

MINUTES

Scotland County Board of Commissioners

December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting

A.B. Gibson Education Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg NC

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

Mr. Johnston explained the reorganization process. Mr. Johnston asked for nominations for the office of Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners for the year 2012.

Commissioner Alford nominated Commissioner Davis. There were no other nominations. Commissioner McDow moved and Commissioner Alford seconded to close nominations. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Commissioner Davis was elected Chairman by a acclamation.

Chairman Davis nominated Commissioner McDow. There were no other nominations. Chairman Davis moved and Commissioner McCook seconded to close nominations. Commissioner Joyce McDow was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Chairman Davis thanked the Board for its support. He praised the Board for how it handled challenges this past year and said the Board would be prepared to achieve its goals in the coming year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to approve the December 5, 2011 agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Chairman Davis asked if anyone wished to speak at Public Forum. No one came forward.

Item 1. NC Department of Corrections Inmate Labor Contract

County Attorney Johnston said the revised inmate labor contract includes a provision that no sex offender would be permitted to work. A hold harmless provision is included in the document. Mr. Johnston indicated a pre-audit certificate would be required.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the contract as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation regarding concealed handguns in parks legislation

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vice Chairman Jeff Maidment said following several meetings and consideration of input from City and County officials and consultation with the School of Government, the Advisory Board makes the following recommendation: That guns and weapons of all types be prohibited from any and all recreation facilities, parks and other recreational areas in the jurisdiction of the County of Scotland.

The Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the recommendation. Commissioner Alford asked if the definition of weapons could be narrowed. Mr. Patterson said if the Board developed a new ordinance, it could incorporate the definition of weapons.

Commissioner McCook said he would invite at least one public input session on the issue. Chairman Davis suggested the Policy Committee review the recommendation and schedule a time for public input.

Item 3. Aging Advisory Council report

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton gave a report on the activities of the Aging Advisory Council. Ms. Newton provided information on the history of the Council, its mission, activities and membership. The Aging Advisory Council makes recommendations to the Lumber River Council of Governments on funding through the Home and Community Care Block Grant, which is brought to the Commissioners for approval.

Chairman Davis noted that there is no Gibson representation on the Council. Ms. Newton said Gibson residents who are interested in serving are invited to complete an application of interest.

Item 4. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners November 7, 2011 regular meeting and November 15, 2011 joint session.**
- b) **Approve fidelity bonds for various County officials and employees as per G.S. 58-72-10.**
- c) **Approve surplus of 2001 Ford Taurus VIN# 1FAFP55S31A279622.**
- d) **Budget Amendments:**
 - 1) **DSS: Approve receipt of additional funds in the amount of \$558 for energy assistance, 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 additional funds in the amount of \$115, 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 funds in the amount of \$3,334 for the Immunization Program, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**

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

Item 5. Appointments to Board and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to reappoint Ms. Dee Hammond to ABC Board and to appoint Ms. Hammond as Chair of the ABC Board for 2012. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Dr. Ray Chavis to a three-year term on the Board of Health as the Dentist Representative. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to appoint Mr. Noran Sanford to the Laurinburg/Scotland County Crime and Drug Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner McCall discussed the request by Southeastern Regional Mental Health to take no action on the seat held by Mr. Sam Snowdon. Commissioner McCall said changes in State legislation and the merger of mental health regions would alter Mental Health Board membership, which might occur by October 2012.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. Greg Icard to the Southeast Economic Development Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Before continuing to the County Manager report, Chairman Davis read a draft proclamation honoring the Fighting Scots football team for their December 3 State Championship win, a first in the history of Scotland High School. Chairman Davis said the Board would present the proclamation at the next meeting.

The Commissioners made several suggestions of information to further clarify the document and directed the Clerk to the Board to make the changes requested.

Item 6. Update from the County Manager

Mr. Patterson said the Board of Health and Commissioners at a joint meeting agreed to create a committee to explore options for the future structure of the Scotland County Health Department. The Board of Health appointed three members and the Health Director to serve. The Board is asked to appoint two or three Commissioners to serve on the committee.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Commissioners Bob Davis, Carol McCall and Guy McCook to the committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Chairman Davis invited DSS Director Robby Hall to participate on the committee since one option might include the creation of a human services agency.

Mr. Patterson said any change to the school funding formula current expense must be done by local act, which are eligible for consideration in either the long or short session of the legislature. However, the accepted policy is that only noncontroversial bills will be considered in the short session. The entire local delegation would need to support the bill to be considered noncontroversial. If there is not unanimous support by the local delegation, the local act is considered in the long session. Mr. Patterson said as discussed in the past, it is likely the local delegation could support the request for a referendum if there is agreement between the County Commissioners and the School Board.

Chairman Davis said Representative G.L. Pridgen earlier this year attempted to take up the issue of the school funding formula but he was unable to get support from Senator Purcell or Representative Pierce.

County Manager Patterson said Senator Purcell indicated he would support a referendum if the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education endorsed it.

Mr. Patterson said the NACO Legislative Conference is March 3 to 7. Please let staff know if the Board would like to send a Commissioner-representative to the Conference.

The Board agreed to hold its strategic planning session 3 p.m. December 12 at 507 West Covington Street.

The Board also agreed to meet in joint session with the City of Laurinburg 6 p.m. January 19. Location would be determined.

Mr. Patterson said potential of consolidation of IT services with the City of Laurinburg was discussed. Mr. Patterson said a recent server maintenance quote for the County in his opinion was not justified. Mr. Patterson recommended instead moving forward with consolidation but modifying the structure from a two-person to a three-person IT department and maintaining the engineering block. The County IT Director would supervise the department and hire two technicians. The City and County would enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for services. The County would provide IT troubleshooting, maintenance and management of the network and servers and planning for the City. The planning would include participation in project management as it relates to IT support, planning for network growth and budget preparation of the City's network, the County Manager explained. The agreement would cover the City's current data and voice, telephone, network.

Mr. Patterson said the cost would not exceed the personnel costs currently in the City's budget. This cost would cover a portion of the personnel costs of the consolidated IT department. The engineering service block, maintenance agreements, equipment purchases and other operating costs would remain in the City's IT budget.

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Mr. Patterson said he expected the consolidation to result in greater efficiencies and cost savings over time, but a savings would not occur in the first year.

Item 7. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook 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 McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to recess to 3 p.m. Monday, December 12, at 1405 West Boulevard. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman