

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting June 21, 2022, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting, June 21, 2022, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Whit Gibson, Vice Chair John Alford, Commissioners Betty Blue Gholston (Left at 1:00 pm), Darrel “BJ” Gibson, Tim Ivey, and Carol McCall. Commissioners not in attendance: Clarence McPhatter II. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, and Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Gibson called the reconvened meeting to order and asked Commissioner BJ Gibson to offer an invocation. Commissioner BJ Gibson also asked for a moment of silence for a South Johnson student who drowned over the weekend. **Motion was made by Commissioner Ivey to approve the agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Alford. Vote to approve the agenda: Unanimous.**

Consent Agenda

On the consent agenda for this reconvened meeting was as follows:

1. Home and Community Care Block Grant (Attachment A)
2. ARP Revised Project Ordinance (Attachment B)
3. Budgetary Adjustments for 2021-22 and Carryovers to 2022-23 (Attachment C)

Scotland County Free Clinic

Chairman Gibson then told the Board that he had received a letter from Ginger Cousins with the Scotland Free Clinic. Chairman Gibson stated that in the letter Ms. Cousins was asking for clarification if the Board had decided about the additional \$240,000 appropriation that she had asked for when the Board granted the clinic \$150,000 from ARP funds. Chairman Gibson asked Mr. Patterson if the entire amount of \$150,000 had been given to the clinic yet. Mr. Patterson stated that there had been a service agreement with the free clinic and funding was given on a per patient basis and it isn't known how much of the funds have been give to the clinic. Chairman Gibson asked if that could be gotten by the time of the July meeting. Mr. Patterson stated that it could be obtained. *By consensus the Board agreed to table the matter until the July 11, 2022 regular meeting.*

Boards and Committee Appointments

The Board next heard from Vice Chair John Alford. Vice Chair Alford stated that he had interested in both the planning and zoning board as well as the tourism development authority and would like to wait until the July 11th regular meeting to appoint individuals to those boards. *By consensus the Board agreed to postpone the appointment until the July regular meeting.* Vice Chair Alford also stated that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) at the LRCOG needed to be reappointed with commissioners and municipal representatives. Currently Commissioner Ivey sits on this Board and is eligible to be reappointed. Chairman Gibson is the alternate. Upon hearing from Vice Chair Alford, **motion was made by Commissioner McCall to appoint Commissioner Ivey as the member and Chairman Gibson as the alternate to the Lumber River Council of Governments Transportation Advisory Council. Motion was**

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duly seconded by Commissioner BJ Gibson. The vote to approve was unanimous. Mr. Patterson stated that the municipalities had met and recommended that Laurinburg Council Member Mary Jo Adams be appointed as the municipal representative to the Transportation Advisory Council and Rosemary Rainer be appointed as alternate. Upon hearing from Mr. Patterson, **motion was made by Commissioner McCall to appoint Mary Jo Adams as the municipal representative on the Lumber River Council of Governments and to appoint Rosemary Rainer as the alternate. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston.**

2022-23 Budget

The Board next heard from Mr. Patterson concerning the 2022-23 fiscal year budget. Mr. Patterson reported that there have been some minor tweaks to the budget. The budget is \$36.7 million not counting education and \$13.8 million goes to education, both the school system and Richmond Community College. Commissioner Gholston asked how much debt service there was besides the schools. Mr. Patterson stated that the debt service not including the school is \$297,810 per year which includes the Morgan Center and the utility program from about 8 years ago. Mr. Patterson informed the Board that even with the schools the County is well below the legal limit for debt. Vice Chair Alford asked about the length of the other debt. Mr. Patterson stated that the Morgan Center is 20 years and the energy contract is either 12 or 15 years. Mr. Patterson then broke down the \$13.8 million in education that is in the budget. Mr. Patterson also reviewed the solid waste, water, and fire departments funds and explained how these funds were different from the general fund. Chairman Gibson asked if the ARP funds are a separate budget. Mr. Patterson stated that they are a separate revenue fund. Mr. Patterson then explained that there was \$1.9 million of fund balance appropriated in the budget but with collecting 97% of the revenues and only spending 94% of the funds, fund balance shouldn't have to be used. Mr. Patterson explained how to add to fund balance. Commissioner Gholston asked if any of the commissioners had a call about insurance. Commissioner Ivey stated that he had a call and Commissioner BJ Gibson read an email that he had received. Discussion ensued concerning the employee health plan with County Manager Patterson and Human Resources Director Susan Sanders. After discussion it was decided to have meetings with the employees and explain the insurance plan along with two commissioners. Commissioner Ivey asked what a penny on the tax rate did for revenue. Mr. Patterson stated that it was about \$250,000. Commissioner Ivey stated that he would hate to go down a penny this year and then have to go backward during a recession. Chairman Gibson asked how comfortable Mr. Patterson is with a \$0.99 rate. Mr. Patterson stated that he felt confident that we could sustain the rate in a one year recession. Vice Chair Alford stated that he thought the County would be fine and that growth will offset any decline from a recession. The Board next discussed the schools. Commissioner Gholston asked Mr. Patterson what he recommended for the schools. Mr. Patterson stated that he would recommend no change at all, for funding to remain the same as last year. Commissioner Gholston stated that she would only be in favor of \$300,000 in capital. Commissioner Ivey stated that the schools were pretty dug in at \$600,000 at the liaison committee meeting. Chairman Gibson related to the Board that the Board of Education members on the liaison committee wanted to stress that they have done a good job of looking for money and that there are a lot of needs. Commissioner BJ Gibson stated that the members of the Board on the liaison committee asked about Shaw but there were no plans to move it. Commissioner Ivey stated that the schools feel they only get \$8.5 million because they have to make the lease payment. Commissioner BJ Gibson stated that the process was a little different this year and that was

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explained to the Board of Education members of the liaison committee. Vice Chair Alford stated that the schools promised to have savings if they built the school and now there are no savings. Chairman Gibson stated that the Board of Education members say that some savings have been realized and that there will be some savings in the future. Vice Chair Alford also stated that he would rather not front the money for capital because the schools know if something has to be done the commissioners will pay for it. Discussion followed about the budget. Upon conclusion of discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner Ivey to approve the 2022-23 budget ordinance at \$50,631,037 with a 99 cent tax rate. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Alford and the vote to approve was unanimous (Attachment D).**

East Laurinburg

The Board next heard from Sharon Edmundson with the Local Government Commission (LGC). Ms. Edmundson stated that she was here today to answer any questions that the Board might have about East Laurinburg. Mr. Patterson stated that the County has agreed to take on the street lights in East Laurinburg and use the funds from the town to pay for those for at least one year and the County will also take control of the real property and personal property of the town. Mr. Patterson reported that the LGC will take care of financial documents and keep them for the prescribed amount of time. Any personal property or real property could be surplus. Commissioner Ivey asked about the mention of a payroll tax reserve in the resolution. Mr. Johnston stated that was put into the resolution because no one is sure that the payroll taxes have been properly filed. Discussion followed about trash pickup in East Laurinburg. Mr. Johnston stated that all the Board is voting on today is to be a partner. Commissioner Ivey asked what would happen if the County didn't agree to be a partner. Ms. Edmundson stated that the LGC would have to start over and try to find another local government partner and not sure who that would be. The Board then heard from State Treasurer Dale Falwell thanking them for their help with this situation. After hearing from Treasurer Falwell, Chairman Gibson asked if Waste Management had been asked if they were interested in continuing the contract. Ms. Edmundson stated that they were not interested. Chairman Gibson stated that there needs to at least be a miniature trash site in East Laurinburg. Discussion again followed about trash in East Laurinburg. Upon conclusion of discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner McCall to approve the resolution to become a local government partner. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston and the vote to approve was unanimous (Attachment E).**

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Gholston stated that the lack of diversity of African Americans in the highest levels of a department is noticeable. When there is an opening, this should be looked at. Mr. Patterson stated that that the human resources department has been reaching out to the community as well as HBCU's and it is an objective in recruitment. Commissioner McCall asked if there was an update on the expensive inmate and asked Mr. Johnston if he could speak with the district attorney about moving the case up to be adjudicated. Mr. Johnston stated that not sure where you would stop if you started down this path. According to Mr. Johnston this is likely Judge Futrell's decision.

Closed Session

Chairman Gibson then stated that the next item on the agenda was a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Upon

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hearing from Chairman Gibson, **motion was made** by Vice Chair Alford to go into closed session. **Motion was duly seconded** by Commissioner Ivey. **Vote to go into closed session was unanimous.** Upon coming out of closed session, the Board took no action.

Recess

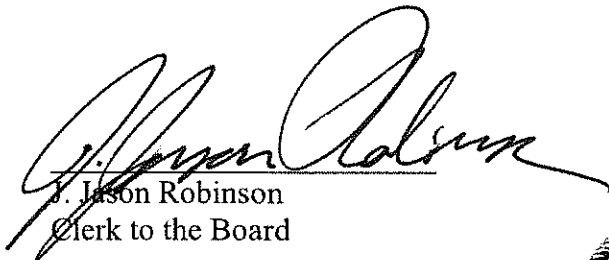
Having no further business, **Motion was made** by Commissioner Ivey to recess to I.E. Johnson Annex at 1:05 pm and it was **duly seconded** by Commissioner Gholston. **Vote: Unanimous**

I.E. Johnson Annex

Chairman Gibson called the Board back into order. The Board heard from Mr. Patterson concerning the report from the engineer about turning the annex section of I.E. Johnson into a homeless shelter for families and the Board toured the facility. *Consensus of the Board was that the annex at I.E. Johnson would be cost prohibitive to convert to a homeless shelter for families.*

Adjournment

Having no further business, **motion was made** by Commissioner BJ Gibson to adjourn. **Motion was duly seconded** by Commissioner McCall. **Vote to adjourn was unanimous.**

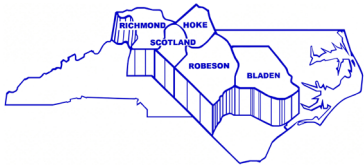

J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board


Whit Gibson
Chair



(County Seal)

Attachment A



Lumber River Council of Governments
30 C.J. Walker Road, COMtech Park
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372-7340
Tel. (910) 618-5533 • Fax (910) 521-7556
E-mail: lrcog@lumberrivercog.org
Website: www.lumberrivercog.org

LRCOG

Dedicated to Regional Excellence

Memorandum

To: Scotland County Board of Commissioners

From: Twilla C. Allen, MSW, Area Agency on Aging Program Administrator
Lumber River Council of Governments

Re: In-Home Aide Program FY 2023 and FY 2024
Home & Community Care Block Grant Funds (HCCBG) FY 2023

Date: June 13, 2022

SFY 2023 & 2024 In-Home Aide Program Bid

The SFY 2023 & 2024 In-Home Aide Program Bid Process has been completed. The non-service provider members of the Scotland County Aging Advisory Council, met on May 13, 2022 to review the one bid. The members of the committee recommend to the Scotland County Board of Commissioners to award the Scotland County In-Home Aide Level I, II, & III to Interim Healthcare of Eastern Carolinas, Inc. in the amounts stated in the SFY 2023 Home & Community Care Block section below.

Home and Community Care Block Grant

The allocation for state fiscal year 2023 for Scotland County Home and Community Care Block Grant is \$415,960 (federal, state and local). The Scotland County Aging Advisory Council Block Grant Committee met on May 13, 2022 and recommended these funds be allocated to the following services:

Member Governments

BLADEN COUNTY

Bladenboro • Clarkton • Dublin
East Arcadia • Elizabethtown
Tar Heel • White Lake

HOKE COUNTY

Raeford

RICHMOND COUNTY

Dobbins Heights • Ellerbe • Hamlet
Hoffman • Norman
Rockingham

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Gibson • Laurinburg • Wagram

ROBESON COUNTY

Fairmont • Lumber Bridge • Lumberton
Marietta • Maxton • McDonald
Orrum • Parkton • Pembroke
Proctorville • Red Springs • Rennert
Rowland • St. Pauls

Equal Opportunity Employer

Agency	Service	Federal/State	Local Match	Total
Scotland Place	Housing and Home Improvement	\$43,888	\$4,877	\$48,765
Scotland Place	Senior Center Operations	\$900	\$100	\$1,000
Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS)	General Transportation	\$14,946	\$1,661	\$16,607
Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS)	Medical Transportation	\$13,495	\$1,499	\$14,994
Wagram Active Living Center	Senior Center Operations	\$900	\$100	\$1,000
Lumber River COG	Congregate Nutrition	\$54,666	\$6,074	\$60,740
Lumber River COG	Home Delivered Meals	\$83,998	\$9,333	\$93,331
Interim Healthcare	Level I	\$9,055	\$1,006	\$10,061
Interim Healthcare	Level II	\$78,372	\$8,708	\$87,080
Interim Healthcare	Level III	\$74,144	\$8,238	\$82,382
	Total Funding for Scotland County	\$374,364	\$41,596	\$415,960

We are therefore requesting the Scotland County Board of Commissioners approval for the FY 2023 In-Home Aide Program and the FY 2023 HCCBG.

ATTACHMENT B

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Ordinance - Revised

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Scotland, North Carolina that, pursuant to 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: The project authorized is the purchase of COVID-19 related items and Water, Sewer, or Broadband infrastructure based on the guidance provided by the US Treasury.

Section 2: The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant agreement and the budget contained herein.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

COVID-19 Items and Water, Sewer, or Broadband Infrastructure	<u>\$6,763,960</u>
Total Appropriations	<u>\$6,763,960</u>

Section 4: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete this project:

Federal Proceeds	<u>\$6,763,960</u>
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>\$6,763,960</u>

Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency, the grant agreements, and federal regulations. The terms of the grant agreement also shall be met.


Section 6: Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grantor agency in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7: The Finance Officer is directed to report on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

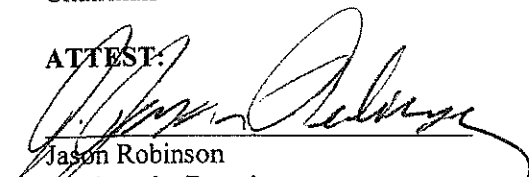
Section 8: The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to this board. The Budget Officer may transfer amounts between objects of expenditure without limitations and without a separate report.

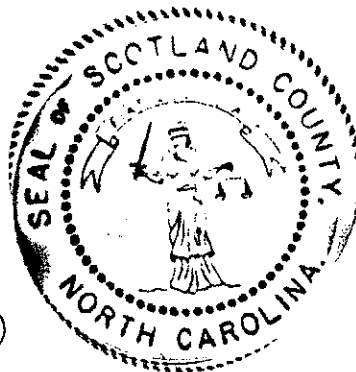
Section 9: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk to the County Commissioners, and to the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out the project.

Adopted this 21st day of June 2022.


Whit Gibson
Chairman

ATTEST:


Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board



ATTACHMENT C

Budgetary Adjustments

Current Year Ad Valorem Taxes – Increase in Revenues - \$350,000

Sales and Use Tax – Increase in Revenues - \$350,000

Register of Deeds – Increase in Revenues - \$86,100

Inspections – Increase in Revenues - \$215,000

Parks & Recreation – Increase in LRCOG funding - \$71,298

JCPC – Increase in Discretionary Funds from DPS - \$35,000

Fines & Forfeitures – Increase in Revenues - \$40,000

Fire Districts – Increase in Sales Tax Revenues - \$50,000

Fire Districts – Increase in Ad Valorem Taxes - \$29,000

School Fund – Increase in Lottery Revenue - \$126,995

Water Districts – Increase in Revenues - \$243,500

Landfill – Increase in Revenues (FEMA) - \$318,896

Funding Requests to Rollover to FY 2023

Sheriff's Office - \$9,500 for Ammunition (order placed not yet received)

Sheriff's Office - \$6,060 for Bulletproof Vests (remaining grant funds)

Sheriff's Office - \$18,171 for Vehicle (insurance proceeds received in June)

Sheriff's Office - \$8,761 for Vehicle Repairs (damaged cars repairs incomplete)

Public Buildings - \$30,000 for Laurel Hill Community Center walking track

Public Buildings - \$4,000 for Mower Deck (on back order)

Public Buildings - \$16,000 for Tree Removal (Library)

Public Buildings - \$2,000 for Parking Lot Striping (Courthouse)