

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
June 1, 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, Betty Blue Gholston and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners Bob Davis (*excused*) and Clarence McPhatter. 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. Commissioner Gholston delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman McCook said he is in receipt of a resolution from County Attorney Johnston regarding the recent sale of foreclosed property. Chairman McCook asked that the agenda be approved with the addition of the resolution as Item 2.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the June 1, 2015, agenda with the addition of Resolution Concerning Disposition of Surplus Properties Previously Owned or Acquired through Tax Foreclosure and Sold by Electronic Auction as Item 2. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

No one spoke at Public Forum.

Community report: Scotland County Reentry Council

Mr. Robert Macy, Scotland Reentry Council Chairman, discussed support services provided to currently and formerly incarcerated people in North Carolina. Mr. Macy provided data and statistics from activities of the past year. Mr. Macy discussed release statistics and the cost of holding people in the County Jail. He discussed what the State is doing to address the issue in the way of assistance with resumes, job services and improving employability. Mr. Macy invited the Commissioners to a community awareness conference June 26 at the National Guard Armory where agencies will discuss what they do for individuals who are currently and formerly incarcerated. Mr. Macy discussed some legislative actions the Council is advocating at the State level as part of Second Chance Lobby Day.

Mr. Macy asked the Commissioners to keep the Reentry Council on the agenda, consider a budget line item for reentry efforts, create a web presence just for reentry and consider down the road employing a transition case manager in the jail.

Resolution

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the Resolution Concerning Disposition of Surplus Properties Previously Owned or Acquired through Tax Foreclosure and Sold by Electronic Auction. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Resolution Concerning Disposition of Surplus Properties Previously Owned or Acquired through Tax Foreclosure and Sold by Electronic Auction

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting on October 6, 2014 the Scotland County Board of Commissioners determined certain real property (i.e. the Speller Building, the Monarch Building as well as all those properties acquired via tax foreclosure and more particularly described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto) to be surplus property and authorized the County Manager to determine a method to proceed with disposal of same by sale; and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting on February 2, 2015, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners, in accord with the recommendation of the County Manager, authorized the execution of a contract with Iron Horse Auction Co., Inc. for the electronic auction of the aforementioned properties; and

WHEREAS, thirteen (13) of the properties described in Exhibit A are jointly owned by Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg and at a regular meeting on March 17, 2015, the City Council of the City of Laurinburg adopted Resolution No. R-2015-04 declaring these thirteen (13) properties to be surplus and authorizing Scotland County to effect the sale of the properties on behalf of the City of Laurinburg; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said contract with Iron Horse Auction Co., Inc., the Scotland County Board of Commissioners authorized and directed Iron Horse Auction Co., Inc. to publish notice of said auction solely by electronic means in accord with N. C. G. S. § 160A-270 (c) with no other means of publication being contemplated or approved or utilized; and

WHEREAS, full electronic publication of notice of the auction occurred as required, and additionally notice of said auction was given via prominent signage (reciting all relevant terms of the auction) clearly displayed on the site of each respective tract; and

WHEREAS, the publication of electronic notice as well as the display of on-site signage occurred at least thirty (30) days prior to the close of the auction on May 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS, bidding on the respective properties sold at auction was brisk and from multiple diverse sources and there have been no complaints regarding less than adequate notice; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the bids on all properties, including those bids for properties owned jointly by the City of Laurinburg and Scotland County, and has determined each to be adequate and reasonable and further determines the acceptance of each to be in the best interest of the County and the City of Laurinburg;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The sale of each property auctioned by Iron Horse Auction Co., Inc. has occurred in accord with its contract with Scotland County, after due advertisement and publication in accord with N. C. G. S. § 160A-270 (c) as authorized and directed by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners.
2. The bid amount for each property on the attached list having been reviewed and considered and deemed reasonable, each bid is accepted.
3. The appropriate officials of Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg are authorized to execute the documents necessary to transfer title to the properties.

Adopted this the 1st day of June, 2015.

Review Animal Control Ordinance amendments

Interim Health Director Wayne Raynor said proposed amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance would strengthen it and make it more enforceable. Mr. Raynor said some definitions were changed and fees added. He discussed fees for civil penalties for the first, second and third violation. Mr. Raynor said language for outside enclosures was strengthened to provide for stricter specifications based on the size of the dog. Language on dogs considered dangerous also

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was strengthened. The ordinance addresses what a person in possession of stray animal should do. Other issues addressed by the ordinance include civil penalties for running at large and restrictions on tethering an animal.

After some discussion about the ordinance, Mr. Raynor said he would provide the Commissioners with the most current version of the ordinance for review and possible action at the July 6 regular meeting.

Liaison Committee report

Vice Chair McCall said the Liaison Committee last met March 17. There are draft minutes and draft Memorandums of Agreement submitted by the respective attorneys for review. A follow up meeting has not yet been scheduled. Vice Chair McCall said one difference in the Memorandum of Agreement from the County is it does not ban either entity from talking to State legislators through June 2018.

Consent Agenda

- a) **Approve minutes of the May 4, 2015, regular meeting and May 20, 2015, May 22, 2015 and May 26, 2015 reconvened meetings.**
- b) **Approve one year contract for audit services conducted by Gustaf C. Lundin & Company, LLP, for the period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.**
- c) **Approve Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults for FY 2015-2016 in the amount of \$365,629, which requires a 10 percent County match in the amount of \$36,563.**
- d) **Approve Health Department additional fees for Child Health Care services.**
- e) **Budget amendments**
 - 1) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$2,415 for Environmental Health Temporary Food and Lodging, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars.**
 - 2) **SCEDC: Authorize the Finance Officer to transfer \$350,000 from Fund Balance to the Scotland County Economic Development Corporation for an interest in a potential industrial site.**
 - 3) **Drug Fund: Approve receipt of federal asset forfeiture funds in the amount of \$10,164, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars.**
 - 4) **EMS: Approve receipt of Department of Public Safety funds in the amount of \$1,104.04, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars.**

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

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Ms. Leatha Garrison to a three-year term on the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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

Availability fees

Mr. Patterson said the solid waste operation is losing money each year and is being subsidized by the general fund through property taxes since current tipping fees do not support self-sufficiency. Mr. Patterson developed solid waste availability fees that would meet current operating and capital costs and accumulate funds for closure and post closure of the landfill in 20 years. Mr. Patterson said an availability fee would be imposed on all improved parcels by address and parcel where there is a structure and an electric meter base.

Mr. Patterson discussed a base fee of \$55 for all parcels and an additional \$30 to all parcels outside municipalities or by address to cover multi-tenant structures. Those who qualify for Homestead Exemption would see a 50 percent reduction in the fee. Government buildings would be exempt as well as the Housing Authority. Mr. Patterson also discussed a flat \$70 per parcel fee. The fee would apply to residential, commercial, industrial, churches and non-profits.

Mr. Patterson said most surrounding counties have an availability fee. Fees at the convenience sites would be waived for County residents. Mr. Patterson said with availability fees it would take 13 years before the solid waste operation has a positive net asset of \$1 or more and before it can begin to generate the revenue for the \$2.9 million for the closure and post closure costs.

After some discussion, the Board of Commissioners by consensus agreed to proceed with consideration of a two fee structure rather than one fee.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said all the 41 properties sold at auction with no restrictions brought in \$282,600, which was the gross amount. Mr. Patterson also provided an update on activities regarding the State budget.

Introduction of 2016 budget

Mr. Patterson, in his role as Budget Officer, said the proposed FY 2015-2016 budget is \$40,403,688. The tax rate would remain at \$1.03. Mr. Patterson said in the current year the \$38.6 million budget was amended to \$40.1 million with major amendments for the increase in school current expense and an FCC incentive.

Mr. Patterson said the FY 2016 budget accounts for an increase in school current expense and a one percent COLA for employees at \$120,000, effective July 16. Mr. Patterson said a step

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
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increases for employees on grade for five or 10 years affects 71 employees at \$94,000. Other changes in the FY 2016 budget include an FCC incentive, three positions that are new, two for the 911 Center for high peak demand times and one IT technician. It funds three elections. The proposed capital budget is \$385,500. There are two new Inspection fees, one for a specific requested hour that is guaranteed and a second for nights, weekends and holidays. The FY 2016 budget uses \$300,000 of Fund Balance for operating expenditures.

Mr. Patterson said not included in capital but still a need is the parking lot at the County complex at \$425,000, the fascia at the library at \$15,000, a record storage facility for DSS and Health at \$225,000 and \$300,000 for the Morgan Center if Golden Leaf approves the RCC application for an expanded nursing educational facility. Mr. Patterson said some County offices would be housed in the Morgan Center. Mr. Patterson recommended that funds from the sale of foreclosed properties be used for the record storage facility behind DSS and Health. Mr. Patterson asked the board to consider choosing some other capital projects to be completed and to appropriate \$450,000 of fund balance for capital items.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to schedule the public hearing on the proposed budget and on availability fees for 7 p.m. Monday, June 15, at the EOC meeting room. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Alford provided the Commissioners with an update on the LRCOG budget, which did not receive a \$400,000 for the coming year and reduced its budget by an additional \$400,000. Commissioner Alford said the LRCOG Board would be reduced from 40 members to 20.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Gholston left at 8:35 p.m.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to recess to 7 p.m. Monday, June 15, at the EOC meeting room. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman