

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting January 23, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting, January 23, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Tim Ivey, Vice Chair Darrel “BJ” Gibson, Commissioners Bo Frizzell, Whit Gibson, and Darwin Williams. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford and Clarence McPhatter II. Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Human Resources Manager Susan Sanders, DSS Director April Snead, Chief Deputy BJ Knight, Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, Community Relations Specialist/Deputy Clerk Adam Peele.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Ivey called the reconvened meeting to order. Chairman Ivey **Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson to approve the agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Whit Gibson. Vote to approve the agenda: Unanimous.**

SCATS Resolution

The Board first heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning a resolution for North Carolina Department of Transportation for SCATS. Mr. Patterson stated that after the public hearing for the SCATS 5311 grant at the January meeting, NCDOT let SCATS Director April Snead that they need a resolution passed and sent to them. Upon hearing from Mr. Patterson, **motion was made by Commissioner Whit Gibson to approve the SCATS resolution for the 5311 grant. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair Gibson and the vote to approve was unanimous.**

Eastpointe Board Appointment

Chairman Ivey stated that he thought the Board had made the appointment in December or January but it hadn’t been made yet. Vice Chair Gibson stated that this was for three years and only one application was received. **Motion was made by Vice Chair Gibson to appoint Ms. Carol McCall to the Eastpointe board. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Whit Gibson and the vote to appoint was unanimous.**

Salary Study Phase 2

County Manager Kevin Patterson informed the Board that the County had taken on a full county salary study that was originally scheduled for 3 phases but the Board last year decided to reduce it down to two phases to include DSS and Health department. Also included is public safety (EMS, Sheriff’s Office), as well as public buildings. Last year all administrative positions were studied. A trend was noticed of about 10%. Commissioner Frizzell asked if the salary study looked at surrounding counties. Ms. Sanders stated that it was done within the region. Mr. Patterson stated that the overall cost of the implementation will be about \$1.3 million but for this year it will be a fraction of that since that number was for a whole year. The Board next heard from Becky Veazey, President of the MAPS Group who was hired to do a salary study for the County. Ms. Veazey spoke about maintaining internal equity both horizontally and vertically within the organization and the need to make sure an organization is competitive in the market for jobs but they didn’t want to go over the market. Ms. Veazey explained the methodology

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting January 23, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

used in the study. She also stated that it is important to move employees across the range and that anytime a COLA is done, the whole thing has to be adjusted. Ms. Veazey also stated that this was a “catch-up” and it is important to remember that the other units of government will be giving COLAs in July. Discussion followed about how to proceed with the salary study. Ms. Veazey stated that she would be happy to come answer any questions after the Board had time to digest all of the information. *It was the consensus of the Board to table the issue until the February 22nd meeting.*

Legislative Goals

The Board next heard from Mr. Patterson concerning projects that are actively seeking funding. Mr. Patterson stated that there are a number of projects right now. The first of these is the public safety building. This is a \$6.5 million project. The BRIC grant has been applied for the most of this cost. Mr. Patterson also stated that the I.E. Johnson project will have to have at least another \$1 million to finish it up even though the architect hasn't gotten a better estimate yet. Commissioner Frizzell asked about what is being done at I.E. Johnson. Mr. Patterson stated that the first phase that is under contract right now is the renovation of the gym. The next phase will be the renovation of the rest of the building to office space, a commissioner chambers, and meeting space. Also during this phase is the renovation of the parking lot to go from 50 parking spaces to 250 spaces. Discussion followed about the needs of the County. Mr. Patterson stated that DSS has had a need for additional space. The plan is to have the child protective services unit and the adult protective services unit to locate at IEJ. Commissioner Whit Gibson asked DSS Director Ms. April Snead if the DSS Board has taken a position on the move yet. Ms. Snead stated that they have not yet. Vice Chair Gibson stated that he had heard about the opposition to the move for DSS but Ms. Snead was one of the first to express interest in space at IEJ. Discussion followed about some of the concerns of DSS moving to I.E. Johnson. Commissioner Frizzell stated that if there is a concern about splitting DSS why not move the health department to IEJ. Mr. Patterson stated there would be a lot of renovation costs for the clinical needs of the health department. Ms. Snead stated that it was going to have an impact on the staff but also on the clients because a lot of the services of the agency are interconnected. Discussion followed about putting all of DSS at I.E. Johnson. Commissioner Frizzell asked if this is something that is needed or just something that we want. Commissioner Williams stated that he felt that there had been so much taken out of that part of town that there needed to be something done for them. Chairman Ivey stated that it was a good opportunity to do something for that community. Mr. Patterson also mentioned that for long term projects that a detention facility is needed and about 4 years ago the price was about \$55 million for 125 person facility. Chairman Ivey stated that he would like to see about \$350,000 put into the goals for the John Blue House. Commissioner Whit Gibson stated that he would like to include \$2 million for completion of the EDC spec building. Commissioner Williams stated that he knew there was talk of growing the splash pad and doing some renovations and also expanding the Morgan Complex. Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham stated that they were looking to apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant to improve the splash pad but having more aquatic features at the Morgan Complex would be great.

Register of Deeds Update

The Board next heard from Register of Deeds Page Pratt concerning the hacking of Cott systems which is a records management system that Scotland County uses and has used for

Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting January 23, 2023, Edwin Morgan Center 517 Peden Street, Laurinburg, NC

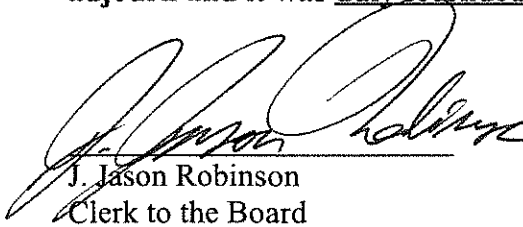
several years. According to Mr. Pratt, the hack occurred on December 26th and Cott has locked down all records for over 300 registers of deeds and health departments across the country. Because of this, real estate ground to a halt until last week. After this incident, the register of deeds office has been working with Cott to find out if they can have a local backup in addition to the cloud backup (which is what was hacked). Several registers of deeds in North Carolina have requested the Secretary of State to do an investigation. Mr. Pratt stated that we have two years left on the contract with Cott and they are evaluating the relationship with them. Cott has assured everyone that no data has been removed or corrupted.

Commissioner Comments

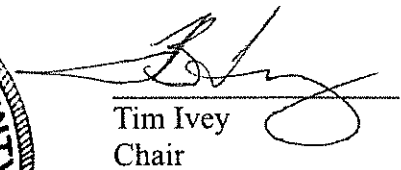
Chairman Ivey mentioned a new law NCGS 14-234 which deals with commissioners giving money to nonprofits that they have a relationship with. Chairman Ivey stated that he had spoken with the county attorney about this and his advice is that we are exempt because we do not have a municipality over 15,000 population. No other commissioner had any comments. Mr. Patterson did inform the Board that the cost for Gibson Park shelter came in at about \$97,500 and if the Board was okay with him awarding the contract they will move forward. *The consensus of the Board was to allow Mr. Patterson to award the contract.* Mr. Patterson also stated that if the Board had any questions about the salary study to reach out to him or Ms. Sanders.

Adjournment

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


J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board




Tim Ivey
Chair

(County Seal)