

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
Monday, March 2, 2015, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

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Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall, and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Betty Blue Gholston and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Whit Gibson (*excused*). Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer Beth Hobbs, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman

At 7 p.m. Chairman McCook called the meeting to order. Library Director Leon Gyles delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the March 2, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Public Forum**

**Major Jason Butler** discussed a resolution for a mutual aid agreement with surrounding law enforcement agencies. Major Butler asked the Commissioners to review the resolution that calls for support of mutual aid agreements.

**EMS Director Roylin Hammond** announced the State hurricane exercise will have a large presence in Scotland County at LMA. The SBI bomb squad will be involved along with State dignitaries. Mr. Hammond said it's a learning opportunity and a good exercise for the large runway at the airport.

Chairman Guy McCook introduced Mr. Lindsay Page Pratt as new Register of Deeds. Chairman McCook thanked retired Register of Deeds Debra Holcomb for 11 years of service.

Chairman McCook recognized Mr. Wayne Raynor as Interim Health Director.

**Mr. Lee Gaunt**, Chairman of the Historic Properties Commission, presented longtime member Ms. Bettie McNair with a plaque honoring her for more than 10 years of service on the Commission. Mr. Gaunt also presented Ms. McNair with a letter of appreciation signed by every member of the Commission.

**Virtual on-line academy at Scotland County Schools**

Mr. Kevin Combs, Director of Instructional Technology at Scotland County Schools, presented a PowerPoint on the virtual academy, what it does and how it will benefit students. The virtual academy will be for students who are not currently enrolled in the schools.

Mr. Combs said there are 170 enrolled in home school and 290 enrolled in private school. Mr. Combs discussed all the resources that would be made available to the students, who must be Scotland County residents and must be enrolled in two courses each academic session. There is

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currently activity to reach out to students who are not members of the school system. The courses would be free.

The Board of Education supports the schools moving forward with the program. A building would be made available for the academy, but it is not known which building would be utilized. Mr. Combs said there would be full ADM for those students.

**ABC Store roof update**

ABC Chair Dee Hammond said the original roof estimate was for shingles only but there were actually too many roofs on the ABC Store. The roofs will have to be removed and replaced. Ms. Hammond said on a rebid for the project there were three submissions with the low bid at \$54,080 from ARS Extreme Company. Ms. Hammond said the company references are positive. Ms. Hammond said the ABC Board would sign the contract, and Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt will oversee the project.

**Liaison Committee report**

Vice Chair Carol McCall said the Liaison Committee met last month and verbally agreed that for two subsequent years beyond the mediated amount, funding for local school current expense would be reduced by 2.25 percent. Vice Chair McCall said if both boards agree it would be turned over to the two attorneys to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would be brought back to the Commissioners and the Board of Education for approval.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the school funding concept from the Liaison Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Consent Agenda**

a) **Approve minutes of the February 2, 2015, regular meeting and the February 11, 2015 special meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$204.99 and \$1,205, refunds in the amount of \$53.07 and discoveries in the amount of \$3,087.35. (incorporated by reference)**

c) **Approve in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2 the awarding to Lieutenant Tony Smith, who retired February 27, 2015, his service revolver, a Smith & Wesson M&P 40 #DVD6796, in exchange for consideration of \$1.00.**

d) **Approve Health Department request to increase fees for the following services: Additional service with pap, Agency fee, \$38; Maternal Health Bundle Services (4-6 visits) \$700 and 7+ visits, \$1,200; rabies vaccine from \$237 per injection to \$274 per injection; increase in LabCorp fees to \$25; and Tetanus Immunization, \$22.**

e) **Budget amendments**

1) **Sheriff: Approve receipt of NC Department of Public Safety a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for IT needs, and authorize the Finance Officer to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars**

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- 2) **Health:** Approve receipt of \$28 for the TB Control Program, and authorize the Finance Officer to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars
- 3) **Health:** Approve receipt of \$3,004 for WIC, and authorize the Finance Officer to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars.

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

### **Update on the countywide litter pick-up program**

Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt said the road crew to date picked up 978 bags of trash, 371 bags of recyclable materials, 196 tires and roughly six and quarter truckloads of bulky items. The road crew covered approximately 80.45 road miles, which equates to 160.9 walking miles.

Mr. McGirt said the program got to a slow start and staffing has been an issue through the Department of Public Correction. Mr. McGirt said the biggest expenditure would be for salary and fuel as long as the DPC provides the manpower. Commissioner Davis said where the work is done looks good until about two weeks later when it's back to the beginning.

### **Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. John F. Stewart to a partial term on the Historic Properties Commission, which will expire June 30, 2016. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to reappoint Mr. Sam Cribb, Mr. Henry McLeod and Mr. John Cooley to the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

### **County Manager Report**

Mr. Patterson said both the Hospital and RCC were invited to make full application to Golden Leaf for its community-based grants initiative. Applications are due in two weeks. Final awards would not be made until the June.

Mr. Patterson said the County Attorney is trying to schedule a conference call with the State Cemetery Association with March 11 as a possible date to discuss Scotland Cemetery.

The County Manager said the State historic tax credit expired December 31, and the legislature has been asked to restore the tax credit. Buildings rehabed for commercial use receive a 20 percent tax credit, and this is used commonly in downtown areas. Mr. Patterson said there is local support for reinstatement of State's historic tax credit.

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Chairman McCook said the SACS building was renovated using tax credits, and it would not have happened without the historic tax credit. Chairman McCook said it is a viable tool for economic development.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Resolution to Reinstate the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**RESOLUTION TO  
REINSTATE THE HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT**

**WHEREAS**, the historic rehabilitation tax credit was used by cities and towns of all sizes in North Carolina to generate jobs and economic activities in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the April 2013 economic and fiscal impact analysis of the North Carolina Rehabilitation Tax Credit program prepared by the N.C. Department of Commerce, the credit contributes an annual average of \$124.5 million to the state gross domestic product and approximately 2,190 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the N.C. League of Municipalities, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office estimated that since the 1998 expansion of the historic rehab credits, 2,321 projects utilizing the historic rehab credits have invested nearly \$1.5 billion in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic rehab credit encouraged private investments in local communities and encouraged the reuse of existing buildings, which saved taxpayer money through reducing the need to expand public services and infrastructure.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners believes the reinstatement of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is in the public interest and supports the efforts of Governor Pat McCrory to reinstate the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit during the next session of the General Assembly.

Adopted this the 2nd day of March 2015

Mr. Patterson said the Lumbee Tribe has requested a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) agreement, which is authorized under federal statute under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. There is no state authority but there is clear federal authority. In the federal regulation, if a PILT cannot be agreed to, the Bureau of Indian Affairs can mediate/arbitrate the process to obtain a PILT.

Mr. Patterson discussed copies of agreements from Robeson County and Pembroke. The agreed amounts in each agreement is \$150 per unit. The Commissioners discussed what might be the amount if the Board proceeded with an agreement. Mr. Patterson said the amount would be whatever the governing body and the Lumbee Tribe agree to. Chairman McCook suggested the issue be tabled until next month when an amount could be recommended. Chairman McCook

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also suggested Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton discuss what the tax liabilities might be on the properties.

The County Manager recommended an additional position to help with administration in the Sheriff's Department. The position would be a non-law enforcement officer position. Mr. Patterson said the amount would be \$11,204 from March 16 through end of the fiscal year. Mr. Patterson said the total cost would be \$42,000 annualized.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appropriate \$11,204 in this year's budget for a non-law enforcement position in the Sheriff's Department. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson requested another position, a supervisor for the 911 Center, which would be comparable to the Operations Officer for EMS as far as salary and duties. The cost would be \$19,353 for 3.5 months. Mr. Patterson said opening up the 911 Center a week before a significant weather event proved the need for a 911 supervisor very quickly. Mr. Patterson requested that the Board create a supervisor position for the 911 Call Center.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gholston and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the creation of a supervisor position for the 911 Call Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said there is lapsed salary in the 911 Center due to vacancies but because staffing is turbulent right now, there is no guarantee what the lapse is going to be. The position would have an annualized cost of about \$62,000.

Mr. Patterson said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will host a drop in at the Laurel Hill Community Center March 5 to discuss the future of the structure, which has not been in use for longer than three years. The Advisory Board is looking for public input for potential uses. Mr. Patterson said the building has significant need that must be addressed if it is going to be used. Chairman McCook said a decision needs to be made about a building that is underutilized.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook  
Chairman