

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
August 6, 2012, A.B. Gibson Center, 322 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

**MINUTES  
Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
August 6, 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 opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the August 6, 2012 agenda as presented. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Davis asked if anyone wished to speak at Public Forum. No one did, and Public Forum was closed.

**Planning and Zoning Public Hearing**

Planning and Zoning Chairman Henry McLeod made the following presentation:

Conditional Use Application Number 471-12 – Global Tower Partners- Request for a conditional use permit to construct a wireless telecommunications facility on Jesse Smith Road, Laurel Hill, NC. The property is better described as Scotland County Tax Map Number 165-Block 01- Parcel 001202 and is owned by Linda Porter.

Mr. McLeod said the Planning and Zoning Board following review of the application recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the conditional use request.

Chairman Davis called the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. Mr. Bill Amann, speaking on behalf of the applicant, said he would answer any questions. There were no questions and no one came forward, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve Conditional Use Application 471-12 in accordance with the Section 38 Standards of the Scotland County Zoning Ordinance. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Scotland County Community Foundation: History and appointment request**

Mr. Charles Smith addressed the Commissioners on the history and purpose of the Scotland County Community Foundation. Mr. Smith said the Foundation began with an initial monetary gift from the late E. Hervey Evans and his wife and from donations. The funds would be distributed to service-oriented agencies in the community. The Foundation became inactive when Chairman Duncan Sinclair died.

Mr. Smith said there is interest in reconstituting the Foundation with the appointment of 15 board members who would decide the future of Scotland County Community Foundation. Mr. Smith said the County would be responsible for six appointments, the Laurinburg City Mayor four appointments and one appointment each from St. Andrews University, Laurinburg Institute, Wagram, Gibson, East Laurinburg and Scotland County Schools.

Mr. Smith asked the Commissioners to appoint Mr. David Burns and Mr. Charles Smith, Class I; Mr. Robert Davis and Mr. Sam Snowdon, Class II; and Mr. Wayne Evans and Mr. Larry Everett, Class III.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to appoint Mr. David Burns, Mr. Charles Smith, Mr. Robert Davis, Mr. Sam Snowdon, Mr. Wayne Evans and Mr. Larry Everett to the Scotland County Community Foundation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Settlement for current year and delinquent taxes**

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton reported settlement for the current year taxes, June 30, 2012. Charges to tax collector and credits to tax collector were \$21,240,297.14. Settlement for delinquent taxes, June 30, 2012 (all prior years) charges to tax collector and credits to tax collector were \$4,891,990.22.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the settlement for current year and delinquent taxes. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners July 10, 2012 regular meeting.**
- b) **Approve several citizen-petitions to add Hackmore Lane, Barnhill Circle, Lauchwood Lane, Inverness Circle, Dornoch Circle, Carlyle and Cornwall Court and Laurelwood Circle to the State-maintained road system.**
- c) **Budget Amendments:**
  - 1) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$2,795 for Mosquito Control, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 2) **DSS: Approve rollover from previous year \$75,668 for Special Adoptions incentives money.**
  - 3) **DSS: Approve receipt of \$21,516 for Child Daycare, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 4) **Cooperative Extension: Approve receipt of federal NC A&T University grant in the amount of \$10,000, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
  - 5) **Home and Community Care Block Grant: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$25,988 in the General Fund for Senior Center operations.**

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

**Maxton Fire Tax**

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said he and County Manager Kevin Patterson met with the Maxton, Robeson County, Laurinburg and Queheel Fire Departments representatives to discuss the Town of Maxton collecting a fire tax from the area in Scotland County that is part of the Maxton corporate limits. Structures there would become part of the Queheel Fire District although both Queheel and Laurinburg Fire Departments would respond to fires in the area. The Laurinburg Fire Department would respond to structure fires only. Mr. Hammond said all parties were in agreement to the provision of fire service and the collection of a fire tax for the Queheel service.

Mr. Hammond said Maxton agreed it would be responsible for the collection of any fire tax levied. Scotland County would not be involved in the collection. Mr. Hammond said a 10-cent fire tax for \$100 valuation has been discussed.

Mr. Hammond said being part of the Queheel District, the part of Scotland County that is in the Maxton corporate limits would benefit because of a decrease in fire insurance. Mr. Hammond explained that the decrease is because

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Queheel is closer to the Scotland Forest neighborhood and surrounding community than is the Laurinburg Fire Department.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve the request by the Town of Maxton to levy a fire tax for the Queheel Fire District and take responsibility for the collection. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Reaching Excellence and Accountability in Practice (R.E.A.P.) report**

DSS Director Robby Hall and Program Administrator April Snead reported on R.E.A.P. (Reaching Excellence and Accountability in Practice). Through R.E.A.P., in which Scotland County is one of eight participating counties, the Child Services foster care unit reduced the number of children in foster care from 82 one year ago to the current 46. Mr. Hall and Ms. Snead said the decrease was accomplished through improvement of alternate placements, enhanced service delivery and court efficiency, reunification and concurrent planning. Mr. Hall said the R.E.A.P. success did not cost the County and instead saved funds.

The Commissioners applauded the agency and the Child Services unit for the exceptional job it is doing with very limited resources.

*Before continuing to the next item, Chairman Davis said the County is pleased with the commitment and investment FCC made in the County by adding 66 new jobs, expanding its operation and purchasing the spec building for additional production activities.*

**Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to reappoint Mr. Bill Norton and to appoint Mr. Jim McMillan to four-year terms on the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to reappoint Mr. Cleo Graham to a four-year terms on the Planning and Zoning Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Report from the County Manager**

County Manager Patterson apologized to the community and employees for a number of computer issues that caused failure of the Internet and telephone system. Mr. Patterson attributed the crash to a series of unrelated network problems that included a fiber break on Biggs Street, rodents that chewed fiber in the Courthouse and a hardware failure on the VOIP server. The errors were resolved by the combined effort of the County's network administrator, the consulting engineer and Laurinburg public works. He said those working to resolve the problem had to deconstruct and reconstruct the County's network to diagnose issues. IT also involved network technicians and engineers remotely from NWN and COTT and had two engineers from NWN on site.

Mr. Patterson said NCACC is requesting legislative goals for 2013/2014. Submission deadline is September 17. Mr. Patterson suggested two items for consideration would be the revenue source from Internet sweepstakes establishments and revenue sharing on State-owned land.

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**Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the legislative goals regarding revenues from Internet sweepstakes operations and revenue sharing on State-owned land. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson then discussed the optional one-quarter cent sales tax. Mr. Patterson indicated that information on the quarter cent sales tax is in the agenda package. Mr. Patterson said if the Board wishes to place this on the November ballot, then action would be required by September 15. Wording for the question on the ballot is prescribed by law and cannot prescribe how the funds would be used. The Board can designate the use of the funds. The County would be permitted to provide information about the optional one quarter-cent sales tax, but it would not be able to lobby for or against the referendum.

There was general discussion about the one quarter percent sales tax. Commissioner McPhatter said it would be important to stress that the sales tax is only one-quarter of one cent. Commissioners Alford and Cooley said a sales tax would be fair and equitable for everyone.

County Manager Patterson said if a referendum was passed, the Commissioners would not be obligated to initiate a tax.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to approve placing the one-quarter percent sales tax referendum on the ballot for citizen vote. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

County Manager Patterson and Commissioner McCook said they planned to participate in the Chamber Washington, D.C., fly-in September 10 to 11.

*The Commissioners by consensus agreed to schedule for a recess to 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 22, at 507 West Covington Street.*

Vice Chair McDow asked to be excused from the September meeting.

#### **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)(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 and to go into Closed Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to recess to 5 p.m., Wednesday, August 22, at 507 West Covington Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis  
Chairman