

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

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

Public Forum

Mr. Ulysses O. Thomas, 1124 South Caledonia Road, #10 District Commander, American Legion Post, asked the County to get involved in a joint venture with the City and Legion Post to build a community building on land at 421 McKenzie Street the Post would donate. The community center would be similar to the Wagram Recreation Center. The current building on the property would have to be torn down. Size of the lot and cost are not known.

Ms. Marcella Danielle Eubanks, Bravery Kids Gym, 8868 Elm Street, Fayetteville, a gym for children with special needs that offers classes and events and is inclusive — everyone is accepted regardless of ability. Bravery Kids also donates to organizations with similar goals and to schools who work with special needs children. Ms. Eubanks asked the Board to consider a grant to help underprivileged families. A donation would be made to schools in Scotland County if the funds are extended to Bravery Kids. Scotland County children also would be able to attend Bravery Kids as a destination location. Ms. Eubanks said she wants Bravery Kids to impact other areas because her vision extends well beyond that of Cumberland County.

Mr. Bryan Graham, Parks and Recreation Director, applied for and received a United Way grant in the amount of \$6,500 for the purchase of new football helmets for youth. Mr. Graham said youth football is the most expensive sport and each helmet cost \$74 plus tax. Mr. Graham showed the technology inside a new helmet compared to that of an older helmet and how its design helps reduce potential brain injury. The life of a helmet is 10 years but it can be updated to prolong the life.

Vice Chair Gibson recognized Mayor Matthew Block, who was in attendance.

Policy Committee update

Vice Chair Gibson discussed the August 3 meeting that included discussions on a pay plan along with two or three other issues. No specific action was taken at the meeting and no recommendations were brought to the Board.

Before continuing to the next agenda item, Vice Chair Gibson read the first and last paragraphs of the Eastpointe Proclamation recognizing September as National Recovery Month.

Liaison Committee update

Commissioner McCook said the August 9 meeting continued with a review of the school's consolidation plan, the financial report from First Tryon and how that might affect the County's ability to move forward

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with financing any new construction. Commissioner McCook said additional information from the schools about the expansion project is expected. The next Liaison Committee meeting is September 19.

Consent Agenda

- a) **Approve minutes of the August 1, 2016, regular meeting, August 2, 2016 joint meeting and August 30, 2016, joint meeting.**
- b) **Approve Tax Office request for July 2016 release of funds in the amount of \$217.08 and in the amount of \$3,875.93, and discoveries in the amount of \$4,191.78.**
- c) **Approve Sheriff's request to reclassify a Deputy I 62-4 to an Investigator 67-4, which is within budget.**
- d) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **DSS: Approve carryover of funds from FY 2016 in the amount of \$34,703 for IV-D Incentives, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
 - 2) **Parks and Recreation: Approve United Way grant in the amount of \$6,500 for the purchase of football helmets, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
 - 3) **Soil and Water: Approve carryover of funds from FY 2016 in the amount of \$200 for office supplies, 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 Commissioner McCook to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Vice Chair Gibson said Southeastern Community and Family Services is updating its bylaws and would be ready to accept nominations for appointment soon.

Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said permits were signed for repainting and repairs for the water towers, which is the first step in the process before the project is put out to bid.

Mr. Patterson said the Laurinburg Maxton Airport licensed operator will serve as the primary service agent for the wastewater plant at Cascades while the City of Laurinburg will serve as backup. Currently the plant is industrial and can treat up to 1.2 million gallons of wastewater a day. Mr. Patterson said there is a possibility funding from the State could be used to upgrade it to a sanitary water system.

Mr. Patterson said if a former owner, family member or direct neighbor is interested in purchasing property acquired through foreclosure process, it can be done as long as they pay all back taxes and other costs to make County whole again. Mr. Patterson presented bids on three foreclosed properties subject to Board approval.

The three bids are for four parcels. Bid one is for two parcels on North Turnpike Road with an offer of \$5,186.06. The second bid is \$3,105.33 for a parcel on Gilchrist Street in Wagram. The third bid is for \$1,800.28 on a parcel where a brother and sister own the trailer, and they want to buy the land it sits on.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the three bids. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Mr. Patterson reviewed the NCACC legislative goals, which are basically the top five goals from last year. Mr. Patterson said the expanded sales tax is still not certain, which is a concern and so there is a sixth goal, oppose legislation that would erode the existing revenue stream.

The goals are as follows:

- Support continued state funding of Medicaid and support efforts by the state to provide healthcare access for all citizens.
- Seek legislation to restore the statutory requirement that 40% of the net lottery proceeds be allocated to counties for school capital needs and increase the annual appropriation of lottery funds until the 40% allocation is restored.
- Seek legislation to repeal the statutory authority under N.C. G.S. 115C-43l(c) that allows local school boards to file suit against a county board of commissioners over county appropriations for education.
- Oppose any shift of state transportation responsibilities to counties.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of state responsibilities to counties.
- Oppose legislation that erodes the existing local revenue base.

Mr. Patterson recommended the six goals be approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to support the six legislative goals recommended by the County Manager.

Discussion: Commissioner McCook said there is concern about ongoing preservation efforts with people buying land that is taken off the tax books and ends up in the conservancy, put in game lands or donated to the State. Since the game lands produce revenue for the State, the County should receive some payment in lieu of taxes. Commissioner McCook said the issue is worth a conversation and continued push. Commissioner Davis said Senator Tom McInnis and another senator are in the process of putting a bill together to address the issue.

Vote: Motion to support the six legislative goals unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson presented a PowerPoint on schools and how schools are about the economy. The community where you would want to live should have the standard of a literate society, and that would be a base academic standard. Mr. Patterson said it is important to take the longer view when it comes to providing schools and education. Mr. Patterson said the County would have to make continued investments based on the age of the schools currently. The best return on investment, is a primary concern. We'll need schools but what will they look like.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to recess to 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 4, at the A.B. Gibson Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Whit Gibson
Vice Chair