

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

February 24, 2009 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on February 24, 2009, at 3:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The following Board members were present: Chairman Debra Buchanan, Vice Chairman H. G. Vaughn, Jim Adams, Paula Burnette, Jim McMillian and Tommy Slaughter.

Staff members present were Benny Summerlin, County Administrator; Tim Hall, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Susan Biege, Administrative Assistant; Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources and Public Information; Jimmie Wright, Director of Finance; and Darrell Jones, Deputy Director of Finance.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Major Steve Eanes and Sergeant Eric Hairston were present from the Sheriff's Office. Mickey Powell of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B99 Radio Station were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. McMillian led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. She stated that anyone who wishes to be on the Agenda for the Board's regular business meeting held at 3:00 pm must contact the County Administrator's Office seven days prior to a scheduled meeting. Those wishing to speak at the Board's public meeting starting at 6:00 pm may do so under Agenda Item - Matters Presented by the Public without contacting the County Administrator's Office.

Mrs. Buchanan welcomed Mr. Vaughn back after undergoing a recent hip replacement. She welcomed Andrew Palmer who attended the meeting as criteria in earning his Eagle Scout badge.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- 1) January 27, 2009 - 3:00 pm
- 2) January 29, 2009, Planning Session - 3pm

Mrs. Burnette noted in the Minutes of January 29, 2009, under **Long-Term/Continuing Goals** - work to improve "County pride" should read work to improve "Community pride."

Approval of Accounts Payable

(Copy included in Board's File).

Mrs. Burnette moved to approve Items of Consent as amended, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:

Mike Seidle previously requested time on the Board's agenda to speak but was unable to attend today's meeting.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2009-2010 COUNTY BUDGET:

Mr. McMillian requested this item be placed on the agenda. He asked Mr. Summerlin what possible effects the Federal Stimulus Package may have on the County's upcoming budget.

Mr. Summerlin stated in general he felt it would be positive. He noted that staff had met with Congressman Perriello and received correspondence from the state and other groups. Some of the stimulus money will be by formula, particularly to the School division for certain programs. The School Board may have some flexibility in moving local funds around in terms of direct aide. The real impact for the County is that the federal government will be transferring funds to various federal and state agencies that are running existing grant programs, such as

grants to build water lines administered by Virginia Department of Health and sewer lines administered by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He stated the County would have to make application for specific programs and would be considered among other applicants; therefore you may or may not receive funding. Mr. Summerlin stated another part of the stimulus money that may aide the County on its operating side are funds for Community Oriented Policing (COPS). He stated there are some grant programs under the Department of Justice Program; however, he was not sure of what impact it will have yet. Mr. Summerlin stated when the state re-forecasts its revenue on February 15th, an additional deficit was proposed of \$821,000,000. The Governor's budget was based on a \$2.9 billion deficit and those two totals would be added together for the total deficit. The Governor has proposed using Virginia's share of the state stabilization fund to accommodate the \$821,000,000 deficit to avoid additional cuts in programs. He stated indirectly that will have a positive impact on the County's budget; however, a lot of details are yet to be worked out.

Mr. McMillian asked if funds might be available to help with the stormwater situation in Collinsville.

Mr. Summerlin stated from looking at a summary of programs he had not seen any for that particular project. However, staff is continuing to monitor information on the stimulus package and it is staff's intent to apply for every grant obtainable that meets criteria. A meeting has been scheduled on March 2, 2009, with a member of Congressman Perriello's staff to get additional updates and information on the stimulus package.

Mr. McMillian stated he would like to reiterate that he did not want a tax increase in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Summerlin stated the budget would be balanced based on the County's needs and the resident's ability to pay and the Board would receive a budget that shows no real estate tax increase.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Consideration of Donation from Collinsville Jaycees and Award of Contract re: Playground Equipment for Jack Dalton Park – Parks and Recreation

Mr. Summerlin stated Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams is requesting the Board to accept a donation of \$46,228.44 from the Collinsville Jaycees to be used for the purchase of new playground equipment at Jack Dalton Park. The Collinsville Jaycees is a volunteer service founded locally in 1967, and will be closing its chapter due to declining membership. The Collinsville Jaycees' chapter is the last one in the area.

Mr. Summerlin stated Mr. Adams is requesting that a contract in the amount of \$49,143.25 be awarded to Cunningham Associates/GameTime for a specific playground unit and accompanying playcurbs, geo-textile fabric, benches and safety surface. Mr. Adams is proposing that the Parks and Recreation department provide the additional funds of \$2,914.81 to complete the purchase of this unit as well as doing the installation. The playground equipment currently at Jack Dalton Park would be relocated to the Fieldale Ballpark. (Copy of Information included in Board's File).

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board approve acceptance of the donation from the Collinsville Jaycees; the additional appropriation of the donation toward the playground purchase; and award a contract in the amount of \$49,143.25 to Cunningham Associates/GameTime for the playground unit as outlined, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

The Board recognized current and former members of the Collinsville Jaycees in attendance and thanked them for the donation.

Consideration of School Board's Request for Carryover Funds from FY 2007-2008

Mr. Summerlin stated the School Board is requesting the Board of Supervisors to appropriate a portion of the \$815,148 in FY '07-'08 carryover funds to the School Board. As indicated by the School Board,

it would use \$574,848 of the carryover funds in the following ways:
(Copy of Information included in Board's File).

- \$294,528 to fund GASB45 requirements for FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011.
- \$175,000 for the replacement of the roof on the Laurel Park Middle School gym.
- \$40,000 for the replacement of the roof at the Records Department at the Axton Elementary School complex.
- \$65,320 for the replacement of tables for Collinsville Primary, Rich Acres Elementary, and Stanleytown Elementary schools.

Mr. Summerlin stated the School Board's share of the current year revenue shortfall of \$912,000 is \$428,640. When that number is subtracted from the \$815,148 carryover, and the \$294,528 for the GASB 45 obligation is subtracted, the amount remaining is \$91,980.

Mr. DeWitt House, Assistant Superintendent, stated the remaining balance of \$91,980 will be used towards replacing the roof and gym at Laurel Park Middle School, which is a high priority. The remaining balance would come out of capital improvements projects of the existing budget.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board approve the carry over less \$428,640 for revenue shortfall and include \$294,528 for the GASB 45 obligation and \$91,980 toward Laurel Park Middle School, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 5 to 1. Mr. McMillian voted in opposition.

Award of Contract re: Items Associated with Interoperable Communications Grant – Department of Public Safety

Mr. Summerlin stated as part of the ongoing implementation of the new emergency communications system in Henry County, Public Safety Director Dale Wagoner is requesting the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$56,951.96 to GCS Electronics of Martinsville for the purchases of mobile and portable radios for the Patrick County Sheriff's Office and the creation of a national interoperable base station on Bull Mountain for the Patrick and Henry County 9-1-1 centers. The Board must approve the expenditures since Henry County is the fiscal agent for the project. (Copy of Information included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board award the contract in the amount of \$56,951.96 to GCS Electronics of Martinsville for the purchases of mobile and portable radios for the Patrick County Sheriff's Office and the creation of a national interoperable base station on Bull Mountain for the Patrick and Henry County 9-1-1 centers, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: EMS Training Funds - Department of Public Safety

Mr. Summerlin stated Public Safety Director Dale Wagoner is requesting the Board to make an additional appropriation of \$4,248.98 in grant money from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services to be used for the training of EMS providers. (Copy of Information included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation of \$4,248.98 in grant money from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services to be used for the training of EMS providers, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: Asset Forfeiture Funds - Commonwealth's Attorney's Office

Mr. Summerlin stated Commonwealth's Attorney Bob Bushnell is requesting the Board to make an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,253 from the Asset Forfeiture line item to his Travel Expenses line item. This is in response to budget cuts in the travel category. Mr. Bushnell indicates that Sheriff Perry has endorsed this appropriation. (Copy of Information included in Board's File).

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,253 from the Asset Forfeiture line item to his Travel Expenses line item, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

Consideration of Cuts to the FY 2008-09 County Budget

Mr. Summerlin stated the projected FY '09 revenue shortfall is \$912,000 and the School Boards' share is \$428,640 based on the

percentage of local discretionary revenue they receive, leaving the County a shortfall of \$483,436. Department heads were recently asked to propose an average of a 2% cut in their current budgets. These cuts were presented and after carefully reviewing each submission, a total of \$558,143 is recommended to be cut from the County portion of the budget, which is approximately \$60,000 more than the target. He stated this should give staff some cushion should things be worse than projected, if not as bad as projected, it will give staff some extra breathing room in preparing next year's budget. (Copy of Proposed Cuts included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the budget cuts as outlined, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Comments from the Board

Mr. Slaughter stated he met with the Stanleytown Ruritan Club this past week and discussed replacing the trees on the Reed Creek side of the river with crepe myrtles. He stated they have to get details worked out with the railroad regarding property issues. Mr. Slaughter stated he also attended a meeting at the old Ridgeway Elementary School last week where a corporation was formed and officers were elected. A proposal should be forthcoming to the Board as well as a meeting scheduled with Ridgeway Town Council on March 10.

Mr. McMillian stated he asked earlier about the progress of the radio system and was told there would be comments provided today.

Mr. Dale Wagoner, Director of Public Safety, gave a brief presentation on the Emergency Communications System Update and provided the Board with a copy of an executive summary which detailed accomplishments, where it's at today, and what is left to do. (Copy included in Board's File).

Mr. McMillian announced that Taco Bell, O'Reilly's and Walgreen's in the Collinsville District have now opened. He also recognized Mr. Joe Bryant who recently announced his candidacy for the Board of Supervisors seat in the Collinsville District.

Mrs. Burnette briefly discussed several VACo/VML Legislative workshops she recently attended as well as attending a community meeting in the Sandy Level community with VDOT representatives. Mrs. Burnette requested a report from Gateway regarding tree trimming along the median strip on Route 58 extending out past Martinsville/Henry County limits to Route 57.

Mr. Adams stated he attended a very successful fundraising event held at the Sanville Ruritan Club for the benefit of the Bassett High School Baseball Program. He also participated in the Smith River Clean-Up held on February 7, 2009.

Mr. Vaughn thanked the Board and staff during his recent surgery for all the calls, cards and prayers. He stated he put his faith in the staff and surgeons at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville-Henry County and the area is very fortunate to have such caring professionals.

Mrs. Buchanan stated she also attended the VACo/VML Workshop as well as the Chairman's Conference. She discussed an award recognition program to honor veterans similar to the Jack Dalton award and suggested to have staff prepare some information on this and bring it back to the Board for consideration.

Following some discussion Mr. Adams moved that the Board direct staff to look into some possibilities on ways to honor veterans, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Buchanan recognized Amanda Witt of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Witt briefly discussed the upcoming Trade Show scheduled for March 3-4, 2009, which she noted was sold out.

Mrs. Buchanan noted that the 5:00 pm work session scheduled with the School Board has been postponed.

Mr. Summerlin stated the County received its second check from 5B's in the amount of \$33,000. He stated that the Commonwealth Transportation Board proposes to close a lot of VDOT offices and cut staff; therefore, it is important for the County to follow these updates until final decisions are made. He noted that plans are to combine Henry and Patrick residency with Carroll County residency and leave the Henry County residency open.

CLOSED MEETING:

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board enter into a closed meeting at 3:52 pm to discuss the following, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, West Piedmont Planning District Commission, Fieldale Sanitary District Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, and Local Finance Board for OPEB Liability.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Pending Matters.
- 3) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate.
- 4) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.

OPEN MEETING:

The Board returned to an open meeting at 4:46 pm on a motion by Mr. Adams, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Hall read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote affirming that the Board only discussed public business matters lawfully exempted and identified in the motion to enter closed session. Those voting in the affirmative were Mr. Slaughter, Mr. McMillian, Mrs. Burnette, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Adams.

APPOINTMENTS:

Industrial Development Authority

Mr. Adams moved to reappoint Wade Nelson to the Industrial Development Authority from the Horsepasture District, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

Planning Commission

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board reappoint Fred Spencer and Hal West to the Planning Commission to four year terms, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

Fieldale Sanitary District

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board appoint Bobby Rakes to the Fieldale Sanitary District Board for an unspecified term, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Local Finance Board for OPEB Liability

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board appoint Darrell Jones to the Local Finance Board for OPEB Liability until June 30, 2009, and Jimmie Wright effective July 1, 2009, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

The Board recessed its meeting at 4:50 pm and reconvened at 6:00 pm.

Mrs. Buchanan called the meeting back in session at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Slaughter left the meeting after closed session.

APPOINTMENTS CONTINUED:

Planning Commission

Mrs. Burnette moved to reappoint Glenwood Vaughn to the Planning Commission, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 4 to 0 with Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Slaughter absent.

CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING MARCH 2009 AS "BIG READ MONTH" IN HENRY COUNTY:

Mr. Adams read a Proclamation to establish March 2009 as “Big Read Month” in Henry County and presented a copy to Ms. Barbara Parker.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the Proclamation to establish “Big Read Month” in Henry County, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 4 to 0 with Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Slaughter absent.

Ms. Barbara Parker of Piedmont Arts Association gave a brief summary regarding “The Big Read,” which she stated is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of the American culture. Piedmont Arts Association is a partner in this effort and has helped schedule many local events for the month of March. The local events are based upon Harper Lee’s classic book, “To Kill A Mockingbird” and will include an emphasis within the local school systems for students to read the book. Other local events will include the showing of the movie and a live stage version of the play. Ms. Parker distributed literature on the event to the Board. (Copy of Proclamation included in Board’s File).

The Board thanked Ms. Parker for her presentation.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Buchanan read the following statement regarding public comments: “The Board is here to listen to public comments and not to engage in a question and answer period or a debate. If anyone wishes to address the Board please come to the podium, state your name, subject matter and the district in which you live. By coming to the podium you have agreed to exhibit respect to the Board and its members. Each one will conduct themselves with dignity and will receive the same level of respect from the Board. Those who wish to speak please keep your comments between three to five minutes.

Ms. Dorothy Carter, Vice President of the Henry County Education Association and a resident of the Reed Creek District, came forward and discussed the importance of the upcoming school budget and encouraged the Board’s support this year in its deliberations.

Mr. Doug Jackson of the Ridgeway District discussed the issue of posting the Board of Supervisors meeting agendas seven days prior to a

meeting. He also encouraged the Board to support the School Board budget.

Mr. Hall stated the Board package including the agenda and background information is posted on the County's website at least three to four days prior to a meeting.

DISCUSSION OF CONSTRUCTION OF DRAG STRIP IN HENRY COUNTY:

Mr. McMillian stated he was approached by a group of people at the Planning Session who were interested in pursuing the construction of a drag strip in Henry County. He stated he invited them to today's meeting; however, he did not see anyone present.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Consideration of "Watch for Children" Sign on Lakewood Trail in the Iriswood District

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board request VDOT to install a "Watch for Children" sign on Lakewood Trail in the Iriswood District, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Vaughn were absent.

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Road Improvements to U.S. 220 in Bassett Forks

The Virginia Department of Transportation requests that the Board approve a resolution so VDOT can proceed with road improvements to U.S. Route 220 in Bassett Forks. The resolution would be forwarded by VDOT to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the resolution as presented by VDOT, second by Mrs. Burnette. The motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Vaughn were absent.

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Additions to the VDOT Secondary Road System – Alan Road (John Spencer Court)

The Virginia Department of Transportation is requesting the Board to approve a resolution so that VDOT can add the streets indicated to its Secondary Road System.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the resolution as presented, second by Mrs. Burnette. The motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Vaughn were absent.

Ms. Lisa Price-Hughes stated DLB from Hillsville was the low bidder on the Fieldale Bridge and the project is moving forward. She stated the Commonwealth Transportation Board Commissioner stated VDOT will be reducing its staff by 1,000. Some residency offices will be consolidating. Henry County's residency office will remain open and Carroll County will become part of the Martinsville branch, which currently includes Patrick County. Ms. Hughes stated level of services will be reduced such as mowing, pothole repairs, ditching, etc. She stated the Commonwealth Transportation Board Commissioner will begin holding public meetings on March 10 at the Northside Middle School in Roanoke.

Mrs. Burnette stated she would like to state her concern and opposition to the rest areas on I-81 being closed.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Adams moved to adjourn at 6:25 pm, second by Mr. McMillian. The motion carried 4 to 0. Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Vaughn were absent.