

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
June 6, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
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.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the June 6, 2016, agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Ms. Capujene Wright, speaking as a patient advocate for Fresenius Kidney Care Laurinburg Dialysis Center, said she is concerned that SCATS does not always accommodate the transportation needs of dialysis patients, which puts their health at risk. Ms. Wright cited several instances where that occurred.

Economic Development Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Patterson said the Economic Development budget for FY 2017 is \$954,239 and is directly attributed to economic development services for Scotland County. It includes salary and labor costs, four incentives currently ongoing and membership dues.

Chair McCall called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on the Economic Development budget. No one came forward to comment, and the public hearing was closed

2016-2017 Budget Plan Public Hearing

Mr. Patterson said the FY 2016-2017 proposed budget is \$40,329,012 with \$1.03 tax rate recommended. Mr. Patterson provided a percentage breakdown of how the General Fund would be used. The budget includes \$28 million in property and sales tax revenues.

Mr. Patterson recommended five new positions — one accounting technician, two deputies and two income maintenance caseworkers. Medicaid funding is available for the hiring of a physician and office assistant in the Health Department, but the funds are not recurring. The positions requested by the Health Department would not affect the tax rate.

Recommended capital includes the DSS scanning project, seven Sheriff's vehicles, radio tower repairs and replacement of radio equipment and the radio shelter. A one percent COLA for all employees is recommended as well as a 3/7 years progression plan for qualifying employees. The progression plan is limited to a step 9.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
June 6, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

Mr. Patterson said the tax burden per person, which includes fees, puts Scotland County 57th in the State. The tax rate is highest, but the tax burden is lower than 56 counties in the State. One cent on the tax rate is approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Patterson provided a list of items that would reduce the tax rate by one cent or two cents. Mr. Patterson said he would like to look at additional capital needs over the next several years and taking into consideration the number of capital needs, he could not personally recommend lowering the tax rate. Mr. Patterson said every year there are cuts in departmental budgets in order to maintain the tax rate.

The Solid Waste Operations is \$2.1 million with no change in tipping fees.

Vice Chair Gibson and Commissioner Gholston said there is a real need to reduce the tax rate.

Chair McCall opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 budget plan and asked if anyone wished to comment. No one came forward to comment.

The Commissioners by consensus agreed to continue with a budget work session 1 p.m. June 22 at EOC.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to continue the Public Hearing on the FY 2017 budget plan 7 p.m. Monday, June 27, at the EOC. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Community report: Scotland Arts Council

Scotland Arts Council Executive Director Erin Rembert provided an update on activities in serving the community. Programming was expanded and partnerships strengthened for an inclusive and welcoming home for the arts. Ms. Rembert discussed the fall program. The Arts Council looks forward to a growing relationship with County.

Department of Transportation report on US 15-501 and US 144

NCDOT Division Engineer Brandon Jones gave an analysis of the all-way stop at US 15-501 and US 144, which he described as a quick fix. Mr. Jones said a short-term improvement would be a roundabout while a long-term improvement would be a grade separation with an interchange at the intersection. Mr. Jones said NCDOT would move forward with construction of a \$1.2 million roundabout on the northeast quadrant of the intersection starting some time in 2017 and continuing through spring 2018.

Health Department FY 2017 personnel request

Interim Health Director Wayne Raynor discussed budget cuts in the Health Department since 2011, which affected 11 positions, most of which were not restored. Mr. Raynor discussed how the Health Department expanded services since 2011 but did not add employees. He said single provider issues handicap the provision of services, which results in a loss of revenue. Attempts

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
June 6, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

at alternate solutions were not successful. Mr. Raynor discussed the benefits of hiring a physician and expanding clinic services. Medicaid could be billed at a higher rate and third party insurance could also be billed. Mr. Raynor discussed revenue projections through 2019 where the position would support itself. Mr. Raynor said the position and clinic would be monitored monthly and evaluated in the third year to look at sustainability. Mr. Raynor said the addition of a processing assistant would support the provider. Mr. Raynor said the Health Department would not ask for additional funds three years from now to support the position.

Chair McCall recognized Health Department staff who attended the meeting and thanked them for the work they do.

Consent Agenda

a) Approve minutes of the May 2, 2016, regular meeting and May 4, 2016 budget work session, May 9, 2016, joint session and May 24, 2016 budget work session.

b) Approve one year contract for audit services conducted by Parker, Wagoner & Roche, PLLC, for the period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

c) Approve Tax Office request for April 2016 release of funds in the amount of \$4,931.31, refunds in the amount of \$118.61 and discoveries in the amount of \$6,196.78.

(incorporated by reference)

d) Approve awarding FY 2017 and FY 2018 contract for in home care to Interim Healthcare of Eastern Carolinas, Inc. The contract is administered through the Home and Community Care Block Grant.

e) Approve FY 2017 Home and Community Care Block Grant funds in the amount of \$367,759, of which \$36,776 is the local match.

f) Approve SCATS System Safety Program Plan. The entire plan is available on the Scotland County website at:

<http://www.scotlandcounty.org/Data/Sites/1/media/departments/transportation/draftscatssafetyprogram.pdf>

g) Budget amendments

1) 911 Fund: Transfer funds in the amount of \$329,090 from the General Fund to the 911 Fund as repayment of unrestricted funds to the 911 Board, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies.

2) Health: Approve receipt of State funds for Environmental Health services in Food and Lodging in the amount of \$4,665, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies. No County dollars.

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

Liaison Committee report

Vice Chair Gibson said there was a presentation on a lease-purchase plan similar to what Hoke County used to construct its school. The savings available to Hoke County would not be available to Scotland County and the new school built in Scotland County would be larger.

Policy Committee report

Chair McCall said the Standard of Professionalism was brought to the Commissioners for review at the May 2 regular meeting. It will be the basis for customer service training as well as provide a basic dress code.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to approve the Standard of Professionalism. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

FY 2016 General Fund update

Finance Officer Beth Hobbs reported on revenues and expenditures as of May 31, 2016. Property tax projection as of June 30 would be 93 percent of budget. Ms. Hobbs also discussed general fund projections as of June 30. Fund Balance is estimated at \$12.5 million with \$7.5 unassigned at 18.7 percent.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said the City of Laurinburg proposes the County increase the availability fee to City residents from \$55 to \$85 and waive residential MSW tipping fee to the City. The County would receive \$220,000 versus the \$240,000 the county bills the City. The City Council asks if the Commissioners are open to the idea and willing to discuss it.

Commissioner McCook asked if the City would reduce its garbage fee by a similar amount and pass the savings to the taxpayers.

Mr. Patterson said if the City transports its MSW to St. Paul's it projects a \$140,000 savings. Commissioner McCook said this is really the community's landfill and it would be in the best interest to work together.

The Board by consensus agreed it is open to discussing the proposal further.

Mr. Patterson said the Drug and Crime Committee has quorum problems. It changed its meetings to lunch time and asked to reduce the number of members to five County appointees and five City appointees. It also requests \$500 each from the City, County and schools to fund its lunches.

Mr. Patterson said the Sheriff requests a shooting range on 200 acres owned by the County near the prison. Mr. Patterson suggested the Capital and Facilities Committee look at long term use of the acreage.

Mr. Patterson and Ms. Hobbs met with Davenport Financial Consultants to look at the scope of work for school construction. Cost of retaining Davenport services would not exceed \$30,000. Scope of work would take four to five weeks to complete.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
June 6, 2016, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

Vice Chair Gibson suggested the County get quotes from financial consultants other than Davenport. Mr. Patterson said the Davenport prices are not out of line.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to move forward with contracting scope of work services not to exceed \$30,000. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook 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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

The Commissioners by consensus agreed that the County Manager look at other financial services consultant options for a scope of work study for school expansion and new construction.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to recess to 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 22, at the Emergency Operations Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Carol McCall
Chair