

**MINUTES
Scotland County Board of Commissioners
April 2, 2012 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, Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley, Carol McCall, Guy McCook and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Vice Chair McDow delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the April 2, 2012 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Chairman Davis presented Scotland High School student Andrew Willis Todd with the following proclamation:

A Proclamation Congratulating Andrew Willis Todd and His Job Shadow Essay Achievement

***WHEREAS**, the importance of and commitment to education is key to ushering in new generations of American achievers, entrepreneurs and innovators; and*

***WHEREAS**, successful completion of the high school educational experience is directly relevant and immediately applicable to a young person's entrance into the adult world; and*

***WHEREAS**, cutting short educational goals and achievements by dropping out of school has direct, negative and profound impacts on a student's personal and professional life and earnings potential. Recent research has indicated providing students with opportunities for "real-world learning" piques students' interest in school, significantly improves attitudes towards school and increases chances of graduation; and*

***WHEREAS**, AT&T and Junior Achievement's \$5.5 million effort to increase high school retention and workforce readiness nationwide is a tremendous step forward in promoting these important goals. This program has, to date, engaged more than 4,250 North Carolina students in "Job Shadow" events, providing the opportunity for students to shadow AT&T employees "on-the-job," observing what degrees, knowledge and skills are valuable for workplace success; and*

***WHEREAS**, Andrew Willis Todd, currently a senior enrolled at Scotland County High School in Laurinburg, North Carolina, has earned "Second Place" distinction for his essay on his Job Shadow experience, entitled, "The Real World." Todd's essay gave insight into his personal and professional goals, providing a superb example of the communications skills and goal-setting abilities necessary for a young person's workplace and life success; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina, hereby and heartily congratulates Andrew Willis Todd for commendable and admirable work on his essay, his academic goals and his continued commitment to the benefits and long-lasting rewards of continued education.*

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BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Commissioners recognizes the daily efforts and achievements of Scotland County High School faculty members. These professional educators inspire, motivate and encourage young people to achieve their utmost academically, athletically, artistically, personally and professionally. Their participation and encouragement of the AT&T and Junior Achievement Job Shadow program is significant and most deeply appreciated.

Presented this 2nd day of April, 2012

Chairman Davis then recognized recipients of the 2012 Governor's Award for Volunteer Service: Ms. Doris Douglas, Ms. Mary Hambright, Dr. William James Loftus and the Scotland Family Counseling Center. Ms. Faye Coates received the Governor's Award in the non-volunteer service category of Director of Volunteers, the first year Scotland County had a winner in this category. Dr. Loftus also was selected as Medallion Award winner. He will receive the Medallion Award April 19 in Raleigh.

No one came forward to speak at Public Forum, and Chairman Davis declared Public Forum closed.

Item 1. Humane Society report and update

Mr. Phillipe Laurent, speaking on behalf of the Scotland County Humane Society, said even though there has been a linear increase in adoption rates, the number of animals surrendered also increased.

Mr. Laurent discussed improving security around the shelter perimeter, general maintenance issues and the need for more space structurally. He asked the Commissioners to consider extending a long term lease or ownership option to the shelter.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to authorize County staff to proceed with a lease option with the Humane Society.

Discussion: County Attorney Johnston discussed the differences between a long term lease and the possibility of ownership. He said the ownership option would shift liability from the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to rescind the previous motion and to direct administration to work with the County Attorney to develop the best course of action to resolve the issue of the Humane Society and ownership or lease of their building and property and report back to the Board for action. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Richmond Community College report on programs and activities

Richmond Community College President Dale McInnis gave an update on activities and programs at RCC. Dr. McInnis said enrollment is at an all-time high at 2,405 credit students, up 11 percent from last year, 44 percent from 2007 and 71 percent from 2006. For the second consecutive year RCC is the fastest growing college in the State. Dr. McInnis discussed how partnerships with RCC contribute to its success and what the future holds for the college.

Item 3. Community Health Improvement Process

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At the request of the Health Department, the following reports were received and reviewed by the Commissioners as part of the agenda package: Community Health Action Plans for 2011 and the FY 2010-2011 Annual Report. Website links also were provided to the Community Health Assessment and State of the County Health Report.

Before moving on to the next item, Chairman Davis welcomed Mr. Nick Klug, Mr. Chase Gyles and their Scoutmaster, who were in attendance.

Item 4. Fire Commission report

EMS Director Roylin Hammond discussed the history of the Fire Commission, which began originally with three appointed members and expanded in the 1990s to 11 members so all fire departments in the County would be represented. Mr. Hammond said the Fire Commission does not meet on a regular basis rather, it meets when there is a need expressed by the fire departments.

In a side note, Mr. Hammond said he is grateful for an RCC campus in Scotland County. He said the campus facilities will be in use tomorrow for an Incident Command Class at the Honeycutt Center.

Mr. Hammond said the County submitted a 911 grant application for \$3.3 million.

Before going to the next item, Chairman Davis congratulated the Health Department for its successful reaccreditation.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners March 5, 2012 regular meeting**
- b) **Approve resolution approving landfill extension option with Republic Services.**

Resolution Approving Landfill Extension Option

Between the County of Scotland and Republic Services, Inc., through December 31, 2017

WHEREAS, Republic Services, Inc., was recently awarded a landfill expansion permit at the Uhwarrie Environmental Landfill in Montgomery County, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, as permitted by Article XIII, page 14 of its agreement with Republic Services dated January 1, 1998, allows the County of Scotland to extend the original agreement by two additional terms of five years each.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland would like to commit to the final five-year extension option offered in the agreement dated January 1, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with the approval of this Resolution the extension, which under the original agreement was set to expire December 31, 2007, will now be extended to December 31, 2017.

Adopted this 2nd day of April 2012.

c) **Approve citizen petition to include Katawba Drive, Hancock Drive, Omah Hill Road and Hunt Club Road in the in the Lanel Grant and Omah Hills subdivision as part of the State-maintained road system.**

d) **Budget Amendments:**

- 1) **Humane Society: Approve receipt of pass-through funds in the amount of \$14,500 for the Humane Society spay/neuter program. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **Health: Approve receipt of State funds in the amount of \$4,486 for local food, lodging and institution programs and activities, 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 6: Scotland County Memorial Library fee structure request

Library Director Leon Gyles asked the Commissioners to approve three additional items to the library's fee schedule. They would be \$1 per 30 minutes for computer users who do not have a library card, DVD cleaning for \$2 a disc and 1 can equivalent to \$1 in food 4 fines.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to amend the library fee schedule to include the three new items. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Award recommendation: FCC sewer system improvement

Economic Developer Greg Icard said the County received a \$255,000 grant to extend sewer service to FCC and to build a lift station. Bids were received for the project with the lowest bid from L&B Construction, Co. LLC at \$173,145. Mr. Icard asked that the bid be awarded to L&B Construction, Co. LLC.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to award the construction contract to L&B Construction, Co. LLC, and authorize the Economic Developer to move forward with the project. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 8. Policy Committee: Guns in Parks and Board of Equalization and Review appointments

Commissioner McCall, who serves as Chair of the Policy Committee, said a draft ordinance that would prohibit the carrying of concealed handguns on County recreational facilities was included in the agenda for review.

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County Manager Patterson said he learned the State legislature intends to modify the conceal/carry law this year, perhaps in the short session, but he is not sure which direction the legislature will take the law, and the changes could be minor or they could be significant.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to delay action on the ordinance until the General Assembly meets and makes changes to the conceal/carry bill.

Discussion: Commissioner Alford said any action taken by the Commissioners might be premature. Commissioner Alford said he was opposed to an ordinance that would prohibit concealed handguns on County recreational facilities because the County does not have the manpower or resources to enforce it.

Commissioner McCook said he would be willing to move forward with the ordinance rather than wait because he is uncomfortable with relinquishing the responsibility of County elected officials to the State. Commissioner McCall agreed and explained that the public is ready for the Commissioners to move forward and act on the issue. Commissioner McCall said amendments could be made once the legislature takes its own action.

Commissioner McPhatter said with cuts to the Sheriff's Department a prohibition would be difficult to enforce. Commissioner McPhatter said he would be comfortable knowing people with permits might be carrying concealed handguns in parks, and he would personally want the right to defend himself and his family.

Vote: Those in favor of delaying action: Chairman Davis, Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners John Alford and Clarence McPhatter. Those in favor of taking action now: Commissioners Cooley, McCall and McCook. Vote: Motion to delay approved.

The Commissioners then addressed the Board of Equalization and Review Policy, staggered terms and appointments.

Motion was made by Chairman Davis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to amend the Board of Equalization and Review Policy from a six-member board to a seven-member board of six citizens and one Commissioner-representative; to reappoint the current Board of Equalization and Review, appoint Mr. Kevin Garnett as the sixth citizen member for 2012; and for two of the longest serving members to serve a one-year term.

Discussion: Vice Chair McDow suggested that the motion be broken down into separate actions to address the policy and the appointments.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to amend the Board of Equalization and Review Policy for membership from a six-member board to a seven-member board with six citizens and one Commissioner. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the Board of Equalization and Review Policy as amended and to reappoint Mr. Charles "Scooper" Jordan and Mr. Sam Cribb to one-year terms to expire in 2013, reappoint Mr. Walter Rogers and Mr. Ken Haney to two-year terms to expire in 2014, to reappoint Mr. Aubrey L "Joe" Jones to a three-year term to expire in 2015 and to reappoint Mr. Bob Davis as the Commissioner-representative. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Kevin Garnett to the Board of Equalization and Review for a three-year-term that would expire in 2015. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to designate Mr. Sam Cribb as Board of Equalization and Review chairman for 2012. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9. Update from the County Manager

County Manager Patterson said Veteran Services will move from Legion Park to Covington Street by the first of June. The American Legion Post 50 board expressed no issues with moving the office. The move would not alter the lease agreement between the County and American Legion for Legion Park. Parks and Recreation would have managerial control over the vacated VSO space.

The NCACC asks each County host their State legislators to discuss key legislative issues for the 2012 short session. This would also be an opportunity to discuss matters of local concern and gain additional insight in the expected direction of the Legislature for the short session. The Board of Commissioners agreed to meet at suggested dates and times most convenient to the local legislators.

Mr. Patterson said Mr. Harvey Edge made an offer of \$600 per acre for 15 of the 40 acres of County property on Highland road at the old landfill. The offer is an increase of \$100 per acre over Mr. Edge's previous bid. The County has not been approached by anyone else for the property. The 15 acres is surrounded by Mr. Edge's property and the remaining 25 acres, which is the site of the old landfill. Mr. Patterson said if the Board accepts the bid, it must be advertised for a 10-day upset bid process.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to allow Mr. Harvey Edge to purchase the land for \$600 an acre. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Cooperative Extension will host its annual Report to the People April 19 at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Mr. Patterson said property and sales tax revenues are now on target for the budget. Mr. Patterson alerted the Commissioners to a significant budget amendment that will be presented to them from DSS. He said the amendment is pass-through State and federal funds that would affect benefits and not operating. The County Manager reported health insurance premiums are expected to increase eight to 10 percent. Retirement is still unknown.

The County Manager said the deeds to the Sanford and Speller buildings are expected to be executed soon. Mr. Patterson recommended the County offer the Sanford Building to the City of Laurinburg.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to offer the Sanford Building to the City of Laurinburg once the paperwork is executed. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

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Mr. Patterson said the spike in fuel prices has affected the Sheriff, EMS and Transportation, and Administration is looking for ways to offset the costs. Mr. Patterson said the cost of fuel will have to be considered in the next budget. Commissioner McCook suggested the County consider mileage as a factor when it purchases new vehicles.

Comments from the Chairman and Commissioners

Commissioner Cooley said he would like to address the problem of stolen metals. He suggested an ordinance might tighten restrictions on when and how metals are purchased.

Commissioner McPhatter said he is tired of hearing citizens complain about the Commissioners and staff when the County is in the midst of a budget crunch that has affected governments all over. Commissioner McPhatter said it would be better if the community showed a little more support.

Item 10. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford 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 and N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Commissioner Cooley moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman