

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting March 22, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting, March 22, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Tim Ivey, Vice Chair Darrel “BJ” Gibson, Commissioners John Alford, Bo Frizzell, Whit Gibson, Clarence McPhatter II (left at 10:45 am) and Darwin Williams (left at 10:45 am). Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, Human Resources Manager Susan Sanders, DSS Director April Snead, Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham, Cooperative Extension Director Randy Wood, Public Safety Director Robert Sampson, Library Director Leon Gyles, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, and Community Relations Specialist/Deputy Clerk Adam Peele.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ivey called the reconvened meeting to order and asked Vice Chair Gibson to deliver the invocation. Chairman Ivey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion was made by Commissioner Whit Gibson to approve the agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote to approve the agenda: Unanimous.**

Consent Agenda

On the consent agenda for the March 22, 2023 Reconvened Meeting was the following:

- a. Approve the minutes of the February 22, 2023 Reconvened Meeting
- b. Approve new funding for health department (Attachment A)
- c. Approve revised project ordinance (Attachment B)
- d. Approve resolution to receive State ARP funds for water (Attachment C)

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

Pastor Micheal Edds

The Board first heard from Pastor Micheal Edds concerning the playground proposal last month by Renew Life Group, LLC. Mr. Edds asked the commissioners to consider funding the playground even if it is not for the full amount that was asked for. Pastor Edds stated that any amount would be appreciated.

2023-24 Fiscal Year Budget

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning the 2023-24 fiscal year budget. Mr. Patterson stated that he had met with all departments except for DSS and the Health Department. Mr. Patterson stated that he had highlighted some of the big changes for the 2023-24 fiscal year. **Parks and Recreation:** Mr. Patterson stated that two positions will be needed at I.E. Johnson as that project will reach the completion of phase 1 in early summer. For capital, parks and recreation is asking for a crack and seal for the tennis courts, Market Park parking lot, and a camera system for Wagram Recreation Center. Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham stated that he would like to review the fee structure for facilities not athletic fees. Vice Chair Gibson asked about exercise equipment and lights at Laurel Hill Community Center.

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Mr. Graham stated he would look at both issues. Commissioner Alford stated that if the commissioners fund all of the requests dealing with recreation that there should be an education component tied in with the recreation activities that are offered. **EMS:** Mr. Patterson stated that EMS is looking at additional recruitment efforts because the new site in Wagram has been staffed with part-time people and we just don't have the people to staff it with full time folks. One of the ways that EMS is looking to increase recruitment is by going from a 24 hour shifts to a split of 12 and 24 hour shifts. In addition EMS and 911 are looking to get a training officer because the requirements now are more comprehensive than in the past. Commissioner Whit Gibson asked Public Safety Director Robert Sampson if the problem was not having enough positions or not having enough people. Mr. Sampson stated that it was not having enough people because Scotland County EMS is not as attractive in the current environment. Right now EMS paramedics are working a modified 24/48 schedule. Recruits are bypassing us for 12 hour shift positions in other counties. Mr. Sampson also explained that he had been in discussions with Nash County and meeting with Stanly County about how they handle their staffing and we are looking to do a 24/72 hour schedule. The Board asked about overtime. Mr. Sampson stated that everyone gets overtime. Mr. Patterson explained how overtime works with paramedics and how it is different for public safety positions and stated that public safety positions are extremely competitive now. Commissioner McPhatter asked if Mr. Sampson foresaw private providers taking over EMS care in the near future. Mr. Sampson stated that he didn't think so because of convalescent care. Commissioner Williams asked what the County was currently doing for recruitment and retention. Mr. Sampson reviewed what has been done in the last few months and stated that this is a statewide problem and that we have only been impacted over the last year. Commissioner Frizzell asked if the part-time employees will eventually be full-time. Mr. Sampson stated that most of the part-time people work with other services but they won't come work here full-time because we don't offer 12 hours. Commissioner Williams asked how many calls were handled by EMS last year. Mr. Sampson stated over 7,200 and that he expects that to increase this year. **Elections:** Mr. Patterson informed the Board that the municipal and primary elections and possibly a runoff election will be held during this budget year. There is an increase in the travel and training for the elections department because the state Board of Election isn't offering a virtual option any longer. **Public Buildings:** Mr. Patterson stated that the public buildings department is looking to expand their shop. According to Mr. Patterson, public buildings is also asking for a shop assistant. This would allow them to add sheriff vehicles for their primary maintenance. There is also a custodian position for I.E. Johnson. For capital in public buildings is the shop expansion which would allow them to have a vehicle lift to service the ambulances and SCATS buses. This would be about \$180,000. The library parking lot needs to be repaved which will be about \$150,000. Public buildings is also asking for a mower and trailer which is \$33,500. The library roof will be an item in next year's budget **Sheriff's Office and Jail:** The Sheriff's Office and Jail for personnel is asking for an SRO for Laurel Hill Elementary. This is a contract with the schools. They are also asking for a maintenance tech for the jail or designation of a maintenance tech for the jail. The reason for this is that the jail is a place that needs constant attention. In operations is where a significant increase will take place in this year's budget. The food cost is expected to increase by about 20-25% per tray. Food is the most expensive item in the jail budget with medical being the next most expensive. Food and medical is about \$700,000 in the jail budget. Vice Chair Gibson asked if there was any relationship between the jail and the health department in relation to the medical expense. Mr. Patterson stated that was stopped about 6 years ago because of the ability to take care of more

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problems in the jail. According to Mr. Patterson, a lot of emergent problems are sent to the State for safe keeping. In capital, the Sheriff's Office is asking for 10 vehicles and 20 in-car cameras. **Cooperative Extension:** According to Mr. Patterson, cooperative extension is looking to hire a Horticulture Agent that is shared with Hoke County this summer. **Information Technology (IT):** IT is looking to add an additional server for disaster recovery for \$40,000. Discussion followed about offsite data storage. **Register of Deeds:** Mr. Patterson stated that the Register of Deeds Office and IT is working with Cott Systems to determine the best way of handling the local redundancy of operational data. **Library:** In capital, the library is looking to put security cameras throughout the library and the roof is expected to be in the 2025 budget. Commissioner Whit Gibson asked if there was any news on what the Board had seen in February. Mr. Patterson stated that he estimated it could be done now or in the new budget. Discussion followed about using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. Following discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner Alford to move ahead with the Library ADA compliance plan with \$230,000 of ARP funds. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Frizzell and the vote to approve was unanimous.** **Inspections:** Mr. Patterson stated that the inspections department wants to look at the fee structure. They are also asking for an additional inspector to plan for the retirement of one of the current inspectors who is soon to be retirement eligible. According to Mr. Patterson, recruiting for an inspector is a long process. Commissioner Frizzell asked if four inspectors are needed full time. Mr. Patterson stated that in the long run, four inspectors are not needed. **Tax Office:** Mr. Patterson informed the Board that the planning for the 2027 revaluation is underway and that a full remeasure and reappraisal hasn't been done since 2002 or 2004. A decision needs to be made fairly soon to go with a 4 year revaluation or stay with an 8 year revaluation. Chairman Ivey then called a 10 minute break. When the Board came back together, Mr. Patterson stated that a review of total real property valuation gives about \$23.6 million with an increase in valuation this year of about \$70 million. The collection rate should be on target. Mr. Patterson also reviewed sales tax collection through February. Mr. Patterson informed the Board that there is an increase in revenue without raising the tax rate. Discussion followed about sales tax rules and fund balance.

Liaison Committee Discussion

Chairman Ivey stated that the plan for the school was to leave the funding where it was in the current year of \$10,000,000 in current expense and \$300,000 for capital. *Consensus of the Board was in agreement with this idea from the Liaison Committee.*

Legislative Goals Prioritization

Chairman Ivey stated that the Speaker of the House yesterday asked the delegation that visited Raleigh to prioritize the legislative requests. Commissioner Alford explained the housing that he had requested to buy land and give to the housing authority for development of affordable housing. Discussion followed about property taxes and exceptions. *Consensus of the Board was to prioritize the projects as followed: 1. Public Safety Building \$6.5 million 2. I.E. Johnson Community Service Building \$2.5 million 3. Scotland County Historic Properties \$350,000 4. SCEDC Industrial Site Development \$2 million 5. Parks and Recreation \$1.25 million*

Commissioner Comments


Commissioner Frizzell spoke about the water on North Turnpike Road about how it could be done cheaper than the \$9 million that has been proposed. Discussion followed concerning the

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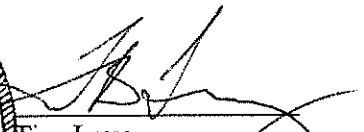
North Turnpike Water extension. Commissioner Alford spoke about the number of shootings around I.E. Johnson. Chairman Ivey spoke about the proposal that the City of Laurinburg had authorized the city manager to make to the County for use of the City Hall for one meeting of the commissioners per month. The proposal was \$50,000 per year plus waiver of all tipping and inspection fees. Upon hearing from Chairman Ivey, **motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson to withdraw the request to use the City Hall for the regular monthly commissioners meeting. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Whit Gibson. Vote to approve was unanimous.** Chairman Ivey also mentioned about county fire trucks being used for response within the city and stated that the city should be paying the fire tax if they are using the trucks. Discussion followed. Discussion also about the display case at Laurel Hill.

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Motion was made by Commissioner Vice Chair Gibson to adjourn and it was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote: Unanimous**


J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board




Tim Ivey
Chair

(County Seal)

ATTACHMENT A

SCOTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1405 West Boulevard • Post Office Box 69
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28353-0069
Phone (910) 277-2440 Fax (910) 277-2450



Amanda Deaver, MPA
Health Director



MEMO

To: Kevin Patterson, County Manager
From: Scotland County Board of Health
Cc: Amanda Deaver, MPA
Date: March 14, 2023
Subject: Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda Items

A. New Family Planning Funding - \$1049

Best Regards,

Sharon Alford-Leach

ATTACHMENT B



RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF SCOTLAND RECEIVING AN EARMARK FROM STATE ARP FUNDS TO MEET WATER NEEDS

WHEREAS, the County of Scotland has received an earmark for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund established in S.L. 2021-180 to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

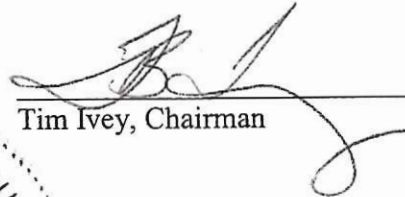
WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding in the amount of \$400,000 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the County of Scotland intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

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

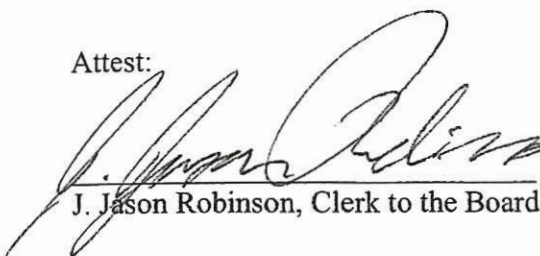
1. That the County of Scotland does hereby accept the American Rescue Plan Grant offer of \$400,000.
2. That the County of Scotland does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.
3. That the Scotland County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this the 22nd day of March, 2023



Tim Ivey, Chairman

Attest:



J. Jason Robinson, Clerk to the Board



ATTACHMENT C

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Ordinance – Revision #2

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, Revenue Replacement, Water, Sewer, or Broadband Infrastructure | <u>\$6,791,231.88</u> |
| Total Appropriations | <u>\$6,791,231.88</u> |

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

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Federal Proceeds – East Laurinburg | <u>\$27,271.88</u> |
| Federal Proceeds – Scotland County | <u>\$6,763,960.00</u> |
| Total Estimated Revenues | <u>\$6,791,231.88</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 23rd day of March 2023.



Tim Ivey
Chairman

ATTEST:


Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

