

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting
A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Chairman Guy McCook called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley, Bob Davis 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 W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Gibson delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the April 8, 2014 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum: Recognitions

Senior Games Coordinator Kisha Williams and Mr. Jerry Weinreis announced the 2014 Senior Games and Silver Arts season. Registration is open with games commencing April 25. Ms. Williams said this year the age for the event has been lowered to 50 or better from 55. Ms. Williams and Mr. Weinreis asked the Board to help promote the event.

Chairman McCook then read the following proclamation, which he presented to Health Director Dave Jenkins.

WHEREAS, we hereby recognize and acknowledge public health's 134 years of service to the residents of North Carolina and the immeasurable contribution of these services to the quality of life in our State; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public health system is a critical component of the state's emergency response to natural and man-made disasters and widespread disease outbreaks in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, public health measures to control and eliminate infectious diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and promote healthy lifestyle practices have been the greatest cause of improved health status and increased life expectancy for North Carolina's residents, such that North Carolinians now have an average life expectancy at birth of more than 80 years; and

WHEREAS, public health plays a critical role in eliminating health inequities and preventing chronic diseases and injuries, resulting in improved productivity and decreased health care costs for all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, a continued focus on promoting public health programs that provide accessible, high quality medical care and that promote healthy lifestyles for women of childbearing years has resulted in a more than 11percent decline in infant mortality, the lowest rate in the state's history; and

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WHEREAS, a continued focus on prevention has resulted in a more than 29 percent decline in age-adjusted heart disease death rates since 2000, a more than 38 percent decline in age-adjusted stroke death rates since 2000, and an almost 35 percent decline in the teen pregnancy rate since 2000; and

WHEREAS, state government is committed to a continued emphasis on prevention in Public Health and helping North Carolina reach a better state of health through actions outlined in the Healthy North Carolina 2020 Objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy North Carolina 2020 health objectives represent a 10-year plan to improve the health of all North Carolinians by working to promote access to preventive and needed health services; foster positive and supportive living and working conditions in our communities; and support individuals in developing the capacities and skills to achieve healthy living; and

WHEREAS, communities, employers, hospitals and health care providers, individuals and families, insurers, legislators and policy makers, schools and child care facilities must work together to identify and develop innovative solutions to health problems facing the people of North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2014, as **“PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH”** in Scotland County and urge citizens to recognize that public health is working to ensure that all people living in Scotland County are protected from threats such as influenza, food borne disease, injury and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of Scotland County, North Carolina, this 8th day of April, 2014.

Chairman McCook, Chamber Past Chairman David McLamb, Chairman President Tonia Stephenson and Rev. Howard Whitehurst recognized members of the community who received the Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service. Recipients included Mr. James Bumgardner, Scotland Family Counseling Center; Mr. Harold Connors, Habitat for Humanity; Ms. Ellen Harling, Scotland County Humane Society; Ms. Kathy Ragsdale, Scotland Community Health Clinic; and Dr. William Stewart Thomas, Hospice of Scotland County. Mr. Thomas also was selected as Medallion Award winner, one of 20 selected statewide. He will receive the Medallion Award from the Governor.

Public Forum

Mr. Travis Stone, Laurel Hill, a Sheriff’s Office and U.S. Army retiree, asked if the investigation into the Sheriff’s Office would be complete before the election. Mr. Stone asked what action the Board is taking regarding the Sheriff. Mr. Stone said if citizens don’t know what the actions might be, citizens can only make assumptions. Mr. Stone asked if there would be any disciplinary action of the County Manager. Mr. Stone also said he is not pleased with the number of gambling machines in the County and what message their presence might send to kids.

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Ms. Barbie Britt, a former employee of the Sheriff's Office, said that Mr. Stone already discussed issues that concern her. Ms. Britt asked why a Sheriff's employee who mistakenly ordered new vehicles was not reprimanded or let go but promoted instead.

No one else spoke, and Public Forum was closed.

Eastpointe local business plan 2013-2016

Eastpointe CEO Ken Jones discussed the mission of Eastpointe for its member counties and the services provided locally, which is conducted by 20 to 25 providers. Mr. Jones said Eastpointe has a \$300 million budget, \$270 million of which is directed to care costs. Mr. Jones discussed how Eastpointe manages its Medicaid dollars. He discussed the business plan initiative highlights. Mr. Jones said the 10 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) might be streamlined into four MCOs with the possibility of the 12 Eastpointe counties merging with the Eastern Carolina Behavioral Health Region and the Eastern Coastal Care System.

Register of Deeds scanning project

Courthouse Computer Systems President Charlie Roederer walked the Commissioners through the first phase of the project to digitize Register of Deeds records, which makes them more secure and easy to access, even from home.

Mr. Roederer discussed how to navigate the Register of Deeds records site. He explained that many of the records that were in Photostat form have been enhanced for ease of reading. Mr. Roederer said the records load quickly.

Register of Deeds Debra Holcomb said the records are currently back-scanned to 1967. She said records are being redacted automatically so personal information like Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers will not be visible. Ms. Holcomb said scanning the records has been a dream project of hers for the Register of Deeds. She asked the Commissioners for their continued support in moving the project toward completion.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature update

Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegate Howard Whitehurst reviewed the 2014 legislative priorities. They are maintain funding for senior centers, restore funding to sustain project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty), ratio of CNAs to residents in nursing homes (residents are at higher risk of receiving poor care when facilities are understaffed), strengthen and fund the State's adult protective services programs, appropriate additional recurring funds for Home and Community Care Block Grant.

Scotland County Schools report

Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Larry Johnson addressed promoting safety in schools. Mr. Johnson discussed four current initiatives that include implementing panic alarms at every school using a 50 percent matching grant from the State, installing GPS systems in

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school buses in order to track them in case of an emergency, work with law enforcement on current lockdown procedures and implement staff development in order to receive input on how to keep schools safe.

Laurinburg/Scotland County Drug and Crime Committee activities

Laurinburg/Scotland County Drug and Crime Committee Co-Chairs Noran Sanford and Mary Evans presented a summary of pilot programs the Committee intends to run.

Scotland Watch involves the nomination of positive adult males to volunteer for one day at Covington Street School, which would be the site of the pilot program.

Grief Support would involve local churches forming on-call teams that would respond to a grieving family if a person younger than 16 is killed by violent crime or a first responder is killed in the line of duty.

A Youth Forum comprised of the numerous programs that reach out to City/County youth would be formed to meet on a regular basis.

Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the February 26, 2014 retreat, March 3, 2014, regular meeting, March 13 and March 20, 2014 special meetings and April 1, 2014 joint session.**
- b) **Accept Community Transportation Grant in the amount of \$16,000 to be used to update the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. No County dollars involved.**
- c) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$155.88 and to release funds in the amount of \$2,926.39, refunds in the amount of \$125.34 and discoveries in the amount of \$4,818.72. (incorporated by reference)**
- d) **Acknowledge CDBG Performance Status Report for March.**
- e) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **Parks and Recreation: Approve increase in revenue and expenditure line items by \$9,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
 - 2) **DSS: Approve receipt of federal funds in the amount of \$10,557 for crisis intervention, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
 - 3) **Sheriff: Approve increase in the amount of \$16,404 for FY 2013-2014. Increase is related to Gryphon Group.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the e) 3) budget amendment, which would be reviewed separately. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Patterson said since September, the Sheriff deposited \$16,404 through the Finance Office and a budget amendment is needed to reflect the deposits.

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Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the increase in the Sheriff's budget in the amount of \$16,404 for FY 2013-2014. The increase is related to Gryphon Group. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Jail Inspection response

Sheriff Shep Jones discussed the response to the five deficiencies cited as a result of the January 2014 State inspection of the Jail.

Install two-way communication system in each cell: One company said installation would not be feasible because of the Jail structure. Sheriff Jones said he is waiting for a response and possible quote from a second company.

The showers are dirty and paint is peeling off the walls: This item has been corrected with showers cleaned and paint applied.

Most cell doors are missing view panels: Public Buildings replaced 10 of the 17 view panels. An outside company will replace the remaining seven panels.

Plumbing fixtures are not in compliance: Public Buildings repaired water flow issues and hot water issues with assistance from Johnson Controls to improve hot water flow.

Mirrors were not in compliance: All mirrors in the Jail were replaced.

Chairman McCook said when the Sheriff responds to the State regarding two-way communication in each cell, that the Commissioners receive a copy of the response.

Policy Committee recommendations

Vice Chair McCall said retirement benefits for retiring employees was revised by the Policy Committee with the revisions bolded for review by Commissioners. Vice Chair McCall said the revisions focus on the hire date to determine who would be eligible for retiree coverage.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the Scotland County Benefits for Retirees as revised to address hire date. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Appointments to Board and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to appoint Mr. John Ferguson and Mr. Paul Ansley to three-year terms on the Board of Equalization and Review. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to reappoint Mr. Ken Nichols and appoint Mr. Aundra Reaves to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for three-year terms. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to appoint Laurinburg City Council Member Mary Jo Adams as the municipal representative and Commissioner Guy McCook as the County Commissioner representative to two-year terms on the Transportation Advisory Committee effective July 1, 2014. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said there have been no changes to the 911 call center Memorandum of Understanding since it was presented to the Board. The MOU states that the County would cover the cost of the facility and 911 operations. Personnel costs would be shared between the County (66%) and Laurinburg (34%). The new 911 center would be the primary PSAP for the County.

Chairman McCook said before the MOU is adopted, the Board should address concerns voiced by the City. Chairman McCook suggested the term of the MOU be shortened from five years to three and that the share of personnel costs be 66.7 percent County and 33.3 percent City instead of the originally proposed 66 percent County and 34 percent City. Chairman McCook said the difference would be about \$5,000 in favor of the City. Chairman McCook directed staff to write a letter to the City alerting Council members of the changes and bring the MOU back to the May meeting.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to approve the Director position for the consolidated 911 center, who would oversee operations. Mr. Patterson recommended the director position on a grade 76 of the pay scale, which is the same pay grade as the Chief Deputy, at the market rate, midway through the scale. Mr. Patterson said the position must be created before recruitment can begin.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to create the Director position for the consolidated 911 call center so recruitment could begin immediately for a hiring date of July 1, 2014. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson provided the Commissioners with a list of community events that are supported by EMS, Parks and Recreation and Transportation. The list states if there is reimbursement for events. The County covers the cost of a dedicated ambulance and team for the Lumber River Raft Race, Highland Games and John Blue Festival. For other events, off-duty paramedics are paid by the event. The County receives no reimbursement for the events. Transportation provides vans for Laurel Fest and the John Blue Festival. The drivers are on the clock and the County bills the events \$15/hour to cover the cost of the drivers. The Highland Games hires off-duty drivers. Parks and Recreation works with numerous events through the year. Any reimbursement to the County is made according to fee schedules.

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Mr. Patterson recommended the Policy Committee meet to review and recommend a more formal policy on events and which ones would be supported through County services.

The County Manager said a preliminary calculation on the funding formula, which does not have the projected ADM for next year, would increase by \$2,359,288, which would reflect a 14-cent increase in the tax rate.

Chairman McCook then read the following resolution regarding funding the Health Department.

Resolution Requesting that Scotland County be Exempted from Amended G.S. 130A-34.1

Whereas, amended G.S. 130A-34.1 would require counties to maintain operating appropriations to local health departments from local ad valorem tax receipts at levels equal to the amounts appropriated in State fiscal year 2010-2011; and

Whereas, the Scotland County appropriation in 2010-2011 was \$950,000 more than it is in FY 2013-2014 and is equivalent to six cents on the tax rate; and

Whereas, Scotland County has the highest ad valorem tax rate in the State and the only ad valorem tax rate above \$1.00/\$100; and

Whereas, the Scotland County Health Department streamlined operations and initiated efficiencies based on the needs of the community without compromising the delivery of service; and

Whereas, the Scotland County Health Department budget appropriation in 2011 was \$1,818,788 and the 2014 health appropriation is \$868,023 for a difference between the two budgets of \$950,765; and

Whereas, local control is the most effective at determining the needs for County services of the community.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the State legislature exempt Scotland County from maintaining the operation of the Scotland County Health Department at a level equal to the amount appropriated in 2010-2011.

Be It Further Resolved that granting the exemption would validate the effort made by the Scotland County Health Department to provide excellent public health services without placing an undue burden on the taxpayer.

Adopted this the 8th day of April 2014.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the resolution requesting Scotland County be exempted from amended G.S. 130A-34.1. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Davis said Commissioner McPhatter was recently in the hospital. He asked the Board to keep Commissioner McPhatter in their prayers.

Commissioner Gibson said he consulted with Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne on an area of road the Commissioners might adopt. Mr. Horne suggested Sneads Grove Road from 401 to the Turnpike turn off, which is 1.6 miles.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to proceed with the appropriate paperwork to adopt a highway. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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 held 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 Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman