

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
August 3, 2015, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
August 3, 2015 A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352**

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Betty Blue Gholston and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. 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. Chairman McCook called the meeting to order. Commissioner Davis delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the August 3 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Mr. Sherman McNeill asked how close a livestock operation could be built to a residential area.

Chairman McCook directed Mr. Patterson to respond to Mr. McNeill.

Mr. Bill Stubbs, Scotland County, said installation of a four-way stop at US 15-501 would be a disaster. Mr. Stubbs said a four-way stop would not stop or slow down traffic and he is worried lives would be lost.

Ms. Donna Ransom asked why she would have to pay an \$85 trash fee for service she does not receive.

Chairman McCook said fees at convenience sites are waived for up to 10 bags a week.

Mr. Bengie Hair was introduced as the new Health Director.

Community report: Presentation on Scotland Arts Council grant

Mr. McNair Evans is the administrator of a two-year grant for a project called Echode, which catalogs and makes available Scotland County history in photographs and documents online. Mr. Evans said identifying preexisting archives is the first phase. The second phase will be to produce them as public art installations. Mr. Evans said people can upload documents to the website and tell a story about it. Echode is a consolidated voice online.

Report from the Schools

Public Information Officer Meredith Bounds discussed curriculum review week, a summer initiative that solicits recommendations and adjustments moving forward into the next year. Teachers were afforded a greater voice in the process across the district. Ms. Bounds identified the principal school assignments. She discussed the construction going on at Sycamore Lane to accommodate elementary school students and the implementation of corner stops. The bus will stop at a center point rather than at every single house. None of the routes will be longer than an hour.

Child Fatality Prevention Team 2014 annual report

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CFPT Chair Carlotta Rivers reviewed the case data and trends in North Carolina child death. Ms. Rivers said in 2013 child death in Scotland County at 4.5 was at an all-time low in comparison to 7 in the State child death rate. Ms. Rivers said the two cases reviewed were non-injury related. She asked the Commissioners to approve the list of names on the Child Fatality Protection Team.

Community Child Protection Team 2014 annual report

CCPT member April Snead said the Community Child Protection Team focuses on prevention of death, abuse and neglect. Six cases were presented and the CCPT looked to identify trends and make recommendations. Substance abuse and mental health disorder are two trends. Ms. Snead discussed awareness programs as part of the prevention campaign. Ms. Snead asked the Commissioners to approve the list of CCPT members for 2015.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the Child Fatality Protection Team and Community Child Protection Team for 2015. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Settlement for Current Year Taxes

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton discussed current year taxes as of June 2015 and total credits as of June 2015. She discussed prior year delinquent taxes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Settlement for Current Year Taxes as of June 30, 2015 and the Settlement for Delinquent Taxes as of June 30, 2015. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the June 22, 2015 reconvened meeting; July 6, 2015 regular meeting and July 8, 2015 special meeting.**
- b) **Approve Public Works request to surplus a 1977 REX 370 Compactor, Serial#HFR-192-T and a 1995 Ford Super Duty Truck, VIN#1FDLF47F9SEA34761.**
- c) **Budget Amendments:**
 1. **DSS: Approve carryover of unexpended adoption funds in the amount of \$99,883, which were awarded in the previous year, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the monies. No County dollars.**
 2. **Emergency Management: Approve rollover funds from FY 2015 to FY 2016 in the amount of \$18,699, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the monies. No County dollars.**

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

Liaison Committee update

Vice Chair McCall discussed final draft of the funding agreement between the School Board and the Commissioners, which was the result of a 13-month process. The Board of Education approved it in July and the agreement is ready for a formal vote and signature by the Commissioners. Commissioner Gibson said a significant part of the agreement is the constructive communication and cooperation that took place over the past 13 months.

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Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Joint Agreement for Funding of the Scotland County Schools between the Scotland County Board of Education and the Scotland County Board of Commissioners. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Scotland County Economic Development Corporation update

County Manager Patterson provided an update on the search for an economic developer. He said the SCEDC is engaged in conversations on ways of changing its vision and scope and its potential memberships. Chairman McCook said the SCEDC successes are great but there is a long way to go. Chairman McCook said it is important to find the right person to lead the economic development effort, which requires patience as the SCEDC moves in that direction.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to appoint Mr. John Lewis 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 Alford to reappoint Mr. Ken Jackson and Mr. Hal Jernigan to three-year terms on the Laurinburg/Scotland County Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to reappoint Ms. Kyle Bethel and Ms. Carole Gaskill and to appoint Mr. Rodney Hassler to four-year terms on the Scotland Memorial Library Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said the Sheriff has a plan to transfer Animal Control to his department. The Sheriff will work with the Health Director on the plan. Commissioner Davis said the plan has not been discussed with the Board of Health and, although the Commissioners have final say, Commissioner Davis would hope the governing body would be guided by the wishes of the Health Board.

Mr. Patterson said the NCACC endorsed a NACo resolution supporting the Stepping Up initiative to reduce the number of people with mental health issues that are being housed in County jails and hospital ERs. Commissioner Gholston said she appreciates the intent of the resolution but there is no funding.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to adopt the Resolution Approving the Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**Resolution Approving the Stepping Up Initiative to
Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails**

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated two million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jails each year; and,

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WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in confinement facilities are three to six times higher than for the general population, with statistics showing that almost 13 percent of North Carolina's prison population requires some type of intervention due to mental health issues; and,

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and,

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and,

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and,

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals, their families, and their communities; and,

WHEREAS, county jails are generally an unsafe environment for those with mental health treatment needs; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has undertaken a serious effort to address the local service needs of those with mental illnesses through the appointment of a special Task Force; and,

WHEREAS, Scotland County, like all counties, takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient, safe and socially just ways; and,

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up Initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging counties to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners that:

1. the Board of Commissioners does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail and commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in North Carolina and across the country to support the Stepping Up Initiative; and,
2. the Board of Commissioners will utilize resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative and other resources provided by the Council of State Governments Justice Center to convene a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies who are committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, and,
3. the team will utilize the comprehensive resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative to develop a plan to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the county jail for 2016-2020, consistent with the Council of State Governments Justice Center report and recommendations, to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its first meeting in December 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED in this 3rd day of August, 2015.

The Commissioners discussed the scheduling conflict with the September 8 regular meeting because of a Business and Economic Development Summit in Washington, DC, September 8 and 9.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to change the date of the next regular meeting to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 10, with a location to be determined. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said NCDOT will install a four-way stop at five-points intersection August 19, which will be temporary. Mr. Patterson said future plans might be a roundabout, a split on Old Wire so it is no longer a straight through or divided highway with right turn only and a turnabout on each end further down. The Commissioners expressed concern about a four-way stop, which might be a more dangerous situation than leaving the intersection the way it is.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to send a cover letter and resolution to NCDOT asking the agency to reassess its plans for the intersection so that a permanent fix will be installed rather than a temporary one and for NCDOT to make a recommendation to the Commissioners. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson discussed the tiered availability fee, which is \$85 on improved structures in the County and \$55 for improved structures in a municipal boundary. There is a 50 percent reduction for Homestead exemption. Fees for household trash and recycling at the convenience sites and landfill for up to 10 bags a week have been eliminated. As for those who contract with a private hauler or who have their municipality haul trash pay for the collection service only. All the waste is brought to the County or outside the county, which has to have the facility in place to dispose of all the waste.

Mr. Patterson said for a number of years the County solid waste program was in the red, and the LGC instructed the County to reduce costs or generate revenues. Mr. Patterson said costs have been reduced to bare minimum and the revenue had to come from somewhere other than tax dollars because the solid waste operation must fund itself from revenue it generates. The County Manager said effort is being made to get information out as broadly as possible but getting true market saturation in the area is extremely difficult. Mr. Patterson said he is open to any ideas to improve that communication.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Davis said the community of Ghio wants its road sign put back up. Commissioner Davis said NCDOT cannot put a sign up because it is not on the County map even though Ghio is on the State map.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adopt a resolution recognizing Ghio as a city and forward the resolution to NCDOT requesting it put the road sign up. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to formally endorse Senate Bill 369 by resolution regarding the redistribution of sales tax based on per capita rather than point of sale. 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)(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.

Ms. Kurtzman was excused from the closed session meeting and returned when open session resumed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to return to open session. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Open Session Resumed

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Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to approve a four percent salary increase for County Manager Kevin Patterson. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman McCook praised Mr. Patterson for the good job he is doing. Chairman McCook said the County Manager frequently takes the brunt of criticism from the community that is not necessarily earned. Chairman McCook said the Commissioners support Mr. Patterson and appreciate what he does.

Mr. Patterson gave an update on IT activities and the significant virus that affected the County server. Mr. Patterson said IT will meet with departments throughout the year to ensure valid dialogue continues.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman