

MINUTES

Scotland County Board of Commissioners

March 7, 2011 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, Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners John Cooley, Carol McCall, Guy McCook and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner John Alford. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Vice Chair McDow delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Forum

Ms. Jan Schmidt provided an update on programs and activities at the Storytelling and Arts Center. Ms. Schmidt said the Center hosts more than 12 activities a year. She discussed grants the Center received thus far and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Item 1. Public Hearing: Community Transportation Program application

Chairman Davis announced the Public Hearing for the 2012 Community Transportation Program application. EMS director Roylin Hammond explained the purpose of the program, how it is funded and the match required from the County.

After Mr. Hammond responded to several questions from the Commissioners, Chairman Davis asked if anyone else wished to comment. No one came forward.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the 2012 Community Transportation Program Resolution. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 2. Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant funding application

Economic Developer Greg Icard said the public hearing is required as part of the Community Development Block Grant funding application process. Mr. Icard said this is the first of two required public hearings, the second of which would provide more detail about the grant and how the funds would be used.

Chairman Davis asked if anyone wished to comment on the CDBG funding application. No one came forward.

Item 3. Budget Amendment: FY 2010-2011 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Adult Daycare

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LRCOG Aging Program Administrator Margaret Kelly asked the Commissioners to approve a Home and Community Care Block Grant budget amendment for an additional allocation of \$4,651 for Adult Day Care, the area the Scotland County Aging Advisory Council agreed was most in need of additional funds. Ms. Kelly said the 10 percent County match would be \$465.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to approve the additional Home and Community Care Block Grant allocation of \$4,651 for Adult Day Care. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 4: NCDOT 2009-2011 Secondary Road Improvement Plan

NCDOT District Engineer Kevin Hedrick said normally the Secondary Road Improvement Plan is presented every year, but dollars were not expended last year due to State budget concerns. Mr. Hedrick said all unpaved roads have been paved except for the 27 miles of unpaved roads where right of way is unavailable.

Mr. Hedrick said \$1 million in Highway Funds would be used to strengthen portion of the following roads with 1.5 inches of asphalt: Snead's Grove Road, Airport Road and Riverton Road. Trust Funds in the amount of \$700,000 would be used to strengthen portions of McGirt's Bridge Road and Barnes Bridge Road with 1.5 inches of asphalt pavement.

Chairman Davis asked about a portion of Panky Town Road, which was left unpaved and why speed limit signs on Ida Mill Road weren't put back up after NCDOT took them down. Commissioner McCook said the silk fence was left in the creek along Lauchwood Drive after work there was completed, and it is picking up trash. Mr. Hedrick said he would look into the concerns.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the Resolution Approving Scotland County Secondary Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2009-2011. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

**Resolution Approving Scotland County
Secondary Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2009-2011**

WHEREAS, North Carolina Department of Transportation staff members appeared before the Scotland County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting March 7, 2011 to present the 2009-2011 Secondary Road Improvement Program for Scotland County; and

WHEREAS, each Commissioner was presented a copy of the program, and background information was provided along with objectives of the Secondary Road Improvement Program. Funding availability for each element of the program also was discussed, and questions from Board members were answered.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scotland County Board of Commissioners approved the Secondary Road Improvement Program for FY 2009-2011 as presented by the Department of Transportation.

Adopted this 7th day of March 2011.

Item 5. Consent Agenda:

- a) **Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners February 7, 2011 regular meeting, February 16, 2011 joint session and February 22, 2011 planning retreat.**
- b) **Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$131.74 and in the amount of \$4,260.68 and to make refunds in the amount of \$145.64 and in the amount of \$5,731.16.**
- c) **Approve resolution supporting the submission of an application for the FY 2011-2012 Scotland-Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Grant.**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF STATE FUNDING
APPLICATION FOR SCOTLAND-HOKE COUNTIES CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties joined together in 1996 to form the Criminal Justice Partnership Board to provide services to probationary offenders with substance abuse problems, and;

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Partnership Board for Scotland and Hoke Counties has obtained State grant funds since its beginning to provide these services which include intensive outpatient substance abuse counseling to offenders on probation referred by the Court system; and

WHEREAS, Scotland and Hoke Counties through the Criminal Justice Partnership Program have experienced strong indications which reflect successful behavior modification, educational achievement and life skill development for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Program has operated entirely without cost to either County; and

WHEREAS, the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board is applying to the State Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Funding in the amount of \$153,190;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Scotland County Board of Commissioners endorses the application to the North Carolina Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 funding by the Scotland and Hoke Counties Criminal Justice Partnership Board.

This the 7th day of March 2011.

d) Budget Amendments:

- 1) **Health: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$4,120.43, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. No County dollars involved.**
- 2) **Fire District: Approve receipt of funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the Department of Transportation, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to receive and expend the money. These are pass-through funds. No County dollars involved.**

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

Item 6. Scotland County Schools Facilities Study

Mr. Stuart Blount, Administrative Services for Scotland County Schools, said the State Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requires that school systems have an active five-year facilities study. Mr. Blount said the Board of Education approved the study February 21, 2011. The Board of Commissioners also must approve the study, as required by the DPI.

Mr. Blount said the five-year study allows for just under \$17 million, including a 10 percent contingency fund, as monetary support for school facilities that helps administrative staff prioritize facility needs. Mr. Blount said the Washington Park project, now on hold, is not included in the study.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to approve the Scotland County Schools Facilities Study. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 7. Appointments to Board and Committees

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to appoint Ms. Donna Stone and Ms. Yulla Hines to three-year terms on the Scotland-Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to reappoint Rev. Dr. Howard Whitehurst to a three-year term on the Aging Advisory Council and to appoint Ms. Freddie Davis and Mr. Robert Ussery to three-year terms on the Aging Advisory Council. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCall and duly seconded by Commissioner Cooley to appoint Ms. Betty McGee as the community-based representative on the LRCOG Workforce Development Board for a term through June 30, 2013. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Item 8. Report from the County Manager

Health Director Ron Sapp asked the Commissioners to consider approval to purchase an LED sign, which would be used for marketing, health promotion, community outreach, among other community communications.

Mr. Sapp said he realized there are perception concerns in this economy, but he said if the monies are not spent on the sign, the County would lose them. Mr. Sapp said since 2006, the County received \$282,000 in Public Health and Preparedness funds, but expenditures of the funds are very specific. He provided the Commissioners with a list on how funds were

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previously spent. He said although the sign was on the list, it was saved for last. Mr. Sapp also distributed a rendering of what the sign would look like.

Commissioner Cooley asked if the top part of the sign with the Health Department/DSS wording could be purchased without the LED component. County Manager Patterson said the grant stipulates the sign must be used to disseminate preparedness-type information. He added that the top part of the sign would be funded by DSS to fulfill a State requirement.

Mr. Sapp said he expects a 25 percent reduction in preparedness funds moving forward. The life expectancy of the sign is between 10 to 12 years.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve purchase of the LED sign using Public Health and Preparedness funds. Vote: For: Chairman Davis, Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners McCall, McCook and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioner Cooley. Vote: Motion approved.

The County Manager said NCACC will terminate the group benefit pool for health insurance effective June 30, 2011. The County is required to find a new insurance carrier and has contacted three different health insurance brokers in order to begin the process of bidding out the County's health insurance. Workers compensation and property and liability insurance are not expected to be impacted.

Mr. Patterson said a draft Rules of Procedure policy is in the agenda for review. The draft was based on the Cumberland County policy with select items included from School of Government. Mr. Patterson said if the Board wishes to pursue the use of a formal policy, it might wish to appoint a two or three-member committee to review the policy for recommendation to the Board.

The County Manager said Mr. Harvey Edge offered \$500 per acre on County-owned property on Highland Road at the old landfill. The bid is for 15 of the 40 acres of property. The appraised value of this property is \$1,940 per acre. The County originally paid approximately \$1,200 per acre. If the Board accepts the offer, it would be advertised and held open for a mandatory 10 day upset bid period.

Mr. Patterson said although the offer is for less than what the County paid, but the County has no further use for the property. He said if the Commissioners do not want to sell at this time, a property auction, which also would include the former Mobile Home Estates, could be arranged at a future date.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to postpone sale of this property and others until a later date with disposal conducted in a more open, advertised process. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Patterson said DSS is requesting reorganization in the Administrative unit. Currently one person is operating in the fiscal unit, but due to FMLA issues in the County finance department, the additional coverage is less than desirable. Mr. Patterson said reorganization would allow

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DSS the structure for long term performance. He also asked the Board approve recruitment for the created accounting technician. The recruitment process would likely take 45 days.

Motion was made by Vice Chair McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to approve the reorganization of the administrative unit at DSS. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall authorizing recruitment for the vacant accounting position at DSS. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Four County Community Services will reapply for CSBG funding for fiscal year 2012. The application is for \$1.2 million, which would serve seven counties.

The County Manager said a schedule of the use of Fund Balance for the last three years and the capital outlay by department is included in the agenda, as requested. Commissioner McCook asked for a report on encumbered funds in the General Fund.

Mr. Patterson said a draft Community Assistance Grants policy is attached for review. Mr. Patterson said if the Board chooses to develop a policy committee, that committee could review the policy for amendments.

The County Manager reported United Way of Scotland County received \$3,500 for 2010 and \$3,000 for this fiscal year in Community Assistance Grants.

Attachments in the agenda include the Southeastern Regional Mental Health quarterly financial report, dates of interest for upcoming events in March and a Gaston County resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McCall to appoint Vice Chair McDow and Commissioners Cooley and McCook to the Facilities Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Vice Chair McDow to appoint Chairman Davis and Commissioners McCall and McCook to the Policy Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooley and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

Bob Davis
Chairman