

MINUTES

Scotland County Board of Commissioners

August 1, 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, 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 McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the August 1, 2011 agenda. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Public Forum

Mr. J. W. Jacobs, C 4 U BAIL BONDING, Inc., Lumberton and Laurinburg, said when he is bonding someone out he is charged \$1 for the booking report which, he said, is in violation of State law. Mr. Jacobs said he is charged the \$1 even if he only wishes to look at the report and return it. Mr. Jacobs suggested that 25 cents would be a more reasonable fee if he requested a copy that he intended to keep.

Chairman Davis said Sheriff Shep Jones would provide Mr. Jacobs with a response.

Chairman Davis said since the Animal Control Ordinance revisions are on the agenda this evening, he asked if anyone would like to speak about the document during Public Forum. No one came forward.

Mr. Robby Hall, DSS Director, said energy assistance program money is on hold until October 2011 when the agency expects to receive about \$115,000. He said people are applying, but no funds are available at this time.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Rural Operating Assistance Program

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said each year the DOT requires a Public Hearing for application of Rural Operating Assistance Program funds. Mr. Hammond said no matching funds are required, just in-kind services, which the Transportation office provides.

Chairman Davis called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the ROAP application. No one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the application for Rural Operating Assistance Program funding. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Mental Health: Statewide expansion of the Medicaid Waiver

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SRMH Director/CEO Jeanette Jordan-Huffam provided an update on the State wide expansion and 1915 Medicaid waiver. She said SRMH is considering merging with Eastpointe and Beacon in order to achieve required total and Medicaid populations for a region. She said the Southeast Region LME would be dissolved at some point.

Ms. Jordan-Huffam assured the Commissioners that everything would be done to ensure a local presence in each of the catchment areas. She said she intends to talk with the County Manager to identify space in Scotland County.

SRMH Finance Officer Vicki Evans distributed to the Commissioners a potential annual budget with Eastpointe. She said a partnership arrangement would result in a net funding loss while a merger would result in a funding gain.

Item 3. Proposed energy upgrades to Scotland County facilities

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said by installing energy efficient lighting, heat and air conditioning units in County buildings the vendor guarantees the contract will be paid for from monthly energy savings alone.

Mr. Blackwell said he would advertise for RFPs by the end of the month as required by General Statute.

Item 4. Animal Control Ordinance revisions

Health Director Ron Sapp said the Animal Control Ordinance revisions were presented to the Commissioners for review at the July meeting. He asked if there were any comments or suggestions. Commissioner Guy McCook noted two grammatical changes and asked that a sentence be added to Section 26 A clarifying how violators would reimburse the County.

Chairman Davis asked those in attendance if they wished to comment on the revisions. No one came forward to comment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance along with the additional recommended changes. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 5. Sheriff: Staffing budget amendment

Sheriff Shep Jones asked the Commissioners for approval to transfer a vacant jailer position from the Jail budget to the Sheriff's budget in the amount of \$36,944 to a reclassified Deputy I position at \$40,600. Sheriff Jones said the \$3,656 salary difference would be absorbed in the Sheriff's budget in the fringe line item. He said the transfer would allow for four deputies per shift.

Several Commissioners expressed concern regarding the request in light of the recent reduction in force and reduction in salary for employees. Chairman Davis said he was not comfortable

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acting on anything that would be contrary to the recent budget decisions made. Commissioner Alford said other department might make similar requests.

County Manager Patterson said the total dollars budgeted would not increase but only the Commissioners can approve a reclassification.

Commissioner Alford said he would expect the Sheriff to find the \$3,600 in the next budget as well. Commissioner Cooley said if departments are able to maneuver funds within the budget perhaps the Commissioners should allow them to do that.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to reclassify the vacant Jail position to Deputy I grade/step 62-3 and transfer the vacant Jailer position from the Jail to the Sheriff's budget. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 6. Consent Agenda:

a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners June 23, 2011 public hearing and July 5, 2011 regular meeting.**

b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$412.81 and in the amount of \$6,208.43 and to make refunds in the amount of \$303.11 and in the amount of \$804.72.**

c) **Approve CDBG Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons Section 3 Plan, CDBG Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan and CDBG Equal Opportunity Procurement Plan.**

d) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$13,680, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$7,095, 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 \$250, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 4) **Parks and Recreation: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$5,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 5) **Public Buildings: Approve fund transfer to Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$2,400, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money.**
- 6) **DSS: Approve rollover from the previous fiscal year of incentive funds in the amount of \$31,489.**

Commissioner Cooley said he would like to see more clarification in the wording of the budget amendments. Commissioner Cooley explained that he wouldn't want to accept funding for programs or services that were limited or no longer provided.

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

Item 7. Settlement for current year and delinquent taxes

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton presented the Commissioners with the settlement for current year taxes June 30, 2011 and settlement for delinquent taxes June 30, 2011 (all prior years). Ms. Norton also provided the Commissioners with a 2010 levy and collections analysis.

Ms. Norton said an estimated \$200,000 in foreclosures has been collected since October 2010. Real estate collection is slightly up while motor vehicle collections are down.

Chairman Davis asked Ms. Norton to give the Commissioners the outstanding dollar amount on delinquent accounts.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to approve the settlement for current year taxes and delinquent taxes. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

(Commissioner McPhatter left the meeting at 8 p.m.)

Item 8. Appointments to Boards and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to reappoint Mr. John McDonald to a five-year term on the Four County Community Action Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to reappoint Ms. June Harrell, Ms. Frances Dunn, Dr. Bruce Ezell and Ms. Katherine Allen to three-year terms on the Aging Advisory Council and to appoint Ms. Ann Thompson and Ms. Sue Shulz to their first three-year terms on the Aging Advisory Council Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 9. Report from the Finance Officer

Finance Officer Charles Nichols reported on the fund balance as of July 26, 2011, bank account totals and revenues/expenditures budget projections for FY 2010-2011. Mr. Nichols said accruals last July totaled \$349,000 while accruals this July were \$456,000.

Item 10. Report from the County Manager

County Manager Patterson said the Rockingham District Partners in Ministry (RDPM) is interested in using East Laurinburg School to facilitate its “focus in helping to alleviate poverty and ensuring a brighter future for rural at-risk children in the Rockingham District of Richmond, Scotland and Robeson counties.” Mr. Patterson said RDPM has support from the Methodist Conference, which would allow for the building to be maintained thus reducing the chance of

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creating blight in the East Laurinburg community. Mr. Patterson said the Board could consider if it is willing to transfer the property or enter into a triple net lease to RDPM, based on the assumption that the Schools do not develop plans for the facility and do not ask the County to take the property.

Commissioner Alford said he knows of another group that might be interested in East Laurinburg School. Commissioner Alford asked the Commissioners to review all proposals received.

County Manager Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider approving a resolution opposing consolidating Richmond Community College with Sandhills Community College or any other community college.

RCC Chief Financial Officer Brent Barbee said consolidating RCC with another community college would dilute the relationship influence Richmond and Scotland counties have with their community college. He said that RCC is very close to 3,000 FTEs, which would be the student threshold to deter consolidation.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the Resolution Opposed to the Proposed Dissolution of Richmond Community College. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

WHEREAS, Richmond Community College is acknowledged as a great asset of Scotland County and its citizens, proven by the major investment made in the College by the taxpayers of Scotland County; and **WHEREAS**, the Program Evaluation Division of the North Carolina General Assembly submitted a report on June 28; and

WHEREAS, this report included the recommendation of the dissolution of the Board of Trustees of Richmond Community College; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation to eliminate the President of Richmond Community College and assign leadership and authority over all current programs to the President of a neighboring college; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation to transfer ownership of all assets currently assigned to Richmond Community College to a neighboring college; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations have been approved by the Joint Program Evaluation Oversight Committee of the General Assembly for further action; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of these recommendations would have a devastating impact on the educational, workforce, cultural and economic development of Scotland County and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCOTLAND COUNTY THAT:

1. It strongly opposes any efforts by the General Assembly to merge Richmond Community College as a subsidiary of any other community college.
2. It strongly supports the leadership of Richmond Community College, including its Board of Trustees and administration, and the College employees who work to strengthen Scotland County.
3. It strongly opposes any efforts by the General Assembly to dissolve our College's leadership or reduce its effectiveness.
4. It strongly urges all partners and supporters of Richmond Community College to actively oppose these actions proposed by the General Assembly.
5. It strongly urges the boards of county commissioners of other rural community colleges identified for merger by the General Assembly to voice support for their colleges and opposition to this plan.

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7. That copies of this resolution are sent to the President of the North Carolina Community College System, to the Scotland County's legislative delegation and the leaders of the NC General Assembly, and to the Governor of the Great State of North Carolina, along with each and every Commissioner's sincere concern about the potential loss of our College.

Adopted this the 1st day of August, 2011.

The Commissioners designated Chairman Davis as voting delegate for the NCACC annual conference in August.

The Commissioners invited City Council Member Curtis Leak to discuss the formation of the Crime and Drug Committee.

Council Member Leak said the Committee would be made up of six to 10 appointees each from the City and the County. Members would propose ways to reduce drug and crime activity in the area. Council Member Leak asked the Commissioners to make committee appointments at the September Board meeting so the Crime and Drug Committee could hold its first meeting in October.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to support the creation of a City/County Crime and Drug Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

County Manager Patterson said last month the Board received a request to consider actions to provide relief from nuisance properties. Mr. Patterson said the County already has the authority to act in cases of a public health hazard, substandard housing or illegal dumping, but it does not have the resources to enforce a requirement for control of vegetation, trees and grass, assuming the specific legal authority exists.

Mr. Patterson asked the Commissioners to consider when they might wish to meet for a strategic planning session. Chairman Davis suggested they might tie in with quarterly financial reports. Commissioner McCook suggested that one facilitated session might be a good start.

Chairman and Commissioners: Comments, activity updates and Committee reports

Vice Chair McDow gave a report on the July 2011 NACo conference.

Item 11. Closed Session

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

County Attorney Johnston suggested the Commissioners meet in a separate meeting as the Water Board and to make notice of the meeting separately. He suggested the Commissioners meet as the Water Board 30 minutes prior to the regular meetings in June and in January and that

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separate minutes be taken for the Water Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to meet as the Water Board one half hour prior to the regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners in June and in January. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner John Alford moved that the Board of Commissioners adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman