

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

Special Called Meeting April 8, 2009 – 7:00 am

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held a special called meeting on April 8, 2009 at 7:00 am in the Fourth Floor Conference 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, Tommy Slaughter and Jim McMillian.

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

Members of City Council present were: Mayor Kathy Lawson; Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds; Danny Turner, Mark Stroud, and Gene Teague. Members of City staff present were: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Assistant to City Manager and City Attorney Eric Monday.

Members of the Social Services Board present were: Chairman Ben Meador; Joan Blankenship, Carolyn Byrd, Narda Dixon, Kathy Rogers, Dr. James Rountree, John C. Matthews and Don Thomas. Ms. Amy Tuttle, Executive Director of Social Services was also present.

Debbie Hall and Mike Wray of the Martinsville Bulletin, and Charles Roark with Roark Media were present.

The purpose of the joint meeting was to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding regarding space needs for the

Department of Social Services. (Copy of Memorandum of Understanding included in Board's File).

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Buchanan called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order. Mayor Lawson, called City Council in session and Chairman Meador called the Social Services Board to order.

Mr. Summerlin stated everyone has received a copy of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and reviewed by legal counsel for all three entities.

Mr. Clarence Monday, City Manager stated City Council and staff have also reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as well as legal council.

Following comments expressed by City Councilman, Danny Turner, Mark Stroud and Kimble Reynolds, they stated the citizens of Martinsville deserve a chance to voice their opinion in an open forum on the matter. They also requested this issue be placed on City Council's Agenda for its Tuesday night meeting. Councilman Turner noted he received the document late Monday night and did not have any part in the discussions prior to today's meeting.

Mr. McMillian left the meeting at approximately 7:07 am.

Board of Supervisors members Buchanan, Vaughn and Burnette made similar comments, agreeing that this has been an ongoing discussion since approximately 2004, when the City and County received a study on possible site locations for the Social Services facility. The Board discussed the status of the Athena Building which they noted has been empty for a long time and that it was never taken off the market for economic development needs; however, there has been no traffic to this location. The use of the building is governed by the Social Services Board and basically lies in the hands of the

State agency, of which they have an urgent situation and the proposal presented is the most economical plan for Social Services and the community.

Mr. Rountree, a member of the Social Services Board, stated it is time to stop the foot dragging on this particular project and make a decision in the best interests of all concerned. He said the surveys have been done and the architects have determined that if they do anything other than what they are doing right now a lot of unnecessary money would be spent. Something needs to be done and the time is now not later.

It was noted by Mayor Lawson and Councilman Teague that they both agreed the loss of City revenue from the Athena Building would be made up in the future with the joint Revenue Sharing Agreement between the City and County.

Following some further discussion Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. McMillian was absent.

Mr. Don Thomas moved that the Social Services Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding, second by Mr. John Matthews. The motion carried unanimously with the exception of Ron Ferrill who was absent.

Mayor Lawson stated she respects the wishes of other members of City Council to place this item on City Council's Agenda for Tuesday night's meeting. However, she agreed that this agreement will provide a swift and comprehensive solution to the needs of the Department of Social Services, fulfilling their need for additional operating space and a more modern facility. The agreement will also satisfy the concerns of the City of Martinsville and Henry County, who share a vested interest in the former Athena Building and will do so without placing unnecessary hardship on any of the parties concerned or the community as a whole. She stated the agreement is a

substantial leap forward in cooperation and teamwork between the City and Henry County and is a continuation of the joint revenue-sharing projects in the Patriot Centre.

Chairman Buchanan thanked everyone for coming and stated the Board of Supervisors looks forward to the City's response.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Adams moved to adjourn its meeting at 7:30 am.

Bos.Minutes.April 8.2009.7am.sb