

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

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

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

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

Public Forum

No one from the public spoke.

Chair McCall recognized library staff and advisory board members and read the following proclamation:

**Proclamation Recognizing Scotland County Memorial Library
for 75 Years of Service to the Community**

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Library officially opened August 28, 1941, occupying the second floor of the former Goodwin home at the corner of Cronly and Atkinson Streets in Laurinburg; and

WHEREAS, after six years of planning and work by community members, the Scotland County Library moved to a new location at the Ed Guest Building next to the First United Methodist Church at the corner on Atkinson and West Church Streets on December 11, 1950; and

WHEREAS, the library's name was officially changed to Scotland County Memorial Library, the first memorial library in North Carolina dedicated to the men and women who fought in World War II, and had the added distinction of being the first new library building erected in the state since the World War II; and

WHEREAS, the library opened in its current location at 312 West Church Street in October 1967 built with \$80,000 in private donations, a \$92,000 federal grant and \$45,000 from the sale of its old building; and

WHEREAS, the new building was designed to accommodate twice the number of books as the old facility, allow for additional research and study space, and have a community room which could handle a meeting of 50 people; and

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WHEREAS, Scotland County Memorial Library is a full-service public library and also operates a bookmobile.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners celebrates that milestone and is grateful to Scotland County Memorial Library for 75 years of service to the community.

Commissioner Davis introduced Health Director Kristen Patterson, who said it's an honor to be back home to serve her own County and community.

Public Hearing: Local economic incentive grant

Chairman McCall opened the Public Hearing. No one came forward to comment and the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Patterson said the incentive grant is for the Pioneer warehouse expansion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Pioneer incentive agreement pending review by the County Attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Vice Chair Gibson referred to the July 11 meeting in which Mr. Jerry Riggins was appointed to the Tourism Development Authority, an appointment Vice Chair Gibson described as shortsighted and acted upon with information that should have been verified. Vice Chair Gibson said after conversations with Mr. Jerry Riggins and Mr. Ron Riggins, who currently serves on the TDA and applied for reappointment, Mr. Jerry Riggins withdrew his name from consideration.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to reverse the July 11 appointment and reappoint Mr. Ron Riggins to the Tourism Development Authority. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Gibson discussed Historic Properties where there are more people wishing to serve than there are vacancies. Vice Chair Gibson said he consulted Ms. Amy Bason at NCACC for advice. Ms. Bason suggested each Commissioner vocalize their top three nominees for the Historic Properties vacancies. County Attorney Johnston would record the selection. The three who receive the most nominations would fill the positions.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to use that apparatus in order to select nominees for Historic Properties. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Each Commissioner was given an opportunity to discuss any preference they might have for applicants. Historic Properties Chairman Lee Gaunt said that in the past, Historic Properties

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members usually recommended individuals who wish to serve again but the commission would abide by the decision made by the Board. Vice Chair Gibson suggested the Historic Properties Commission might extend associate membership to the three who are not appointed.

Following voice selection of nominees the following action was taken:

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to appoint Mr. J.P. Locklear and reappoint Mr. Marcus Norton and Mr. John F. Stewart to the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to appoint Mr. Jeremy Baker to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The Commissioners took voice nominations for the top two candidates for the Laurinburg/Scotland County Drug and Crime Committee and the following action was taken:

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Ms. Debbie Saunders and Mr. Brian Gibson to the Laurinburg/Scotland County Drug and Crime Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to appoint Mr. John Alford to Southeastern Community and Family Services. Vote: In Favor: Chair McCall, Vice Chair Gibson and Commissioners Davis, Gholston and McCook. Vote: Against: Commissioner McPhatter. Motion approved.

June 30, 2016 Tax Settlement

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton presented the tax settlement for 2015 including charges to the tax collector and credits to the tax collector. Ms. Norton itemized delinquent taxes and provided an update on tag and tax together and solid waste availability fee collections. Collection rate at the respective year end is 95.22 percent.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to approve that tax settlement for June 30, 2015. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Before continuing with the meeting Chair McCall recognized Mayor Matthew Block, who was in attendance.

Consent Agenda

- a) Approve minutes of the July 11, 2016, regular meeting.
- b) Approve Tax Office request for June 2016 release of funds in the amount of \$26.84 and in the amount of \$4,265.87, and discoveries in the amount of \$343.06.
(Incorporated by reference)
- c) Approve the final FY 2016 allocation table for the Home and Community Care

Block Grant.

d) Approve the appointment of Ms. Sheila Swift to the Lumber River Council of Governments Regional Aging Advisory Council.

e) Approve Public Buildings request to surplus a 1999 Chevy S-10 truck VIN: 1GCC51945YK120119.

f) Approve Health Department request to surplus a 2007 Chevy Colorado VIN: 1GC55149188125995.

g) Approve request by the E911 Center to surplus two computer monitor stands that were used when 911 was at EMS and authorize transfer of the computer monitor stands to the Pembroke Police Department for its police communications.

h) **Budget Amendments:**

1) **DSS:** Approve carryover of unspent private donations received FY 2016 in the amount of \$2,500, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.

2) **Emergency Management:** Approve roll forward of funds in the amount of \$13,770 to cover project costs in FY 2017, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.

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

DSS Child Support Unit progress report

DSS Director April Snead reported on how the October 2015 approval by the Commissioners of new position in Child Support resulted in progress and successes in the unit. Staff increased from 11 to 12 as a result. Ms. Snead noted that for the first time the State proclaimed August as Child Support Awareness month.

Ms. Snead discussed efforts conducted by DSS to locate people to pay child support who were not currently doing so. Ms. Snead said 169 people were located with cooperation from the Sheriff's Department. The caseload per member was reduced from 474 to 375. Ms. Snead said Child Support met 12 of 13 State goals, which means more funds will be received from the State for the local Child Support program. More than 100 percent of goal was collected, an estimated \$4.9 million. Ms. Snead also discussed federal goals met, which increased 20 percent.

Ms. Snead said receiving approval for the additional position had a dramatic impact on what the agency accomplished. Ms. Snead also discussed accomplishments in the other DSS units.

LGC letter regarding County audit and response

Finance Officer Beth Hobbs discussed the fiscal year audit letter from LGC where two issues were noted that needed to be corrected. One issue included the deficit in the Solid Waste fund, which was addressed by implementing the availability fee. The other issue addressed the emergency telephone system fund expenditures that exceeded the amount in the budget ordinance. Ms. Hobbs said that has since been corrected.

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Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said Laurinburg is now hauling its MSW to Robeson County. Mr. Patterson recommended the County look to stop accepting commercial leaf and limb and give a 30-day notice with it. Mr. Patterson said Laurinburg has a one year agreement with Robeson County and it would like to be in the negotiation process with the transfer station, which could be a benefit. The City is interested in having a joint meeting on the topic of solid waste.

Mr. Patterson said the Sheriff's Department received a United Way award in the amount of \$7,070 for protecting at-risk citizens from getting lost.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to approve receipt of funds for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$7,070, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chair McCall said it is time for Commissioners to evaluate the County Manager. A date will be set in September to review the evaluation.

Mr. Patterson gave an update on the HVAC system at the Courthouse. Chair McCall thanked Mike McGirt for his work at the Courthouse.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to go into Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson to recess to 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 2, at the SBIC. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Carol McCall
Chair