

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

August 24, 2010 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on August 24, 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; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; 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:

Tommy Slaughter 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.

INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIAN YOUNGBLOOD

Mr. Hall introduced Christian Youngblood as the new Director of IT. Mr. Youngblood thanked the Board for having him and stated that he came from the City of Buena Vista where he served as the Director of Information Technology for nine years. Mr. Youngblood said he is looking forward to contributing to the organization and serving the citizens of Henry County. The Board welcomed Mr. Youngblood to the County.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- July 27, 2010 – Joint BOS/IDA
- July 27, 2010 – Regular Meeting

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.

CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING SEPTEMBER 2010 AS "BABY SAFETY MONTH"

Mr. Ralph Lawson with the Martinsville Exchange Club was present to request that the Board adopt a resolution establishing September 2010 as "Baby Safety Month" in Henry County. The Exchange Club's national project is child abuse prevention. Milton Kendall read the proclamation aloud.

Joe Bryant made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented, seconded by Tommy Slaughter and unanimously approved.

CONSIDERATION OF HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Sheriff Lane Perry and City of Martinsville Police Chief Mike Rogers are requesting their respective governing boards to endorse a celebration of Halloween this year on Monday, November 1 instead of Sunday, October 31. This would be consistent with Board action the past two times Halloween has fallen on a Sunday, in 1999 and 2004. Mr. Vaughn read the resolution aloud.

H.G. Vaughn moved to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Milton Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

UPDATE ON PIEDMONT COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS AND ISSUES

Jim Tobin, Executive Director of Piedmont Community Services, was present to discuss his organization and its work. Mr. Tobin thanked the Board for approving the annual performance contract last month. Mr. Tobin distributed a handout summarizing services rendered in FY 2010, FY 2011 budget outcome, and the challenges that the organization faces in the future (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Tobin thanked the Board for their support.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON EMS SUPPLEMENTAL STAFFING

Mr. Dale Wagoner, Director of Public Safety, addressed the Board with final recommendations for EMS supplemental staffing for consideration. Mr. Wagoner commended all those who participated and provided input in developing the plan:

Michael Hylton, Axton Life Saving Crew; Marcus Stone, Bassett Rescue Squad; Stuart Bowman, Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad; Darren Lockridge, Ridgeway District Rescue Squad; and Saunders Wilson, Horsepasture District Rescue Squad.

Supplemental Staffing

Public Safety staff recommends hiring a combination of full-time and part-time advanced life support (ALS) personnel to provide two career ALS providers around the clock to supplement the current volunteer system. The EMS advisory committee has endorsed County provided supplemental staff as the best option for addressing service gaps in the system while at the same time supporting the volunteer system. While there are many strengths and weaknesses of the various options, this is the only option that makes use of current volunteer resources and has the greatest potential for sustaining volunteer rescue squads into the future. Additionally, county personnel can be cross-trained as firefighters. Public Safety and each of the five rescue squads have approved 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. Mr. Wagoner said it is now up to the Board to decide if Henry County is ready to take on the responsibility of providing emergency medical services to its citizens as a central government function or continue to allow that responsibility to be relegated to volunteers and/or the private sector.

District 5 Response Zone

Public Safety staff has reviewed options for providing primary emergency medical services to locations previously served by the Martinsville-Henry County Rescue Squad and recommends redistribution of the area to Axton Lifesaving Crew, Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad, Horsepasture Rescue Squad, and Ridgeway District Rescue Squad.

Redistribution ensures that all areas of the county are served by a volunteer rescue squad, providing a clear path for charitable contributions and volunteer recruitment efforts. Staff recognizes that redistribution of this area has the potential of creating additional strain on an already stressed volunteer system. However, if all of these recommendations are approved, the volunteers will be assisted by the addition of County supplemental staff. This recommendation should not be considered exclusive of the supplemental staff recommendations.

County Code

Staff recommends changes to the County Code that will grant the legal authority of oversight and management of emergency medical services to the Department of Public Safety. Additionally, a local ordinance is required to be in place before the County can bill for emergency medical services. A public hearing will be necessary.

Joe Bryant said he realizes that we need to implement some changes to the current EMS system but has a few concerns. Mr. Bryant questioned where the

supplemental staffing would come from, whether from County volunteer squads or other resources that currently provide ALS back-up. Mr. Bryant said it is his understanding that if an ALS provider works for the County and provides one hour of service, then he/she cannot run calls for a volunteer organization. Mr. Wagoner referenced a similar case, *Benshoff vs. Virginia Beach*, in which the judge ruled in favor of Virginia Beach, saying that in that particular case, it was permissible to have county firefighters who also volunteer. Mr. Wagoner said that while he is not an attorney, it is his opinion that by using best practices, the ALS providers can be County employees providing EMS services and still provide limited volunteer services. In response to the supplemental staffing, Mr. Wagoner said he sees this as a plus that we can now provide a career opportunity to the volunteers that we have invested in over the years.

Mr. Bryant said his concern is that if the County hires ALS providers from the volunteer squads, then they will be shorthanded. Mr. Summerlin stated that a maximum of five full-time positions were budgeted and there are roughly 200 volunteers to pull from, although there is a much smaller pool of actual ALS providers. However, Mr. Wagoner said we would be getting 40 hours from those providers vs. the current variable of just a few hours or none at all. Mr. Summerlin also responded to the question can a County employee still volunteer. Mr. Summerlin stated the question is not if they can volunteer, but if they are subject to the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Mr. Bryant asked if staff foresees needing more ALS providers in the future and if so, where will the funding come from. Mr. Summerlin said the funding issue is also a concern of his which is why staff used conservative estimates in the soft-billing numbers during the budget process. Mr. Summerlin said we do not want to get into the process and realize that we cannot meet our revenue projections. Mr. Summerlin said the recommendation at this point is what we consider the bare minimum to move forward with some type of supplemental staffing, but the need will continue to be greater regardless of what we do for many reasons. It is becoming more difficult to attract volunteers, the training is more difficult, and the economy plays a role, as well as the increased call volume. Mr. Summerlin said the monthly call report, regardless of how you look at the numbers, has shown the stress on the current EMS system. Supplemental staffing is one way to help stabilize the volunteer system and meet the objective set forth by the Board in January. Mr. Summerlin said doing nothing probably has the greatest cost of all.

Mr. Vaughn said we will not know the revenue from soft-billing until we actually get into it, and Mr. Summerlin stated he was sure we would need to make some midstream adjustments. Mr. Summerlin said this is a very important issue, but the core discussion is really, is it the function of government to provide for the safety of our citizens which includes law enforcement, fire and rescue services. Mr. Summerlin said he feels it is.

Mr. Bryant asked what role the Board of Supervisors would play once the new system is in place. Mr. Summerlin said once the Board sets policy, it is his responsibility to implement the policy, regardless if he agrees with it or not. Mr. Summerlin said the Board has the ultimate policy-setting authority for the County. Mr. Bryant asked how the ALS providers would be insured, through the County or the volunteer agencies. Mr. Summerlin stated that if a County employee is injured on the job, it would be covered under workers compensation. Mr. Summerlin said there have been a number of insurance questions and he has recommended to Mr. Wagoner that they meet with the County carrier, VACo, to make sure everyone has a clear understanding of what is and is not covered.

Mr. Bryant asked if Public Safety had requested work schedules from volunteers. Mr. Wagoner said staff did ask for personnel schedules from the rescue squads in order to better schedule career staff. Mr. Wagoner stated that the goal is to place the career ALS providers in the most strategic location to better serve the community.

Ms. Buchanan asked who would be responsible if there was a breakdown in communication between the squad and public safety. Mr. Wagoner said one of the responsibilities of the ALS provider is to assess the system needs at that particular time and make adjustments as necessary.

In closing, Mr. Wagoner said that he sent an email, letter and fax to all departments and volunteers making them aware of the proposed plan and that if approved by the Board, an informational session would be held to answer any questions concerning the changes and implementation in EMS services. Mr. Wagoner said the meeting has been scheduled for September 2.

Mr. Vaughn questioned the number of personnel needed to provide 24/7 ALS coverage. Mr. Wagoner said the goal is to ensure that there is one full-time person working around the clock. Staff envisions five full-time employees, with three full-time equivalents using part-time personnel.

Mr. Kendall said he realizes this is a big change but he feels like we can make it work and it will be beneficial to the entire County. In addition, Mr. Kendall said the proposed changes would really help District 5 which has been without volunteer service since the closing of the Martinsville-Henry County Rescue Squad. Mr. Kendall commended Stone Ambulance for their back-up during this time, stating that they have not missed a single call.

Mr. Adams echoed Mr. Kendall's comments and asked if the management of extra staff would be absorbed with current staffing. Mr. Wagoner replied that it would. Mr. Adams questioned if staff anticipates any other capital expenditures outside of supplemental equipment. Mr. Wagoner said the plan is to make maximum use of the volunteer stations and equipment and he does not foresee anything not already included in the FY '11 budget.

Mr. Vaughn said he remembers when part-time supplemental staffing was proposed in 1995. Mr. Vaughn stated that at the time, the response for the various squads was outstanding, 10-20% of the calls turned over at most. Over the years, you have seen that number increase to almost 40% due to the loss of volunteers. Mr. Vaughn said we have been very fortunate to have Stone Ambulance provide the back-up service. Mr. Vaughn said he only sees the problem getting worse. Mr. Vaughn stated this looks like a good starting point and we have done the research.

Ms. Buchanan said she agrees that we need to help compensate the volunteers and asked if the positions would be filled from within the community. Mr. Wagoner stated that they want to hire the best ALS providers possible, but there are some good candidates in the system so he is optimistic that they can fill the positions locally. Mr. Wagoner stated that it will not be just his decision on who is hired. Mr. Wagoner said they will seek input from the Advisory Committee, as well as volunteers.

Ms. Buchanan asked about the cross-training of firefighters. Mr. Wagoner said that the Firefighter's Association made that request when we began the process, but he does not anticipate this being a job responsibility initially; however it is our intent for those individuals to be cross-trained at some point in the future. Ms. Buchanan asked how much was included in the FY '11 budget. Mr. Summerlin said he could not remember the exact number, but what Mr. Wagoner is recommending is consistent with the budget projection. Ms. Buchanan inquired about the soft-billing and if the County would be participating. Mr. Wagoner said the agency that provides the ambulance must be the primary billing agency. Mr. Wagoner said everything is in place for us to bill, but unless we are responding on a Henry County ambulance, we will not be billing that much. Mr. Wagoner stated that the revenue-sharing agreement with the five rescue squads provides for the squads to do the primary billing and the County being reimbursed based on the one-thirds formula. Mr. Wagoner said that since Horsepasture and Axton rescue squads were not billing when we started the process and because they are EMS agencies under the Department of Public Safety, the County will bill on their behalf using the same formula. Mr. Wagoner said Public Safety staff will take on all additional responsibilities required to make this system work.

Mr. Slaughter asked if there would be a general location for the ALS providers if all of the rescue squads are staffed. Mr. Wagoner said most likely it would be the Hooker Street facility as there is not an agency that services that area and it is centrally located.

Milton Kendall made a motion to approve Mr. Wagoner's recommendation for EMS supplemental staffing, the redistribution of district 5 response zone, and the setting of a public hearing for the September meeting on a proposed amendment to the County Code, seconded by H.G. Vaughn and unanimously carried.

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 folder which included a summary of activities by division, as well as the new Visitor Guide, EDC newsletters, and other informational items. (Copy included in Board's File).

TOURISM

- Unveiled new M-HC Visitor Guide Brochure
- Facilitated workshop on Social Marketing for Small Business/Tourism adding each business location to Google Maps (12 participating business entities)
- Developed "Virginia is for Baseball Lovers" Travel Package with four packages purchased in July
- Updated the VisitMartinsville.com website
 - Launching Sweepstake page – an initiative funded with a grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation
- Conducted 17 one-on-one client meetings
- Received official Film Office Certification from the International Film Commission (3-year process by Felecia Rupert)
- Assisted Volvo Corporation and Blackhorse Studios with print ad and photo shoot at the Martinsville Dam (6 person crew stayed overnight at the Dutch Inn)
- Monthly Tours Conducted:
 - Find Your Pace (9 participants)
 - Mystery Tour from Roanoke (16 participants)
 - Governor's Fellows Program of Richmond (10 participants)
 - NCI Interns (8 participants)
- Web traffic up 12% in June; increase of 201 visits
- 576 Visitor Center guests in June; 510 in July

RESEARCH

- Provided data, presentations, and completed Requests for Information (RFI's) for 7 new and existing prospects
- Designed a new marketing brochure for the Cahill 40,000 sq. ft. building and uploaded to the EDC website
- Compiled a list of pharmaceutical companies within a 100-mile radius of the Martinsville-Henry County area
- Completed and submitted a TROF application for Project Stone
- Met with Earth Environmental and Civil to determine programs/services of importance to EDC clients

SMALL, MINORITY & ENTREPRENEURIAL BUSINESS

- One-on-one assistance to 15 total clients (9 new)

- SWAM Certifications for two new clients
- HUB Zone Application for one new client
- NC HUB Recertification and GSA Assistance for Triangle Electric
- Conducted five existing industry visits
- Workshops Held
 - Expanding Your Business Through Exporting (9 participants)
 - Internet Marketing (22 participants)
 - State Procurement one-on-ones (5 participants)
 - Facilitated Women Only Financing Luncheon (60 participants)
 - Creating Your Own Business Brochure (45 participants)
- Upcoming Workshops
 - Entrepreneur Express (Aug. 26)
 - FasTrac NewVenture (Sept. 1 – Nov. 3)
 - State Procurement Conference (Oct. 20)
 - E-Commerce Workshop (Nov. 18)
 - Enterprise Zone Workshop (Dec. 7)

MARKETING/RECRUITING

- Developed and mailed latest M-HC Newsletter to prospects and consultants
- Coordinated Consultants trip, meeting one-on-one with 10 separate consulting firms
- Organized three announcements/ribbon cuttings: Monogram Meat Snacks, Kimball Hospitality, and Faneuil, Inc.
- Acting as liaison between VEDP and Southern Virginia Regional Economic Developers on overall \$600,000 marketing strategy and upcoming consultant event to be held during the October NASCAR Race in Martinsville
- Conducted 11 existing industry visits
- Upcoming marketing missions in September, October and November
- Currently working with 17 total projects, comprised of nine Inquire Projects and eight 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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: FIRE PROGRAMS AID TO LOCALITIES – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Summerlin said Dale Wagoner, Director of Public Safety, is asking the Board to make an additional appropriation of \$146,079 from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs' Aid to Localities. Mr. Summerlin said this is an annual pass-through allocation and in the past has been divided evenly among the eight volunteer fire departments. That same allocation would mean each squad would receive \$18,259.87. Mr. Wagoner states that the \$146,079 is 90% of the County's allocation; the remaining 10% will be disbursed in June 2011.

H.G. Vaughn moved to approve the additional appropriation and disburse to the eight fire departments as outlined, seconded by Jim Adams and carried 6 to 0.

ACCEPTANCE OF AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: DMV GRANT – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to make an additional appropriation of \$29,736 in grant money from the Department of Motor Vehicles through the Virginia Highway Safety Program. Sheriff Perry said the grant requires a local match of \$5,947.20, which will come from his current budget. The grant would be used to pay for overtime and travel, and to purchase one radar unit and eight field breath test units.

Joe Bryant made a motion to accept the DMV grant and approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Milton Kendall and unanimously carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: SALE PROCEEDS – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to make an additional appropriation of \$3,844 into the law enforcement police equipment line item. The funds were received through the sale of a vehicle for \$1,200 and from property sold on www.propertyroom.com in the amount of \$2,738.79. Sheriff Perry indicates the money would be used to purchase new equipment and to reimburse the County for some services.

Milton Kendall moved to approve the additional appropriation as requested, seconded by Tommy Slaughter and passed 6 to 0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION RE: BEYOND BOOKS PILOT PROGRAM – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Summerlin said School Superintendent Anthony Jackson is asking the Board to approve a transfer appropriation of \$259,000 within his FY 2011 Budget from the Facilities State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to the Instruction State Fiscal Stabilization funds. According to Mr. Jackson, the funds are needed to purchase 500 iPads to be used in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Education’s Beyond Books pilot program in which Henry County was selected as a pilot site for the program. Rich Acres and Sanville elementary schools will serve as the pilot sites. After reviewing the pilot project and the availability of funds, a decision was made by the School Board to include all fourth and fifth grade classes with the fifth grade being funded from SFSF monies. Mr. Summerlin said that after the Board considers this matter, representatives from the School Board are present to demonstrate the iPads. Ms. Buchanan asked what the School Board does if a student takes the iPad home and it is either damaged or not returned. Ms. Janet Copenhaver replied that the School Board carries insurance and it would be handled in the same manner as laptops.

H.G. Vaughn made a motion to approve the transfer appropriation as requested, seconded by Jim Adams and carried 6 to 0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Ms. Buchanan said she had the opportunity to attend the Fieldale Bridge dedication and they had a great turnout.

Mr. Summerlin referred to a financial agenda item from last month. Mr. Summerlin said the Sheriff's office had requested an additional appropriation and an award of contract for the purchase of new uniforms. However, it was not clear in the cover page that both asset forfeiture funds and existing uniform funds would be used, thus adding approximately \$31,000 to the contract. Mr. Summerlin stated the funds are included in the Sheriff's budget but he just wanted to bring it to the Board's attention.

Mr. Summerlin stated that next Monday, the Governor's Commission on Government Reform is meeting in Danville. Mr. Summerlin said one of the primary purposes is to talk about the potential privatization of ABC stores and to solicit citizen input on ways to reform state government. Mr. Summerlin asked the Board to let him know if they would like to attend. Mr. Summerlin stated that he and Mr. Hall have prior obligations, but Mr. Lyle will be attending to represent the County. One of the things that have been suggested at the public input sessions is to repeal BPOL and machinery and tools taxes which would cost the County over \$5 million per year. Mr. Summerlin said it would require a 28% increase in property taxes in order to recover the loss, so we want to encourage them not to jump into something before it is clearly thought out on how to replace the lost revenue.

Mr. Summerlin said the annual surplus auction will be held September 18.

Mr. Summerlin said the dedication of the canoe access at CP Films will be held September 8 at 11:00 and CP Films' management has invited the Board to a luncheon.

Mr. Summerlin said the Smith River Fest will be held this weekend and will kick off Thursday evening with the Smith River Film Festival at the Rives Theatre. The event is sponsored by Franklin and Henry counties and the EDC's Office of Tourism is supporting the event.

Mr. Summerlin said he requested Mr. Amos to report on recycling efforts and the use of the inmate work crews. Mr. Amos reviewed his monthly report on refuse collection and recycling efforts. Mr. Amos said he has received numerous calls on recycling plastic so he has researched the cost involved. Mr. Amos stated that he has spoken with EMI who is in their second year of plastic recycling, and the only cost to the County would be transporting it to EMI. The County would not receive money for the plastic recycling, but will also not be paying the additional landfill charges for the plastic disposal. Ms. Buchanan asked how the oil recycling was going. Mr. Amos said the oil recycling was doing rather well, 3,500 gallons in the past year. Mr. Amos stated that the oil is in turn used at the Henry County Service Center to generate heat. Mr.

Summerlin said we had to purchase fuel oil one time and the cost was close to \$3.00 per gallon, so there is additional savings. Mr. Amos said the anti-freeze and battery recycling is not doing quite as well.

Mr. Amos said the new inmate work program is doing extremely well. Mr. Amos stated that in the first three months, crews have picked up 1,675 bags of trash. In addition, Mr. Amos said the trustees do a variety of other tasks, weed eating, general cleaning at the Service Center, basically wherever we may need some extra help. Mr. Amos said we have spent \$7,212 on the program in the first three months which includes fuel and vehicle maintenance. Ms. Buchanan said she thinks the community has really noticed the trash pick-up and Mr. Bryant commended staff for their efforts.

CLOSED MEETING:

Jim Adams moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:33 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 Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, and Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority.
- 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 5:50 pm on a motion by Jim Adams, second by Tommy 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. Vaughn, Mr. Adams, and Ms. Buchanan.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Adams moved to appoint Marshall Stowe to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2011, seconded Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved.

Mr. Bryant moved to appoint Ms. Rebecca Lovell and Mr. Barry Jarrett to the Patrick Henry Community College Board to fill unexpired terms ending June 30, 2012, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried 6 to 0.

Mr. Kendall made a motion to approve a mutually agreed upon tax refund to Valley Properties, LLC in the amount of \$31,084.06 and to set the real estate values for the properties in question as ordered by the Henry County Circuit Court for the 2010 tax year, with said properties being subject to a normal quadrennial reassessment, seconded by Mr. Adams and approved 6 to 0. Mr. Summerlin noted that the appropriation would come from the fund balance.

Mr. Adams moved that the Board enter into a Memorandum of Understanding allocating \$567,600 from the fund balance to match a construction grant for Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre and also a transfer of \$45,500 from the Henry County IDA to the Martinsville-Henry County EDC, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 6 to 0.

The Board recessed its meeting at 5:53 pm until the 6:00 evening session.

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

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

John Staples

Mr. John Staples, Ridgeway District, was present to address the Board concerning the heavy traffic on Route 220 South on race days. Mr. Staples urged Public Safety, VDOT, and the Martinsville Speedway to do a study into a solution to the problem.

CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL RURAL LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lee Clark was present to discuss the Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan which was sent to the Board earlier due to the size of the report and attachments. Mr. Clark said this information has taken two years to compile and he introduced Mr. Bob Dowd with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission to present the plan. Mr. Dowd said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has numerous planning activities going on, but one of the areas in which they have not done a lot of long-range planning is in the rural areas of Virginia which makes up the majority of the state. Therefore, a team comprised of representatives from VDOT, planning district commissions, and local governments has worked on creating a Regional Rural Long-Range Transportation plan for each planning district. Mr. Dowd said the information received earlier from Mr. Clark and again from him (Copy included in Board's File) are recommendations that are in two sheets, by number and by magisterial district. Mr. Dowd said the recommendations were derived by reviewing

several components, safety locations/problems, bridge deficiencies, segments identified as deficient by VDOT, field surveys using detailed study locations, as well as various studies that VDOT has done in the past. Mr. Dowd said they are requesting the Board's endorsement of the plan. Mr. Dowd stated that following the meeting, he would like to put together any comments, additions, or deletions that the Board or VDOT has, hold a public meeting to receive citizen's input on the plan, and then present the plan to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. That committee would then make a recommendation and a regional public hearing would be held. Mr. Dowd said the final recommendation would then go to the West Piedmont Board who has to officially adopt the plan. Mr. Dowd said once adopted, West Piedmont would inform VDOT that our region has a plan. Mr. Dowd said this information would also be beneficial to VDOT for future planning, funding, and prioritizing of projects.

Mr. Michael Gray from VDOT was also present to address the Board. Mr. Gray stated that VDOT initiated this process a couple of years ago to address rural areas. Mr. Gray said you have been given a list of projects based on quantitative data and this is your opportunity to make changes based on need, whether it is economic development, tourism, etc. Mr. Gray said statewide funding is difficult and the hope is that you will take this time to prioritize projects. Mr. Gray said future projects should be based on some type of identified need.

Mr. Adams asked if any information came from the six-year public input session generally done in October. Mr. Gray responded that this information really came from crash data, as well as the existing primary and secondary program lists. Mr. Adams said crash data is important, but near misses should also be reviewed. Mr. Gray said that is something they have discussed with other boards as well.

Mr. Bryant asked for a definition of short, mid, and long-term. Mr. Gray responded that short-term is typically under five years, mid-term is five to 15 years, and long-term is around 20 years.

H.G. Vaughn made a motion to endorse the plan as presented, seconded by Jim Adams and approved 6 to 0.

Ms. Buchanan welcomed two visitors, Jacob and Daniel Cooper with Troop 166 of Collinsville. Ms. Buchanan said the two young men are working on their citizenship in the community badge.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Scott Grindstaff was present to provide an update on delinquent tax collection efforts. Mr. Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports provided to the Board and asked for any questions.

Ms. Buchanan asked what the Treasurer's office is currently doing to collect outstanding real estate and personal property taxes. Mr. Grindstaff replied that his office sends out past due collection letters, they search mortgage companies, and make telephone calls. Once they have exhausted all options, it is turned over to TACS. Mr. Grindstaff stated that it is generally two years before accounts are turned over to TACS because you cannot begin a judicial sale until it is at least two years old.

Ms. Buchanan asked if the Treasurer's office works with DMV. Mr. Grindstaff stated that TACS will be working with DMV stops because they already have experience. Mr. Bryant asked about the DMV process. Mr. Grindstaff said the DMV places a hold on the registration and you cannot renew it until you have paid your taxes.

Ms. Buchanan asked if any of the payment agreements are delinquent. Mr. Grindstaff said all of the payment agreements are current and anyone who has not paid in two months is turned over to TACS. Mr. Grindstaff said the 2009 collection rate for personal property is 96% and real estate, 93%. Mr. Grindstaff said they look at the larger accounts and work their way down. Mr. Summerlin stated that while the collection rate is high, there is still a significant amount of money out considering that we levy approximately \$20 million a year in personal and real property taxes.

Mr. Slaughter inquired about delinquent business license taxes. Mr. Grindstaff said he does not have an exact number, but they do work closely with the Commissioner of the Revenue's office on business license taxes as you have to determine if those businesses are still viable.

Mr. Adams asked if delinquent meals taxes are usually an oversight. Mr. Grindstaff said that overall, meals tax collections are good but there are a few that they may have to contact occasionally. Mr. Grindstaff said that often they find the business has closed and owes more than just meals taxes. Mr. Adams commented that meals tax is basically a tax held in trust. Mr. Lyle responded that is correct; the business is holding the money as a pass-through to the County. Mr. Lyle stated that well-run businesses probably use a computer generated report and remit meals taxes based on the total monthly sales; however, the money is probably not kept in a separate account. Poorly run restaurants on the other hand, probably do not keep up with it and spend the money during the month. When it is time to pay, they do not have the money. Mr. Lyle said the meals tax is the County's money from the time it is collected from the customer. Mr. Lyle said he feels sometimes it is an oversight, but there are those who treat it as their own money. Mr. Lyle stated that failure to pay meals taxes is considered a larceny; you are essentially embezzling money.

Mr. Summerlin referred the Board to the CD-Rom provided by Mr. Grindstaff which includes delinquent personal property taxpayers (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Summerlin stated that delinquent personal property taxes have a five-year statute of limitations, while real estate is 20 years; so it is important to collect those as quickly

as possible. In addition, personal property can be moved and it is more difficult to track down after several years.

Mr. Vaughn asked if there are cross checks to verify that vehicle owners have purchased a decal. Mr. Grindstaff stated the system does show personal property and decal purchases. Ms. Buchanan asked how many taxpayers have not purchased decals and what efforts are being taken to collect. Mr. Grindstaff could not say how many decals were delinquent. The Treasurer's office is not currently taking measures to collect due to the time constraints in determining if the vehicle is still operable and in Henry County. Mr. Grindstaff said staff has the ability to see if a taxpayer has purchased a decal, but they do not cross check each taxpayer to verify that they have purchased one.

Mr. Slaughter asked how some of the delinquent accounts show taxes owed for prior years, for example, 2005, but not for more current years. Mr. Grindstaff said it is possible that they missed paying one or two years for some reason and instead of paying the older balance, they pay the current year to avoid additional penalties and interest. Mr. Grindstaff said you may specify which year you wish to pay; if you do not, payments are credited to the oldest outstanding balance.

PUBLIC HEARING – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE JAG GRANT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Summerlin stated 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. Mr. Summerlin said the grant application requires a public hearing. Ms. Buchanan opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. There being no one present to speak, the hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

Milton Kendall moved to approve the JAG grant application, seconded by Tommy Slaughter 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.

- Cost for pre-emption devices on the traffic signals is approximately \$15,600 for a four-way intersection; no funds to install on existing signals; will install the devices as signals are replaced
- Signs moved on right-of-way at the intersection of Route 58 and 614 in Axton
- Mowing intersections and secondary roads
- Mr. Bryant said residents often ask why they are required to mow their grass when VDOT does not. Ms. Hughes said she understands; however, they are trying to use what funds they do have for safety items and aesthetics has taken a back seat.

- Ms. Buchanan requested an update on Route 684 and 58 for next month.

CONTINUATION OF MEETING UNTIL AUGUST 26, 2010 AT 1:30 P.M.

There being no further business to discuss, H.G. Vaughn moved at 6:41 pm to continue the meeting to August 26, 2010 at 1:30 pm in the Infield Care Center of the Martinsville Speedway, seconded by Tommy Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.

Bos.Minutes.August24, 2010.3pm.mv