

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
September 10, 2015, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the September 10, 2015 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

No one spoke at Public Forum.

TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) update

Ms. Janet Robertson, Rural Transportation Organization Planner for the LRCOG, discussed the 2013 Implementation of the Transportation Investment Legislation Program. Ms. Robertson said since transportation infrastructure needs are increasing while revenues are decreasing, the legislation addressed the gap and established a new formula set. Ms. Robertson said the formula favors high population areas. Scotland County priority projects like the widening of US 401 from South Carolina to Raeford and the US 74 interstate project will not receive funding at this time.

Community report: Crime and Drug Committee activities

Mr. Noran Sanford, Chairman of the Crime and Drug Committee, asked the Commissioners to approve the change of meeting day from the first Monday to the first Thursday of the month, eliminate the secretary position and reduce the committee size by two members, one from the City and one from the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston to approve the change in meeting day, eliminate the secretary position and reduce the Crime and Drug Committee by two members including one from the County and one from the City. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Sanford discussed three priority programs the committee will focus on this year: a gang awareness workshop, consolidation of information on low cost and no cost events for youth that will be updatable in electronic form and organize a community grief response for loss of a young

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person 16 or younger to violent crime. The grief response group would also reach out to any family member who lost a loved one in the line of duty.

County expenditures and revenues update

Finance Officer Beth Hobbs updated the Commissioners on revenues and expenditures as of June 30, 2015. Ms. Hobbs said Fund Balance was at 20.44 percent as of June 30, 2015 and the County spent 91 percent of the overall 2015 budget, which brought revenues in over expenditures.

Consent Agenda

- a) **Approve minutes of the July 30, 2015 special meeting and August 3, 2015 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve resolution authorizing the sale of retired K9 Captain Lola to her handler.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF RETIRED K-9 CAPTAIN LOLA

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department finds that K-9 Captain Lola can no longer perform as required for her job because of her age and health issues; and

WHEREAS, NCGS §160A-266(d) permits the Scotland County Board of Commissioners to authorize the disposition of personal property that is without value; and

WHEREAS, handler Lt. Danny McClellan has agreed to purchase retired K-9 Lola from the County of Scotland in the amount of \$1.00 and upon accepting custody of the dog will assume all liability and responsibility for the care of the animal for the remainder of its life.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners authorizes the purchase of K-9 Lola by handler Lt. Danny McClellan for the amount of \$1.00.

Approved this 10th day of September, 2015

- c) **Approve release of funds in the amount of \$83.50, release of funds in the amount of \$12,570.13, refunds in the amount of \$25.95, refunds in the amount of \$1,660.17 and discoveries in the amount of \$5,884.69.**

- d) **Approve Scotland County Memorial Library request to forgive the fines of 509 patrons totaling \$3,239.70.**

- e) **Approve Health Department request to add Fern Test fees, fees for new lab services and updated LabCorp Services fees.**

f) Budget Amendments:

1. **Health: Approve receipt of Ebola Preparedness grant in the amount of \$20,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies within the fiscal year. No County dollars.**
2. **Library: Approve receipt of revenues from collection of fines in the amount of \$11,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the monies.**
3. **Sheriff: Approve receipt of funds from Murphy-Brown in the amount of \$2,500 for the purchase of a K9, 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.

Update on activities in the Sheriff's Department and in the Jail

Sheriff Ralph Kersey provided an update on activities in the Office of the Sheriff, which include relocating the deputies from Covington Street back to the Sheriff's Department, establishing gun permits in the former telecommunications office and replacing the old card system with access to the Courthouse. The CID van was repainted and is used as an SRO vehicle for schools and for special events. The road division is now wearing body cameras. Detention officer and SRO uniforms now include polo shirts, which reduces the cleaning bill. Sheriff Kersey also discussed programs to improve outreach to the public.

Sheriff Kersey said the recent inspection of the Detention Center produced the best report since 1994.

Sheriff Kersey said one problem now facing his department is that four deputies on each shift are often reduced to two because deputies are responsible for mental health transport, which averages about 40 times a month.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to reappoint Ms. Freddie Davis to a four-year term on the Scotland Memorial Library Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said the Solid Waste Availability Fee resolution specifically authorizes the tax administrator to collect availability fees.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adopt the Resolution approving solid waste availability fees to be billed and collected as property taxes. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Resolution approving solid waste availability fees to be billed and collected as property taxes

WHEREAS, Scotland County operates solid waste collection and disposal facilities in areas outside the corporate limits of a city; and

WHEREAS, according to G.S. §153A-292, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners may impose a fee for the collection of solid waste, which may not exceed the costs of collection; and

WHEREAS, the fee for availability may be imposed on all improved property in the County that benefits from the availability of the facility.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners that Scotland County solid waste fees shall be billed and collected as property taxes and once added to the property tax bill, the fees are subject to the same collection remedies as property taxes.

Approved this, the 10th day of September, 2015.

Mr. Patterson said the water tanks repair and renovation scope of work for bids is being drafted and expects to go out for bid in December with bid opening in February. Work is expected to begin in March.

The following resolutions, approved by the Commissioners at the August 3 meeting, were included in the agenda for review:

Resolution recognizing Ghio as a community in Scotland County

WHEREAS, Ghio is a community located along Highway 381 between the Town of Gibson and the Richmond County line; and

WHEREAS, subdivisions are located in Ghio and described by several online mapping sites as a populated place located in Scotland County at latitude 34.817 and longitude -79.651 with a geographical location in Scotland County, North Carolina, United States, North America with geographical coordinates: 34° 49' 0" North, 79° 39' 4" West; and

WHEREAS, according to Accurate Maps & Atlas, Inc., in Columbia, SC, Ghio is identified on the Scotland County map as being located just below what was known as Ghio Road and is currently known as County Line Road; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners recognizes Ghio as a community within the boundaries of Scotland County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners asks the North Carolina Department of Transportation to likewise recognize Ghio as a Scotland County community and place a road sign that says Ghio at the intersection of Ghio and Tabernacle roads.

Approved this, the 3rd day of August, 2015.

**Resolution by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners
in support of Senate Bill 369**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Senate introduced Senate Bill 369, an act to phase-in the conversion of the local sales and use taxes authorized under Articles 39, 40 and 42 to a state sales and use tax that is allocated to counties and cities on a per capita basis as a local revenue source, which is also known as the Sales Tax Fairness Act; and

WHEREAS, the Act would eliminate most local sales taxes, such as county-levied sales taxes, and convert them to a State sales tax, the funds of which would be distributed to counties and cities primarily based on population; and

WHEREAS, currently a disproportionate share of tax revenue is being redistributed to urban, prosperous areas of the State, where large shopping malls and commercial centers lure rural neighbors to drive in and leave their hard-earned sales tax dollars outside the communities they live in; and

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WHEREAS, Scotland County is one of 83 rural counties that stands to benefit from Senate Bill 369 because it would realize more than \$3.5 million in sales tax revenue in FY 2018-2019 over the current allocation, \$700,000 of which would be distributed to Scotland County; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 369 has broad bipartisan support among State legislators who represent the 83 rural counties.

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners would like the sales tax to retain its nature as a local sales and use tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 369 with the modification that the sales tax not be converted to a State sales and use tax and that it be distributed based primarily on population, and we urge Governor Pat McCrory to reconsider his intention to veto Senate Bill 369.

Approved this, the 3rd day of August, 2015.

Resolution opposing the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of US15-501 and Old Wire Road in Scotland County

WHEREAS, the intersection of US15-501 and Old Wire Road (NC 144), also known as five points, is identified as the most dangerous intersection in Scotland County because of the number of accidents that occur there and their severity; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation intends to install a four-way stop at the intersection as a temporary measure in the hopes of mitigating the dangers of the intersection; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners believes a four-way stop at the intersection would not address the source of the problem which is the inadequate sight distance on the north side of the intersection and the angle at which NC 144 intersects US15 501; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners individually and as a governing body have received input from Scotland County citizens who insist that a four-way stop at the intersection would create a more hazardous traffic situation and who contend that the number of accidents and severity of bodily damage would not be reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners opposes the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of US15-501 and Old Wire Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina Department of Transportation reconsider installing a four-way stop at the intersection of US15-501 and Old Wire Road and instead develop and implement a permanent and effective safety solution.

Approved this, the 3rd day of August, 2015.

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

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Carol McCall
Chairman