

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting
A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. County Attorney Edward Johnston called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Betty Blue Gholston, Whit Gibson, Carol McCall, Guy McCook and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Johnston called the meeting to order and explained the reorganization process. Mr. Johnston asked for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners for the year 2015.

Commissioner McPhatter nominated Commissioner McCook. Commissioner Alford seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Gibson moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to close nominations. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Commissioner McCook was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Commissioner Gibson nominated Commissioner McCall as Vice Chair. Chairman McCook seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed, and Commissioner McCall was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the December 1, 2014 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman McCook discussed inquiries about the Sheriff election, the appeal by the incumbent Sheriff and how that keeps the incumbent Sheriff in office. County Attorney Johnston discussed the role and responsibilities of the Commissioners with regard to that process. Mr. Johnston cited the NC Constitution Article VI Section 10 which reads, "In the absence of any contrary provision, all officers in this State, whether appointed or elected, shall hold their positions until other appointments are made or, if the offices are elective, until their successors are chosen and qualified." Mr. Johnston said the Board of Commissioners does not have authority to intervene until the State Board of Elections acts on the appeal.

Public Forum

Mr. Lee Gaunt accompanied by Boy Scouts Troop 420 said the Troop is working on its communications merit badge, which requires attendance at a County meeting in order to earn Eagle rank. Mr. Gaunt said Troop members will write a paper on their observations of the meeting.

Mr. David Norris, 15200 McKinnon Drive, said Commissioners have the duty to appoint an interim Sheriff. Mr. Norris said allowing Shep Jones to continue as Sheriff would only serve to harm the County, which is already divided as a result of the issue.

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Mr. Norris asked Mr. Jones to step down while his appeal is in process so healing could begin.

Mr. Mark Schenck, 161 Arrowhead Lane, said the appeals process means Mr. Ralph Kersey is guilty until proven innocent, which is contrary to what many in the community believe. Mr. Schenck questioned the probable cause of the charges made by Shep Jones. Mr. Schenck asked the Commissioners to appoint an interim Sheriff.

Chamber of Commerce President Tonia Stephenson reminded the Commissioners of the Christmas parade December 6 at 2 p.m. Ms. Stephenson invited the Commissioners to participate.

Mr. Charles Parker, Blue Woods Road, thanked the Commissioners on the Liaison Committee on their commitment to develop a school funding plan. He asked Liaison members to keep in mind the school floor funding law is an “albatross” for the county that has become a wedge in the community. Mr. Parker asked Liaison members to consider elimination of the school floor so the Schools and County could work together to talk through problems.

Child Protective Services personnel expansion and caseload reduction allocation

Child Protective Services Supervisor April Snead requested acceptance of a State allocation that would allow for the hiring of two new positions for the specific purpose of reducing child protective services caseloads. Ms. Snead said the State determined how many positions the County would create. Ms. Snead said the allocation would be recurring, and there would be no cost to the County for the current fiscal year and \$15,000 County cost in FY 2016. Ms. Snead said there currently are seven investigators at DSS.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to accept the allocation for the two new positions in Child Protective Services. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Resolution regarding adoption of Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board President Leigh Carter asked the Commissioners for support for Master Plan, which requires no funding at this time. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said there would be funding requests later on that would be put in the budget for the Commissioners to consider.

Ms. Newton reviewed the process for developing the Master Plan over the past eight months. Development of the Master Plan, which combines recreation and health, was made possible through a Community Transformation Grant. The Plan promotes fitness for adults by repurposing parks and addresses the possible creation of greenways and increased passive recreation options.

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Chairman McCook recognized the partnership of the Health Department and Parks and Recreation for their work on the Master Plan.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the Resolution Adopting the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the citizens and stakeholders of Scotland County's Parks and Recreation system value a well-planned network of facilities for their use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the provision of parks, recreation and open space opportunities for physical activity may serve to enhance health outcomes of Scotland County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board formally recommends adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall use the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guide to advance the recommendations, goals and strategies of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners is under no obligation to fund any recommendations, goals, or strategies contained within the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Adopted this 1st day of December, 2014.

Liaison Committee report

Vice Chair McCall presented the four proposals to date that have been discussed by the Liaison Committee. Vice Chair McCall said the committee might meet more frequently in order to come up with a resolution by the March 2015 deadline. Commissioner Gibson said the conversations have been productive, and the committee is farther along than four months ago but not as far as it needs to be. Commissioner Davis discussed the loss in student population and what could be done to take a look at that.

Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners November 3, 2014 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve fidelity bonds for various County officials and employees as per G.S.**

58-72-10.

c) **Approve surplus of 11 Sheriff Office vehicles parked at the bus garage.**

d) **Approve surplus of miscellaneous computer equipment in the Health Department.**

1) **EMS: Approve receipt of EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) in the amount of \$14,692, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.**

2) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$5,318 and \$5,694 for the Immunization Action Plan, 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 and correcting the typo “bud” to “bus.”. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Ms. Dee Hammond Chair of the ABC Board for 2015. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to appoint Mr. William Graves to the Laurinburg/Scotland County Crime and Drug Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Vice Chair McCall said there is a vacancy on the Southeastern Community & Family Services Board (formerly Four County Community Services) due to a resignation.

Update from County Manager

Mr. Patterson said four auction companies provided fee, premium and commission information on the sale of foreclosed property. Mr. Patterson said of the four auction companies, Rogers Realty recommended an online auction only. After some discussion about the information received from the four companies Chairman McCook suggested Iron Horse and Rogers Realty provide RFPs with a more detailed proposal that include an online auction component.

County Manager Patterson said he endorsed two Golden Leaf applications for the community-based grants. One is for Scotland Health Care System (\$841,800) and the other is for Richmond Community College (\$658,200).

Mr. Patterson said Scotland Health Care System proposes a third phase expansion of its ER. RCC proposes to convert the Morgan Center into shared space with the County while RCC would develop simulated hospital space to expand the nursing program.

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Mr. Patterson said assuming Scotland Health Care System donates the property to the County, an approximately \$300,000 investment would be necessary to convert the facility to office space. Meanwhile, RCC plans for classroom space would be covered by the grant.

The County Manager discussed the Golden Leaf application process timeline. The grant is competitive with \$12 million available among 22 counties.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter authorizing the County Manager to enter into dialogue with the hospital's executive board regarding the Morgan Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford nominating Vice Chair McCall as the voting delegate for the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Davis said he was asked to serve on the NCACC task force on mental health. He will relay to the task force any concerns from Commissioners on this issue.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to go into 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

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to recess to 8 a.m. Wednesday, December 10, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman