

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting May 4, 2020, Emergency
Operations Center (EOC) 1403 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC*

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, May 4, 2020, Emergency
Operations Center (EOC), 1403 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC**

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Bob Davis (electronically), Vice-Chair Carol McCall, Commissioners John Alford, Betty Blue Gholston (electronically), Whit Gibson, Tim Ivey. Commissioners not in attendance: Clarence McPhatter II Staff in attendance: County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Ed Johnston (electronically), Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson.

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Bob Davis stated that since he was not physically at the EOC that he would turn the meeting over to Vice Chair Carol McCall. Vice Chair McCall called the meeting to order, she then delivered the invocation and lead the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Vice Chair McCall then stated that she would entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

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

Public Forum

The Board heard from Mr. Greg Wood, CEO of Scotland Health System. Mr. Wood expressed to the Board his appreciation of passing the resolution last month. Mr. Wood stated that he felt very good about what is happening in the county and that the curve for COVID-19 is indeed flattening. Mr. Wood also stated that he feels good about capacity and the models suggest that the COVID-19 cases will plateau around the first of June. Mr. Wood also urged everyone to continue the social distancing activities.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda for May included the approval of the April 6th regular minutes and the April 9th special meeting minutes. The consent agenda also contained tax department releases, refunds, and discoveries (Attachment A). The consent agenda also included requests for the health department (Attachment B) as well as approval to accept Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) discretionary funds. **Motion was made by Commissioner Ivey to approve the consent agenda. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson. Vote to approve consent agenda: Unanimous.**

Aging Services

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson. Mr. Patterson stated that he was bringing the in home aid contract and Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) budget before the Board for approval. Mr. Patterson stated that the Scotland County Aging Advisory Council had already approved these two items and they just needed to be approved by the Board. Mr. Patterson also stated that the in home aide services were part of the larger HCCBG and that the bid for the services is for 2 years. Mr. Patterson also informed the Board that with the in home aide that there were three levels of service. Mr. Patterson said that there were 6 bidders for the services and only 3 qualified (Bayada, Interim Healthcare, and

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Carolina Hearts), all of the bidders were qualified for the levels of care provided. Interim Healthcare is the apparent low bidder. Mr. Patterson stated that usually the lowest qualified bidder is awarded the contract unless there is a significant reason. Commissioner Ivey asked if location were a significant reason. Mr. Patterson responded that if it were to impact service then it could be a reason. Chairman Davis stated that there seemed to be conflicting numbers and he wanted to make sure the county got all out of the services that we could. He also stated that it bothers him to send money to another county. Mr. Patterson responded that 2 of the offices were out of the county but that money is spent here. Commissioner Gibson questioned why the third quarter numbers for level 1 and 2 were at 51% and 54% but another number is 102%. Mr. Patterson explained that the 102% number was the total in home aid for all levels for 2019. Mr. Patterson further explained that the level 1 and 2 amounts are 51% and 54% spent for the 3rd quarter but that level 3 services are at 104%. Even though the Board passes the budget for the HCCBG the Scotland County Aging Committee can move money around within the budget. Mr. Patterson explained that at the end of 2019 the in home aide total budget was 102% spent but the committee had taken from another area that hadn't spent all of their allocated budget to make up the difference. Commissioner Gibson stated that he wants to have confidence that all the funds be spent in Scotland County and that it would mean a lot if the people they employ were from Scotland County. Vice Chair McCall asked Mr. Patterson if the County could get employment numbers from the businesses to find out if they employ Scotland County residents. Mr. Patterson responded that he isn't sure how you legally can get that information to determine who gets the bid. Mr. Patterson stated that the Board could table the matter until the budget meeting or the June meeting if they would like to try to find out more information. **Motion was made by Chairman Davis to table the issue until the budget meeting at the end of May. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Ivey. Vote to table: unanimous**

Scotland County and City of Laurinburg Crime and Drug Committee Request

The Board next heard from Scotland County and City of Laurinburg Crime and Drug Committee chairman Brian Gibson. Mr. Gibson stated that his committee had been looking at ways to improve surveillance and crime detection. Mr. Gibson further stated that the City of Laurinburg had success with cameras but the committee found out that the sheriff's department didn't have any cameras. Mr. Gibson informed the Board that the cameras could be beneficial in areas where break-ins have occurred and drug activity is occurring. According to Mr. Gibson these are cloud based cameras and very secure and would cost \$2,000 or more per camera. Mr. Gibson also informed the Board that a court order would be required to place the cameras. Commissioner Ivey inquired as to who puts up the cameras to which Mr. Gibson replied that an outside group actually puts them up. Commissioner Gibson inquired who would request the court order. Mr. Gibson replied that the law enforcement agency would have to request the court order. Commissioner Gibson also inquired as to if there is a vandalism problem with the cameras. Mr. Gibson replied that there did not seem to be a problem with vandalism and the cameras. Vice Chair McCall asked Mr. Patterson if he had the sheriff's budget and if it included the cameras. Mr. Patterson said that he had the sheriff's budget and it did not include the cameras. Commissioner Gibson stated that this might be something good to talk about at the budget meeting, *consensus amongst the Board was to discuss this issue at the budget meeting toward the end of May.*

Scotland County Tourism Development Authority Request

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The Board next heard from Scotland County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) executive director Cory Hughes. Mr. Hughes reported to the Board that the hospitality industry has suffered over the last 8 weeks and that occupancy rates at hotels statewide is around 20% and locally about 16%. Mr. Hughes also reported that the hospitality industry takes twice as long as most industries to recover. Mr. Hughes then explained to the Board that the hospitality tax is 6% and it is used to market Scotland County hotels and events. Mr. Hughes stated that communities across the state are suspending their hospitality taxes and in South Carolina the legislature has suspended hospitality taxes statewide. Mr. Hughes stated that the TDA is asking the Board to suspend fees and interest for the remainder of this fiscal year with those being due in February 2021 and to suspend the hospitality tax entirely for the first four months of fiscal year 2021 with the tax collections resuming in November. Mr. Hughes reported that the TDA is projecting a 35% decline in revenue for next year. The Local Government Commission (LGC) requires the TDA to have a 15% fund balance, even with these aforementioned efforts the TDA will have a 55% fund balance. Commissioner Ivey then stated that he was concerned with the precedent that this would set and don't know where it will stop. Commissioner Ivey also stated that he felt this was going to be over by February and he is concerned about pushing it that far out. Mr. Hughes stated that he feels it is going to be slow for a while. Commissioner Gibson stated that he understands Commissioner Ivey's concern and may be a precedent that we don't want to set and wonders about what might happen if a restaurant doesn't want to collect sales tax. This is something though that the TDA would do if they had the ability to do it. Vice Chair McCall stated that she doesn't believe that the Board has the authority to suspend sales tax. Commissioner Gibson asked if the legislature is considering suspending sales tax. Mr. Patterson stated that there is talk of waving penalty and interest. Upon hearing from Mr. Patterson, **motion was made by Commissioner Gibson to approve the request from the Tourism Development Authority to suspend penalties and interest for the remainder of this fiscal year with payment due in February 2021 and to suspend the hospitality tax completely from July 2020 until October 31, 2020. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Alford.** Commissioner Ivey again stated that he felt this was the wrong precedent and that he doesn't believe that this would save or bury a hotel. **Vote to approve TDA request: 5-1 with Commissioner Ivey voting against.**

Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)/Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) Report

The Board next heard first from Ms. Carlotta Rivers, Acting Chairperson of the Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) gave the annual report for the calendar year of 2018. According to Ms. Rivers there were 4 child deaths but the CFPT reviewed 4 child deaths (Ms. Rivers stated that they are not allowed to review cases where abuse or neglect was the cause of death) in 2018 and 1 system problem was identified which was underage access to a firearm. Ms. Rivers stated that the recommendation would be to provide education on the importance of gun safety. The Board next heard from Ms. April Snead, Director at the Department of Social Services (DSS). Ms. Snead stated that unlike the CFPT, the CCPT worked with cases that are already in the DSS system to avoid a fatality. Ms. Snead stated that the team review 10 cases throughout the year of 2019 and identified primary concerns of mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, and improper care. Ms. Snead gave an update of the activities of the team throughout 2019.

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Appointment of CFPT and CCPT for 2020

Vice-Chair McCall then addressed the Board that it was necessary to appoint the members of the Child Fatality Prevention Team and the Community Child Protection Team for 2020. **Motion was made by Vice-Chair McCall to appoint the members of the Child Fatality Prevention Team and the Community Child Protection Team. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Ivey. Vote to reappoint the team members: Unanimous (Attachment C).**

Laurel Hill Community Center Update

The Board next heard from County Manager Kevin Patterson concerning the Laurel Hill Community Center. According to Mr. Patterson, Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham is working on a presentation for the budget retreat toward the end of May. Mr. Patterson also stated that there would be more discussion concerning the Laurel Hill Community Center as the budget process went along. Commissioner Ivey asked about the available fund balance. Mr. Patterson stated that it was 24% or close to \$10 million.

COVID-19 Health Department Update

The Board next heard from Health Director Kristen Patterson. Ms. Patterson reported to the Board that there were 30 cases of COVID-19 in Scotland County, with 15 of those recovered. Ms. Patterson also reported to the Board the process after someone has tested positive. Ms. Patterson stated that they check on the patient to see how they are doing and perform contact tracing on every patient in Scotland County. Ms. Patterson also reported that the State wants to be more aggressive with testing and that if the health department needs assistance from the State, it is available. Commissioner Gholston inquired if someone has symptoms if they need to go to their doctor. Ms. Patterson responded that yes, the doctor is the one who needs to make the referral. Vice Chair McCall stated that she appreciates all that Ms. Patterson and her staff have done during this time.

Vice Chair McCall also brought before the Board a request to give county employees the Friday before Memorial Day off as a thank you for the hard work during the pandemic. Discussion followed, upon conclusion of the discussion, **motion was made by Commissioner Ivey to grant the Friday before Memorial Day (May 22nd) as a day off for county employees unless they are emergency employees who would be given 8 hours of leave to use. Motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson. Vote to approve: unanimous.**

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Vice-Chair McCall informed the Board that there were two appointments to the ABC Commission. Vice Chair McCall stated that the two individuals to be reappointed were Doretha Swann and Bob Davis. Commissioner Ivey inquired if this was an appointment for a commissioner or if it was just a regular appointment and if Chairman Davis would be willing to serve after December. Chairman Davis stated that this was a regular appointment and that he would be willing to serve past December. **Motion was made by Vice-Chair McCall to reappoint Mr. Davis and Ms. Swann to the ABC Commission. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Gibson. Vote to appoint: Unanimous.**

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County Manager Report

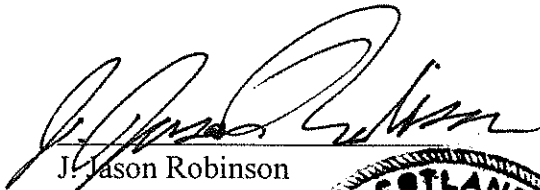
Mr. Patterson began his report by informing the Board of the plans for county government to reopen. Mr. Patterson said that not much would change for Phase 1 and that with Phase 2 there would be social distancing and placing of physical barriers as well as removing some furniture. Mr. Patterson also gave an update on the reopening of Parks and Recreation facilities and activities. Mr. Patterson stated that the County is moving slowly forward and that all employees have face coverings available and some employees are still working from home. Mr. Patterson also gave an update on the communications tower, that everything should be ready for a switchover in late May. Mr. Patterson also reported that the Sneads Grove Convenience Site construction had been pushed back to April 7 and hoped to open it in early July.

Commissioner Comments

No commissioner offered comments for the month of May.

Adjourn

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



J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

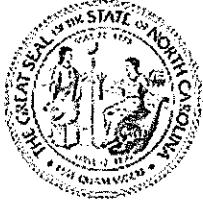
(county seal)



Bob Davis
Chair

ATTACHMENT A

County of Scotland TAX DEPARTMENT



MARY HELEN NORTON
TAX ADMINISTRATOR
(910) 277-2566

507 W COVINGTON ST.
POST OFFICE BOX 488
LAURINBURG, NORTH CAROLINA 28353



MARTY PATE
TAX COLLECTOR
(910) 277-2566

April 2, 2020

Beth Hobbs
Finance Officer Scotland County

Re: Release and Refund Request for March 2020

Dear Ms. Hobbs,

Please find attached releases, refunds and discoveries for the month of March 2020.
The grand totals are as follows:

1. Releases less than \$100 – Totaling: **\$173.98;**
2. Releases more than \$100 – Totaling: **\$1,022.51;**
3. Refunds less than \$100 – Totaling: **\$34.53;** All other refunds were due to overpayment;
4. Refunds more than \$100 – Totaling: **\$0;** All other refunds were due to overpayment;
and,
5. Discoveries – Totaling: **\$4,046.59.**

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marty Pate".

Marty Pate
Scotland County Tax Collector

Enclosure

RELEASES LESS THAN \$100

NAME	ACCT/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
Casey Lorese	2019-800813	\$ 67.46	vehicle reg in another co/st
Johnnie Holloway	2019-800810	\$ 10.96	tag turned in on sold vehicle
Tena Pate (Simmons)	2014-2016	<u>\$ 95.56</u>	swmh dlb listed
		Total	
			<u>\$173.98</u>

RELEASES MORE THAN \$100

NAME	ACCT/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
Casey Lorese	2019-800743	\$ 166.77	vehicle reg in another co/st
Cleo Richard Greene Jr	2019-200254	\$ 344.12	adjusted value
HH Hughes DDS	2018-2019	\$ 284.00	business sold 2017
Mable Hasty	2010-2019	<u>\$ 227.62</u>	swmh dbl listed
		Total	
			<u>\$1,022.51</u>

REFUNDS LESS THAN \$100

NAME	DESC/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
Tena Pate (Simmons)	2014-16922	<u>\$34.53</u>	swmh dlb listed
		Total	
			<u>\$34.53</u>, all others due to overpayment

REFUNDS MORE THAN \$100

NAME	DESC/BILL #	AMOUNT	REASON
		Total	
			<u>\$0</u>, all others due to overpayment

DISCOVERIES

NAME	AMOUNT	REASON
Total gap discovery amount	\$ 3,924.89	gap m/v billing

Other discoveries

Jessi W. Williams	<u>\$ 121.70</u>	swmh purchased in 2018
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Total for all discoveries	<u>\$ 4,046.59</u>	
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ATTACHMENT B

SCOTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1405 West Boulevard • Post Office Box 69
Laurinburg, North Carolina 28353-0069
Phone (910) 277-2440 Fax (910) 277-2450



Kristen Patterson, MHA
Health Director



MEMO

TO: Kevin Patterson, County Manager

FROM: Kristen Patterson, MHA
Health Director

DATE: April 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Board of Commissioners Consent Agenda Items

- A. Receipt of Funds - \$66,766 – COVID-19 Crisis Response
- B. Requesting approval for New Labs:

Name	CPT	TEST#	PRICE
Tissue Transglutaminase, IgA	83516	164640	\$115.00
Immunoglobulin A, Quantitative	82784	001784	\$33.00

Best Regards,

Sharon Alford