

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

April 19, 2010 – 7:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on April 19, 2010, at 7:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to hold public hearings on the FY '10-'11 School Budget and Total County Budget. The following Board members were present: Chairman Debra Buchanan, Vice Chairman H. G. Vaughn, Jim Adams, Milton Kendall, Joe Bryant and Tommy Slaughter.

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

School Board members present were Kathy Rogers, Chairman; Terri Flanagan, Betsy Mattox, and Charles Speakman. Also present were School Superintendent Anthony Jackson and Dawn Lawson, Director of Business.

Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin and Major Steve Eanes of the Sheriff's Office were present.

H. G. Vaughn gave the invocation.

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and stated this is a continuation from the Board's April 8 meeting. She welcomed everyone present and stated there are two public hearings scheduled. The first public hearing is on the FY '10-'11 School Budget and following is the public hearing on the FY '10-'11 Total County Budget. She stated if anyone wishes to address the Board to come to the podium, state your name and the district in which you live. She stated those who wish to speak will agree to exhibit respect to the Board and they would receive the same level of respect.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY '11 SCHOOL BUDGET:

Mrs. Buchanan opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm. The following persons spoke:

- Kathy Rogers, Chairman of the School Board, expressed the School Board's appreciation for level funding and for the support during a very difficult budget year.
- Dorothy Carter of the Reed Creek District and a member of the Henry County Education Association also thanked the Board for level funding.

There being no one else who wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 7:04 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY '10-'11 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET:

The public hearing was opened at 7:05 pm.

The following persons spoke:

- Stuart Bowman, Chief of the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, spoke regarding the recent funding cuts from United Way, the proposed redistribution of funds from the County, and issues regarding soft billing. He briefly discussed proposed supplemental staffing and finding a different way to fund the proposed staffing. Mr. Bowman requested the Board to maintain its funding to the squads. He stated the funds they receive from the County go towards paying insurance, which includes vehicles, medical malpractice, and building insurance.
- Kiah Cooper, President of the Martinsville-Henry County Fire Association, discussed the importance of retaining the Firefighter Program in the local high schools which began in fall of 2004. He stated 138 students have become Firefighter I certified, 81 have enrolled in local fire departments and 20 have become volunteers with local rescue squads. He stated a number of those students have gone on to receive degrees in related fields. Mr. Cooper stated the County could fund the teaching positions using one full-time teacher and some part-timers to continue the program for approximately \$75,000 with no additional equipment needed. He stated the two main objectives in this County should be education and providing our citizens with safety and the high school program did both.
- Samantha Pendleton of the Iriswood District also discussed the Firefighter Program, and encouraged the Board to continue the program in the local high schools. She stated she also was a student in this program and became certified and has gone on to use her experience in college.
- Chris Cousins on behalf of Southside Business Technology Center thanked the Board for its continued funding to the agency.
- Mike Hylton, Captain of the Axton Life Saving Crew, stated Axton Life Saving Crew does not soft bill at this time and until they start the soft billing process the only funding they have is through donations, funding by Henry County and United Way.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:17 pm.

Mr. Bryant stated he serves on the Board at Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad. He stated he personally would hate to see the squad lose the funds since they have lost money from United Way and from soft billing due to people not having insurance, which is a large amount of funds to lose. He stated he also was concerned with losing more volunteers due to the cuts.

Mr. Kendall agreed with Mr. Bryant and stated they should look at this issue again.

Following further comments by the Board Mr. Vaughn stated to go back and add more funds to the rescue squads you would have to take it from somewhere else and the Board does not want to have to raise taxes.

Mr. Summerlin noted that the Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes are still provided in the community. He also stated to design a supplemental system that is not going to be primary will not support itself as a backup system strictly on revenue recovery money.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES BEFORE EXHIBITS ARE FINALIZED FOR BUDGET ADOPTION:

Mr. Summerlin stated if there are no changes to the proposed FY '11 budget, staff will prepare the Board package this week in preparation to adopt the School Budget and Total County Budget at its meeting on April 27.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Slaughter moved at 7:41 pm to adjourn its meeting, second by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.