

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
November 3, 2014, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

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Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall, Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley, Bob Davis and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff present: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman.

At 7 p.m. Chairman McCook called the meeting to order. Commissioner Alford offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the November 3, 2014 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Ms. Kathy McCallum, 26380 Sneads Grove Road Marston, NC, said Girl Scout Troop 1723 is involved in a clean up the community project as part of their bronze award. Ms. McCallum said as a result, the troop would like to propose findings for County beautification. Girl Scout members proposed expanded times at the recycle centers, open the landfill on Saturdays, ensure adopted roads are maintained, make free days available every six months and make the throwing away of trash affordable.

Chairman McCook said it was a pleasure to see Girl Scout Troop 1723 at the meeting. He said it is important to be part of the solution, which is what being a responsible citizen is about. Chairman McCook said the findings would be taken into advisement.

Chairman McCook then recognized Commissioner John Cooley, who is attending his final regular meeting as a Commissioner. Chairman McCook thanked Commissioner Cooley for his commitment in time and effort to help make a difference. Commissioner Alford said he will miss the knowledge Commissioner Cooley shared with the Board. Commissioner Gibson said he would miss Commissioner Cooley's conservative, businessman's approach. Vice Chair McCall said she will miss the perspective and knowledge Commissioner Cooley brought to the board.

Public Hearing for 2016 CTP

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said the 2016 Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant would fund administrative functions at 85 percent of actual cost and capital at 90 percent with the corresponding matches coming from the County.

Chairman McCook called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the CTP application. No one spoke, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the 2016 CTP application process. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Mr. Wes MacLeod, Holland Consulting Planners, said the Master Plan emphasis is on public health. Mr. MacLeod discussed each of the four chapters in the Plan as well as trends in recreation in the state and across the country.

Mr. MacLeod said less funding is reality and there is more competition for funds. He said there is a transition from active, high intensity programs to passive uses like greenways and picnic shelters. Senior centers are becoming increasingly important and they also are becoming centralized.

Mr. MacLeod said the County population is expected to decline by about eight percent over the next 20 years, and baby boomers will be the demographic to watch. He said in Scotland County baseball fields are in surplus but playgrounds and trails are in deficit, and those surveyed wanted more picnic shelters, playgrounds, trails and greenways.

Mr. MacLeod said the majority of the 238 who responded to the survey over a two-month period did express interest in passive recreation opportunities as well as water-based opportunities. He discussed the four goals of the Master Plan, which address repurposing existing facilities, creating greenways and increasing the range of recreational opportunities, especially through potential partnerships. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is prioritizing implementation strategies.

School expansion request

Associate Superintendent Larry Johnson said the schools have opportunity to apply for an interest free grant for a Washington Park School expansion. Mr. Johnson said funds for the interest-free grant are still available for the remainder of 14-15 year. Mr. Johnson said the schools are interested in expanding Washington Park because of its location and safety issues. Mr. Johnson asked the Board for approval to seek out bids for this project, which would include construction of eight to 10 classrooms and a gym/auditorium. Project cost would range between \$1.2 million to \$2.2 million.

Commissioner Cooley said since there are fewer kids and daily attendance numbers are down redistricting might accomplish the same thing. Commissioner Cooley asked if other options are being considered. Mr. Johnson said no other options have been explored yet.

The Commissioners discussed how the money would be paid back. Chairman McCook asked if security walls could be considered as opposed to additional space since the project is based on security.

Commissioner Cooley said zero percent interest should not be motivation to spend money. Commissioner Alford said he would want a complete understanding of how it would be paid back before he could vote to move forward with an expansion project.

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Mr. Johnson said the schools would push other capital projects back in order to get this project done.

Vice Chair McCall asked how expansion would make children safer since they go outside for recess, get on buses and move in and out of the school. Vice Chair McCall suggested other options be considered since there is available space in other schools.

Chairman McCook suggested the school system develop a plan with more information for future consideration. Vice Chair McCall said the expansion calls for a significant expenditure, and the big concern would be how to pay it back. The Commissioners also asked for a facilities plan and redistricting possibilities for underutilized schools. Vice Chair McCall said a fixed cost that comes with an expansion is being proposed at a time when the County is trying to reduce its fixed costs.

The Commissioners suggested that school staff meet with County Manager Patterson to discuss a more detailed proposal that could be presented to the Commissioners at a special meeting or at the December regular meeting.

Consent Agenda:

a) Approve minutes of the October 6, 2014, regular meeting.

b) Approve Tax Department request for September 2014 to release funds in the amount of \$191.49 and in the amount of \$10,053.68, make refunds in the amount of \$90.93 and in the amount of \$219.67 and discoveries in the amount of \$1,052,486.66. (*incorporated by reference*)

c) Budget Amendments:

- 1) Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$7,948.99 for Medicaid funding and Pregnancy Care Management and Care Coordination for Children, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
- 2) Health: Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$13,757 for Healthy Communities, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
- 3) Health: Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$1,000 for STD prevention, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Liaison Committee report

Vice Chair McCall discussed the school response to the proposal by the County liaison members. The school included a capital needs request. Vice Chair McCall said a capital request at the meeting was not expected. She said the committee agreed to meet more frequently and to provide advance notice of proposals.

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Chairman McCook said efforts should establish a place where the County could move forward with reasonable funding. Chairman McCook said it is good to see what long term capital might be needed but the operational side should take priority. Vice Chair McCall said it is important to keep the objective narrow in the beginning.

Commissioner Davis said when the schools have lost 1,000 students it's difficult to reach in your pocket and put out money for another school. Commissioner Cooley said with funding issues the County must look at the whole picture while the schools only look at the schools.

Appointments to boards and committees

There were two applications for the ABC Board. A letter from two ABC Board members, however, requested that Ms. Dee Hammond, who served two consecutive terms and currently is Chair, be considered for reappointment to provide continuity and oversight while the ABC store undergoes renovations and improvements.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to reappoint Ms. Dee Hammond to two-year term on the ABC Board. Vote: Motion approved. Commissioner Gibson abstained from the vote explaining that his wife works for one of the ABC Board applicants.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Andy Graves to a three-year term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager report

Mr. Patterson requested a budget amendment for the current year in the amount of \$686,100 for the incentive payment to FCC, which is 90 percent. Mr. Patterson said the amount was not budgeted because it was not expected that FCC would fully meet its obligations in this fiscal year. The threshold for the incentive was \$57 million investment and 66 jobs. FCC, however, added more than 200 jobs and invested more than \$80 million. Mr. Patterson said FCC now is now the largest industrial employer in the County and the third largest employer for total FTEs. Mr. Patterson said source of the payment would be from fund balance and tax revenue.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve a budget amendment for the FCC incentive payment in the amount of \$686,100. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said Mr. Greg Icard submitted his resignation as Economic Development Director, effective November 7. The recruitment process has begun. Mr. Patterson said there is a possibility of using an interim or contract position until the position is filled.

Mr. Patterson said three companies submitted information on the auction of real property, Auctioneers on Deck, Iron Horse and James Johnson. The information is for review and future input for selection in December.

Commissioner comments

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Commissioner Davis praised Commissioner Cooley for his remarks and questions he made during the meeting. Commissioner Davis said Commissioner Cooley will be missed by the Board. Vice Chair McCall praised Parks and Recreation for its hard work and partnerships it made to host a great Halloween in the Park event.

The Commissioners praised Mr. Icard for his hard work and successes that resulted from his hard work. Chairman McCook complimented Mr. Icard on his rapid response to RFPs and for how quickly he worked on projects, his work ethic and commitment to community.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford 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 and Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney and Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Mr. Patterson said bed bugs are still in the EMS building, which will be retreated.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman