

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

April 27, 2010 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on April 27, 2010, 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, Milton Kendall, and Tommy Slaughter. Mr. Bryant arrived at the meeting at 3:20 pm.

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; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; and Richard Stanfield, Assistant Director of Finance.

Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin, Ron Morris of B-99, and Sheriff Lane Perry were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Tommy Slaughter gave the invocation and Jim Adams 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.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- March 23, 2010
- April 6, 2010
- April 8, 2010
- April 19, 2010

Approval of Accounts Payable

(Copy included in Board's File).

Consideration of Resolution Establishing May 7, 2010 as “Fire and Rescue Volunteer Appreciation Day” in Henry County

The Board was requested to consider adopting a resolution which establishes May 7, 2010 as “Fire and Rescue Volunteer Appreciation Day” in Henry County. (Copy of Proposed Resolution included in Board’s File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Items of Consent be adopted as presented, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

APPROVAL OF FY 2010-2011 HENRY COUNTY BUDGET:

Mr. Summerlin stated there are numerous actions necessary to complete the budget process: setting of tax rates, adoption of budget, and appropriation of budget. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to set the tax rates and adopt the budget today; and appropriation of the budget is scheduled for May 25, 2010.

Setting of Tax Rates

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board adopt the following tax rates for FY ’11, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

Real Estate: \$.46 per \$100 assessed value.

Personal Property and Machinery and Tools: \$1.48 per \$100 of assessed value for personal property, including motor vehicles, and \$1.19 per \$100 of assessed value for machinery and tools/business equipment.

Personal Property Tax Relief: The effective reimbursement rate for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act on a qualifying vehicle is 49 percent.

School Budget Adoption

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board adopt the proposed budget for school expenditures for FY ’11 by category as summarized in exhibits A and B, subject to the state, federal, and local funds becoming available as estimated, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

Total Budget

Mr. Adams moved that the Board adopt the proposed FY ’11 Budget for fiscal planning purposes as summarized in Exhibits A and B, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

Mr. Summerlin stated the Board also must approve a series of transfers in the current County budget from the IDA cost center to various other cost centers to fund items out of the current year instead of next year.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the additional appropriations in the current County Budget as outlined in the appropriation sheet, with unexpended items carried over to the FY 2011 budget, second by Mr. Kendall. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

(A Copy of Exhibit A, Expenditures by Cost Centers, Exhibit B, Revenues by Funds, and Additional Appropriation Sheet included in Board's File).

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board appropriate an additional \$10,000 in the FY '11 Budget to each rescue squad and the funds be taken from the balance of this year's Contingency Fund, second by Mr. Kendall. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICIES:

Mr. Summerlin stated the County and PSA adopted identical personnel policies in 2002, since many employees provide services for both entities. Some revisions have been made to reflect changes in state and federal laws/regulations and other proposed changes clarifying current practices. The Virginia Municipal League also provided a complimentary review of the updated policies. (Copy of Updated Personnel Policies on File in the County Administrator's Office).

Mr. Kendall moved that the Board update the County/PSA Personnel Policies, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES REGARDING THE SOUTH STREET NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Mr. Summerlin stated as part of the South Street Neighborhood Improvement Project, the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) requires the formal adoption by the Board of the Environmental Review Record, Program Design Plan, Program Income Plan and the Housing Rehab Board By-Laws for the South Street project. (Copy included in Board's File).

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board adopt the South Street Neighborhood Improvement Project Environmental Review Record, Program Design, Program Income Plan, and the Housing Rehab Board By-Laws for South Street, second by Mr. Adams. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

CONSIDERATION OF FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES:

Mrs. Susan Reynolds, Human Resources Director, briefed the Board on the Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) as a potential benefit for County employees. She stated a Flexible Spending Account allows the employee to pay for medical expenses and dependent care expenses with pre-tax dollars. As a result, the employee saves money through reduced federal, state and FICA taxes. The County also saves money

through reduced FICA expenses. Mrs. Reynolds stated she and Darrell Jones, Director of Finance, were part of a committee of County and School Board employees who solicited proposals from companies for this service. It is recommended that the County begin to offer this benefit and contract with First Financial Group of America. This would be done at no cost to the employees (other than money spent in the plan) or to the County. First Financial Group would also have exclusive rights to offer additional voluntary insurance benefits to County employees.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the addition of Flexible Spending Benefits for County employees effective July 1, offered through First Financial Group of America, second by Mr. Slaughter. The motion carried 5 to 0. Mr. Bryant was absent.

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

Mr. Mark Heath, President and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, introduced Jennifer Doss, who is EDC's new Tourism Director. Ms. Doss gave a presentation on several recent and upcoming events planned through the EDC Tourism program. A booklet containing brochures and literature on attractions and interests in the community was distributed to the Board. She encouraged anyone interested in the events to visit the Community Calendar on the tourism's website at yesmartinsville.com. (A Copy of the Booklet included in Board's File).

Mr. Bryant came in at 3:20 pm.

Following were comments from Ms. Buchanan regarding promotional post cards to highlight some of the many scenic areas in the community. Mr. Kendall also commented on how well the recent Cruise In event was and stated he had been involved in three of the events and this was the best yet. The Board thanked Ms. Doss for her update on tourism.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Transfer Appropriation re: Bond Issuance for ARRA Projects – School Board

Mr. Summerlin stated in its collection of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the School Board encountered bond issuance costs of \$17,263. Superintendent Jackson is asking the Board's permission to transfer \$6,500 from the Facility category into the Debt Service category to help meet those bond issuance costs. (Copy of Information Included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve the transfer appropriation in the amount of \$6,500, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Comments from the Board

Ms. Buchanan reminded everyone of the upcoming Annual Fieldale Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 15. She also stated that the Horsepasture Fire Department will be holding a "58 West Yard Sale" scheduled on May 1, starting at the Horsepasture Ruritan Building going up to the Spencer Penn Center and meeting at the fire department. She stated the Spencer Ruritan Club will also hold a breakfast this Saturday.

Mr. Summerlin stated the Fire and Rescue Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for May 7 at 7:00 pm at Victory Baptist Church with Marla Decker, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, as keynote speaker. He stated the fire/rescue games are scheduled for this weekend at The Jack Dalton Park from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Mr. Summerlin stated during the budget process it was discussed that the Assign-A-Highway Program was being eliminated due to lack of participating probationers. It was discussed placing the remaining Assign-A-Highway funds into the Refuse Collection budget with the intention of having a supervisor/law enforcement type position to supervise an inmate work crew to pick up trash on the highways. He stated in trying to figure out the best structure for this program he met with Sheriff Perry and talked with Sheriff Draper with the City of Martinsville, who has an extensive inmate work force program. He stated if the Board has no objections he would like to start in early May in working with Sheriff Draper who has coordinated with Sheriff Perry to use 4 to 6 City Farm Inmates to pick up trash on County highways 5 days a week/40 hours per week and the County would reimburse the City for those costs. Mr. Summerlin stated the inmate work crew program can be operated at the same costs as the Assign-A-Highway program. He stated top priorities would be the roads in and around the convenience centers and at the major gateway entrances in the County.

Mr. Summerlin discussed the closing of American Furniture last week with 200 employees being laid off. He stated when American Furniture merged with Barcalounger they promised to create additional jobs in Henry County. The County applied for and received a \$280,000 Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant, which the County has a liability to repay if the company does not perform. He stated with American's closure that put them in default of the agreement. He stated to protect the County's interests, County staff today placed liens on equipment and inventory in an amount sufficient to protect the County's interest with the Tobacco Commission.

CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Adams moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:38 pm, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Parks and Recreation Board, Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board, West Piedmont Disability Services Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, and Piedmont Regional Community Services Board.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Pending Legal 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 4:50 pm on a motion by Mr. Bryant, second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:

Mr. Hall read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote. Those voting in the affirmative were Mr. Slaughter, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Adams, Mr. Vaughn and Ms. Buchanan.

APPOINTMENTS:

Social Services Board

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board reappoint Joan Blankenship to a four-year term on the Social Services Board to expire in 2014, second by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

Lease Agreement – Samuel H. Hairston Ballfield

Mr. Adams moved that the Board approve a lease agreement between Henry County and Charles and Norma Via regarding Samuel H. Hairston Ballfield, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

The Board took at a break at 5:00 pm and reconvened at 6:00 pm. Ms. Buchanan called the meeting back to order and welcomed everyone present.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF RELOCATING IRISWOOD DISTRICT VOTING PRECINCT:

Mr. Summerlin stated last month the Board set a public hearing for tonight to hear input on the relocation of an Iriswood District voting precinct from Irisburg Elementary School to Freedom Baptist Church. A public hearing and approval from the United States Department of Justice are required before moving forward with the change. (Copy of Public Hearing Notice and Updated Ordinance is Included in Board's File).

The public hearing was open at 6:01 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 6:01 pm.

Mr. Kendall moved that the Board relocate the Iriswood District voting precinct from Irisburg Elementary School to Freedom Baptist Church, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-10-02 ROBERT W. TRIPLETT:

Mr. Lee Clark reviewed Application R-10-02 for Robert W. Triplett. (Copy of Application included in Board's File). Mr. Clark stated that following a public hearing both the Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of the request.

The public hearing was open at 6:02 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak the hearing was closed at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request, second by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Ms. Lisa Hughes, Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation, was present to discuss General Highway Matters with the Board.

Consideration of Priority List for Commonwealth Transportation Board and Selection of Representative to Attend June 3, 2010 Meeting

The Board received information that the Commonwealth Transportation Board will hold several meetings statewide to receive input on the Fiscal Years 2011-2016

Six-Year Improvement Plan for primary and interstate roads. The Salem District meeting is scheduled for June 3 at New River Community College in Dublin. The public event will begin at 6 pm, but it will be preceded by a 5 pm meeting between local elected officials and Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton.

Mr. Summerlin stated that the Priority List is the same as in previous years and the list can be electronically transmitted to VDOT's Richmond office. (Copy of Proposed Priority List included in Board's File).

Mr. Adams moved that the Board adopt the priority list and forward to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, second by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

Adoption of 2010-2016 Six-Year Secondary Road Plan and 2010-2011 Construction Budget

The Board received the proposed Six-Year Secondary Road Plan for Henry County for 2010-2016 and the 2010-2011 Construction Budget. The Board previously held a public input session with the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding this issue and heard input from VDOT Residency Administrator Lisa Hughes regarding the funding challenges VDOT is facing. (A Copy of Comments from Public Hearing and proposed 2010-2016 Six Year Secondary Road Plan and 2010-2011 Construction Budget included in Board's File).

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board adopt the 2010-2016 Six-Year Secondary Road Plan and 2010-2011 Construction Budget, second by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

The Board briefly discussed the Virginia Avenue project. Mr. Summerlin noted that the application on this project is pending and if funds are granted, Phase 1 would start sometime in June.

Request for "Watch for Children" Sign on Mulberry Road in the Ridgeway District and Irisburg Road and Birchwood Road in the Iriswood District

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board request VDOT to install a "Watch for Children" sign on Mulberry Road in the Ridgeway District, and also on the Irisburg Road in the Iriswood District in the 6000 area and Birchwood Road in the 1400 area, second by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

Consideration of Request to Remove "No U-Turn" Sign at Intersection of Industrial Drive, Fisher Farm Road, and Greensboro Road in Ridgeway District

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board ask VDOT to consider removing the "No U-Turn" sign at the intersection of Industrial Drive, Fisher Farm Road, and Greensboro Road near the State Police Headquarters in the Ridgeway District,

second by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried. Ms. Hughes stated she would revisit those postings and get back with the Board next month.

Ms. Hughes discussed the signal at Route 220/Greensboro Road and 966/Rives Road. She stated VDOT will be changing a signal at that intersection next week eliminating the left turn on green. Ms. Hughes stated the signal was initially changed in December of 2006, but due to increased accidents, VDOT feels the signal should be changed back. Ms. Hughes and Mr. Slaughter also briefly discussed the signal at Sportlanes. Ms. Hughes discussed Route 684 and Route 58 updates on Carver Road with Ms. Buchanan, and noted that VDOT is in the process of getting estimates.

Mr. Vaughn noted to Ms. Hughes that leaves from tree limbs growing out are blocking the caution lights at the Mountain View Cemetery area.

Ms. Hughes briefly discussed VDOT's restructuring and reorganization process and noted that local maintenance calls will soon be directed to a call center.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:25 pm, second by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

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