

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
August 4, 2014, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners August 4, 2014 regular meeting
A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley, Bob Davis, Whit Gibson and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman

At 7 p.m. Chairman McCook called the meeting to order. Chairman McCook delivered the invocation. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the August 4, 2014 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Ms. Brenda Gilbert and **Ms. Jan Schmidt** of the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast introduced new Executive Director Erin Rembert. Ms. Gilbert and Ms. Schmidt asked the Commissioners to endorse SACS as the Arts Council of Scotland County because the County is the only county in State without an arts council. The two said SACS has the capacity to do that job, and the designation would open grant opportunities, give the County an arts council brand and would promote artists and events without any fiduciary responsibility for the County.

The Board of Commissioners, by consensus, agreed to take up the request as the first order of business on the agenda.

Ms. Vicky Bodiford and **Mr. Mark Locklear** said they are concerned about Scotland Cemetery, which is in foreclosure, and concerned about people who purchased plots. Mr. Locklear said he also is concerned for public safety at the cemetery. No one is tending the grass, and fire ants are taking over the graveyard. He said relatives have to cut grass for their loved ones, and there are no more security lights. Mr. Locklear said vandalism could be a problem.

Chairman McCook said there is no short term answer. He said although the County is not in the cemetery business what is happening at Scotland Cemetery is an issue that needs further discussion in the community. Chairman McCook said the County Manager would contact Mr. Locklear and Ms. Bodiford following further study.

No one else spoke and Public Forum was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to write a letter in support of the request by the Storytelling and Arts Center of the Southeast to be designated as the Arts Council of Scotland County. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Report from the schools

Public Information Officer Meredith Bounds discussed highlights of summer activities in the schools including reading camp, summer reading challenge, Junior Leadership and summer slide.

Update on the fascia project

Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt provided an update on the fascia project at the government complex, which will be put out for bid. He described the color, material and life expectancy of the fascia to be installed, which will cost an estimated \$60,000. Once begun, the project will take about 90 days to complete. Mr. McGirt said funds for the fascia at the library would be requested in next year's budget.

Settlement for Current Year Taxes

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton discussed tax settlement for all taxes for 2013 both current and delinquent. She discussed historical collections since 2003 and provided information on the Zacchaeus accounts. Chairman McCook directed the County Manager to bring a recommendation to the next month meeting regarding a new foreclosures contract.

Consent Agenda

- a) **Approve minutes of the July 8, 2014, regular meeting and July 24, 2014 special meeting.**
- b) **Approve transfer of Income Maintenance Caseworker I position to Income Maintenance Caseworker II in DSS.**
- c) **Approve Tax Department request for June 2014 to release of funds in the amount of \$111.79 and \$1,547.97, refunds in the amount of \$697.28 and discoveries in the amount of \$1,051.11. (*incorporated by reference*)**
- d) **Approve surplus of Parks and Recreation 2000 Dodge Center Isle Van VIN# 2B6LB31Z4YK179325.**
- e) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **Health: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$3,413 and in the amount of \$13,260 for two WIC programs, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.**
 - 2) **DSS: Approve carryover from prior year of Child Support incentive funds in the amount of \$99,719, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars.**
 - 3) **Parks and Recreation: Approve increase in expenditures for Senior Programs in the amount of \$13,000 for FY 2014-2015 to match the \$13,000 in revenues, and direct the Finance Officer to make changes to the budget as required.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: In Favor: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair McCall and Commissioners Alford, Davis, Gibson and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioner Cooley. Motion approved.

General Fund Balance report

Deputy Finance Officer Beth Hobbs provided a preliminary report on fund balance, which was at 13.92 percent in FY 2013 for unassigned and is projected at 13.55 percent for unassigned at FY 2014.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to reappoint Ms. Freddie Davis, Ms. June Harrell, Mr. Bob Ussery, Mr. Frank Scott, Ms. Sue Shulz and Ms. Katherine Allen to three-year terms on the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Availability Fee Plan

Mr. Patterson discussed availability fee options on improved properties as part of a long-term solid waste plan. Mr. Patterson said of the counties surveyed, they all do it differently as far as fee structure for inside and outside the county. Mr. Patterson presented fee possibilities that would satisfy landfill closure and post-closure costs in 15 and 20 years. Mr. Patterson said some counties do charge a per unit rate for apartment complexes.

Mr. Patterson recommend that the Policy Committee meet to develop a plan for the Board of Commissioners to consider.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus referred the availability fee plan to the Policy Committee for study.

Mr. Patterson said he met with Waste Management. The company plans to open a landfill in Randolph County, and it would like to submit a proposal to take care of the County waste stream.

County Manager report

Z.V. Pate approached the County about a lease for the Sneads Grove convenience site for \$1,800 a year, which is the same as the Livingston Quarters lease. Up until now there was no lease or cost to the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve a Sneads Grove lease agreement with Z.V. Pate for \$1,800, which is similar to that of the Livingston Quarters lease, with final review by the County Attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman McCook asked that a time frame be included for termination of lease.

Mr. Patterson said DOT maintenance projects include a number of bridges, paving projects, turn lanes into FCC and an overpass at Old Wire and 501 with a flyover and access back to 501.

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Notice should come out from TAC to do its final awarding of points for the TIP. 401 South has a good possibility of funding in the seven-year plan.

Mr. Patterson said the radio tower lease with WLNC was forwarded to Curtis Media, which would own equipment on the tower. Curtis Media had one significant change in the lease where cancellation can occur with a 30-day notice, although WLNC is asking for a six-month notice, and the County would approve the contractor who would install equipment on the tower.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the concept for the WLNC tower contract, with final review by the County Attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said a bedbug infestation caused the 911 Center to move to Richmond County EMS over the weekend so Scotland County EMS could be treated. Mr. Patterson said the County plans to bring in a State epidemiologist to work with County staff to review protocols. Mr. Patterson said the 911 center was temporarily moved without significant incident.

Commissioner comments

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Robby Hall for his service as DSS Director and wished him the best on his new position at DSS in Richmond County. Chairman McCook estimated the replacement process might take six months or longer.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley 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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Commissioner Gibson asked the Board to provide the Commissioners who are on the Liaison Committee with some input and guidance as it works to develop a funding plan for the schools.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman