

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners**

**July 5, 2011 Regular Meeting**

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

At 7:30 p.m., when a quorum was present, Chairman Bob Davis called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Davis and Commissioners John Alford, John Cooley and Carol McCall. Commissioners not in attendance: Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners 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 Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the July 5, 2011 agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Public Forum**

**Ms. Dale Padilla**, Hasty Road, asked the Commissioners to consider approving an ordinance that would protect County citizens from negligent homeowners. She said the City of Laurinburg has such an ordinance. Ms. Padilla said the lot next to hers is not maintained. She said she is particularly concerned about the trees, which overhang her property and are full of bees and termites. She said her home has been damaged and she cannot park in her driveway. Ms. Padilla described herself as a good citizen who maintains her property.

*Chairman Davis said he could not make any promises but he would ask staff to look into the situation.*

**Report: Friendly Community Needs Survey**

Ms. Twilla Allen, LRCOG Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman, said she conducted the Friendly Community Needs Survey as her capstone project toward earning a Master's in Social Work from UNC-Pembroke. The survey was endorsed by the Aging Advisory Council and facilitated by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities Community Development Committee.

Ms. Allen provided statistics on the aging population in North Carolina and how Baby Boomers affect the growth of that population. Ms. Allen discussed the 20-question survey answered by Scotland County older adults. 419 surveys were completed by adults aged 50 to the oldest at 104. Ms. Allen discussed questions in the survey and how Scotland Place Senior Center might adapt to the needs of Baby Boomers. They include: extend hours of operation to accommodate working boomers, partner with formal and informal services outside the traditional senior center, revamp recreational and leisure activities to attract boomers and utilize social media to conduct outreach efforts.

**EMS: Transport of Stroke Protocol Patients**

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Before the presentation, Chairman Davis recognized former Commissioner Scoofer Jordan and Laurinburg City Clerk Dee Hammond, who were in attendance.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said in 2005 the Commissioners approved allowing EMS to transport cardiac patients directly to Moore Regional Hospital and bypass Scotland Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Hammond asked the Commissioners to consider allowing EMS to transport stroke patients directly to the accredited Stroke Center at Moore Regional Hospital and bypass Scotland Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.

Mr. Hammond said the Medical Director of Scotland Memorial Hospital is aware of and supports this request since the stroke patient would be transported directly to the closest facility for definitive care.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the plan to allow potential stroke patients to be transported directly to a certified stroke center for definitive, immediate care. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Update: Proposed Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

EMS Director Hammond said in July 2005 the Commissioners approved a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that included all governmental jurisdictions in the County and made each jurisdiction eligible for any Hazard Mitigation Funding that became available as a result of an event in that jurisdiction that resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Mr. Hammond said the plan was scheduled to be updated and/or rewritten every five years but in recent years, a move toward regionalization has proved to be a more cost effective approach to accomplishing the task of updating mitigation plans. Regionalization would include Scotland, Anson, Montgomery and Richmond counties. Mr. Hammond said grant funding is available to allow for a third party vendor to accomplish completing these plans. The four counties involved in the mitigation plan update all experience similar threats from natural disasters, are rural in nature, are similar in population and are a good fit for a regional plan. Mr. Hammond said the jurisdictions must approve their willingness to participate. Richmond County would take the lead in administration of the plan.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which would allow jurisdictions to be eligible for mitigation funding as a result of a natural disaster and a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners June 2, 2011 budget work session, June 6, 2011 regular meeting, June 9, 2011 budget work sessions and June 14, 2011 joint meeting/budget work session.**
- b) **Approve updated Drug Testing Policy for Scotland County Area Transit**

**System.**

c) Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$306.27 and in the amount of \$1,813.88 and to make refunds in the amount of \$179.15 and in the amount of \$2,194.63.

d) Authorize the Tax Collector to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Scotland County Tax Department.

e) Approve 2012 Holiday Schedule: New Year's Day, January 2; Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday, January 16; Good Friday, April 6; Memorial Day, May 28; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, September 3, 2012; Veteran's Day, November 12, Thanksgiving, November 22 and 23; and Christmas, December 24, 25 and 26.

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

**Request to build a restroom-concession building at the Morgan Recreation Complex**

Mr. Scoofer Jordan, speaking on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Foundation, said there are enough funds to build a concession building adjacent to the soccer fields, similar to the one at the Splash Pad. Mr. Jordan said the \$120,000 to build the concession facility would be at no cost to the County since the funds were the result of generous donations from the community. The building also would have a changing room.

Mr. Jordan said qualified bids are in from local contractors, and the bids are within budget. He asked the Commissioners to approve construction of the concession stand.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve construction of the concession stand. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Proposed Animal Control Ordinance revisions**

Health Director Ron Sapp said the Health Board responded to complaints about a year ago regarding the treatment and handling of horses when it formed a committee to look at the Animal Control Ordinance and possible amendments to the document. The Equine Rescue Association also met with the committee to provide input.

Mr. Sapp said the revisions look at definitions on how to handle livestock, including horses, and the penalties.

Mr. Sapp said the Board of Health reviewed and approved the revisions. Mr. Sapp asked the Commissioners to review the revisions, hold a public hearing on the revisions and consider approval.

**Report from the County Manager**

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County Manager Patterson said engineering estimates for the landfill gas project exceed the \$300,000 budget estimate. Mr. Patterson said the less expensive estimate at \$422,000 is not estimated to pay for itself over a 10-year period. The County Manager said the second scenario costs \$534,000 and would generate an estimated \$8,532 over 10 years. Mr. Patterson said based on the two estimates, the County would have to invest funds in excess of the grant and well above the net present value of the project. Mr. Patterson recommended that Commissioners consider canceling the project and notifying the State Energy Office that the County wishes to terminate the grant.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to cancel the landfill gas project and to notify the State Energy Office of the grant termination. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said Highland Games officials are interested in the bleachers at Jaycee Park. The park has a set of movable bleachers and 13 attached single-bench bleachers. Mr. Patterson recommended the Board offer the movable bleachers to the Historic Properties Commission for use at the John Blue Properties. Mr. Patterson said the recommendation is based on the assumption that people from either the Highland Games or Historic Properties will provide the necessary manpower to split the bleachers and reassemble them. The County would help transport the bleachers from Jaycee Park to the John Blue House at the scheduling convenience of staff. Mr. Patterson also recommended keeping the fixed seating at Jaycee Park until a comprehensive plan is developed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to offer the movable bleachers and the attached single bench bleachers to the Historic Properties Commission. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Patterson said \$300,000 in Lottery proceeds was just received but the funds were not budgeted in FY 2011-2012 pending official receipt. Mr. Patterson said the \$300,000 would be used for the Wagram School expansion.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to approve receipt of \$300,000 in Lottery proceeds to cover the obligation to the schools. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider lifting the hiring freeze because he expects several retirements in key positions to occur over the next several months.

Commissioner Cooley suggested the County leave the hiring freeze as is and fill critical positions on an individual basis.

Mr. Patterson said the positions are already budgeted, and lifting the hiring freeze would not add positions, just replace already budgeted positions. Mr. Patterson said it also allows the County to advertise the positions in a timely manner.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to lift the hiring freeze. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

The County Manager said the Laurinburg City Council has endorsed the creation and/or reactivation of the Drug and Crime Committee as a way to help reduce crime and drug activity in the community. The City would like to County to participate in the Drug and Crime Committee.

Chairman Davis asked Mr. Patterson to convey to the City the County's interest in participating and to get more information for review by the Commissioners.

Mr. Patterson said two non-profits have applied for funding. He reminded the Commissioners there are no funds for non-profits in the FY 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Patterson said the applications are on file for review if the Commissioners wish to do so.

*Chairman and Commissioners: Comments, activity updates and Committee reports*

Chairman Davis said as had previously been discussed by the Commissioners he called for a vote for appointing Mr. Charles Nichols as Finance Officer.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to appoint Mr. Charles Nichols as Finance Officer effective July 16, 2011. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Cooley asked if meetings of the Commissioners sitting as the Water Board are supposed to be advertised and held separately from the regular meetings of the Commissioners.

Mr. Johnston said historically the business of the Water Districts was conducted on an informal basis because the Board of Commissioners is the governing body for the Water Districts. Mr. Johnston said the Water Districts business has always been conducted openly and publicly as part of the Board of Commissioners agenda. Mr. Johnston said he would bring a recommendation to the next meeting of the Commissioners regarding Water Districts procedure.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis  
Chairman