

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
June 4, 2012, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
June 4, 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. Chairman Davis delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the June 4, 2012 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Public Forum**

**Mr. Stone Phillips**, Troop 447, proposed an Eagle Scout project where he would construct five picnic tables on a platform in the area of the new concession stand at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex. Mr. Phillips said he would host a soccer camp as a way to raise funds for the project.

No one else spoke, and the Public Forum was closed.

**Public Hearing: Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) grant application**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said the County must ensure that it is in compliance with NCDOT and federal transportation regulations as part of the application process for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP). He said a Public Hearing is also required as part of the application process.

Chairman Davis opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment or speak for or against ROAP. No one came forward and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Rural Operating Assistance Program application process. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Child Fatality Prevention Team annual report**

CFPT Chairperson Carlotta Rivers discussed the establishment of the CFPT, its history and legislative accomplishments. Ms. Rivers said the average infant mortality rate for Scotland County from 2006 to 2010 was 8.8 percent, compared to the average North Carolina rate of 7.9. In 2010 the CFPT reviewed seven deaths — two related to prematurity, one related to gunshot wound, two related to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), one related to sepsis from E. Coli of preterm newborn and one deemed undetermined.

Ms. Rivers also discussed the CFPT 2011-2012 activities and accomplishments, some of which include car seat distribution and installation training, smoke detector distribution, an initiative to decrease SIDS and roll-over or co-sleeping fatalities and an anti-co-sleeping campaign.

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board report**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Page Pratt discussed the role of the Board, its membership and sub-committees. Mr. Pratt updated the Commissioners on recent activities and accomplishments. Mr. Pratt explained how the Advisory Board provided feedback to Parks and Recreation staff on consolidation of sports locations and the development of maintenance standards.

### **Item 4. Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners May 7, 2012 regular meeting and May 22, 2012 budget work session**
- b) **Approve surplus of furniture, equipment and reference materials used in the Scotland-Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Program.**
- c) **Approve FY 2012-2013 Home and Community Block Grant for Older Adults Agreement for the Provision of County-Based Aging Services and the County Funding Plan, which requires a \$39,079 local match.**
- d) **Budget Amendments:**
  - 1) **Parks and Recreation: Approve increase in concession expenditures by \$1,500. Revenues will cover expenditures.**
  - 2) **DSS: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$3,333 for Smart Start, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 3) **DSS: Approve receipt in funds in the amount of \$14,400 for adoptions, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 4) **DSS: Approve receipt in funds in the amount of \$882 for the energy neighbor fund, 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.**

*Discussion: County Attorney Johnston suggested there should be an indemnity clause in the 2012-2013 Home and Community Block Grant for Older Adults Agreement that would protect the County as well as a pre-audit for the County.*

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to amend approval of the Consent Agenda with the Home and Community Block Grant Agreement removed from the Consent agenda pending review by the County Attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Introduction of proposed 2012-2013 budget**

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County Manager Patterson said the 2012-2013 FY budget, with a \$36.6 million general fund, reflects a loss of federal and State revenues as well as an estimated loss of \$7.5 million in gross sales. It includes a \$150,000 sales tax reduction due to the opening of the Bennettsville WalMart.

The budget would restore half of the employee furlough at 1.25 percent but not longevity or 401K contribution.

Mr. Patterson said the eight largest users of the \$23.9 million in unrestricted monies are education, public safety, human services, public buildings, tax, debt service, administration and recreation. The County Manager provided a break down in each category and pointed out that health and social services budgets are nearly half of what they were four years ago.

*The Commissioners asked the County Manager to provide a detailed list of membership dues.*

Commissioner Alford said last year he made a motion for Commissioners to reduce their salaries by 50 percent for the duration of one year. Commissioner Alford said \$250 a month is a challenge for the amount of work and travel required of Commissioners.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to restore Commissioner salaries to the previous level. Vote For: Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners Alford, Cooley and McPhatter. Vote Against: Chairman Davis and Commissioners McCall and McCook. Vote: Motion approved.**

Mr. Patterson provided an update on the State budget which, so far, does little harm to counties. He said lottery funds remain the same as last year at \$350,000 rather than the budgeted \$600,000. The State did budget the \$664,000 HAVA funds match. HAVA funds must be used before July 1, 2013.

Commissioner McCook asked if a reduction in the number of Scotland County precincts could be pursued or explored. Chairman Davis suggested the length of time for early voting might also be reduced.

County Manager Patterson said he also would have a discussion on changing rules for runoffs, which are costly but yield a low voter turnout.

### **Scotland County tax card**

The County Manager presented samples of larger format tax cards from Surry, Cherokee and Davidson counties. Mr. Patterson said the Davidson County tax card is similar to the Scotland County postcard-size tax bill although it provides a little more information. The Surry County card provides a line item breakdown while the Cherokee card features pie charts. Mr. Patterson said the larger tax bill format would cost an additional \$7,000.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to use the Surry County model and direct staff to provide a tax card mock up using Scotland County information for review and action. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*The Commissioners agreed the tax card should just use real estate, not vehicles.*

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Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton introduced Ms. Marty Pate as the new Tax Collector.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Ms. Marty Pate as Tax Collector. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to reappoint Mr. John Alford and Dr. Dale McInnis to the Workforce Development Board with terms ending June 30, 2014. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to appoint Mr. James Baggett to the Workforce Development Board with a term ending June 30, 2013. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to reappoint Ms. Carol McCall as the Commissioner-representative to the newly-formed 12-County Eastpointe Mental Health Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Ms. Bettie McNair, Mr. Jim Blue and Mr. John Schmidt to four-year terms on the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

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

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Bob Davis as Commissioner-representative to a first full term on the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to appoint Ms. Stephanie Monroe to the Eastpointe Mental Health Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. Nick Sojka, Ms. Nancy Shelley and Mr. Beacham McDougald to three-year terms on the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Update from the County Manager**

Mr. Patterson said the Town of Maxton requests that the Board of Commissioners allow the Town to impose the Queheel Volunteer Fire Department fire protection district tax of \$0.10/\$100 value on property in Maxton that is also located in Scotland County. The County currently does not charge fire tax in the Maxton town limits. Mr. Patterson said 911 calls from the 844 prefix in Scotland County are answered by Scotland County EMS, and fire protection is provided by Laurinburg Fire Department. At one time 911 calls from inside Maxton went to Robeson County. Queheel provided fire protection to Maxton and worked with Laurinburg in providing protection to Laurinburg Maxton Airport. This changed more than 10 years ago.

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EMS Director Roylin Hammond said the part of Maxton in Scotland County pays a 911 tariff in Scotland County. Mr. Hammond said that is why calls from that area are routed to Scotland County. He said routing the calls back to Robeson County would not be an issue, but the 911 tariff and where those funds would go would have to be investigated.

Chairman Davis asked Mr. Hammond and Mr. Patterson to review the issue and make a presentation to the Commissioners at the July meeting.

Mr. Patterson said Local Bill HB 1174 Privilege Tax for Sweepstakes was introduced in the House May 30 and passed first reading. It was referred to the Committee on Government. If favorable, HB1174 would be sent to the Finance Committee. The bill draft does include a limit to the privilege tax of \$2,000 per establishment and \$400 per machine. This is the same fee structure for the City of Laurinburg. Currently Representative Floyd, Cumberland County, co-sponsored the bill. No other County has joined this bill at this time.

Mr. Patterson said since then. The State introduced its own HB1180 where the State would issue a privilege tax of \$2,000 per establishment and \$1,000 per machine and up to six percent in gross receipts, which would help fund education and law enforcement. Mr. Patterson said the State bill would allow counties to assess a privilege tax of \$1,000 per establishment and \$500 per machine.

**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)(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**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve the Eagle Scout Project as presented by Mr. Stone Phillips. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to recess to 6 p.m. Thursday June 14 at the A.B. Gibson Center. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis  
Chairman