

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
January 5, 2015, A.B. Gibson Center, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
January 5, 2015, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Betty Blue Gholston and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: 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. Pastor George Ellis of Union Grove Baptist Church delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the January 5, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Public Forum**

Chairman McCook opened the public forum with the recognition of a citizen who has been extremely important to the community for many years. Chairman McCook asked Mr. Henry McLeod to join him while he read the following:

**A Proclamation Recognizing Henry McLeod  
for More than 50 Years of Service to Scotland County**

***WHEREAS,** Henry McLeod has spent the better part of five decades serving Scotland County;*

***WHEREAS,** the lives of all citizens have been enriched and all citizens have benefitted from the selfless and committed energies Henry McLeod devoted to Scotland County;*

***WHEREAS,** Henry McLeod engaged in purpose driven pursuits that positively impacted the community: guided the County on appropriate land use as a member and Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board, helped develop the Scotland County Joint Land Use Plan and the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance, assisted with the building of Scotland Place Senior Center, served for many years as an impartial moderator of the annual candidate forum, was instrumental through the Parks and Recreation Commission in transitioning the City of Laurinburg department into a comprehensive countywide Parks and Recreation system, helped develop the Lumber River Canoe Trail, was a member of the Scotland County Board of Education in a time when the schools were consolidating, served on the Scotland Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and was a member of the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees, representing Scotland County, when that entity was first known as Richmond Technical College.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** the Scotland County Board of Commissioners owes Henry McLeod a debt of gratitude for a life of service to community and expresses its sincere appreciation for his determined leadership and faithful stewardship of all initiatives he embraced and designed in order to engage all facets of life in Scotland County for the purpose of improving its overall quality of life.*

*Presented this 5th day of January 2015*

Chairman McCook then introduced Ms. April Snead as the new DSS Director.

Sheriff Ralph Kersey asked to submit a number of requests for the Commissioners to consider. Sheriff Kersey made the following personnel requests. He asked that his position as Sheriff be reclassified to a

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lower pay grade. The reduction would allow funds for a full-time person in the gun permit section. Sheriff Kersey asked that a detention officer be reclassified from Jailer I to Deputy I. Sheriff Kersey said since four telecommunicators will transition to the EOC/911 Call Center by the end of January that the four positions remain at the Sheriff's Office to shore up the security in four areas in the department. Sheriff Kersey asked that two part-time positions be merged into one, which would represent a savings.

Sheriff Kersey discussed some issues since taking office, specifically a shortage in funds for fuel and vehicle maintenance, which is almost used up.

Sheriff Kersey said he and his staff are up for the challenge intend to make wise decisions on how to best use the dollars available.

Chairman McCook said the Commissioners would like some time to consider the requests in order to respond as quickly as possible.

No one else came forward, and the public forum was closed.

**Public Hearing: Conditional Use Application 479-14 by MLE, Inc.**

Planning and Zoning Board member Henry McLeod presented the following Conditional Use application:

**Conditional Use Application Number 479-14 – MLE, Inc. - Request for Conditional Use Permit** defense training for military, law enforcement and other government agencies. The property is located at the intersection of Airbase Road and Skyway Church Road of Scotland County; better known as Scotland County Tax Map Number 252, Parcel 01, Block 005. The property is owned by MLE Incorporated, Pembroke, North Carolina.

Mr. McLeod said the Planning and Zoning Board recommends the application be approved.

Chairman McCook opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the application or if anyone wished to speak against the application. No one came forward.

Chairman McCook said there are FAA regulations that might need review. Chairman McCook referred the issue back to the Planning and Zoning Board for further review so it could be revisited at the February 2 meeting.

Having been duly sworn in Mr. Trevor Kräcker, CEO of Defense Logistics Training Alliance and a joint partner with MLE, which owns the property, said there would be no live fire except in one building, which would have a fabric awning for proper ventilation. Handguns would only be used in the building, and nothing past a 45 caliber would go in the material. Mr. Kräcker discussed the other safety measures employed by MLE. He discussed the Immersive Realistic Live Training Shoot (IRLTS), a system patented by the company. Mr. Kräcker showed the ballistic material used, which he said is the safest material. Mr. Kräcker said there would be 15-foot berms as added safety features for the what-if. Mr. Kräcker said four other buildings would house laser simulation and one building would be for offices.

Mr. Kräcker said training would be provided to professionals and people who want to get certified. There are currently 20 employees but 75 employees are expected by the spring. Mr. Kräcker said the company expects to use the whole compound.

MLE intends to use a lead friendly frangible bullet. Mr. Kräcker assured there would not be firing in many directions.

Mr. Kräcker pointed out where the buildings would be located, which would be in the center of the triangle-shaped tract and nowhere near the airport.

Commissioner Davis said he received a packet of information at 5 p.m. that he would like to have time to review

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to turn Conditional Use Application Number 479-14 – MLE, Inc. back to the Planning Board to for further review.**

*Discussion:* Mr. Kräcker said MLE is not on airport property. Dr. Jeff Collins of MLE, having been duly sworn in, said \$40 million to \$50 million in improvements would be made to the property, which is not owned by the airport. Dr. Collins said MLE would not be in competition with Gryphon. Mr. Kräcker said MLE focuses on close work and laser and the live fire only contained in one building.

Chairman McCook said there are concerns with citizen safety, and the governing body would like an assurance that what is being requested is a compatible use with what's around it.

Mr. Kräcker invited the Commissioners to visit the property to see how safe it is.

**Vote: Motion to turn Conditional Use Application Number 479-14 – MLE, Inc. back to the Planning Board to for further review unanimously approved.**

### **School Capacity Study**

Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services Larry Johnson said the School Board is developing a five-year plan and a Commissioner is being asked to serve on that team. Mr. Johnson said the first meeting would start in the next two or three weeks.

Mr. Johnson discussed the capacity study, which shows each school and total number of rooms at every school, mobile units and what they're used for, square footage and ADM at each school. Vice Chair McCall asked for capacity at the high school, which is not included in the study. Chairman McCook asked for the capacity of the pods.

### **Liaison Committee Report**

Vice Chair McCall summarized the Liaison Committee meeting December 9 and referred to the text of the minutes. Commissioner Gibson said a new set of numbers are expected at the next meeting January 20, and it is not known whether capital would be included in that.

### **Policy Committee Report**

Vice Chair McCall said amendments to the reinstatement policy refer to an employee terminated under either reduction in force of employee in good standing or discretionary exercise of statutory authority of elected official. An employee reinstated within 45 days of termination would be given credit for previous Scotland County service for eligibility for all county benefits. An employee reinstated between 46 days to one year would be credited with accrued sick leave balance and credited with previous service for determining annual leave accrual. An employee reinstated after one year would be credited with previous service for determining annual leave accrual.

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Vice Chair McCall said the Policy Committee recommends approval of the amended reinstatement policy.

**Based on the Policy Committee recommendation that the revised reinstatement policy be adopted, Chairman McCook called for a vote. Amended Reinstatement Policy was approved by unanimous vote.**

**Consent Agenda**

- a) Approve minutes of the December 1, 2014, regular meeting and the December 10, 2014 reconvened meeting.
- b) Approve Title VI Transit Plan as required under Title VI of the Civil Rights statute.
- c) Approve request by Health Department to increase water sampling fees.
- d) Approve Scotland County Area Transit System Safety Plan as required by the Federal Transit Administration and supported by the North Carolina Board of Transportation. *(The Plan is available for review on the Transportation page at [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org)).*
- e) Budget amendments
  - 1) **Health:** Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$10,501 for Family Planning—TANF Program, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Scotland County/Richmond County 911 MOU**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond and EOC/911 Director Mike Edge presented the MOU between Scotland and Richmond counties. The MOU between Richmond and Scotland counties was approved by the Richmond County Commissioners. Mr. Hammond said the document calls for the 911 PSAPS to back up each other. Mr. Hammond said a backup plan is mandated, and having such a plan makes counties eligible for 911 reimbursement from the State. It was pointed out that the counties are backward in paragraphs 3.8 and 4.8.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the Scotland County/Richmond County 911 MOU as amended. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Financial Update**

Deputy Finance Officer Beth Hobbs presented revenues and expenditure as of November 30, 2014. She presented real property tax collections, which is a little higher compared to prior years. She presented prior year tax collections as of November 2014 and sales tax collection as of November 30, 2014. Ms. Hobbs said sales tax collections for North Carolina increased overall by 31 percent. Chairman McCook asked Ms. Hobbs to share sales tax collections figures at the February meeting.

**Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. William Graves to an unexpired term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to appoint Mr. John Alford to the Southeastern Community & Family Services Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

### **County Manager Report**

Mr. Patterson said Southeastern Community & Family Services is submitting its application for 2015/2016 CSBG funds and requests any comments from the Board of Commissioners, which will be forwarded to the organization.

Mr. Patterson presented the Commissioners with a breakdown of waived fees at the landfill from the demolition of the vacant Exxon Station. Fees waived totaled \$11,789. Contaminated materials were sent to an industrial landfill.

Mr. Patterson said the ABC Store roof was cored at no cost, and it was discovered the store has three roof systems while building code only allows for two. Mr. Patterson said the roof will have to be stripped back to the decking and the roofing system will have to be rebid. Mr. Patterson said a current working estimate is \$60,000 when the cost for a new roof was originally expected at \$23,500.

Chairman McCook said the new information would call for additional discussion. Mr. Patterson said an anticipated change in the current building code might drop the price, but clarification is being sought for a better budgetary number.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners that this is the time for filing for tax exemptions. He encouraged citizens to visit the Tax Department to find out what the process is.

Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt provided an update on the DSS fascia project, which is about 99 percent complete.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Davis said something needs to be done about Andy Anderson's trailer park in Laurel Hill. Chairman McCook suggested staff might be able to present options at the upcoming board retreat.

Mr. Patterson said financial status for the Sheriff's Department is in the works and options and recommendations will be made. Chairman McCook said because of the urgency of some of the requests, they should be brought back to the February meeting. Mr. Patterson said he would review all the Sheriff's proposals, apply costs and figure operational avenues.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook  
Chairman