

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting
November 7, 2011, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 S. Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
November 7, 2011 Regular Meeting
A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg NC**

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

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the November 7, 2011 agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Davis welcomed Interim Health Director Wayne Raynor and thanked Board of Education Chairman Jimmy Bennett, Laurinburg City Council Member Curtis Leak and all others for attending the meeting.

Public Forum

Mr. Charles Parker, Scotland County citizen, discussed the school floor and how the schools receive funding from the County. Mr. Parker asked the Commissioners to support a referendum on the whether to continue this method of funding. Mr. Parker said a referendum would be the right thing to do because it would not deprive the citizens of a vote, whether it be aye or nay.

Ms. Shannon Newton, Parks and Recreation Director, said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is discussing the change in the State law regarding concealed handguns in parks. Ms. Newton said Advisory Board members realize there are strong opinions both for and against concealed handguns in parks. Ms. Newton said the new State legislation would void a 1995 County ordinance that prohibits the carrying of concealed handguns on certain County property effective December 1, 2011.

Item 1. Report: NC Community Resource Connections for Aging and Disabilities (NCCRC)

Ms. Diane Surgeon, speaking on behalf of NC Community Resource Connections (NCCRC), said a grant allows NCCRC to provide a one-stop place where clients can receive information on services they might need. The grant covers the Region N five counties of Robeson, Hoke, Bladen, Richmond and Scotland. Ms. Surgeon said NCCRC intends to set up kiosks in several places in each county as point where the information would be available. NCCRC selected the No Wrong Door option — go to one place, tell your story one time and get a full range of information, referral services, assistance identifying and navigating options and access to public and private long-term support. Ms. Surgeon asked the governing body for support of the program. She said a Memorandum of Understanding would follow.

Item 2. Resolution: Merger of Mental Health Services

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SRMH/DD/SAS Director and CEO Jeanette Jordan-Huffam asked the Commissioners to consider approving a resolution supporting the merger of the Southeastern Local Management Entities with The Beacon Center and Eastpointe. Ms. Jordan-Huffam said the goal is to merge by October 1, 2012.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to accept and approve the resolution supporting the merger. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**Resolution to Merge The Beacon Center, Eastpointe
and Southeastern Regional Local Management Entities
Scotland County Board of Commissioners**

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) is proceeding with State-wide restructuring of the management responsibilities for the delivery of services for individuals with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorders through expansion and implementation of the 1915(b)(c) Medicaid Waiver by July 1, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2011, Eastpointe Human Services (referred to as “Eastpointe”), with the support of The Beacon Center, and Southeastern Regional Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (referred to as “Southeastern Regional”), was selected to participate in the 1915(b)(c) Medicaid Waiver; and,

WHEREAS, The Beacon Center, Eastpointe, and Southeastern Regional Local Management Entities, have partnered together for several years, with each having the same commitment to accountability for the development and management of a local system that ensures easy access to care, the availability and delivery of necessary services, and continuity of care for consumers in need of mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services; and,

WHEREAS, the Division of Medical Assistance, after performing cost studies, has determined that to operate a Medicaid 1915(b)(c) Waiver efficiently, a Local Management Entity must have a minimum Medicaid population of at least 70,000 individuals and a total population of at least 500,000, and the Division therefore recommends that local management entities having populations less than these should collaborate or merge with one or more other local management entities in order to achieve the required Medicaid population base; and,

WHEREAS, The Beacon Center, Eastpointe and Southeastern Regional Local Management Entities, in order to meet the above-stated population requirements, and considering their geographical locations and similarities of demographics and cultural makeup, have determined that it is appropriate and will be beneficial to be merged with each other. The combined catchment of Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Nash, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wayne and Wilson Counties will have approximately 178,000 Medicaid lives and a population base of approximately 806,000; and,

WHEREAS, the three Local Management Entities and their respective governing Boards of Commissioners recognize that in order to be prepared for the Medicaid Waiver implementation date of January 1, 2013, they will need to merge no later than October 1, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners endorses

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the three Local Management Entities' efforts to participate in a merger into one Local Management Entity, Eastpointe.

Adopted this 7th day of November, 2011

Item 3.Update: NC Senior Tar Heel Legislative Priorities

Senior Tar Heel Legislative Delegate Howard Whitehurst said as a delegate for the group he advocates for the older population on issues before the General Assembly that would impact this population. He said the Senior Tar Heel Legislature developed five priorities for the State Legislature to consider:

- Restore funding to sustain Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)
- Maintain funding for home and community-based services for older adults.
- Maintain funding for senior centers.
- Mandate pre-employment and random drug testing for employees of nursing, assisted living facilities and adult care homes.
- Dental care for North Carolina's adult special care population.

Item 4.Report: Tourism Development Authority 183 and 184 exit lights proposal

Tourism Development Authority Director Cory Hughes asked the Commissioners to consider assisting in funding installation of exit lights off exits 183 and 184 off Highway 74. Mr. Hughes said the Tourism Development Authority would invest \$100,000 toward the \$455,000 project while there is indication from the NCDOT that it would match the TDA pledge with \$100,000.

Mr. Hughes discussed how lights at the 183 and 184 exits could translate into economic growth for restaurants, lodging and other retail establishments located in proximity to the exits.

Mr. Hughes said he made a similar presentation to the City of Laurinburg, and Council indicated its support of the concept. Mr. Hughes asked the Commissioners to support the proposal as well and to explore how the project could be financed.

Chairman Davis thanked Mr. Hughes for the report and said the governing body would take it under consideration.

Item 5.Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners October 3, 2011 regular meeting and October 17, 2011 strategic planning session.**
- b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds for the month of August 2011 in the amount of \$12,518.51 and release funds for the month of September 2011 in the amount of \$3,396.**
- c) **Approve proposed changes to the Personnel Policy regarding Benefits for Retirees effective January 1, 2012.**
- d) **Approve proposed amendments to the Personnel Policy regarding Retiree Benefits and Holiday Pay.**

e) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **DSS:** Approve receipt of Energy Neighbors funds in the amount of \$1,973, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 2) **DSS:** Approve receipt of Crisis Intervention funds in the amount of \$28,029, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 3) **Health:** Approve receipt of General Aid to County funds in the amount of \$7,128, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.
- 4) **JCPC/Scots for Youth:** Approve receipt of pass-through funding in the amount of \$59,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to accept and approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6.Report: ABC Board activities and financial summary

ABC Chair Dee Hammond reported on ABC activities and financials. Ms. Hammond introduced new store manager Bill Graves. She said former store manager Buddy Lewis serves as Finance Officer since State legislation no longer allows the store manager to serve in that capacity.

Ms. Hammond discussed what the store is doing to increase sales and implement financial efficiencies. Ms. Hammond discussed projected revenues and expenditures for FY 2012.

Item 7.NC Department of Corrections Inmate Labor Contract

County Attorney Johnston said the inmate contract would be available for review at the December meeting.

Item 8.Report from the County Manager

County Manager Patterson said the County regularly contracts with Robert Segal to review and potentially adjust sales tax refund applications in an attempt to increase the sales tax revenue to Scotland County. Segal would charge 30 percent of actual collections. The County can go back three years in the sales tax review, and it has been three years since the program was last reviewed. Mr. Patterson added that the County does not have the resources to conduct the project in-house. Mr. Patterson said three years ago the County received between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in sales tax refunds. Mr. Patterson added that he is not aware of a local firm that conducts this kind of work.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the agreement with Robert Segal to review tax adjustments. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said he has had several conversations with NCACC regarding the State acquisition of land for legislative guidance.

Mr. Patterson said the Board's five initiatives from the strategic planning session October 17 are included in the agenda along with the County's mission and vision statements. The County Manager will contact Mr. Jim Perry, who served as facilitator, to get a list of dates to select for the next strategic planning session.

Mr. Patterson said the County received a right of first refusal communication from the schools regarding East Laurinburg School and Scotland Accelerated Academy. Appraisal on just the land is valued at \$43,000 for East Laurinburg and \$76,000 for SAA. Mr. Patterson said assuming the Board rejects the offer School Superintendent Rick Stout would likely suggest that the School Board auction the properties. Monies from the sale would go to the schools.

Mr. Patterson said up until the request by the schools for fair market value, the only use the County would have for the properties would be to act as intermediary for any non-profits that might have an interest in using the buildings.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to decline the offer by Scotland County Schools to purchase East Laurinburg School and Scotland Accelerated Academy for fair market value. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson reminded the Commissioners of the November 15 joint meeting with the Board of Health. The County Manager said he would line up tentative dates for joint meetings with the Board of Education and with the City of Laurinburg.

Chairman and Commissioners: Comments, activity updates and Committee reports

Commissioner Cooley said the school floor should be addressed, even through a referendum, if necessary.

Commissioner McCall suggested the County might ask direction from the School of Government on the school funding issue.

Commissioner McCook said he does not agree that a referendum would be the way to go. Commissioner McCook said although public input is important and would be encouraged a referendum is nothing more than a poll. Commissioner McCook said funding the schools is the responsibility of the Commissioners, and the Commissioners should address the issue.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to go into Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss

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**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 McCook and duly seconded by Chairman Davis to recess to 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 15, at 1405 West Boulevard. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman

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