

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**July 27, 2010 – 3:00 pm**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on July 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, Tommy Slaughter, and Joe Bryant.

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

Sheriff Lane Perry, Major Steve Eanes, and Sgt. Ronnie Minter from the Sheriff's office were present. Debbie Hall and Paul Collins of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B-99 were present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

H.G. Vaughn gave the invocation and Joe Bryant 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).

- June 22, 2010
- June 25, 2010

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

(Copy included in Board's File).

Jim Adams moved that the Items of Consent be adopted as presented, seconded by Tommy Slaughter. The motion carried 6 to 0.

### **APPROVAL OF PIEDMONT COMMUNITY SERVICES' FY '11 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT**

Mr. Summerlin stated that each year, the County is required to approve the Performance Contract between Piedmont Community Services and Virginia Department of Mental Health – Mental Retardation Substance Abuse Services. State law requires PCS to submit the contract for the Board's review and potential approval. The contract is approximately 100 pages long and is virtually identical to last year's contract. The contract is on file in the County Administrator's Office should any Board member wish to review it. Attached is a copy of Piedmont Community Services' FY 2011 Budget.

Mr. Bryant moved to approve the contract with Piedmont Community Services, seconded by Mr. Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC – MICHELLE STONE-AGEE**

Ms. Michelle Stone-Agee of Stone Ambulance Service was present to thank the Board for its support over the past 20 years and for allowing Stone Ambulance to serve the community as the contract back-up for volunteer agencies. Ms. Stone-Agee said they look forward to serving the community another 20 years. Ms. Buchanan thanked Ms. Stone-Agee for coming.

### **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY CRIMESTOPPERS – RALPH LAWSON**

Mr. Ralph Lawson, a member of the Board for Martinsville-Henry County Crimestoppers, was present to request a \$5,000 donation from the Board. Mr. Lawson stated that Crimestoppers depends largely on donations which are down due to the difficult economy. Mr. Lawson stated that thru December 2009, Crimestoppers paid out rewards in the amount of \$66,965 and were instrumental in the conviction of 97 cases. Mr. Bryant stated that he too is on the Board for Crimestoppers. Mr. Bryant said that he realizes the County is facing a difficult budget also, but he feels the Board should give consideration to the request. Mr. Adams asked if the Board has a budget from Crimestoppers. Mr. Summerlin said staff has not received a prior request. Mr. Adams stated that it has been the Board's practice to review the requesting agencies' budget before consideration of funding. Mr. Summerlin added that a current audit is also required if the Board chooses to fund Crimestoppers.

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON EMS SUPPLEMENTAL STAFFING**

Mr. Dale Wagoner, Director of Public Safety, was present to update the Board on the EMS supplemental staffing initiative. Mr. Wagoner distributed a handout outlining his presentation (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Wagoner stated that in January, the Board directed the Department of Public Safety to develop an emergency medical services plan that preserves volunteer rescue squads as an essential part of the EMS system, utilizes paid personnel or contracted services to cover service gaps, and operates in a way that does not expect new revenue but redirects current revenue and utilizes revenue options. Mr. Wagoner said that since that time, Public Safety has worked closely with rescue squad personnel and other stakeholders in the community to develop a plan that will address the escalating service gaps that currently exist in EMS. Public Safety staff has provided all citizens and volunteers the opportunity to give input and express concerns. In addition, staff has responded to numerous emails and calls and given two presentations to rescue squads. Following are highlights of accomplishments and activity related to the Board's directive:

- An emergency medical services advisory committee had been created to assist public safety staff with the development and implementation of policies and practices. The committee has representation from each rescue squad and currently meets monthly. The committee has been very helpful in formulating and implementing many of the accomplishments to date.
- A consensus of the rescue squads has been reached whereas all rescue squads will begin to "soft-bill" for their services. Additionally, each squad has agreed to utilize the same billing rates to ensure consistency in billing no matter where you live Henry County.
- Public Safety staff has negotiated a contract with a third-party billing agent to manage billing for those rescue squads that were not currently billing for services. Privacy and documentation training has also been conducted for these agencies.
- Public Safety and each of the five rescue squads have reached a revenue-sharing agreement whereas the revenue generated from soft-billing will be split equally with the agency providing the ambulance receiving 1/3 of the revenue, the agency providing the driver of the ambulance receiving 1/3 of the revenue, and the agency providing the attendant-in-charge receiving 1/3 of the revenue.
- Using the "Four-for-Life, Return to Localities" fund, Public Safety has created a "central supply" that will reduce the costs of medical supplies and reduce the quantity of date-sensitive medical supplies that rescue squads currently must keep on hand.
- Since January, Over \$90,000 in grant funds have been awarded to Henry County agencies to purchase training equipment and a new state-of-the-art defibrillator for Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad

- The Martinsville-Henry County Joint 911 Center Board of Directors voted to seek out grants funds in order that Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) can be implemented. Public Safety staff has identified a grant source and is currently working on the final grant proposal for submission. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) has been requested by the Rescue Squad Association on several occasions and will improve EMS by providing callers with pre-arrival instructions and allow for call triaging that identifies life threatening calls so they are handled first.
- Public Safety is working with vendors to develop a County-wide medical oxygen contract that will reduce the costs to the County and the rescue squads for medical oxygen.
- A formal agreement with the rescue squad outlining the revenue sharing, use of rescue squad facilities and equipment by supplemental staff, and desire to work together to improve emergency medical services in Henry County has been developed. Four of the five rescue squads have already signed the agreement. It is expected that the fifth squad will execute the agreement in the near future.
- Staff is currently evaluating the district 5 response zone and most likely will recommend that it be split between Fieldale-Collinsville, Axton and Ridgeway Rescue Squads. This will ensure that every area of the County is served by a volunteer rescue squad.
- The County is now the owner of the former Martinsville-Henry County Rescue Squad building on Hooker Street. In the short-term, it will be used to house the new pet sheltering trailer and mass casualty trailer. Staff is currently evaluating how best to use this facility in the overall EMS plan.
- A request for proposal (RFP) soliciting the interests of private ambulance services to provide supplemental staffing and secondary emergency medical services to Henry County was developed and distributed. Henry County received proposals from two vendors. The proposals are carefully being reviewed by staff and have been presented to the EMS advisory committee for consideration.
- Public Safety staff has conversed with Martinsville Fire Department administrators to assess the possibility of a collaborative arrangement with that organization to provide supplemental staff to the County.

Over the next couple of weeks, County staff will further analyze the options for providing supplemental EMS staffing. Options include:

- Selection of a private vendor to provide supplemental EMS staffing.

- Entering into an agreement with Martinsville Fire Department to provide services to the County.
- Hiring County personnel to supplement EMS.

Mr. Wagoner said staff plans to have a final recommendation at the August meeting, and it is possible that the recommendation may contain one or more of the options listed. In addition to supplemental staffing, Mr. Wagoner plans to recommend changes to the County Code with regards to Public Safety being accountable for EMS and the realignment of the district 5 response zone.

Mr. Wagoner said that most of the volunteers recognize the need for improvements, are handling all they can, and want to work collaboratively with Henry County to address the EMS service gaps.

Mr. Bryant asked if there is already an ambulance set up for the County. Mr. Wagoner responded that Horsepasture Rescue Squad approached the County last year and wanted to donate an ambulance for use as a back-up or for training purposes. Mr. Wagoner informed them at the time that we did not have money in the budget to make the ambulance road-ready. Horsepasture Rescue Squad agreed to donate the ambulance with no stipulations but with the agreement that if the County decided to dispose of it within a year, the Horsepasture squad would have first option to take back ownership. Mr. Wagoner said the ambulance was accepted to be used strictly for training. However, with the loss of the high school EMT program, staff was able to pull the equipment and stock the ambulance, as well as make a few minor repairs to make it road-ready. Mr. Wagoner said that while the ambulance is road-ready, it is not in service.

Mr. Bryant said he feels the whole EMS study has been kept from the Board and he does not understand what we are trying to achieve by having paid personnel. Mr. Bryant said Stone Ambulance is already established and can do soft billing. Mr. Wagoner responded that Public Safety was given the directive by the Board to develop an EMS plan and at no point was there intent to keep any information from the Board and staff has been very open with all discussions. Mr. Wagoner stated that the RFP was very detailed and neither of the vendors came back with a proposal that they could do "soft" billing.

Ms. Buchanan asked if the donated ambulance had been lettered. Mr. Wagoner stated it has with the Department of Public Safety logo and Henry County Public Safety; however, regardless of the outcome of the EMS plan, the ambulance will still be used for training programs. Mr. Summerlin said there have been numerous rumors about the EMS plan, and Mr. Bryant said that is the problem with not keeping it open. Mr. Summerlin stated that the recommendation of the budget message was to do some type of supplemental staffing, put out an RFP, get responses, analyze those responses, compare cost and benefits/disadvantages of doing it ourselves, and come back with a recommendation. Mr. Summerlin said at this point, that is exactly what Mr.

Wagoner and staff have done. Mr. Bryant said he understands that, but the ambulance is an example that the Board should have been made aware of before hearing it second hand. Ms. Buchanan said she thought it would have been helpful if maybe the Board had received emails of the captains' meetings, but the Board never requested that information either. Mr. Bryant said it appears you are trying to say it is none of the Board's business. Mr. Summerlin said if the Board wants to be involved in every detail, we can schedule as many meetings as you wish, but the directive was to develop a plan and come back with a recommendation. Mr. Vaughn said it was his understanding that the Board directed Mr. Wagoner and Mr. Summerlin to move forward with the development of an EMS plan and report back. Mr. Vaughn stated the Board did not set a time frame as to ensure staff had adequate time, but they did discuss six months. Mr. Vaughn said he had discussed his understanding of the EMS plan with Mr. Bryant but he had not heard the rumors about the ambulance or that two individuals had been approached and offered positions as full-time EMS staff. Mr. Vaughn said he anticipated all of the rumors when they started the process because people misinterpret information. Mr. Wagoner commented concerning the ambulance that it was never intended, nor stated in the RFP, that the County would be the primary ambulance responder. Mr. Wagoner said the premise from day one has always been that EMS would be better served by the rescue squads from the stations using their equipment and ambulances, whether it is supplemental staffing from the County or a private vendor. Mr. Wagoner said he received several inquiries about the ambulance and he explained the same to them, that it was donated and would be used for training purposes unless needed otherwise. Mr. Adams said we should be very appreciative of Horsepasture Rescue Squad for donating the vehicle.

Mr. Slaughter inquired about the monthly EMS turnover report and said it seems to cause controversy amongst the rescue squads when they should be providing services to the community and not worrying if a call was turned over. Mr. Wagoner said the report has been provided to the Board since 1996 most likely at the request of the Board to monitor how many calls were being run by the private contractor, Stone Ambulance. Mr. Wagoner said he would be happy to provide any information the Board wants. Mr. Summerlin said the report is designed to show trends, positive or negative. Ms. Buchanan said she looks at the report monthly and while she may not always like the numbers, it is beneficial to compare and see how many calls were missed. Mr. Vaughn said the report shows some of the problems that our volunteers have encountered over the years and why they need our help. Mr. Wagoner said he has also heard people say that the rescue squads are penalized because of the report, but to his knowledge, he is not aware of any rescue squad being reprimanded or funds being withheld because of the report. It is merely an informational report for the benefit of the Board.

Mr. Kendall said he is glad to see steps being taken to assist district 5 in volunteer support. Mr. Wagoner commended the citizens and volunteers in the Dyer Store area for taking the initiative and realizing that creating a new rescue squad would be virtually impossible. Mr. Wagoner said it is a tremendous responsibility to run a rescue squad, take EMS training up to the level of paramedic and to deal with the

stressful situations every time a call comes in where someone's life is in your hands. Mr. Wagoner commended all volunteers for what they do.

### **REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS**

Mr. Summerlin stated that Mr. Grindstaff is on vacation this week but will be at the August meeting to discuss the Treasurer's delinquent tax collection efforts including meals and business license taxes. Mr. Summerlin referred the Board to the handout (Copy included in Board's File) from John Rife, with Taxing Authority Consulting Services. Mr. Summerlin said they collected an additional almost \$70,000 in real estate taxes in July. Since April, Taxing Authority has collected approximately \$263,000. In addition, Mr. Rife has two parcels scheduled for public auction by court order in August. Mr. Summerlin referred Board members to the CD (Copy included in Board's File) which includes delinquent real estate taxpayers by year. Mr. Summerlin said staff is also working on the personal property list and will hopefully have that soon.

Mr. Slaughter inquired about how many outstanding general billings the County has and if there is any effort being made to collect on those. Mr. Summerlin said there are very few and they have not been referred to any outside collection agency. Mr. Summerlin said anyone who owes a bill should pay, but he would rather direct efforts to collecting the larger ones that would take the least amount of time and work down. In addition, Mr. Summerlin said some of the delinquent accounts like personal property are time sensitive and have a statute of limitations.

Mr. Summerlin requested that the Board review the delinquent tax list and identify any unsafe structures that they are aware of so we can refer them to Mr. Rife. Mr. Lyle stated that several Board members had referred unsafe structures to Mr. Randolph Lester in the past month and all but one in Mr. Kendall's district is cleared to be advertised for auction.

### **MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Mark Heath, President and CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, was present to make his monthly update to the Board. Mr. Heath passed out a summary of the June activities by division (Copy included in Board's File).

#### **TOURISM**

- Completed face lift remodeling project at the Visitor Center in cooperation with PHCC; Conducted an open house on June 15th
- Partnered with the Martinsville Mustangs to present the Grand Slam Customer Service Awards
- Co-hosted monthly Martinsville Cruise-In with 250 attendees

- Developed new billboard series focusing on "local" attractions; "Martinsville-Henry County Welcomes You" "Home of the Martinsville Mustangs"
- Developed billboards and "way finding" signage in conjunction with the City of Martinsville to direct guests to the Visitor Center
- Continue to develop and expand travel package program; adding Binding Time
- Tourism Division Facebook Page now has a total of 1,093 fans
- 4% of VisitMartinsville.com web traffic is via Facebook
- Visitor Center Monthly Activity
  - 280 Visitors
  - 209 Information packet requests
  - 550 Brochure requests by Visitor Centers in South Hill, Appomattox and Norfolk
  - 20 Visitor surveys returned indicating average stay of 3 days (Business, Sports Tourism, Vacation, Genealogy)
  - M-HC car decals now available through the Visitor Center

#### **SMALL, MINORITY & ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS**

- One on one assistance to 10 clients
- SWAM Certification (1)
- Central Contracting Registration (CCR) Updates (2)
- Online Representation Certificate Application (ORCA) Update (1)
- Bid Assistance (3)
- General Services Administration (GSA) Assistance (1)
- Business Plan Assistance (2)
- Conducted eight existing industry visits
- Held "Social Networking - Creating Your Business Facebook Page Workshop" June 8th with 28 participants
- Held "Expanding Your Business Through Exporting Workshop" June 24th with 9 participants
- Upcoming Workshops
  - Internet Marketing - July 13th
  - State Procurement One-On-Ones - July 13th
  - Creating Your Own Brochure and Press Release - August 10th

#### **RESEARCH**

- Completed four month process of Food Processing Designation for Lot 4 at the Patriot Centre Industrial Park in conjunction with Ady International and Austin Consulting
- Worked with HD Web Studio on website optimization
- Provided data to consultants on three new prospects
- Completed and submitted two TROF applications
- Updated electric rate comparison reflecting AEP's current rates

## **MARKETING/RECRUITING**

- Met several times (conference call and face-to-face) with VEDP representatives, Lt. Governor Bolling and Southern Virginia regional developers concerning the proposed \$600,000 marketing collaborative with VEDP, the Tobacco Commission, and Southern Virginia Communities
- On-going work with our ad agency (Anstey-Hodge) on new marketing pieces - 2nd newsletter, direct mail, new ad copy
  - Note: Direct mail piece for the Shell Building was recently mailed to 6,000 companies
- Continue visiting lead generating consultants; attended annual Consultants Roundtable; two consultant generated prospect calls scheduled in July
- Met with member of the Governor's Global Strategic Advisory Committee - Mike Jing
- Conducted Monogram expansion announcement on June 25th: 150 new jobs; \$4,000,000 in new capital investment
- Conducted site visits with two prospects
- Met with the new owner of the Cohen Building - Two Rivers Apparel
- Currently working with 15 Total Projects, comprised of 6 Inquiry Projects and 9 Active Projects
  - An Inquiry Project is defined as a prospect that has not yet visited M-HC but has expressed interest in our area
  - An Active Project is defined as a prospect that has actually visited the M-HC area

Mr. Summerlin said that he and Tim Pace ran into some folks from RTI last week and they went by and toured the RTI site. Mr. Summerlin said there is a lot of construction activity going on, the steel is up on the third building and they expect to have power on the buildings by September. Also, RTI is advertising in the newspaper for key positions, all good signs of their progress.

Mr. Bryant said Mr. Heath's report was very informative and he is aware his team is working very hard. Mr. Bryant said having this information is very helpful when he is questioned by citizens. Mr. Heath said he hopes this report will also show people that the EDC is not a traditional economic development organization.

Mr. Slaughter said he thought Mr. Heath's interview with Bill Wyatt this morning was also beneficial in making people more aware of what is going on with economic development.

## **AWARD OF CONTRACT AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: REPLACEMENT OF RADIO EQUIPMENT – COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

Mr. Summerlin said that Wes Ashley, director of the Martinsville-Henry County 9-1-1 Communications Center, is asking the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$69,771 to Motorola for the replacement of water-damaged equipment. Mr. Ashley explains in the attached memo that the equipment was damaged May 12 and that the

County's insurance company is covering the replacement costs. The Board also will need to approve the additional appropriation of the funding as outlined on the appropriation sheet.

Mr. Kendall moved to approve the award the contract and additional appropriation as requested, seconded by Mr. Adams and approved 6 to 0.

**PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE JAG GRANT AND SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Perry is seeking permission to apply for a Department of Justice Edward Byrne JAG Grant. The grant, in the amount of \$27,987, requires no matching local funds and would be used for a variety of projects within the Sheriff's Office. A public hearing is required as part of the grant process.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board permit the Sheriff's office to apply for the grant and set a public hearing for August 24, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried 6 to 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS RE: UNIFORMS – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Perry is asking for an award of contract and additional appropriation of \$49,360 of asset forfeiture funds to purchase new uniforms. The purchase would come from Alliance Uniforms, Inc., which has been approved as the Sheriff's Office's sole source provider of uniforms.

Mr. Adams moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$49,360 from asset forfeiture funds and the award of contract to Alliance Uniforms, Inc., seconded by Mr. Slaughter and approved 6 to 0.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Comments from the Board**

Mr. Kendall said he was glad to hear the announcement on Kimball Hospitality today.

Mr. Summerlin reminded the Board that the RFP is still out on the old Social Services building, so if you know anyone who may be interested, please have them submit an RFP as soon as possible. Mr. Summerlin reported that staff received notice from the State on the budget cut which is \$60 million, with the County's share being \$343,000. Mr. Summerlin said staff had already planned for the cut and it is included in the budget. We will have to let the State know next month how we want the cut allocated. Mr. Summerlin said CP Films graciously donated an easement for the river access point. They are planning a ribbon cutting and would like to host the Board to

lunch, probably September 8 or 9. Lastly, Mr. Summerlin said when the Board goes into closed session, they need to add Patrick Henry Community College Board to the appointment list; staff received a vacancy letter today that was not included in working papers.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Jim Adams moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:12 pm, seconded by H.G. Vaughn and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board, Roanoke River Basin Association, Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, and Patrick Henry Community College 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.
- 5) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Personnel Matters.

**OPEN MEETING:**

The Board returned to an open meeting at 5:39 pm on a motion by Tommy Slaughter, second by Joe Bryant 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. Vaughn, Mr. Adams, and Ms. Buchanan.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board** – Mr. Slaughter moved to appoint Willie Scales, Jr. to a four-year term beginning June 1, 2010, seconded by Milton Kendall and approved 6 to 0.

**Roanoke River Basin Association** – Mr. Bryant moved to reappoint Mike Ward to a one-year term ending August 31, 2011, seconded by Mr. Adams and approved 6 to 0.

Mr. Kendall moved to approve an employment agreement with Benny Summerlin, County Administrator, beginning July 27, 2010 through July 27, 2014, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried 6 to 0.

The Board recessed its meeting at 5:41 pm until the 6:00 evening session. Mr. Slaughter left at recess.

Ms. Buchanan called the meeting back to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF NEW FEES FOR COURTHOUSE FILINGS**

Ms. Buchanan opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. There being no one present to speak, the hearing was closed at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Vaughn inquired if the County currently receives any local money for these services. Ms. Helmstutler said if there is a probate of a will or an administration of an estate, there is a probate tax assessed on the value of the estate and the County receives one-third. Mr. Lyle said the fee for recording these documents is not assessed if a will has been probated for the decedent or there has been a grant of administration on the decedent's estate. Ms. Helmstutler said if the Board chooses to adopt the new fees, the County would collect \$25 for these services that would remain local.

Mr. Adams moved to adopt the proposed ordinance on which a public hearing was held, to allow the County to charge the \$25 fee, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and approved 6 to 0.

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC**

#### **John Staples**

Mr. John Staples, Ridgeway District, was present to address the Board concerning the EDC and said he feels the taxpayers are entitled to know what Mr. Heath's salary is including fringes benefits. In addition, Mr. Staples commented on unnecessary "wild driving" by Public Safety officials.

#### **Stuart Bowman**

Mr. Bowman, Collinsville District, was present to address the Board in light of the recent tragedy involving the deaths of two emergency responders in Rocky Mount. Mr. Bowman said currently, the County has Opticon (a system which turns the signals green for emergency vehicles) on some of the traffic signals, but not all. Mr. Bowman said Ms. Hughes has been very good to make sure the ones we do have are working, but they are positioned intermittently, so you may have one at the intersection of Kings Mountain but not Daniels Creek. Mr. Bowman requested that the County look into options for funding to help make this a standard process, especially on the major roadways.

Mr. Adams said this is a good suggestion. Ms. Buchanan asked if this is paid with local or state funds. Ms. Hughes said it was included in the cost of the signals and all of the ones Mr. Bowman just mentioned were the signals that were just replaced. Mr. Bryant asked about the feasibility of installing the system on the current lights, but Ms. Hughes was not sure if the older lights could be retrofitted and said she would have to do some research.

## **GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS**

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

### **REQUEST FOR “WATCH FOR CHILDREN” SIGNS ON BOWLES ROAD AND RIDGELAND HEIGHTS ROAD**

Mr. Bryant moved to place “Watch for Children” signs on Bowles Road and Ridgeland Heights Road, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried 6 to 0.

Ms. Hughes summarized completed and ongoing projects:

- Mowing will start again August 9 on the primary roads; secondary roads will not be mowed again until fall of the year.
- Box culvert on Route 657 is complete and the road is open again.
- Preston Road Project – Ms. Hughes said they held a meeting on July 26 to review the schedule and plan. Ms. Hughes stated there is \$3.8 million allocated to the project, but the estimate is \$8 million. However, they are going to proceed with the design, complete work on the alignment, and do some drainage design. Ms. Hughes said they intend to post willingness to have a public hearing in March of next year. Ms. Hughes said they will receive very little state funding and federal funding is discretionary, so we are unsure how much federal funding we will receive.
- Bridge on Trent Hill Drive should be complete by August 6 and road reopened.
- Fieldale Bridge Project – Ms. Hughes said the bridge is nearing completion and looks to be open in the next two weeks. Ms. Buchanan inquired about a ribbon cutting for the bridge and asked Ms. Hughes to coordinate with Mr. Hall.
- Ms. Buchanan asked about the progress of the study on the intersection of Route 58 and Carver Road. Ms. Hughes said they have made application for safety funds for the project but have not received a response.
- Mr. Summerlin noted that the inmate work crew picked up over 700 bags of trash from the roadways in July.
- Mr. Slaughter commented on the road widening project on Kings Mountain and said he has received a lot of complaints about the dip in the road.

- Mr. Kendall said there have been numerous accidents at the intersection of Route 58 and Sandy River Road. Ms. Hughes said they did a safety study on this intersection when the speed limit was increased to 60 and added additional signage at that time. Mr. Kendall noted there were several cigarette signs from the convenience store blocking view. Ms. Hughes said she would look at it again.
- Mr. Slaughter asked if there was any progress on switching the left turn lanes, like at Sportlanes. Ms. Hughes said not at this time.
- Mr. Vaughn said he had received one complaint on the new answering system. Ms. Hughes said right now her residency office still has a direct line, but they will soon be going to the call center in Salem.
- Mr. Slaughter commented on the number of signs on Route 682 at Bassett High School that are blocking your view when pulling out.

There being no further business to discuss H.G. Vaughn moved to adjourn at 6:20 pm, seconded by Jim Adams and carried 6 to 0.

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