

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
June 10, 2013 Budget Work Session/Reconvened Meeting  
507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 5 p.m. Chairman Guy McCook reconvened the meeting for a budget work session. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Cooley and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer Charles Nichols and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Davis opened with a prayer.

**Resolution regarding drug testing for public assistance clients**

The Commissioners reviewed the resolution based on the June 6 report with recommendations presented by DSS Director Robby Hall. Commissioner Gibson asked that some grammatical issues be corrected to make the resolution easier to understand.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Resolution in Support of Legislation for Drug Testing of Social Services Program Recipients with corrections noted. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Resolution in Support of Legislation for Drug Testing of  
Social Services Program Recipients**

**WHEREAS**, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners supports legislation regarding drug testing of Social Services program recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, despite that support, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners does have concern regarding administration and funding of a program for drug testing of Social Services recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners agrees with the concerns presented by directors of Social Services statewide regarding the administration of a drug screening program that would create "cost concerns for both applicants and counties," and the Scotland County Board of Commissioners agrees with the Scotland County Board of Social Services recommendation that any such program would involve random testing and would not create an unfunded mandate to counties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners requests that the House and Senate consider the following recommendations when preparing legislation.

1. Federal Plans for each program must be updated and approved by their respective Federal Agencies before implementation.

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2. Reimbursement for drug screens, and administrative processes completed by the local DSS must be established first or the county will assume the cost of another unfunded mandate.
3. Drug Screening should be random, and no more than a 2% sample size per month.
4. The cost of drug screening that has been applied to the individual has been overturned by the courts, so this should not be required.
5. The type of drug test or screen must be reasonably priced and readily available in the community. A five-panel urine test for example would require a lab and immediate ability to schedule since we cannot delay processing an application past federally mandated timelines. Delay of benefits due to waiting on drug screens could incur a penalty to the state or county. A swab test for \$8-\$20 with 10 minute wait time, done by the local Health Department is an example, but the process would need to be set up to administer tests daily, and produce results in as little as 72 hours for emergency benefits.
6. A secure process of payee establishment must be developed in advance of implementation. For example, how should the payee be tested as a pre-requisite, how would fraud policy be enforced for the payee, and a delay of payee establishment cannot affect other eligible benefit recipients.
7. Substance Abuse treatment services must be available for those referred. Under the current Mental Health structure this service is not readily available. The State would need to mandate the LMEs to provide this service in a timely manner for each county. In addition treatment costs would need to be covered, as many adults are not eligible for Medicaid.

Approved this 10th day of June 2013

**Review/discussion of budget options**

County Manager Patterson said the FY 2014 budget is proposed at \$37,408,486 with the major increases in departments at DSS and Health at \$300,000 and \$100,000, respectively. The departments are budgeted to maintain them at current levels. Tax rate would remain at \$1.03. The FY 2014 proposed budget includes a six percent increase in health premiums and restoration of the 1.25 percent employee furlough. It includes three new positions — a skilled carpenter, permitting tech and a Wagram Recreation Center attendant. Sheriff's Department telecommunicators would receive straight overtime instead of half time overtime.

Mr. Patterson reviewed options which could reduce the budget in order to lower the tax rate.

The first option would be the only revenue adjustment in FY 2014. Mr. Patterson said the current proposed budget is \$30,000 below anticipated collections for the year. The additional amount can be added to prior year collections since current year calculations are fixed.

Mr. Patterson then listed budget reductions that could be considered. He said DSS provided two options for budget reduction, but both options also would come with revenue reductions.

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Other options, according to Mr. Patterson, include a freeze on salary progressions and equipment at the Health Department, operational reductions at the Library and Register of Deeds and elimination of third call potential at EMS. School capital could also be reduced by \$48,000 to \$150,000.

Mr. Patterson said the additional Wagram Recreation Center position could be eliminated and hours of operation reduced at the Recreation Center.

Vice Chair McCall asked if some longevity could be restored to the employee benefits package. The Commissioners discussed how the County might provide longevity. Chairman McCook suggested the \$30,000 in prior year collections revenue or another revenue source could be used for a one-time employee bonus based on longevity, and administration would determine how to reorganize longevity to reward the long-time loyalty. Commissioner Gibson said the Board might be able to make a better decision once it knows if sales tax revenues have improved.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to allocate the \$30,000 in excess revenue to go toward developing a longevity pay schedule for employees with amount and time to be distributed determined at a later date. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Davis said he is concerned that the Town of Wagram is not doing anything toward the upkeep of the Wagram Recreation Center. Commissioner Davis said it is of particular concern when the County is considering closing a convenience site only to consider adding a second position to the Wagram Recreation Center with no assistance from the Town of Wagram.

According to a handout provided by Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, the Town of Wagram mows the grass, does not charge for water, sewer and garbage collection at the Center and provides some custodial maintenance. Mr. Patterson said the County had a verbal agreement with the Town. There is no known written agreement.

Chairman McCall said if the County changes the hours or changes the days of operation, people won't know when it's open and when it's not, and that would impact participation and usage. It would not have the stability it needs. Vice Chair McCall said she would like the County to encourage maximum participation at the Wagram Recreation Center.

Commissioner Alford said the County built and owns the Wagram Recreation Center and citizens want to use it. Commissioner Alford said the County needs to fund it as best as it can and perhaps it should put a renewed effort on recruiting volunteers, not just from Wagram but from across the County.

It was agreed that a Commissioner or Commissioners approach the Town of Wagram governing board to discuss the role of the County and Town of Wagram in support of the Center.

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Commissioner Gibson asked if there was any follow-up on a supplemental insurance policy for volunteer firefighters. County Manager Patterson said the cost would be just under \$16,000 but the subject has not been raised since the presentation.

County Manager Patterson said the budget does not include a request for funding made by RCC to increase security and to purchase two vehicles for the Scotland campus. Mr. Patterson said DSS has offered one of its two vans to RCC, which would be used for custodial purposes.

Mr. Patterson showed two options for convenience center hours of operation if Palmer Road was closed. He said option one would allow for two convenience centers to be open every day except Sunday. In option two, the convenience centers would be closed Sundays and Fridays. Mr. Patterson said the convenience centers are not open Fridays currently. He said the second option would allow for three convenience centers to be open Saturday. Signage alerting customers to the hours of operation at every site would be posted at all convenience centers.

Mr. Patterson suggested tracking hours of usage would help administration craft a schedule that best reflects usage patterns.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the option that allows for more convenience centers to be open on Saturday. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Patterson said he would add \$30,000 to the proposed budget, which would bring the total to \$37,438,486.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to recess to 5 p.m. Monday, June 17, at the A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook  
Chairman