

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting April 9, 2020, GoToMeeting Room #376-128-365, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners reconvened meeting, April 9, 2020,  
GoToMeeting Room #376-128-365, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Bob Davis, Vice-Chair Carol McCall, Commissioners John Alford, Whit Gibson, Betty Gholston, and Tim Ivey. Commissioner McPhatter was absent.  
Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson.

**Call to Order, Invocation, and Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Bob Davis called the reconvened meeting to order, and asked Commissioner Alford to deliver the invocation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Gibson to approve the agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Chair McCall. Vote to approve the agenda: Unanimous.**

**Budget Update**

The Board heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning an update on the 2020-21 budget. Mr. Patterson stated that there was a lot of uncertainty in the numbers especially the revenue numbers due to the coronavirus pandemic. Right now the budget is not balanced but usually there is a better idea about where revenue will be. Mr. Patterson reviewed the budgets for the last 5 years and stated that usually 95% of the budget was spent and 98% of the revenues were collected. This has allowed the County to add to its fund balance for the last 5 years. Mr. Patterson explained that the budget is split into 3 categories: personnel, operations, and capital. Mr. Patterson reviewed the revenue sources and reviewed property tax and sales tax data over the last 5 years. The budget for last year was \$44.3 million. Commissioner Ivey asked what had to be paid out of capital for this year. Mr. Patterson stated that debt service, HVAC controls at the courthouse, and paving. Mr. Patterson stated that next year's target budget is \$43.1 million. Mr. Patterson said that he has figured property taxes staying pretty stable and that sales taxes would be a 10% reduction and informed the Board that this was just a guess at this point. The target budget includes \$20.4 million for salaries, \$4.66 million for capital and debt service, \$10.956 million for education, \$607,125 for outside agencies. That leaves \$5.7 for operations. Of that number \$1.6 million for DSS pass through, \$290,000 for jail medical, \$305,000 for jail food, \$124,000 for sheriff's fuel. The Board passes departmental budgets which allows departments to move the money around. With those other expenses taken out it leaves \$3.45 million of pure unrestricted funds for funding. That number this year was \$5 million. Mr. Patterson reviewed original estimates as opposed to new assumptions because of the coronavirus. Mr. Patterson stated that a lot depends on how long it lasts. Mr. Patterson also reviewed the salary items such as health insurance, retirement, and the step plan. He also reviewed capital expenses and debt services. Chairman Davis stated that we always need to be mindful of the fund balance. Mr. Patterson stated that the goal was to not use fund balance to plug the hole. Mr. Patterson stated that he would be working with the department heads to cut an additional \$800,000 and that the department heads had come to pre-COVID numbers and now they were going to have to come to post-COVID numbers. Mr. Patterson informed the Board that they will have to decide on what they are comfortable with for sales tax assumptions. Commissioner Ivey stated that he felt the sales tax projection might be a little aggressive because he believes that spending is happening just at different places, especially with stimulus money

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scheduled to hit next week. Mr. Patterson said that he hoped that the sales tax number was aggressive and if the Board was interested in being less aggressive that is an option too. Hopefully by the time it is time to pass a budget the numbers will be better known. Commissioner Gholston stated that she felt it was good to be aggressive, Vice Chair McCall stated that it was good to be aggressive too, Chairman Davis stated that it is easier to be aggressive as not. Vice Chair McCall stated that it was 11 weeks until a final budget needed to be passed and that she felt the Board could take this and adjust as needed. Commissioner Ivey inquired if the new voting equipment was in the budget. Mr. Patterson responded that he believed it was. Commissioner Gibson asked if there had been additional impacts (less revenue, more savings). Mr. Patterson responded that there will be some savings. There will be some savings that will be significant in particular departments. Commissioner Gholston stated that depending on how long this lasts capital projects may have to be looked at.

**Laurel Hill Community Center**

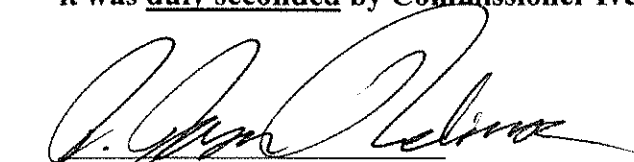
Mr. Patterson informed the Board that Bryan Graham has been looking at some concepts for Laurel Hill. There may additional funds for stimulus and PARTF monies by the end of the calendar year and may be able to construct next calendar year.

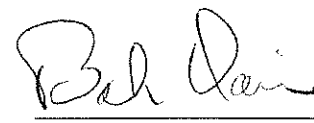
**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Gholston asked if the school was still on schedule. Mr. Patterson stated that it was. Commissioner Gholston also asked about what has happened to the Liaison Committee meeting. Commissioner Gibson stated that the school board members are not willing to go to their board for any reduction so the commissioner members were going to recommend to the full Board to keep funding where it is which is \$10,044,000. Mr. Patterson stated that if the Liaison Committee is interested that they could do a GoToMeeting.

**Adjournment**

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

  
J. Jason Robinson  
Clerk to the Board

  
Bob Davis  
Chair

(County Seal)

