

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
October 7, 2013, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
October 7, 2013 Regular Meeting  
A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 7 p.m. Chairman Guy McCook called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners John Alford, Bob Davis, Whit Gibson and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner John Cooley. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman McCook offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the October 7, 2013 agenda with the addition of an update from Health and Human Services on the federal shutdown and its affect programs at the local level. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Public Forum**

**Ms. Valerie Ransom**, 8881 McLeod Road, Laurinburg, distributed photos of a starving horse she saw at the intersection of Leisure and Bostic roads. Ms. Ransom said she boards and grooms animals and advocates for their protection. Ms. Ransom said she wanted to be a voice for abused, neglected, tortured and tormented animals, of which this horse was one of them. Ms. Ransom said the horse was skin and bones. Ms. Ransom said she saw three other starved horses nearby. Ms. Ransom said the owner of the horses has had run-ins with animal control but has yet to be held responsible for the treatment of the horses he owns. Ms. Ransom said Animal Control should be held responsible for allowing this man to continue to own animals that suffer. Ms. Ransom said the horse in question died. She asked if anything could be done to seize the remaining horses. Ms. Ransom said there is a need for a new animal cruelty ordinance.

*Chairman McCook said staff would investigate the issue and get back in touch with Ms. Ransom*

**Ms. June Nance**, McMillan Road, Laurinburg, said there are six residences on the street where she lives. They were not able to hook up to County water. Ms. Nance said that a manufacturer will be using one million gallons of water a day, and she depends on the water table for her water. She asked what the County would do for her in the provision of water.

**Item 1. Public Hearing: Planning and Zoning rezoning application**

Planning and Zoning Chairman Henry McLeod presented information on the following rezoning application, which the Planning and Zoning Board recommended be approved:

**Rezoning Application Number 474-13 –Velma Bass** – Request to rezone approximately 2.0 acres in accordance with Scotland County Zoning Ordinance Article IV from (R1) Residential Single Family to (RA) Residential Agriculture. The property is located at the intersection of McFarland Road and Sneads Grove Road. The property is better known as Scotland County Tax Map Number 317 Block 01 Parcel 0210 and is owned by Velma H. Bass.

Chairman McCook opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against rezoning application 474-13. No one came forward and the Public Hearing was closed.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to approve rezoning application 474-13. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 23. Public Hearing: Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP)**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said as part of the annual application submission for the Rural Operating Assistance Program transportation funds, community input is required.

Chairman McCook opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment in favor of or against the ROAP application. No one came forward to comment, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the FY 2014 ROAP application process. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 3. Scotland County Public Schools update**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Pam Baldwin provided an overview of instructional services.

**Item 4. Home and Community Care Block Grant ramp project**

Senior Programs Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan presented information on the ramp project through a Home and Community Care Block Grant in the amount of \$8,000. St. Luke United Methodist Men will design and install ramps, which will be made of wood. Priority will be given to those who have low income, live in a rural area, are a minority and 80 years or older. The funding will cover the cost of about 12 ramps. Ms. Donovan said if funds run out, Scotland Place Senior Center will keep a waiting list.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, on another topic, discussed the upcoming October 31 Halloween event for children at the Morgan Complex. She said 135 St. Andrews University students will serve as volunteers.

**Item 5. Library cost benefit analysis**

Library Director Leon Gyles provided a cost benefit analysis on the value of the library to the community. Mr. Gyles said for every \$1 the County invests in the library, it receives \$3.43 return on investment. Mr. Gyles said weekly calculations are based on private sector use of assets and services that are provided by the library. He said that weekly the library's benefit to the county in 2012-2013 was \$31,919.25 with an annual benefit of \$1,659,801. In FY 2012-2013, the library received \$374,555.17 in funding from the County.

**Added item: Department of Health and Human Services local impact of the federal shut down**

Before receiving reports from Health Director David Jenkins and DSS Director Robby Hall, Chairman Guy McCook recognized the members of the 4-H leadership council, who were attending the meeting. Chairman McCook said he signed a proclamation in the morning recognizing October 6 to 14 as 4-H Week nationally and locally.

Mr. Hall outlined how funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), Home Community Care

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Block Grant (HCCBG) and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) might be affected by a continued federal government shutdown. Mr. Hall said the County might float funds for programs until reimbursement resumes. Mr. Hall said DSS would continue to offer the programs but the service might be reduced. Mr. Hall said he might move employees to assist in other programs that are already funded like Medicaid and Nutrition in order to mitigate costs.

Mr. Jenkins said it is business as usual at the Department of Public Health for now because WIC funds are still available because of carryover from FY 2013. He said there might be a possibility of wait listing and mailing vouchers. Mr. Jenkins said 1,750 people are served monthly through WIC.

**Item 6. Consent Agenda:**

- a) Approve minutes of September 3, regular meeting and September 24, 2013 reconvened meeting.
- b) Approve amendments to the County Management Records and Retention Disposition Schedule.
- c) Approve amendments to Tax Administration Records and Retention Disposition Schedule.
- d) Approve amendments to Register of Deeds Records and Retention Disposition Schedule.
- e) Approve Tax Department request for June 2013 release of funds in the amount of \$217.12 and \$47,493.84, refunds in the amount of \$104 and discoveries in the amount of \$356.30.
- f) Approve Tax Department request for July 2013 release of funds in the amount of \$2,293.15, refunds in the amount of \$472.93 and discoveries in the amount of \$4,071.03.
- g) Approve Tax Department request for August 2013 release of funds in the amount of \$364.45 and \$21,022.98 and discoveries in the amount of \$3,980.50.
- h) Approve 2014 meeting schedule.
- i) Acknowledge receipt of September 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Community Development Block Grant.
- j) Reduce Health Department administration fee for the private pay Tdap stock from \$43 to \$23, which is in addition to the vaccine fee of \$29.85
- k) Budget Amendments:
  - 1) Health: Approve decrease in the State block grant funding for Family Planning from \$144,154 to \$141,148.
  - 2) Health: Approve decrease in State block grant funding for Maternal Health from \$34,286 to \$31,750.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 7. Quarterly financial report**

Business Officer Beth Hobbs reviewed the quarterly financials, which included the General Fund Fund Balance Report as of September 27, 2013. Ms. Hobbs said the unaudited Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013 was between nine and 10 percent, and above the LGC eight percent requirement.

Ms. Hobbs also provided a Solid Waste net assets report, Water Districts net assets report, revenues and expenditures budget projections and current and prior year tax collections.

**Item 8. L.R. Kimball contract for EOC/911 Call Center**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said \$3.5 million was available for the EOC/911 Call Center project, \$1 million of which will go into technology. Mr. Hammond recommended that L.R. Kimball be contracted as communication consultant and guide through the process of equipping, coordinating and developing the operational procedures of the new facility. Mr. Hammond said L.R. Kimball has been hands on with the project since the beginning. Mr. Hammond said L.R. Kimball would provide the technological guidance needed to combine four different departments, two local governments and the phone systems in the EOC/911 Call Center because this type of consolidation is an expertise of the company. Mr. Hammond said L.R. Kimball would be paid through architectural firm Becker Morgan not to exceed \$112,896.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to contract with L.R. Kimball as technology consultant for the EOC/911 Call Center not to exceed \$112,896. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 9. Appointments to boards and committees**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Mr. Jamie Bromley-Turner to an unexpired term on the Board of Health as the nurse-representative. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner John Alford said he intends to resign from the Four County Community Services Board effective immediately. Commissioner Alford said that the Four County meeting schedule coupled with his other community commitments prevents him from continuing to serve on the Four County Board.

**Item 10. Update from the County Manager**

County Manager Patterson provided the Commissioners with a list of projects broken down by different time frames. He asked the Commissioners to review the list to determine and prioritize the items.

Mr. Patterson provided information on Tabernacle Church and what property currently is tax exempt, what is not tax exempt and what is partially exempt. Mr. Patterson said 87 percent of the property owned by the church currently is exempt. The church currently owes \$458.11. The church did not apply for exemption during the legal window for such application, which would exempt some additional property from taxes. Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners that two years ago a similar request was made on property used for timber because the application deadline was missed and the Board declined the request for late application. Mr. Patterson said the Commissioners could do nothing or grant a late application request.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to accept the Tabernacle Church application.**

*Discussion: Chairman McCook said he would want to be careful about setting a precedent because there might be others in similar situations. Chairman McCook suggested that if this request is approved the Board should establish guidelines regarding future requests. Commissioners McPhatter and Alford said they wanted to approve the request because it was made by a church. County Attorney Johnston said if this request is allowed when another request in the past was not, the Board will have to clarify standards*

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*going forward so it would not be perceived that the Board was acting arbitrarily and capriciously. Mr. Johnston suggested the request be tabled until the issue could be discussed further.*

*Commissioner McPhatter withdrew his motion and Commissioner Alford withdrew his second to the motion.*

Mr. Patterson said the energy savings project is expected to begin in November with anticipated completion in six months.

There will be a Civil Affairs Training in October that includes interviewing government officials. No combat exercises are attached to this part of the training.

Mr. Patterson said the Community Access Channel Advisory Board approved an application process for slide information on the channel. Mr. Patterson said the application is similar to the application recently approved regarding programming.

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to approve the application for the Community Access Channel slide information. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) is considering Greensboro as the site for its 2018 Annual Conference. Clerks across the state are asking their municipal and county governments to approve letters of support for the conference to take place in Greensboro.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve a letter of support for the 2018 IIMC Annual Conference in Greensboro. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **Comments from Chairman and Commissioners**

Commissioner Bob Davis said customer service should be a priority project for the County Manager.

Commissioner Davis, referring to comments made by Ms. Ransom about the horses, said the Department of Public Health is currently working with the owner on this issue, and the owner is scheduled to go to court on this case. Commissioner Davis noted that seizing the animals presents challenges because each would have to be quarantined separately and apart from healthy horses. The other challenge is to locate a place where they could be quarantined.

County Manager Patterson said the Department of Public Health for the past several months has been working with the Humane Society to strengthen the Animal Control Ordinance. He said there are discussions on equine enforcement that would include provisions for minimum acreage and for a minimum standard of care.

#### **Item 11. Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 11, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook  
Chairman