

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting April 1, 2019, AB Gibson Center
321 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC*

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Center 321 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Bob Davis, Vice-Chair Carol McCall, Commissioners John Alford, Betty Blue Gholston, Whit Gibson, Tim Ivey, and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston, Deputy Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson.

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Bob Davis called the regular meeting of the commissioners to order, and asked Commissioner Gibson to deliver the invocation, and Chairman Davis lead the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

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

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

Public Forum

The Board first heard from Mr. Brian Gibson, Chairman of the Crime and Drug Committee. Mr. Gibson stated that he was coming before the Board to ask the Board to pass an ordinance for the required electronic reporting of pawn brokers. According to Mr. Gibson, the committee had asked the city to do this last year and at the time there were no pawn brokers in the county. When this was passed in the city there was no pushback from businesses and it allows law enforcement to track items that are pawned and sold. Commissioner Gibson asked for clarification about the proposed ordinance. Chairman Davis stated that the Board would look into the possibility.

Public Hearing for Rezoning Request

The Board next heard from Mr. Sam Cribb, Vice-Chair of the Scotland County Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Cribb stated that the planning and zoning board had met and approved a rezoning request (Application #487-19) for a tract of land owned by Catherine Bailey in Laurel Hill across from the umbrella factory (Tax Map Number 157A, Block 01, Parcel 018). The request was to rezone this parcel of property from residential agriculture (RA) to light industrial (I1), the parcel is 8.016 acres. The planning and zoning board voted unanimously for this rezoning request with no opposition from the board or the public. Discussion followed about the potential use of the property and about the exact location of the property. Chairman Davis opened up the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak. Giving time but no one coming forward Chairman Davis closed the public hearing. **motion was made by Commissioner Alford to approve the rezoning request/application. Motion was duly seconded by Vice-Chair McCall. Vote to approve request/application: Unanimous.**

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Consent Agenda

The Board next considered the consent agenda. On the consent agenda for April was the approval of the March 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Also on the consent agenda was a request from the health department to surplus a Ruger 10/22 LR Caliber rifle with scope serial #237-11533. The consent agenda also contained a request from the Public Buildings Department to surplus a 2004 John Deere 997 ZTrack Mower product ID#DM997SC022004 and a Snap-On car diagnostic scanner serial #261SAE-011197. The consent agenda also had a request from the finance department/Emergency Communications Department for a budget amendment to replace the computer aided dispatch (CAD) for the 911 center. Finally, on the consent agenda for April was a request from the health department to new lab fees and to approve an increase in funding from the state. These are incorporated into the minutes as attachment A. **Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson to approve the consent agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote to approve consent agenda: Unanimous.**

Richmond Community College-Adult High School and Basic Skills

The Board next heard from Dr. Dale McInnis, President of Richmond Community College. Dr. McInnis gave an update concerning the multi-campus designation of Richmond Community College in Scotland County. According to Dr. McInnis, Representative Pierce and Senator McInnis have both filed bills for Richmond Community College to have the reoccurring funding for the mutli-campus designation. Dr. McInnis stated that he was optimistic about the college receiving this funding. Dr. McInnis also stated that he would like to thank County Manager Kevin Patterson for coordinating the renovation of Covington Street Elementary School as well as the renovation of the Edwin Morgan Center to be part of the campus of Richmond Community College in Scotland County. Dr. McInnis then introduced Dr. Terry Thompson, Program Director for Adult High School and Basic Skills program. Dr. Thompson stated that Richmond Community College was asked by Commissioner Gholston to come out and do a presentation of adult high school and high school equivalency. Dr. Thompson did an overview of the adult high school and high school equivalency programs, the similarities and differences including the costs and the ways to attend classes. Dr. Thompson stated that all courses of adult high school and high school equivalency can be online except for the orientation, which must be done face to face. Also according to Dr. Thompson, 21.3% of adults 25 and older in Scotland County do not have a high school diploma as of March 2019. Dr. Thompson asked that everyone spread the word about adult high school and high school equivalency. Commissioner Gholston inquired about the courses that are offered at Scotland Correctional Institute. The representatives of RCC outlined all of the programs that are available at Scotland Correctional Institute including the high school equivalency degree.

On-line Meeting Discussion

The Board next heard from Commissioner Tim Ivey concerning showing meetings on-line. Commissioner Ivey stated that he had heard from folks who would like to view the meetings online. He further stated that he had contacted YouTube for governments and it was no charge and the service could be used by other uses besides just for commissioner meetings, maybe for parks and recreation. Chairman Davis inquired what the next step would be. County Manager Kevin Patterson stated that the last couple of meetings have been videoed. He stated that his goal would be to have videos ready to be posted starting with the July meeting when the move is made to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Commissioner Ivey also pointed out

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to the Board that the rules of procedure would need to be amended to reflect adding this new video to the website. Upon hearing from Mr. Patterson, **motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the videotaping and uploading of commissioner meetings. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson. Vote to approve videotaping and uploading of commissioners meetings: Unanimous.**

Reimbursement from the State of North Carolina for Special Election

The Board next heard from Commissioner Tim Ivey concerning the upcoming special election in the 9th congressional district. According to Commissioner Ivey the resolution is asking the North Carolina Board of Elections to reimburse Scotland County for the cost of holding a new election in the 9th congressional district. Commissioner Ivey stated that the elections department and people of Scotland County had nothing to do with the cause of this new election and he feels the State should reimburse the County the 70-90 thousand dollars that it is going to cost to do the election again. Vice-Chair McCall asked if the other counties were doing resolutions and Commissioner Ivey replied that the other counties were indeed doing resolutions. Commissioner Ivey further stated that he didn't feel that it was right to penalize Scotland County for something that isn't the fault of Scotland County. Commissioner Gholston inquired who the resolution would be sent to, the state board of elections or to the General Assembly. Commissioner Ivey stated that it would be sent to both. Commissioner Gibson asked if anyone had spoken to any of our representatives about advocating for the County's position. Commissioner Ivey replied that he had spoken to Senator McInnis but he couldn't say anything really about it. **Motion was made by Commissioner Ivey to adopt the resolution for reimbursement by the State of North Carolina. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter. Vote to adopt the resolution: Unanimous.** Resolution has been incorporated into the minutes as attachment B.

Health Insurance Renewal

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning the health insurance renewal for county employees. According to Mr. Patterson, the Board had acted at the retreat to make the high deductible plan (HDP) the standard plan for employees and give employees the option to "buy-up" to the PPO plan. For this year the "buy-up" cost will be \$37.42 per month. Commissioner McPhatter inquired about the insurance plan and the cost of it. Commissioner Alford inquired if there was a way to lower the cost of the health plan. Mr. Patterson stated that this was about as low as could be achieved without reducing benefits and making the health insurance less attractive. According to Mr. Patterson, about 40% of employees have the PPO and the rest have the HDP and this only affects active employees after July 1st. Also according to Mr. Patterson there are not many employees with dependents.

County Assembly Day

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning County Assembly Day sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. County Assembly Day is May 1st and the delegation will be leaving about 6:30 am for the program that begins at 8:45 am in Raleigh. This is an opportunity to meet with representatives and senators to advocate for Scotland County issues.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Vice-Chair McCall informed the Board that there were three individuals who needed to be appointed or reappointed to the Board of Equalization and Review (Board of E&R). The first person that needed to be appointed was Laurene Stubbs. Ms. Stubbs would be filling an unexpired term until 2021. **Motion was made by Vice-Chair McCall to appoint Laurene Stubbs to the Board of E&R. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson. Vote to approve Ms. Stubbs to the Board of E&R: Unanimous.** Vice-Chair McCall next stated that Mrs. Dee Hammond and Ms. Elizabeth Cooley needed to be reappointed to the Board of E&R for another three year term, ending in 2022. **Motion was made by Vice-Chair McCall to reappoint Mrs. Delores “Dee” Hammond and Ms. Elizabeth Cooley to the Board of E&R for a three year term to end in 2022. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gholston. Vote to appoint Mrs. Dee Hammond and Ms. Elizabeth Cooley: Unanimous.** Vice-Chair McCall also informed the Board that it was time once again for the jury commission appointment. According to Vice-Chair McCall, the Clerk of Superior Court has an appointment to the jury commission, the commissioners have an appointment, and the chief resident superior court judge has an appointment. Vice-Chair McCall told that Board that Ms. Ida McGill is the current appointment by the commissioners and is willing to serve again. **Motion was made by Vice-Chair McCall to reappoint Ms. Ida McGill to the jury commission. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford. Vote to reappoint Ms. Ida McGill to the jury commission: Unanimous.**

Historic Properties Report

Vice-Chair McCall stated that she and Commissioner Ivey are on the Historic Properties Commission and at their meeting last month they made a proposal to retrofit the lights in the museum, not the house, just the museum with LED lights. This proposal would cost \$8,539.97. Duke Energy will provide \$3,091.87 in incentives, leaving \$5,448.10 for Historic Properties to pay in interest free payment over 24 months. They also have reached out to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and TDA has agreed to fund \$1,500 toward the project. According to Vice-Chair McCall, Historic Properties is committed to doing this but they asked if the County could contribute a little toward this project, which would make their payment lower. The balance would be \$3,948 to be paid. Commissioner Alford stated that he had sat on this board and the people on that board are asked to raise money and to do the physical labor and he wouldn't mind giving the \$3,948. Commissioner Gholston stated that she felt that if the commissioners gave funds for this project then it was only a matter of time that they would need funds for other things. Vice Chair McCall clarified that Historic Properties is not asking for the County to pay the balance but to simply to contribute to the project. Commissioner Alford stated that the museum brings in tourist from all over and he feels it is important to help Historic Properties out. Commissioner Gholston stated that she believes that the County should contribute some to the project but not the entire amount. Commissioner McPhatter reminded the Board that the County gives Historic Properties \$18,000 already each year. Commissioner Alford stated that this is a County facility and this is the only board or committee that is asked to raise money for a county facility. Commissioner Gholston then stated that the Historic Properties board does not reflect the ethnic history or makeup of Scotland County. Discussion followed concerning the makeup of the Historic Properties. **Motion was made by Commissioner Alford to pay the remaining \$3,948 for the lighting project for Historic Properties. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Ivey. Vote to fund \$3,948 to**

Historic Properties: Did not pass with Commissioners Alford and Ivey voting for the proposal and all other commissioners voting against. Motion was made by Commissioner Gholston to give Historic Properties \$1,500 earmarked for the LED lighting project. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter. Vote to appropriate \$1,500 to Historic Properties for the LED lighting project: Unanimous.

County Manager Report

Mr. Patterson updated the Board concerning County offices. According to Mr. Patterson, the Annex building is back in service and operational. Covington Street offices are being remediation for asbestos but finance should be able to be moved in by May. Mr. Patterson gave the Board an update on some foreclosed properties and future plans for them to hopefully enhance the communities. Mr. Patterson informed the Board about seeing how remote first appearance hearings worked in Richmond County. According to Mr. Patterson the Chief Superior Court Judge wants to begin doing remote first appearance by July 1st, even for misdemeanors. Mr. Patterson also informed the Board that this is something that can be done by the County and video conferencing would save a lot of time possibly money. Commissioner Gholston asked for County Attorney Ed Johnston to explain first appearance hearings. Mr. Johnston explained the process for first appearance hearings to the Board and adding that doing this remotely would save a lot of time, money, and energy. Discussion followed about procedures for first appearance hearings and other advantages to the remote arraignment. Mr. Patterson also gave the Board the dates of May 23rd and 24th for budget workshop meetings. Mr. Patterson stated that it was his goal to only have a meeting on the 23rd but if needed May 24th could be the second date for a budget meeting.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Gholston stated that she would like to have a task force study why Scotland County is at the bottom of a lot of rankings. Commissioner Alford stated that we know 21% of the people in Scotland County don't have a high school degree and that about 800 people are consistently unemployed. Commissioner Alford stated that he wasn't sure what a task force would do. Commissioner Gholston stated that she would like for a task force to come up with solutions to the problems that the County is facing. Chairman Davis asked County Manager Kevin Patterson if there is someone who could do what Commissioner Gholston is asking. Mr. Patterson stated that he could reach out to the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Scotland County Health Department to explain the numbers because according to Mr. Patterson some of those numbers don't mean what you think they mean and use this as a learning opportunity. Commissioner Gibson stated that one thing he has never understood why that Scotland County is consistently ranked lower than surrounding counties even though the same factors are at work in those counties. Commissioner Alford explained how the workforce development board has been working on getting the core group of 800 consistently unemployed trained and retrained. Commissioner Gholston further stated that even though workforce development is an important part of what she is asking about there are other factors that she would like to be explained and looked at.

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Adjournment

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

J. Jason Robinson
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chair

(county seal)