

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Carol McCall, Vice Chair Whit Gibson and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Betty Blue Gholston, Guy McCook and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer Beth Hobbs, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman.

At 7 p.m. Chair McCall called the meeting to order. Commissioner Alford delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to approve the February 1, 2016, agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

No one spoke.

Community report: Scotland County Reentry Council

Mr. Robert Macy said the Scotland County Reentry Council will host its second annual community awareness day March 18. The Commissioners are invited. Mr. Macy provided data on the number of people locked up who will be released to their communities. All agencies on March 18 will share what they can do to engage with the community to make families stronger and be aware of services available.

FY 2014-2015 audit

Mr. Carl Head, Parker, Wagoner & Roche, PLLC, said the opinion is unmodified, which is a good opinion. Mr. Head compared revenues over expenditures in 2014 and in the current year. Mr. Head said this is the fourth year in a row the County has had a positive increase in Fund Balance, which is the highest it's been in 10 years. Mr. Head reviewed activity in Public Works, which had losses, but the losses had decreased significantly. Water Districts I had an increase and Water II had a loss but improved over the prior year. There was a slight gain in Public Works cash flow this year as well as in Water Districts I and II. Mr. Head said the County appears to be moving in the right direction. The financial statement findings show the Public Works fund has a negative fund balance, which was reported. The 911 Project had a negative fund balance, but that was a technical issue. Mr. Head said the County should keep looking for new revenue streams and cost cutting measures.

Scotland County Schools report

Mr. Roger Ammons reviewed the five-year facility plan for the school district, which includes a prioritized list of the greatest facility needs. Mr. Ammons discussed population trends, which are flat through 2019, and enrollment trends, which are declining through 2020. The top priority at each school would total more than \$1 million. All priorities over five years would be \$4.6 million. The study does not include capital for athletics, which is an estimated \$730,000. Mr. Ammons discussed capital projects completed at the schools in the last four years. He said capital work would not be done on any school that would be scheduled for closure. Mr. Ammons described the study as bare bones and not frivolous.

Mr. Ammons said there currently is an emergency situation with the chiller for buildings two and three at the high school, which was repaired 14 months ago, but the part that was replaced failed again. The chiller was originally installed in 1998. Mr. Ammons said the building is totally dependent on mechanical air.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

Mr. Ammons distributed information from Carrier that has six options that include repair costs and replacement costs. Mr. Ammons reviewed each option and recommended option six, which is replacement at a cost of \$234,755. There would be a seven-week turnaround time with operation expected by the end of March. Life expectancy of the unit is 25 years with a five-year warranty included in the purchase price. Mr. Ammons said option six is the most efficient unit, which would bring an estimated savings of \$9,000 a year over its useful life.

Mr. Jay Toland said there currently is \$1,500 in capital outlay fund balance. Mr. Toland said the cost of maintaining older buildings affects the capital outlay, and the school does not have enough funds to pay for the chiller out of capital outlay.

Commissioner Davis asked if the schools could pay for the chiller out of its \$2.7 million general fund balance. Mr. Toland said the fund balance provides flexibility for operations if budget cuts come from the State. Commissioner Alford asked if the cost could be shared. Commissioner McPhatter commented that the school system asks the County to use its fund balance when there are County needs as well.

Mr. Patterson said the schools cannot transfer the funds without Board action. Mr. Patterson said the cost of the chiller is comparable to the amount agreed upon in school current expense funding over the next two years. Mr. Patterson said the cost of the chiller would come out of the County's fund balance since the County does have capital obligations for the schools. Chair McCall said the County knew this was coming.

Mr. Ammons discussed the history of repairs to the chiller. He said if it is repaired the school would rely on an 18-year-old chiller. Mr. Ammons said it is a challenge to maintain older buildings when capital continues to decrease.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve \$234,775 for the high school chiller. Vote: For: Chair McCall, Vice Chair Gibson and Commissioners Gholston, McCook and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioner Alford and Davis. Vote: Motion approved.

Commissioner McCook said he looks forward to continued conversations with the Board of Education so the two boards could work through these issues together.

Tax liens and request to advertise

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said unpaid taxes that are liens on real property total \$2,310,142.63 and includes the County, municipalities, fire tax and solid waste fees, the latter of which is about \$290,000. Ms. Norton asked the Commissioners to authorize the order to advertise for the week of March 14.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford authorizing the Tax Department to advertise tax liens the week of March 14, 2016. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

- a) **Approve minutes of the January 4, 2016, Water Districts meeting and January 4, 2016, regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for the Sheriff's Office.**
- c) **Approve Contract for Fire Protection Services. (All contracts are the same, except for the name of the Fire Department. They are updated from the Fire contracts signed in 2010, which expired after five years).**
- d) **Approve Tax Office request for November 2015 release of funds in the amount of \$88.30 and in the amount of \$7,842.10, refunds in the amount of \$1,227.31 and discoveries in the amount of**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

\$12,601.92; and December 2015 release of funds in the amount of \$82.08 and \$6,152.07 and discoveries in the amount of \$34,574.31 (*incorporated by reference*).

e) **Budget amendments**

- a) **Health:** Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$60,000 for Infant Mortality Reduction, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
 - b) **Health:** Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$10,885 for Family Planning TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
 - c) **Health:** Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$13,676 for Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
 - d) **Health:** Approve request to decrease Federal funds for Family Planning HMHC (Healthy Mothers Healthy Children's Block Grant) in the amount of \$18,265.
 - e) **Health:** Approve request to increase funding for Healthy Communities (Health Promotions) in the amount of \$4,160, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
 - f) **Health:** Approve request to receive FY 2012 Medicaid Cost Settlement in the amount of \$40,361, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.
 - g) **Health:** Approve request to decrease Federal funds in the amount of \$5,530 for Maternal Health Healthy Mothers/Healthy Children Block Grant.
- f) Approve Health Department request to use the Medicaid Cost Settlement Funds in the amount of \$100,953. (*The Board of Commissioners on November 2, 2015, approved receipt of Medicaid Cost Settlement for FY 2011 in the amount of \$60,592. The Board of Health on January 19, 2016, approved expenditure of the funds and the Health Department compiled a list on how the monies might be spent. It is attached*).

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

Liaison Committee report

Vice Chair Gibson said there was no agenda for the January 19 meeting. The members agreed to continue to work toward increasing communication among the six members. Vice Chair Gibson said the Liaison Committee could be used to enhance communication on more than funding issue. The committee goal is to come to an agreement that would stretch beyond the current funding agreement. Commissioner Davis said the County and schools should stick with whatever is accomplished and not exceed what was agreed upon unless there is a crisis of some sort.

Capital and Facilities Committee report

Commissioner Davis said the committee arrived at a consensus January 13 that it would recommend a four-coat system for the water tanks.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to reappoint Ms. Loretta Baranek to a three-year term on the Aging Advisory Council, reappoint Ms. Leigh Carter to a three-year term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and appoint Dr. Ralph Carter to an

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

unexpired term on the Board of Health as the physician-representative. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chair McCall said Commissioner McCook will replace her on the Liaison Committee and that she and Commissioners Davis and McCook will serve on the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation with Commissioner Davis serving as Chairman.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said Southeastern Community & Family Services is applying for a CSBG grant that requires the agency seek comment from Commissioners on the application regarding the community being served.

There was foreclosure on the property at 115 Main Street. It is currently titled in to the County and the City. Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to authorize transfer of the property to the City of Laurinburg as part of its downtown development for open space.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to authorize transfer of the title of the 115 Main Street property to the City of Laurinburg. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said the NCACC supported to resolutions — the Connect NC Bond Act and the Prevention Partners Statewide Wellness Initiative.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to support the NCACC Connect NC Bond Act and the Prevention Partners Statewide Wellness Initiative resolutions. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONNECT NC BOND ACT

WHEREAS North Carolina and its counties have a mutual desire to improve and enhance the quality of life for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Community College System is in need of new and renovated facilities to educate and prepare students and workers for the 21st century for the purpose of enhancing the economic attractiveness of the State; and

WHEREAS Clean water and sewer systems are essential to attract new and strengthen existing industry and to provide for the needs of the State and its growing population; and

WHEREAS having parks and public facilities accessible to children and veterans with disabilities is essential to improving the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS financing these costs through a bond is the most economical and affordable way to address these infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS the Connect NC Bond Act will provide funding for many critical needs facing North Carolina that will improve and enhance the quality of life in our counties;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners expresses its support for the Connect NC Bond Act; and

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to all 100 counties with encouragement for each county to adopt a similar resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution are transmitted to the members of the General Assembly and to Governor Pat McCrory to let them know of our support for this issue.

ADOPTED, this 1st day of February, 2016 by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREVENTION PARTNERS
STATEWIDE WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS North Carolina counties strive to create a healthy workforce environment for county employees; and

WHEREAS North Carolina counties are responsible for providing public health services to citizens; and

WHEREAS Prevention Partners builds healthier communities through a suite of products that guide schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics to address the leading causes of preventable disease, such as tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and obesity; and

WHEREAS The Healthy Together NC campaign draws on a broad partnership crossing the public and private sectors to bring workplace health and wellness to hospitals, businesses, schools, government agencies, nonprofits, universities and more; and

WHEREAS Prevention Partners has set a goal to build healthy workplaces across sectors in at least 10 organizations in all 100 counties of North Carolina by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS improving the health of citizens will help counties by reducing costs for providing public health services; and

WHEREAS former NCACC President Kenneth Edge, of Cumberland County, initiated the Healthy Living Presidential Taskforce in an effort to bring greater awareness to healthy living and wellness activities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners that it does hereby express its support for the Healthy Together NC campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is sent to all 100 counties with encouragement for each county to become a healthy workplace.

ADOPTED, this 1st day of February, 2016 by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Patterson said the By-Pass Park lease terminates when the County ceases to use it for recreational activities and full control reverts back to the City of Laurinburg. The County is not using By-Pass Park, and the City would like the County to remove backstops.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to terminate the lease at By-Pass Park and return it to the City of Laurinburg. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said a joint use agreement between the County and the School System would allow staff authority over use of school and County facilities without going to both boards for approval. Mr. Patterson said the document would have to be reviewed by the attorneys before being formally introduced to the Board of Education and the Commissioners for action.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
February 1, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

Mr. Patterson said he and Commissioner McCook attended a NC Economic Development Partnership event January 28 where the certified site and the Cascade properties were the subject of a 30-minute presentation. Mr. Patterson said as a result, he was contacted about a project the County was originally not considered for.

The County Manager said the Board of Education offered Pate Gardner and Washington Park schools to the County at fair market value. Mr. Patterson recommended the properties be declined.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to decline the offer by the Board of Education of Pate Gardner and Washington Park schools for fair market value. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion in preparation for the joint meeting with the Board of Education

Vice Chair Gibson said he would like the joint meeting to include some discussion on consolidation and closing of schools, what roles the respective Boards would play and a timeline.

Vice Chair Gibson asked the County Manager for information on where the sales tax comes from that is used for capital and where specifically it is spent and how school bonds fit into that process. Mr. Patterson said he and Finance Officer Hobbs would provide that information.

Comments from the Chair and Commissioners

Commissioner Davis provided an update on the Fire Commission plan to construct a substation on the south side of the County. Commissioner Davis also provided an update on the water haul exercise in which the fire departments participated, which would help qualify districts for lower fire insurance rates.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to 5 p.m. Monday, February 15, at the A.B. Gibson Center for a joint meeting with the Board of Education. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Carol McCall
Chair