

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

**MINUTES**

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners  
September 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 and Commissioners John Cooley, Carol McCall and Guy McCook. Commissioners not in attendance: Vice Chair Joyce McDow (*excused*) and Commissioners John Alford (*excused*) and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, Finance Officer Charles Nichols and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Davis delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

**Public Hearing: Economic Incentive Grant**

Chairman Davis called the Public Hearing for comment on the incentive grant to FCC.

Scotland County resident Charles Parker said he is happy to learn FCC is expanding and will employ 66 additional people. Mr. Parker commended the governing body for its contribution in making this happen. Mr. Parker said he believes the incentive package to be overly generous with payment to the company of taxes over six years. Mr. Parker pointed out that citizens who have lived in Scotland County all their lives do not receive any tax incentive. He described the FCC incentive as “outlandish.” Mr. Parker asked the Commissioners to rethink the deal and to ask FCC to pay its just fair of County taxes.

No one else commented, and the Public Hearing was closed.

**Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Corporation activities update**

LDRC Chairman Jim Willis discussed the history of the LDRC and how it is funded. He distributed copies of the Development Plan for Downtown Laurinburg which, although prepared in 1988, is still valid today with many of its plans coming to fruition. Mr. Willis said LDRC adopted a Main Street approach with all LDRC resources committed to improving downtown. Recently LDRC replaced awnings, removed old signs and started improving buildings in a block-by-block progression. The LDRC is considering reinstating a grant program where downtown businesses can receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$2,500 to assist in downtown enhancement.

Mr. Willis asked the Commissioners to consider participating in the launch of a Scotland County Sports Hall of Fame. He said there are resources to jump start the project and suggested that Parks and Recreation might be involved.

**Financial report and update**

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Finance Officer Charles Nichols said the General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011, was \$5.1 million while the General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2012, was \$5.9 million, a more than \$800,000 increase from the previous year. Mr. Nichols said the amount of unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011 was \$2.7 million, which was 6.73 percent. In order for the County to meet the 8 percent criteria established by the LGC, the unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2012 must be \$2.9 million, a difference of \$196,000 from the previous year.

**Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approve minutes of the Board of Commissioners August 6, 2012 regular meeting and August 22, 2012, reconvened meeting.**
- b) **Approve Contract for CDBG Community Development Administrative Services**
- c) **Approve Resolution for Administrative Guidelines and Policies for the 2011 CDBG Program, which include: Project Ordinance, Financial Management Resolution, Program Assistance Policy, Rehabilitation/Demolition Contract Award Policy, Citizen Participation Plan, Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Local Economic Benefit Plan, Equal Employment and Procurement Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, Fair Housing Policy, Section 519 Policy (Excessive Use)  
Relocation Coverage Plan and Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing.**

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

**Report from the County Manager**

County Manager Patterson recommended that the one quarter percent sales tax brochure be mailed to registered voters. Both the registered voter list and tax listing have approximately 22,000 names, but the tax list has more duplication. Mr. Patterson said he believes the registered voter list gives better coverage of the County.

Mr. Patterson said the brochure would cost approximately \$9,800 for black and white and \$11,100 for color. Mr. Patterson said the brochure would be mailed out by the middle of October to reinforce the information in a timely manner.

*The Commissioners after discussion and by consensus agreed to send the brochure to those who voted in the last presidential election and those who registered in the last election in order to focus the mailing on those most likely to go to the polls and to decrease the cost of printing the brochure.*

Mr. Patterson said with the resignation of Mr. Herbert Rainer from the City Council, there is now an opening for a municipal representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee. The Laurinburg City Council recommends that Council Member Mary Jo Adams be appointed to Mr. Rainer's unexpired term.

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**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to accept the recommendation of the Laurinburg City Council and appoint Council Member Mary Jo Adams to the unexpired term on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said Craven County will celebrate its 300th anniversary September 22. The County is asking the Board to consider sending a resolution or letter celebrating the event.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the writing of a celebratory resolution and to authorize the Chairman to sign the resolution. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson reported that since the County began offering the Prescription Drug Discount Card in September 2007 it has saved users approximately \$160,446.57 in prescription costs as of July 2012.

Mr. Patterson said the Sheriff's Department is exploring a lease/purchase option for patrol vehicles. For the amount budgeted for the purchase of three vehicles the County could lease eight vehicles with a purchase option for \$1 per vehicle at the end of three years. This would create a vehicle replacement plan where the County could purchase new vehicles every fourth year. The vehicle being considered is the new replacement for the Ford Crown Victoria. Executing this lease would allow the County to replace the 2007-08 Dodge Chargers. The price of the new vehicles would include stripping and radios.

*The Board of Commissioners by consensus recommended that the County Manager report back with comparison pricing on the lease/purchase option.*

### **Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley 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. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

### **OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Chairman Davis moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis  
Chairman