

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

July 28, 2009 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on July 28, 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; George Lyle, County Attorney; Susan Biege, Administrative Assistant; Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources/Public Information; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; and Richard Stanfield, Assistant Director of Finance.

Sheriff Perry was present from the Sheriff's Office. Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Jim McMillian gave the invocation and Paula Burnette 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 Mike Hudson, Ben Whitlock and Scott Semones from the Sheriff's Office who were in attendance as a requirement of the Sheriff's Office Field Training Program.

Mrs. Buchanan welcomed Mr. Drew Densmore, a representative in the Roanoke Office of Senator Mark Warner, who is scheduled to be on the Board's August Agenda.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings (Copy Included in Board's File).

- June 23, 2009 – 3:00 pm

Approval of Accounts Payable (Copy included in Board's File).

Proclamation Recognizing 37th Anniversary of CONTACT of Martinsville-Henry County

CONTACT of Martinsville-Henry County is celebrating its 37th year of service in 2009. A Proclamation in recognition of that milestone was presented to Ms. Loretta Smith, a representative of CONTACT.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve Items of Consent as presented, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

INTRODUCTION OF MR. ANTHONY JACKSON, HENRY COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:

The Board welcomed Mr. Anthony Jackson, the new Superintendent for Henry County Public Schools. Mr. Jackson introduced himself and stated he looked forward to a great cooperative working relationship with the Board of Supervisors.

DISCUSSION OF BATTERY AND FLUIDS RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM:

Mr. Mike Amos of the County's Refuse Department gave an overview on the status of the pilot program on recycling batteries, antifreeze and oil at the Collinsville Convenience Center behind the County Administration Building. Mr. Amos stated the program has been up and running for nine days and the County has collected two drums of oil, one-half drum of antifreeze and three batteries. He stated the only cost savings will be with recycling batteries and there is no cost or savings involved in the oil or antifreeze. Mr. Amos stated the County is in compliance with DEQ regulations. Mr. Amos noted the Household Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for October 17 at the new Bassett Motor Pool.

Mr. Summerlin stated the County may look into using the oil as a fuel source in the future at the service center, which is now being monitored for quality of the product. The Board thanked Mr. Amos for his update.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE:

Mr. Summerlin stated that effective July 1 the County's workers' compensation insurance changed from Virginia Municipal League to the Virginia Association of Counties. As part of that switch, the Board is being asked to consider approval of a resolution which brings the members of the Board of Supervisors and board members appointed by the Board under the policy. There is no additional cost as the Board's wages were included in the original annual contribution calculation. Benefits would only extend to work-related accidents that are within the scope of official duties. (Copy of Resolution included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board adopt the Resolution, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Request to Apply for Department of Justice Recovery Act JAG Grant – Sheriff's Office

Mr. Summerlin stated Sheriff Perry is requesting permission to apply for a Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant. The grant, in the amount of \$30,716, would go toward such programs such as Neighborhood Watch and the Citizen Police Academies Crime Prevention Program. There is no local match required, and a public hearing is required.

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board authorize the Sheriff's Office to apply for the grant, and set a public hearing at the August 25, 2009 meeting at 6:00 pm, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds – School Board

Mr. Summerlin stated the School Board is seeking an additional appropriation of \$55,815.01 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The grant is a Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

Additional Appropriation re: Asset Forfeiture Funds – Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office

Mr. Summerlin stated the Commonwealth’s Attorney Bob Bushnell is requesting the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$696 from the asset forfeiture line item. According to Mr. Bushnell, the money would be used to purchase a flat-screen television and a DVD/VCR unit for use in showing video surveillance and other media items in court.

Mr. McMillian moved that the Board approve the additional appropriation, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Comments from the Board

Mrs. Burnette stated over the last month she attended the Secure Commonwealth Panel meeting in Richmond and also visited the VACo Office. The Board is invited to an open house at VACo’s new office on August 14. She stated she participated in the Vision Tour Uptown Martinsville on Saturday representing the TheatreWorks Community Players. She also attended a Poverty Workshop held at the Patrick Henry Community College. She stated the numbers and statistics presented were quite astounding; however, only ten people attended the meeting. She stated there needs to be more participation on this issue and suggested that the Board take a closer look at poverty and try to get others involved. Mrs. Burnette inquired about getting welcome signs installed on the back side of Route 58 East of Martinsville and on Commonwealth Boulevard. She asked staff to see about getting some people together to discuss the lack of good appearance on the City/County 58 East side of the median stretch to Route 57 turnoff.

Mrs. Buchanan stated she attended the ribbon cutting of Piedmont Community Services Cottage House located on East Church Street for those who have challenging needs. She also attended the Spencer Penn Food Services Workshop coordinated by Lisa Fultz, and encouraged the Board to visit the facilities. Mrs. Buchanan stated she also had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Drew Densmore with the County Administrator and looked forward to meeting with him again at the Board’s August meeting.

Mr. Summerlin stated since the last meeting the Governor has announced that Henry County received a Community Development Block Grant for the South Street Neighborhood Project, which is \$1.4 million over two years. He stated the County applied to the Tobacco Commission for

allocation of funds for water and sewer extensions for Commonwealth Crossing with an estimated cost of \$4.2 million. The County received a letter of intent from the Tobacco Commission that if the County can secure \$1.7 million by mid-December from another source the Tobacco Commission will fund the \$1.7 million. He noted that the County has an earmark of \$800,000 from the SBA. Staff is working with West Piedmont Planning District Commission on an application to the U. S. Economic Development Administration requesting the other \$1.7 million. Mr. Summerlin informed the Board that on September 19 the County will hold its Annual Surplus Sale at DuPont. Also, Congressman Perriello will be in town on August 4 and will be holding a Town Hall meeting at Laurel Park Middle School. The Board and other local officials are invited to a meeting with him from 4:30 to 5:30 prior to the Town Hall meeting. The grand opening of the Smith River Sports Complex is scheduled on Sunday, August 23 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

Mr. Summerlin stated he had discussions with EDC and the City Manager regarding the new shell building nearing completion. He stated dedication of the shell building will need to be scheduled to transfer the keys to EDC for marketing. Also, in August the Board will need to consider whether to continue the public bus demonstration project funding for next year. There are also a number of actions related to the Social Services Memorandum of Understanding (Revenue Sharing Agreement, Lease with Social Services, and Award of Contract) which requires joint action with City Council. He stated he discussed with the City Manager about setting a joint meeting on Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 in the evening to hold an event at the shell building then meet at the Administration Building to discuss Social Service matters and hear a presentation from RADAR regarding public transportation. Following some discussion the Board was in agreement to try to come up with another date or time since it was a conflict with other schedules of the Board.

Mr. Summerlin stated regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Social Services, once the City pays its share of the building and upfit costs, the County will need to transfer 1/3rd ownership to the City, which requires the Board to hold a public hearing and suggested setting the date for the August meeting.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board set a public hearing at the August 25 meeting, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 1. Mr. McMillian voted in opposition.

CLOSED MEETING

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board enter into a closed meeting at 3:25 pm to discuss the following, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Anchor Commission, Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, and Roanoke River Basin Association.
- B) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Pending Legal Matters.
- C) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate.
- D) §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 5:42 pm on a motion by Mrs. Burnette, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Summerlin read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote. Those voting in the affirmative were Mr. Slaughter, Mr. McMillian, Mrs. Burnette, Mr. Adams, Mr. Vaughn and Mrs. Buchanan.

APPOINTMENTS:

Anchor Commission

Mrs. Burnette moved to appoint Vickie Adams to fill an unexpired term on the Anchor Commission to expire December 31, 2010, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Blue Ridge Regional Library Board

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board appoint Linda Reynolds, Anita Ray, and Paula Burnette to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board with terms to expire June 30, 2013, second by Mr. McMillian. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mrs. Burnette abstained.

Roanoke River Basin Association

Mr. Adams moved that the Board appoint Michael Ward to the Roanoke River Basin Association for a term of one-year, seconded by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board request the County Administrator to request the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board to provide a budget history for the previous five fiscal years in a format suitable for analysis of cost by branch locations, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board authorize the County Administrator to employ Whitt Clements, Attorney at Law, and add the law firm to the list of approved County legal service providers, second by Mr. McMillian. The motion carried 5 to 1. Mrs. Burnette voted in opposition; however, she agreed to add Whitt Clements to the list of legal service providers.

Mt. Olivet Ruritan Club Lease

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board approve the new lease between the County and Mt. Olivet Ruritan Club for the use of the ball field, second by Mr. McMillian and unanimously carried.

The Board recessed its meeting at 5:48 pm until 6:00 pm. Mrs. Buchanan reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Mrs. Burnette noted she would like to congratulate Benny Summerlin on his recent Fred Herring Award from the Chamber of Commerce for his work on economic development.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:

There was no one present who wished to speak under Matters Presented by the Public.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES REGARDING THE BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD:

Mr. Vaughn stated there is a great deal of concern in the Ridgeway District regarding cuts in the hours at the Ridgeway Branch Library. He

stated the County cut the Blue Ridge Regional Library's budget 2.5%; however, the cut in operating hours at the Ridgeway Library was cut 12 hours and only open on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. He stated this does not leave much accessibility to use the library for citizens who work a day time job or who work out of town. Mr. Vaughn stated he would ask that the Board approve a Resolution requesting the Library Board to reconsider its hours at the Ridgeway Branch Library. He stated Mr. Hal Hubener, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Library Board, was invited to attend the meeting but was not present. Mr. Vaughn stated a similar Resolution was considered by Ridgeway Town Council and was presented to the Blue Ridge Library Board on July 15. He noted that the Library has another meeting scheduled on July 29 at noon to consider the issue. Mr. Vaughn noted that over 687 signatures of citizens of the Ridgeway District signed a petition that was presented at the Library Board meeting on July 15.

Mr. Vaughn recognized Mayor Ed Page of Ridgeway Town Council. The following persons spoke regarding the cuts to the Ridgeway Branch Library.

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 and 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."

Mayor Ed Page stated the citizens of Ridgeway spent many days, months, and years raising funds to get the Ridgeway Library built and equipped. He stated there has been a 43% reduction in the number of hours available to the citizens to utilize the library. He stated many people rely on internet services at the library and folks who work out of town have no time to utilize its services. Mayor Page thanked the Board for its support and consideration of the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Ruth Pace stated Ridgeway has been very proud of its library since its inception in 1987. Ms. Pace gave a detailed report of information dating back to the mid 90's on Ridgeway's fund raising efforts to build the new library.

It was noted that approximately 25 citizens were in attendance regarding the Ridgeway Library.

Ms. Aileen Bourne talked about a personal story involving a citizen she had spoke to that had expressed her wishes to spend more time with her granddaughter and visit the library more often. She works out of town and doesn't get off until 6:00 pm; therefore, this did not allow her to visit the library with her granddaughter.

Ms. Carol Myer read a card made by Rachel Cardwell, who is five years old from Ridgeway, VA entitled "The Day with No Library."

Mr. Tom Webber, a citizen of the Town of Ridgeway, stated education of its children in Ridgeway is as important as other areas of the County who have more operating hours of its libraries.

Ms. Shirley Marshall stated she lives in Ridgeway and is in between jobs and utilizes the library for internet service. She stated it is essential that the library have more operating hours for its citizens.

Ms. Lorraine Ziglar stated she and her son visit the library frequently and he is in the fifth grade with a ninth grade reading level and loves to read. Ms. Ziglar's son, Chris Chance, stated he is a regular user of the library and does not want it to be closed three days a week and it is not very accessible with its current hours.

Mr. Vaughn then read the proposed resolution. (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board adopt the resolution, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Ms. Lisa Price Hughes, Residency Administrator of the local VDOT office was present to discuss general highway matters.

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Addition to the VDOT Secondary Road System

The Virginia Department of Transportation has requested that the Board approve the proposed resolution so that VDOT can add the access road to the Smith River Sports Complex to its Secondary Road System. (A copy of the Resolution and Road Plat are Included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the resolution, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Route 687 Preston Road

Mr. Adams moved that the Board adopt the proposed resolution presented by VDOT regarding Route 687 Preston Road, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried. (Copy Included in Board's File).

Consideration of "Watch for Children" Sign on Motley Road in the Iriswood District

Mrs. Burnette moved that the Board request VDOT install a "Watch for Children" sign on Motley Road in the Iriswood District, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

Ms. Hughes informed the Board that safety improvements to Bassett Forks are moving forward. The turn lanes at Route 174 (Colonial Drive and Plantation Drive) will be advertised in September. She stated work should begin on two safety projects with flashing warning lights at 220 South and Route 688; also Route 57 and Route 606 the first week in September.

Following was some discussion by the Board with Ms. Hughes regarding miscellaneous projects in several of the Board's districts. The Board also discussed concerns on the lack of mowing in the area by the Virginia Department of Transportation. It was noted by Ms. Hughes that Henry County gets a complete mowing once every four years.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Adams moved to adjourn at 6:53 pm, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.