

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, January 9, 2023, EOC Building, 1403 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

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Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Tim Ivey, Vice Chair Darrel “BJ” Gibson, John Alford, Bo Frizzell, Whit Gibson, and Darwin Williams. Commissioners not in attendance: Clarence McPhatter II; Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, Community Relations Specialist/Deputy Clerk Adam Peele.

**Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Ivey called the meeting to order and asked Vice Chair BJ Gibson to give the invocation, and then Chairman Ivey led the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Ivey then stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Whit Gibson to approve the agenda and the motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote to approve agenda: Unanimous**

**Public Forum**

There was no one to speak before the Board in January.

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda for January was as follows:

1. *Approve Minutes of December 5, 2022 Regular Minutes*
2. *Approve November tax refunds, releases, and discoveries (Attachment A)*
3. *Approve the final sale of real property on Gibson Road (Attachment B)*
4. *Approve Health Department reclassification requests: Public Health Nurse II to Public Health Nurse III and Nutritionist II to Public Health Nurse II*
5. *Approve budget amendments (Attachment C)*
6. *Surplus Lt. Reggie McPhatter’s Service Weapon*

**Motion was made by Commissioner Whit Gibson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote to approve consent agenda: Unanimous.**

**Proclamation for Lt. Reggie McPhatter**

The Board next presented the family of Lieutenant James Reginald “Reggie” McPhatter with a proclamation, highlighting the 12 years that he gave to the citizens of Scotland County.

**Proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

The Board next heard from Mr. Walter Rogers, a commissioner with the North Carolina MLK Day commission. Mr. Rogers stated that he brings greetings from the governor of North Carolina. Mr. Rogers read aloud a proclamation signed by the governor encouraging everyone to recognize MLK Day on January 16, 2023 by being in service to your community. Upon hearing

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from Mr. Rogers, **motion was made** by Commissioner Whit Gibson to adopt the proclamation. The motion was **duly seconded** by Commissioner Alford and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**Southeastern Community Action Partnership**

The Board next heard from Dr. Ericka Whitaker, CEO of Southeastern Community Action Partnership (SCAP) and Tiffany Anthony, Housing Director. Dr. Whitaker reviewed with the Board what SCAP does and their mission. Dr. Whitaker also stated that SCAP has a desire to expand on their footprint at the I.E. Johnson facility. Currently, SCAP has a Head Start Center adjacent to the land and would like to expand with affordable senior housing as well as using the existing “annex” building to house SCAP offices in Scotland County as well as to expand services in the county. According to Dr. Whitaker, currently SCAP provides \$4.8 million in resources to Scotland County. Dr. Whitaker stated that SCAP envisions partnering with the hospital, retail businesses, and other partners. Dr. Whitaker outlined the timeline in phases and stated that the focus would be on senior citizens. Commissioner Williams asked for the approximate location of the affordable housing. Dr. Whitaker stated that it would be basically between the head start building and the old school building. Mr. Patterson stated that SCAP is looking at about 10 acres. Both Commissioners Whit Gibson and Alford asked about the number of units they were planning on. Dr. Whitaker stated that as many as possible. The Board asked Dr. Whitaker if SCAP was in a place to do a plan. Dr. Whitaker stated that she could commit to a plan. Chairman Ivey asked the Board if there was consensus for the project to move forward. *Consensus of the Board was for the project to move forward.*

**Landfill Fiber Switch**

The Board next heard from Kris Ward, Director of Business Development for FOCUS Broadband. Mr. Ward thanked the Board for their support in FOCUS Broadband’s efforts to obtain federal funding for their \$32.5 million expansion in Robeson and Scotland Counties. Mr. Ward stated that FOCUS has identified areas in Robeson and Scotland Counties that are suitable for fiber optic switches. One of the areas that was identified was owned by Scotland County at the landfill. Mr. Ward stated that FOCUS is looking for a 60x60 piece of property for easement in perpetuity. Basically they are asking for an easement for a switch to serve thousands of addresses in Scotland and Robeson Counties. County Attorney Ed Johnston asked why that FOCUS wanted an easement instead of outright conveyance. Mr. Ward stated that they really didn’t care if it is an easement or conveyance, that they would take it either way. Discussion followed about how many addresses will be served in Scotland County with this switch and if the county attorney had a preference on easement or conveyance for the property. Upon conclusion of discussion, **motion was made** by Commissioner Whit Gibson to move forward with this either as an easement or as conveyance whichever one the lawyers agree to. The motion was **duly seconded** by Vice Chair Gibson and the vote to approve was unanimous.

**Sheriff’s Office**

The Board next heard from Sheriff Ralph Kersey. Sheriff Kersey stated that he had come to the Board in 2016 asking for permission to hire a relative. Once more he is coming to ask for permission to hire his daughter and if approved she will be taking a position in the detention center. Upon hearing from Sheriff Kersey, **motion was made** by Commissioner Alford to approve the hiring of a relative for the office of the Sheriff. Motion was **duly seconded** by

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**Commissioner Frizzell and the vote to approve was unanimous.** Next, the sheriff spoke about courthouse security. Sheriff Kersey relayed to the Board that there had been an incident with a firearm getting through the magistrate's office after hours. Sheriff Kersey stated that there were on average about 3-4 courts per week now and the amount of people in the courthouse is concerning and he doesn't have enough people to work court. Add to this, the security system is not as good for the courthouse as the sheriff's office. Chairman Ivey asked what he needed, a security system and how many people. Sheriff Kersey stated that he needed 2 people, with at least one of those being a sworn officer. He also stated that they could use some of the cameras that they already have had in the jail to use in the interior of the courthouse. Discussion then followed about how much the sheriff spends in overtime. Upon conclusion of discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner Williams to add two positions to the office of the Sheriff as requested for a sworn deputy and a jailer. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Whit Gibson and the vote to approve was unanimous.**

**SCATS**

The Board next heard from SCATS Director, April Snead. Ms. Snead stated that she needed to do the public hearing for DOT funding for the 5311 grant for capital and administration for 2024. According to Ms. Snead, the administration grant is for \$166,854 and the match from the county is about \$25,000. The capital grant is to replace one van, at least and will be for \$135,156 and the match is \$13,517. After hearing from Ms. Snead, Chairman Ivey opened the public hearing. Having no one speak for or against the grant, Chairman Ivey closed the public hearing.

**Water Board**

The Board next heard from Finance Officer Beth Hobbs concerning the financial situation of the water districts. Ms. Hobbs reported to the Board that the water districts are financially sound and each have over a million dollars cash on hand. Ms. Hobbs also reported that the debt service has been paid and another payment will be made in June.

**BRIC Grant**

The Board next heard from Public Safety Director Robert Sampson and Assistant Emergency Medical Services Director Matthew Locklear concerning the BRIC grant. The BRIC grant is a grant given by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant would be used to replace the emergency services building that was built in the early 1980's. According to Mr. Sampson it is getting very hard to operate in the building right now. Mr. Locklear stated that we have made it through 4 phases of the grant process so far and the next phase is at the federal level with FEMA. The building floods quite regularly and this would mitigate that problem. Mr. Sampson stated that if the County was approved for the grant that there would be a 25% match, which could be matched with other grants. Chairman Ivey asked if land could be part of the match. Mr. Sampson stated that it could if it was purchased. Mr. Sampson also stated that this would be more than just an EMS building that it would be an emergency services building that would house EMS, Emergency Management, Rescue Squad, and the Fire Commission.

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**Respiratory Infection Update**

The Board next heard from Health Director Amanda Deaver. Ms. Deaver stated that RSV and Flu cases seemed to have peaked at the end of November. COVID has seen a resurgence and the county is in the high community risk level. At the high community risk level, Ms. Deaver stated that the CDC recommends masking indoors and for everyone to be up to date on boosters and to test if you feel sick. Currently the positivity rate in the county is 16% and there are 116 cases.

**January Worksession**

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning a work session for the Board in January. This would have two items, one would be legislative goals and the other would be the salary study. After discussion, January 23rd at 9:00 am at the Morgan Center was agreed to by the Board.

**IE Johnson**

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning the progress at I.E. Johnson school. Mr. Patterson stated that the asbestos inspection for the rest of the building to determine what remediation is needed is underway. Still on target for phase 1 to be completed by the summer of this year.

**Boards and Committees**

Vice Chair Gibson stated that there were two boards that had vacancies for this month. One of those is the library advisory board and the other is the physician seat on the Board of Health. **Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson to appoint Ruth Miller to the Scotland Memorial Library Advisory Board for the remainder of the unexpired term and to appoint Dr. Freda Singletary to the physician's seat on the Board of Health. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Williams and the vote to approve was unanimous.**

**County Manager Report**

Mr. Patterson reported that the second tranche of funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) came down in June from the treasury department. When that money was sent down East Laurinburg was still a town and they received \$27,000. According to Mr. Patterson, the County has been asked to receive these funds on behalf of East Laurinburg but there have been discussions with the reporting agencies about how to report the funds. Mr. Patterson stated that he would keep the Board updated. Mr. Patterson also informed the Board that there have been additional opioid settlements that are coming down the pipe. These are in addition to the settlements that have already occurred. Commissioner Frizzell asked how much the County has received. Mr. Patterson stated that the County has received about \$300,000 so far. Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to see some of the medicine collection drop boxes put in place with the funds.

**Commissioner News**

Chairman Ivey reminded the Board that Scots for Youth had come in December to ask for \$25,000 and the Board didn't discuss it. A short discussion followed about the major points of the presentation and request. Upon conclusion of the discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner Williams to approve the \$25,000 requested by Scots for Youth. The motion**

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was **duly seconded** by Vice Chair Gibson and the vote to approve was unanimous. Clerk to the Board, Jason Robinson next informed the Board that there needs to be a commissioner appointed to the Transportation Advisory Board for SCATS. Discussion followed about which commissioner would be willing to sit on this board. Commissioner Alford volunteered to serve.

**Motion was made by Chairman Ivey to appoint Commissioner Alford to the TAB board.**

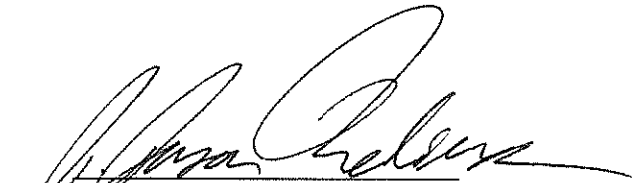
**Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson and the vote to approve was unanimous.**


The Board next heard from Representative Garland Pierce who stated that he was looking forward to getting the legislative requests and working with the Board along with Senator Britt to hopefully make a difference. Commissioner Williams stated that he had the pleasure of going to the new commissioner training in Asheville and attended the JCPC meeting in December.

Commissioner Frizzell stated that he appreciated everyone being at the meeting. Vice Chair Gibson stated that he would suggest February 2nd from 11-2 for the employee luncheon. All commissioners seemed to be in agreement that it was an acceptable date.

**Recess**

Having no further business at this time, **motion was made by Commissioner Whit Gibson to recess the meeting until Monday, January 23rd at 9:00 am at the Edwin Morgan Center. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson. Vote to recess was unanimous.**

  
Jason Robinson  
Clerk to the Board

  
Tim Ivey  
Chair

(county seal)



# ATTACHMENT A



MIKI BUTLER  
TAX ASSESSOR  
(910) 277-2566

507 W COVINGTON ST  
POST OFFICE BOX 488  
LAURINBURG, NORTH CAROLINA 28353

MARTY PATE  
TAX COLLECTOR  
(910) 277-2566

December 8, 2022

Beth Hobbs  
Finance Officer Scotland County

Re: Release, Refund and Discovery Report for November 2022

Dear Ms. Hobbs,

Please find attached releases, refunds and discoveries for the month of November 2022.  
The grand totals are as follows:

1. Releases less than \$100 – Totaling: **\$14.52;**
2. Releases more than \$100 – Totaling: **\$20,749.24;**
3. Refunds less than \$100 – Totaling: **\$0.00;** All other refunds were due to overpayment;
4. Refunds more than \$100 – Totaling: **\$0.00;** All other refunds were due to overpayment; and,
5. Discoveries – Totaling: **\$6,128.60.**

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty Pate".

Marty Pate  
Scotland County Tax Collector

Enclosure

**RELEASES LESS THAN \$100**

NAME	ACCT/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
Harry Eugene Clark	202380024200	<u>14.52</u>	listing error
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 14.52</u></b>

**RELEASES MORE THAN \$100**

NAME	ACCT/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
Ruby Scott	1013071	\$ 7,894.36	foreclosure county/city
John Terry McNeill	8102040	\$ 2,420.57	foreclosure county/city
Gladys Jacob	4090752	\$ 8,717.20	foreclosure county purchase
Esther Brown	4092289	\$ 1,509.23	foreclosure county purchase
Elizabeth Hobbs	202380028600	<u>\$ 207.88</u>	listing error
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$20,749.24</u></b>

**REFUNDS LESS THAN \$100**

NAME	DESC/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$0.00,</u> all others due to overpayment</b>

**REFUNDS MORE THAN \$100**

NAME	DESC/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$0.00,</u> all others due to overpayment</b>

**DISCOVERIES**

NAME	AMOUNT	REASON
Shelby Stubbs	\$ 199.60	unlisted swmh
Total gap discovery amount	<u>\$5,929.00</u>	gap m/v billing
<b>Total for all discoveries</b>	<b><u>\$6,128.60</u></b>	

## ATTACHMENT B



**To:** Scotland County Board of Commissioners

**From:** J. Jason Robinson, Clerk to the Board

**Date:** January 6, 2022

**Subject:** Upset Bid Process

This is to let the Board know that the upset bid process is complete for the property that was surplus and a bid accepted at the December 5, 2022 meeting. The bid for the property submitted by John and Annette Heard was for \$2225 . The bid was advertised in the paper and an upset bid was required by 5 pm on December 30th. No other bid has been received, so the Board may make final approval for the sale of the property.



# ATTACHMENT C

**Scotland County  
Budgetary Adjustments  
December 31, 2022**

<u>Amendment #</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Accounts</u>	
				<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
BA-0216	+	91,375.00	Additional FEMA revenues - Hurricane Florence (Sneads Grove Recycle Site)	FEMA Proceeds	Landfill Accounts
BA-0217	+	850,000.00	Appropriate funds to cover add'l fire trucks Fire Districts	Fund Balance Appropriated	Heavy Equipment
BA-0221	+	650,000.00	Appropriate funds for EDC incubator building	Fund Balance Appropriated	Economic Development
BA-0222	+	39,000.00	Appropriate funds for lobbying services	Fund Balance Appropriated	Contracted Services
BA-0224	+	268,991.00	Transfer remaining bond proceeds for debt service	Transfer In	Water District Accounts
BA-0225	+	353,256.00	Transfer remaining bond proceeds for debt service	Transfer In	Lease Income
BA-0226	+	7,500.00	Appropriate funds for employee luncheon	Fund Balance Appropriated	Special Programs