Smalls and guest speaker Sheila Pierce Knight, Executive Director of Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development (JOED).

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to reconvene the Board of Commissioners meeting. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Knight gave a presentation on the JOED organizational model. Ms. Knight said EDCs can take on a variety of structures. JOED has a committee of 100 comprised of businesses, individuals and government. Ms. Knight reviewed the history of JOED and discussed how the leadership is organized and the meeting schedules.

She discussed the annual operating budget and funding sources from the county and the city along with the results of a fundraising campaign. JOED focuses on bringing in industry and technology and retention and expansion. It does not bring in retail, which selects an area based on demographics, or the service industry.

Ms. Knight said team effort, private investors, collaboration and support is important. It is also important to take care of existing industry, which Ms. Knight described as a community's "bread and butter."

Ms. Knight said an EDC that is a non-profit has a little less susceptibility when it comes to the Freedom of Information Act.

Ms. Knight suggested the County and the City and SCEDC determine what can be done with the assets they have in Scotland County. Ms. Knight said every small community should collaborate, network and get involved in outreach. She said having inventory is important. Encourage the Economic Developer to get out and build relationships. Ms. Knight said having a good place to live is not a reason for an industry to come. Infrastructure is important.

Mr. Ward said he would gather more information on smaller communities and counties that have economic development organizations that work and how they are structured.

The governing boards agreed that the SCEDC, including its ex officio members, develop an economic development organization plan and bring it back to the City and County boards for review.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Carol McCall
Chair