

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
March 20, 2014, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 6 p.m. Chairman Guy McCook called the special meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall and Commissioners Bob Davis, Whit Gibson, John Alford and John Cooley (*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*). Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Deputy Finance Officer Beth Hobbs, EMS Director Roylin Hammond, Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman, Human Resources Manager Susan Butler and County Attorney Ed Johnston.

Discussion: Consolidated 911 Call Center

Mr. Patterson distributed a budget history of the 911 system in Scotland County and a summary of the 911 system major expenses. Mr. Patterson said the 911 equipment in all five PSAPs was purchased by the County. Patterson discussed the 911 equipment used by the City, which the County leases for \$4,400 a month. The County Manager described other items from the list of major expenses, and pointed out what costs would continue after consolidation and what costs would cease.

Mr. Patterson said the County is the primary authority for the 911 system. Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider the following: If the City decides not to partner with the County in the consolidated 911 call center but keep the PSAP up and running, would the County continue to pay the \$4,400 a month? Would the City PSAP become the secondary system and, if so, it would not qualify for 911 funding.

Mr. Patterson said the City indicated it would want to keep its investment in the consolidated 911 call center flat at \$201,000, which accounts for the salaries the City currently spends for the four dispatchers but does not include paying one-third salary for the Director position. Mr. Patterson said a Director position not including fringes would be about \$61,000 and is comparable to the salaries of some other County department heads. The Director would answer to the County Manager. Mr. Patterson said he would ask the Commissioners to approve creation of the Director position at the April meeting.

Mr. Patterson said the City is concerned that one supervisor might not be able to handle all responsibilities of the job, which might lead to the hiring of an assistant and additional costs to the City in the future. Mr. Patterson said there are no assurances that there might not be changes to personnel costs in the future.

Mr. Patterson said a policy making board would include the County Manager, EMS Director, Sheriff, City Manager, Fire Chief and City Police Chief with one member serving as Chairman, who would be non-voting and only vote as a tie-breaker. The Chairman term would be for one year. Chairman McCook suggested that the Chairman seat rotate each year between the County and the City.

Chairman McCook said he would like to address any concerns the City might have before the joint meeting April 1. He directed the County Manager to set up a meeting between the City and

the County that would include the City and County managers, the EMS Director, the Chairman and the City Mayor.

Chairman McCook asked Mr. Hammond to find out how many 911 calls are inside the City and how many are from outside the City.

Vice Chair McCall suggested the six-member board might be comprised of membership based on investment by each entity. Mr. Hammond said that might not work since all emergency services disciplines must be represented.

Cypress Bend ABC request

Mr. Patterson said he was contacted by Cypress Bend because it is looking for a way to sell beer at its Friday night events as an added revenue stream. Alcohol cannot be sold onsite for consumption outside municipal boundaries. Non-profits would be an exception. Cypress Bend requested support from the Commissioners in its endeavor. Mr. Patterson said the only resolution would be a referendum to allow for consumption of alcohol in the County.

After some discussion, the Board of Commissioner, by consensus, agreed that the burden of researching the issue rests with Cypress Bend on how this might be accomplished legally.

Mr. Hammond, Ms. Butler and Ms. Hobbs were excused.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to go into Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Guy McCook
Chairman