

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
November 5, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

## MINUTES

### Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, November 5, 2007 Scotland County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg NC

At 7 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis called the regular meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler, Guy McCook and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson, Interim Assistant County Manager/County Engineer Jim Blackwell and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner McDow delivered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Public Forum**

**Ms. Virginia Ray, Coordinator, Project In As Much:** Ms. Ray said that Project In As Much, which began at Stewartville Baptist Church, supplies lunch bags of snacks on Friday afternoons to school children so they will have food over the weekend. Ms. Ray discussed how Project In As Much has grown and named the area churches who are now involved in providing snack bags to children. Ms. Ray asked the Commissioners that if funds become available, to consider funding for Project In As Much.

*Chairman Willis thanked Ms. Ray for the report and suggested that she also make a similar presentation and funding request to the Board of Education.*

**Mr. Grady Hines, Pine Acres Subdivision:** Mr. Hines said a church in the community recently developed a gravesite, and citizens are concerned about the environmental impact since the graves are in a neighborhood located near well water. Mr. Hines said the community was never notified by the church that it intended to put graves on its property.

*Chairman Willis said State Statutes give the Commissioners no authority over gravesites.*

*Health Director Ron Sapp said the Health Department has no authority over gravesites either. Mr. Sapp said the gravesite in question, however, does meet all State specifications and requirements.*

*Chairman Willis said the issue is not a zoning matter, either. He suggested that the citizens discuss their concerns with the minister and church members.*

#### **Item 1. Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the Major Events Policy implements user fees, addresses recuperating costs for staff time working an event and it adds liability protection for the County.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to approve the Rules for Major Events as approved by the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
November 5, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

Ms. Newton provided an update on the Bicycle Map Project. She said Scotland would be the 16<sup>th</sup> county to publish a bicycle map, which is completely funded by the Department of Transportation as part of its TIP program.

Ms. Newton said a local group of volunteers will send bicycle routes to the DOT. The routes use existing paved roads in the County. A cartographer and graphic artists will produce the map at no cost to the County. Ms. Newton said the DOT will put up signs for the bicycle routes and be responsible for route maintenance. Ms. Newton said all routes will begin and end at the Recreation Complex.

**Item 2. Consent Agenda:**

**a) Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners September 25, 2007 reconvened meeting; October 1, 2007 regular meeting; October 3, 2007 reconvened meeting; and October 17, 2007 reconvened session.**

**b) Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$583.68 and in the amount of \$25,301.89 and to make refunds in the amount of \$307.26 and in the amount of \$3,138.49.**

**c) Approve Tax Department request to release funds in the amount of \$591.33 and in the amount of \$4,411.22 and to make refunds in the amount of \$173.73 and in the amount of \$2,950.54.**

**d) Approve Public Buildings request to reclassify the vacant Maintenance Technician position from Grade/Step 58-6 to Maintenance Mechanic/Electrician Grade 63-4.**

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

**Item 3. Update from the Interim County Manager/Finance Officer**

Interim County Manager/Finance Officer Kevin Patterson presented the following updates:

**L&S Railroad** – The County received notification that Laurinburg and Southern Railroad Co. Inc. made a request to the State to discontinue rail service on the track between Laurinburg and Raeford. This is 17.5 miles of track plus the line from Wagram to WestPoint. This line is primarily used for the storage of rail cars. L&S does not currently intend to remove the track but requests that they not be required to maintain the track at an operating level. They would maintain the track that would allow for future reactivation of the line.

**911 Wireless Board** – The 911 Wireless Board notified the County that the Public Service Answering Pont (PSAP) at the Laurinburg Police Department (LPD) is not on file as being a primary or backup PSAP. This means that 911 wireless monies cannot be spent on the LPD PSAP. The first annual services paid out of the wireless monies were in fiscal year 2006 and amounted to approximately \$100,000. Roylin Hammond and I are in the process of finalizing these numbers. If the wireless monies are not allowed to be used to cover these expenses then we would use 911 wire line funds. Roylin Hammond and I will appeal the issue to the Wireless Board November 9 in Raleigh.

**Wagram Rec. Building** – Wagram is proceeding with the necessary process to make application to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for the construction of a recreation building in Wagram. Shannon

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
November 5, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

Newton is helping Town officials head this program and is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Town to share the cost of building operations and operating costs. It is my recommendation that both Boards agree on a formal MOU by the application deadline of January 31, 2008. The County has pledged matching funds up to \$500,000 towards this project. No monies have been appropriated at this time.

**e-NC Grant** – There are currently grant opportunities for capital improvements for cable Government Access Channels (GAC). The application would have to come through the County or the City. The current appropriations from the County, City and School System could be used as matching funds for this grant if received. Richard Brett at St. Andrews will prepare the application for the cable access channel.

**Complete Count Committee** – Ann Kurtzman is the County official working on the Complete Count Committee. A list of volunteers for the committee is attached. The kickoff event for the Complete Count Committee will be November 8 at 8 a.m. in the Covington Street conference room. Anyone interested in learning more about the Census or this committee is encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to the public.

**Urgent Repair Program** – Applications for the Urgent Repair Program are now being accepted. This program has been administered through Four County Community Services in the past and Four County intends to apply for the funds again. The maximum grant is \$75,000 and allows for small repairs to homes that do not qualify for rehabilitation under a scattered site grant. It is my recommendation that we not actively pursue this grant but support Four County's effort.

Vice Chair Gholston said she would like to know what repairs are being made with the grant monies.

Mr. Patterson requested that the Board authorize the position of Economic Developer at grade 82 with a salary range of \$65,388 to \$92,400.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Vice Chair Gholston to create the Economic Developer position at grade 82 and a salary range of \$65,388 to \$92,400. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Mr. Patterson said no formal operating budget has yet been set for the position.

Chairman Willis suggested the Commissioners approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$300,000 for the operating budget.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$300,000 from unappropriated fund balance into economic development for the Scotland Development Corporation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Chairman Willis asked about the \$45,000 already appropriated for an economic developer in the FY 2007-2008 budget.

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
November 5, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

Mr. Patterson said that the position would be a County employee and the \$45,000 was set aside for the purpose of salary.

Mr. Patterson said City Attorney Chuck Hicks made two suggestions regarding Scotland Development Corporation bylaw amendments. In 4.5, Mr. Hicks does not recommend that the Economic Developer shall be the President and that the issue be addressed by a Board policy and not in the bylaws that the President shall be the Economic Developer.

Mr. Patterson said that Mr. Hicks also recommended that 7.4 remain unchanged and that Board simply vote to change the year from the existing calendar year to July 1 to June 30.

Mr. Patterson said that no action is yet required by the Commissioners until after the Scotland Development Corporation meets and takes action on the amended bylaws.

Commissioner Butler asked Mr. Patterson to report at the December 3 meeting on policies used by other counties that address employee use of county vehicles to drive to and from their homes.

**Item 4. Appointments to Boards and Committees**

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Gholston and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Mr. Randy Jones and Mr. Jonathan McInnis to the Criminal Justice Partnership Board. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to appoint Laurinburg City Manager Craig Honeycutt as the municipal alternate to BRAC-RTF. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McCook to appoint Ms. Kirsten Dean to the Laurinburg Downtown Revitalization Committee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion was made by Chairman Willis and duly seconded by Commissioner Alford to appoint Commissioners J.D. Willis, Leon Butler and Joyce McDow to the Scotland Development Corporation. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

**Item 5. Closed Session**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to go into closed session in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body and Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners regular meeting  
November 5, 2007, Commissioners Chamber, 1405 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED**

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCook and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to recess to 5 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007 in the City Council Chamber. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman  
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis  
Chairman