

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
September 3, 2013, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
September 3, 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, John Cooley (*arrived at 7:10 p.m.*), Bob Davis and Whit Gibson. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. 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 Davis to approve the September 3, 2013 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Mr. Jack Pearson, a trustee with Tabernacle Methodist Church in Gibson, said he recently discovered the church had been paying taxes for the last 20 years on property that was donated to the church. The properties are contiguous to the church. One is a cemetery with two graves on it. Mr. Pearson said the Tax Administrator did fill out the paperwork for the tax exclusion. Mr. Pearson asked the Commissioners in the meantime to consider allowing a tax credit for 2013.

Chairman Guy McCook directed the County Manager and the Tax Administrator to take a look at the issue and follow up with Mr. Pearson.

Ms. Kathy McDonald discussed what she felt were violations at the jail and expressed concern as to how inmates were treated. Ms. McDonald said her son, while serving time in the jail, was not treated well and sometimes went without a shower, phone calls and medications. Her son has since been moved to another facility, but during his stay there, Ms. McDonald said her calls to the Sheriff and jail staff went unanswered. Ms. McDonald said if facility problems and staff behavior issues are not corrected the jail should be closed.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Local economic incentive grant

Economic Development Director Greg Icard said the incentive grant requires a Public Hearing be held.

Chairman McCook called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the local economic incentive grant. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the local economic incentive agreement. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 21. Public Hearing: FCC sewer line and pump station grant closeout

Mr. Icard said the Public Hearing is part of the close out for the FCC sewer line and pump station project completed last year at the Laurel Hill facility.

Chairman McCook called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the FCC sewer line and pump station project. No one came forward and the Public Hearing was closed.

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Item 3. Four County Community Services update

(Postponed to a later date)

Item 4. 2012 State of the County Health Report

Health Educator Kathie Cox presented the State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) for 2012 via PowerPoint. The report included current information on the health of the County, its demographics, unemployment trend since 2010 and morbidity and mortality data. Ms. Cox said cancer and heart disease are among the top health concerns for the County. She discussed programs and initiatives in progress to address the County's top health issues.

Ms. Cox said more programs are needed, more media and community involvement. She said funding and resources remain a challenge. She said the County must do more with less in order to make itself a healthier place to live.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the August 5, 2013 regular meeting and August 19, 2013 reconvened meeting.**
- b) **Approve in accordance with NC General Statute 20-187.2, the awarding to Captain Kelvin Howell, who retired August 31, 2013, his service revolver, a Smith & Wesson M&P 40 #DUZ5555, in exchange for consideration of \$1.00.**
- c) **Acknowledge receipt of July 2013 Monthly Performance Status Report for the Community Development Block Grant.**
- d) **Approve request by Health Department to approve an increase for Food and Lodging permit fees from \$75 to \$120. These fees were approved by the State with an effective change on August 1, 2013.**
- e) **Approve request by Health Department to charge \$29.85 for private stock of Tdap vaccine for self pay clients in addition to \$43 for the injection fee**
- f) **Approve request by Health Department to decrease the charge for Pap Testing for Non-Medicaid patients from \$18.38 down to \$14.41**
- g) **Approve request by Health Department set the charge for flu vaccine to \$37.50**
- h) **Approve request by Health Department to grant the local health director blanket authority to accept and immediately implement any increase in Medicaid reimbursement, to increase the amount charged for vaccines and administration to cover the cost to the department and to implement other fee increases.**
- i) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **Parks and Recreation: Increase by \$8,000 from Home and Community Care Block Grant funds, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. In-kind services will provide the match.**

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. Soil and Water Conservation District 2012-2013 annual report

(Postponed to a later date)

Item 7. Semiannual Jail Inspection report

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Captain Sandra Miller reviewed the semiannual jail inspection and explained how the jail responded to deficiencies cited by the State. Captain Miller said as a result of the jail response to the deficiencies, it received a letter from the State dated September 3 that the corrective action taken is acceptable.

Item 8. Policy Committee review of County Manager evaluation and Bill Me Later

Vice Chair McCall, who serves as Chair of the Policy Committee provided an update on two issues the Committee reviewed at its August 27 meeting.

Vice Chair McCall said Mr. Patterson presented a County Manager evaluation that could be conducted through Survey Monkey. Pluses for using Survey Monkey would be the ability to comment, anonymous evaluations and the compilation of results.

Vice Chair McCall said as the Committee progressed in its discussion of the evaluation method, members agreed that it would first be important to establish expectations for the County Manager that would have a timeline and are measurable. Vice Chair McCall asked the Commissioners to consider meeting in order to establish the expectations. The Board agreed to meet 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, at 507 West Covington Street.

County Manager Patterson discussed Bill Me Later, which also was on the Policy Committee agenda. He said if approved by the Commissioners, Bill Me Later would place a banner on the tax payment web page. Mr. Patterson said Bill Me Later already is an available tax payment option through PayPal. Mr. Patterson said Bill Me Later would provide the County with immediate tax payment, and the company would finance taxes for a payer. If Bill Me Later is paid on time within six months, interest is forgiven. If not, interest would accrue from day one at 19.9 percent.

Commissioner Cooley said he objected to Bill Me Later explaining that it would be like “highway robbery” or “entrapment.” Commissioner Cooley said since the taxpayer can use a credit card, Bill Me Later would be redundant. Commissioner Davis agreed and said he was concerned that people would fall deeper in debt, and it would not significantly increase tax collection.

Chairman McCook said Bill Me Later would be less costly than foreclosure proceedings. Vice Chair McCall said an individual who uses a credit card accrues interest from day one of the transaction while with Bill Me Later, interest is not imposed for six months. Vice Chair McCall added that there are people who do not have credit cards.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to add Bill Me Later as a payment option to the tax payment web page. Vote: For: Vice Chair McCall and Commissioner Alford. Vote: Against: Chairman McCook and Commissioners Cooley, Davis and Gibson. Vote: Motion failed.

Item 9. Appointments to Board and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson to appoint Ms. Janna Williams to the Laurinburg/Scotland County Drug and Crime Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Before continuing with the next agenda item, Commissioner Gibson asked Captain Miller where the monies would come from to correct some of the jail deficiencies cited by the State.

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Captain Miller said funds for some of the corrective measures are not in the budget, and a request for the funds would have to come before the Commissioners. Captain Miller said some deficiencies noted in the semiannual report have been documented in previous reports.

Commissioner Gibson suggested that jail staff attempt to anticipate what might be identified in the report and work to remedy the issues before they become subjects of the inspection.

Mr. Patterson said some maintenance funds are available to remedy some issues, but other remedies at the jail fall into the capital budget, which would be part of the negotiations for the next fiscal year.

Item 10. Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said he started a running summary of 2014 projects, which would be sent to the Board monthly.

Mr. Patterson said an advertisement was published last week for the release of federal funds for the FCC project, which is a standard requirement as part of the process of the release of funds.

A local delegation will visit Congressional leaders September 9 and 10 in Washington, D.C. Mr. Patterson reviewed a list of items of specific concern for the County that will be shared with elected officials.

Mr. Patterson said credit card payments at the Tax office for the year ending June 30, 2013 totaled \$755,537.64 of the more than \$21 million collected. Percentage of credit cards used was 3.46 percent from walk-ins or on-line payments.

Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman McCook said he reviewed the resolution regarding support of the development of an alliance of local government and business leaders to promote improvements to a South Economic Development Corridor along the Highway 74 corridor from Asheville to Wilmington. Chairman McCook said he was interested in supporting the resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to adopt the resolution as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Resolution to Support the Development of an Alliance of Local Government and Business Leaders to Review and Promote Improvements to a South Economic Development Corridor from I-26 to Wilmington along the Existing Highway 74 Corridor

Whereas, the development of a South Economic Development Corridor from I-26 to Wilmington would improve commerce between Western North Carolina and the Port of Wilmington and be an important east-west corridor across the state of NC; and

Whereas, the proposed corridor will stimulate economic development opportunities in rural North Carolina from the mountains to the coast; and

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Whereas, developing Highway 74 to an interstate quality freeway along the existing Highway 74 corridor from I-26 to Wilmington would connect Asheville and western North Carolina to the Port of Wilmington and eastern North Carolina; and

Whereas, the proposed Highway 74 Economic Development Corridor would create jobs across North Carolina in maritime, transportation, distribution, manufacturing and agriculture by providing greater access to the Port of Wilmington, the Charlotte Metropolitan Area, and to Charlotte International Airport thus increasing opportunities for international trade;

Whereas, the proposed Highway 74 Economic Development Corridor would maintain and enhance North Carolina commerce opportunities that are currently being lost to South Carolina and Georgia as a result of access to the ports and intermodal facilities.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners does support the cooperative creation of a 74 Economic Corridor Alliance to review, promote and support the development of an economic development corridor connecting Western North Carolina to the Port of Wilmington along the existing Hwy 74 corridor.

Be It Further Resolved that the Chairman will send this resolution to the state and federal legislative delegation and to all counties along the Highway 74 Economic Development Corridor requesting their support and the support of municipalities and businesses within their counties.

Adopted this the 3rd day of September, 2013

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.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall to recess to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 24, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman