

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**September 28, 2010 – 3:00 pm**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on September 28, 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:**

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. Kendall 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).

- August 24, 2010 – Regular Meeting
- August 26, 2010 – Joint BOS/IDA
- September 14, 2010 – Joint BOS/IDA

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

(Copy included in Board's File).

**Consideration of Resolution Requesting Additional Funding for the Completion of Route 58 to Interstate 77**  
(Copy included in Board's File).

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

**CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING OCTOBER 2010 AS "CHILD HEALTH MONTH" IN HENRY COUNTY**

The Martinsville Coalition for Health and Fitness requested that the Board declare October 2010 to be "Child Health Month" in Henry County.

Mr. Slaughter read the proclamation aloud and made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented, seconded by Mr. Bryant and approved 6 to 0. (Copy included in Board's File).

**CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING OCTOBER 2010 AS "BIG READ MONTH" IN HENRY COUNTY**

Mr. Vaughn read the proclamation aloud and moved to adopt the proclamation as presented, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried. (Copy included in Board's File).

Ms. Barbara Parker with Piedmont Arts was present to accept the proclamation and address the Board. Ms. Parker thanked the Board for their support of this important initiative and distributed a small gift bag with a book and other items in support of Edgar Allan Poe. Ms. Parker invited everyone to attend the Big Read kickoff event on Saturday, October 2 at 3:00 p.m. She stated that each person in attendance will receive the same gift bag including free copies of the book and there will also be exhibits and artists from the Poe Museum in Richmond. In addition, Ms. Parker said they were hosting a legislative luncheon on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING OCTOBER 2010 AS "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH" IN HENRY COUNTY**

Officials with Citizens Against Family Violence have requested that the Board declare October 2010 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Henry County. Mr. Bryant read the proclamation aloud. (Copy included in Board's File).

Mr. Bryant made a motion to adopt the proclamation as presented, seconded by Mr. Kendall and approved 6 to 0.

## **REPORT FROM ANTHONY JACKSON, SUPERINTENDENT, HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Anthony Jackson, Superintendent of the Henry County school system, requested time on the Board's agenda to report on the school system and the start of the 2010-2011 academic year. Mr. Jackson distributed the 2009-'10 annual report and thanked the Board and staff for recognizing the economic challenges faced by the schools and for minimizing the impact by level funding the school system. Dr. Jackson noted that all schools are fully accredited and 93% made AYP. Dr. Jackson stated that Henry County was one of only 12 school systems in Virginia to make AYP as a school division. Dr. Jackson said we have worked very hard to utilize all available resources to ensure a quality school division for our students. We leveraged stimulus funds by investing in infrastructure, facility needs, and teacher quality, and we continue to pursue local, state, and federal grant funds to ensure we remain competitive. Dr. Jackson said while we are pleased and excited about the progress we are making, we understand that many challenges are still ahead. Dr. Jackson said we are currently in the process of developing a strategic plan that will guide our decisions and set priorities for us for the next five years. Dr. Jackson said we know we face three major challenges in the near future: 1) planning for the end of stimulus funding in 2012; 2) addressing compensation to ensure that we remain competitive; and 3) addressing long-standing facility and capital and infrastructure needs. Dr. Jackson said our commitment to the community is to continue to provide cutting-edge opportunities for student learning and rigorous instructional programs designed to stretch students. Dr. Jackson said you can and should be proud of Henry County Public Schools. Dr. Jackson presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the school system's progress.

Mr. Vaughn recognized Dr. Jackson not only for his accomplishments with the school system, but for his personal achievement of his doctorate degree. The Board congratulated Dr. Jackson and commended his personal and professional accolades with the school system. Dr. Jackson said he is very fortunate to have a wonderful dedicated staff.

Mr. Summerlin noted that county and school staff continues to pursue the Qualified School Construction Bond funding. Mr. Summerlin stated the guidelines are not yet available, but there are some critical maintenance issues that need to be addressed if we are selected to receive funding.

Mr. Summerlin stated that the Board was given a demonstration last month of the iPad and that in the past, we have offered employees the opportunity to purchase technology through our contract via payroll deduction. Mr. Summerlin said they would like to offer this option again on the iPad, as well as a laptop, and it will be presented to the Board and School Board for consideration probably next month.

Dr. Jackson invited the Board to attend an announcement on September 29 at 10:00 a.m. at Rich Acres Elementary School. Dr. Jackson said the State Superintendent will be present for the announcement concerning Henry County Schools.

## **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING PAYDAY LENDING INSTITUTIONS**

Mr. Summerlin said the City of Staunton has led the legislative charge against payday lending institutions and predatory lending practices in the Commonwealth of Virginia. At Staunton's urging, many Virginia localities, including Henry County, have previously approved resolutions urging greater regulations over predatory lending be imposed. As part of this process, the City of Staunton is asking for Henry County's endorsement of a more stringent resolution.

Dick Ephgrave, President of Grace Network, was present to advocate for this new resolution. Mr. Ephgrave said Grace Network assisted 3,800 families in Martinsville and Henry County last year with both financial and food assistance. Mr. Ephgrave said one of the unfortunate things he sees too often in his work with Grace Network are the individuals who fall victim to payday lending. Mr. Ephgrave referred the Board to information provided on payday lending in Virginia and the rates that are being charged on these loans, anywhere from 688% interest on an annual basis down to 164% if you are a social security recipient (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Ephgrave said the resolution requested is not an effort to outlaw payday lending, yet is asking the General Assembly to pass legislation that creates a usury law establishing no more than 36% APR interest can be charged. In addition, the resolution provides a couple of other protections regarding consumer credit to military personnel and the prohibition of a creditor's use of a personal check or other device as a means, either directly or indirectly, to gain access to a consumer's bank account.

Mr. Ephgrave said one reason payday lending has remained viable is because there is no alternative for "unbankable" people, meaning individuals who cannot go to a bank for many reasons, whether it be bad credit, they have filed for bankruptcy, or simply fallen on hard times. Mr. Ephgrave said if the legislation is passed and interest is capped at 36%, payday lenders will cease to exist because they cannot profit on 36% interest. Mr. Ephgrave said he is working with a non-profit organization called United Virginia, a faith-based initiative in Richmond. United Virginia works with the Pure Lending Program to provide small loans, up to \$500 to consumers and \$5,000 to businesses, at modest interest rates of 18-24%. It has been very successful in the Richmond area and they have agreed to come to the Martinsville-Henry County area to start an alternative lending fund. Mr. Ephgrave said that he and Tiffani Underwood with United Way are meeting with Rob Martin of United Virginia tomorrow to set up the organization in our area. Mr. Ephgrave said the trial program would be facilitated through the United Way's HOPE initiative.

Mr. Slaughter asked how this organization can sustain at 18-24% if payday lenders cannot profit at 36%. Mr. Ephgrave replied that they are not a for-profit organization and most of the funding comes from Virginia Interfaith, a faith-based initiative that provides this type of funding to people at or below the poverty level with the assumption that they will be writing these loans off. Mr. Ephgrave said this program was initially started in Georgia and eventually the banking community joined in, making loans to formerly "unbankable" individuals. Mr. Ephgrave said it has worked very well and they are almost at a break even point in receiving loan payments back. Mr. Ephgrave said his ultimate goal is to get the Virginia Banking Association involved in

this initiative as well. Mr. Ephgrave said there are already a couple of credit unions participating by providing funding to Virginia Interfaith.

Mr. Vaughn asked if the signature loans require collateral. Mr. Ephgrave stated no, as most of the individuals do not have collateral. Mr. Vaughn asked if pawn shops were subject to any limits on interest rates. Mr. Ephgrave said he was not sure, but since there are no effective usury laws, he would guess that they are not governed any differently than payday lenders.

The Board thanked Mr. Ephgrave for coming. Mr. Kendall made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously approved.

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

Mr. Scott Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts and noted that the final authorization needed to begin personal property collections through DMV stops has been executed and sent to DMV. Mr. Grindstaff said there should be an advertisement within the next couple of weeks for the next judicial sale. Mr. Grindstaff stated that his office sent out letters on 67 agreements that were not current with about one-third of those either coming in to make a payment or explaining why they had not made a payment. Those we do not hear from will be turned over to TACS October 1. Mr. Grindstaff said they had reviewed decal purchases as requested but did not see a great disparity in the number of vehicles. The only differences identified were decreases in fleet vehicles. Mr. Grindstaff stated that he presented three meals tax collection cases to the grand jury September 20 and they were certified and moving forward.

Ms. Buchanan asked if there is any cross-check for the vehicles on tax records versus decals actually purchased. Mr. Grindstaff stated that the vehicle records often do not match decal sales due to the frequency of people transferring ownership of vehicles. Ms. Buchanan said so there is most likely a lot of people without decals and it is basically up to law enforcement; there seems to be a loophole that we are missing. Mr. Vaughn asked if the number of decal violations on the Sheriff's report was a monthly figure. Major Eanes replied yes, it is monthly, not year-to-date. Mr. Bryant asked if it would be possible for the DMV to collect the decal fee, say for instance when individuals sell/buy vehicles and apply for the new title. Mr. Grindstaff stated the DMV could not accommodate this request because if they did this for one locality, they would have to do it for all. Mr. Summerlin clarified that the Treasurer's office has a list of decals sold last year that is used to mail out decal notices for this year; if they do not purchase a decal based on the list, what is done about those who purchased a decal last year but not this year. Mr. Grindstaff responded that there is no collection effort on decals because he really does not have the necessary staff to contact each and every person to see if they still own a particular vehicle. Mr. Summerlin stated that taxpayers are supposed to indicate if they have either sold or purchased a vehicle on their tangible property returns. Mr. Grindstaff said that is correct, if the taxpayer returns the tangible property form. Ms. Buchanan asked if they review those who do not file the tangible property return. Mr. Grindstaff stated that falls under the Commissioner of the Revenue's office.

Mr. Slaughter asked if the decal form changed this year and if the decal is no longer assigned to a particular car. Mr. Grindstaff said the decal is assigned to the car you owned last year. Mr. Slaughter stated that when he purchased his decals at the fire department, he was told there was no information or place to record the number as to which vehicle the decal belonged to. Mr. Grindstaff said the fire departments usually write the car on the decal itself and they are a great help in decal sales.

Ms. Buchanan said basically we are relying on people to be honest because we do not have a system in place and are not utilizing our resources in order to track those who do not purchase decals. She asked if it would be possible to send out letters to those who have not purchased decals. Mr. Grindstaff said he would look into it. Mr. Vaughn said a couple of years ago he mentioned the possibility of sending out the decal bill with the personal property tax bill, and then issuing the decal either when the receipt is mailed back or when the person comes in to pay the taxes. Mr. Vaughn asked if the Treasurer's office had considered this as an option. Mr. Grindstaff said this was discussed during the budget process this year, but it is not as simple as just mailing the forms. The IT Department needs to look into the different options to handle it and determine which one would work best. Mr. Grindstaff stated that not long after he first took office, he tried mailing out the decal bills in December, but when April came, those who did not purchase the decals in December had lost their forms and it was a logistical nightmare.

Mr. Slaughter inquired about the delinquent real estate list and asked if anything is mailed out informing the taxpayer they are past due, as many of those on the list are five plus years delinquent. Mr. Grindstaff stated that TACS has every delinquent real estate property that is over two years old, and the taxpayer has been notified by TACS as well as prior notices sent out by the Treasurer's office. Mr. Grindstaff stated the next phase is the sale of the property. Mr. Bryant asked how long it takes from the time the delinquent taxpayer is notified to the sale of the property. Mr. Grindstaff replied a judicial sale requires two years. Mr. Bryant asked why then, are many of the properties on the delinquent list five years old. Mr. Grindstaff said the only recourse is a judicial sale which takes time. Ms. Buchanan asked if all personal property is also turned over to TACS after two years. Mr. Grindstaff stated that personal property is turned over after six months, real estate is two years. Mr. Kendall asked if it had ever been considered to collect taxes twice a year. Mr. Grindstaff stated that most localities that do this have a cash flow problem. Mr. Summerlin said the Board must also set the tax rate before the budget is adopted. Mr. Grindstaff said that billing twice a year also requires twice the work on staff. Mr. Grindstaff said the tax bills go out and are due October 1, however, are not actually delinquent until after December 5; therefore, most people wait until the December 5 deadline to pay.

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

Leigh Cockram, Director of Marketing for the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, was present to make the monthly update to the Board. Ms. Cockram distributed a summary of activities by division. (Copy included in Board's File).

## **TOURISM**

- Promoted Virginia Farmer's Market Week
- Filmed promotional video for Bassett Community Market
- Hosted first M-HC Lodging meeting for all hotels, campgrounds and B&Bs
- Spoke on marketing at the Entrepreneur Express Workshop
- Co-Hosted 3rd annual Smith River Fest with DRBA, HCPR, MPR, MURA and Franklin County Tourism
  - Survey results indicate that the event generated more than \$12,000 in economic impact to Martinsville-Henry County
  - 41 communities in VA, NC and PA were represented
- Conducted 12 client meetings
- Spoke to Henry County Pro-Am Photography Club about photo needs for the Reel-Scout database
- HD Web Studio is developing a Film Office page on the VisitMartinsville.com website
- Co-hosted 2nd annual Smith River Film Fest with DRBA, approximately 75 attended
- Launched first consumer e-newsletter for tourism
- Participated in 5 Media Interviews
- The 2010 M-HC Visitor Guide was printed and distributed throughout the region, highlighting 48 area attractions and lodging establishments
- Web traffic was up by 59% for the month of August; an increase of 1,374 visits
- 40 new fans joined the Tourism Division Facebook page bringing our total to 1,235
- 454 Visitors came to the center in August and 218 visitors signed the guestbook
- 47 information packets were prepared for individuals requesting information
  - Outside of Virginia, requests also came from five other states
- 10,720 brochures were distributed
  - 1,245 brochures were distributed to area businesses
  - 8,400 were distributed to Virginia Welcome Centers and Certified Visitor Centers across the state

## **RESEARCH**

- Attended a Megasite workshop with regional officials and elected leaders at the Riverstone Technology Park in South Boston
- Created a brochure for the Stanley building located in the North Bowles Industrial Park
- Met with Thalhimer to discuss properties that they have available in the M-HC area
- Participated in a Southern Virginia regional meeting to discuss a presentation that will be given during race weekend to clients and consultants

- Prepared a presentation and packet of information for Project Shoreline, Project DoOver, and Project Sunday
- Handled seven (7) third party requests for information
- Met with HD Web Studio to discuss enhancements to the EDC website that will enable better search engine optimization
- Completed and returned RFI for Project Edgewater - comprised of 20+ pages
- Created a report detailing the funding given to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) and the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC) by the Tobacco Commission and the State of Virginia

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

- Provided one-on-one assistance to 18 total clients
- Provided business assistance to 7 new clients
- Submitted SWaM Certification application for 4 companies
- Participated in 3 mentor meetings: Rising Sun Breads, Smith River Outdoor Adventure, and Engineered Energy Services
- Site visits with 5 existing businesses
- Entrepreneur Express was held August 26, 2010 with 20 participants
- FastTrac NewVenture for Creative Enterprises started September 1 with 35 participants
  - Sessions are held on Wednesdays through November 3rd from 5pm to 8pm at the Uptown Southern Bistro
- Marketing Your Business with Virginia Green will be held September 23rd at the Artisan Center from 12pm to 1pm
- Annual State Procurement Conference will be held October 20th from 8:30am to 1pm at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
- E-Commerce Workshop will be held November 18th from 12pm-1pm at the Virginia Museum of Natural History
- Enterprise Zone Workshop will be held December 7th from 12pm-2pm at the Artisan Center

### **MARKETING/RECRUITING**

- Project Stone announcement was held September 14th
- Project Sleep announcement scheduled for September 27th
- RTI/Airbus dinner and event on August 31st
- Met with SOVA team on regional marketing strategy
- Serving as liaison between VEDP and SOVA Regional Economic Developers on marketing strategy for the Speedway event for consultants and C-level executives - Facilitated Regional Presentation Meeting
- Wrote outline for Introductory Video and PowerPoint presentation for regional event
- Conducted 3 existing industry visits
- Hosted SRI Consultant regarding SOVA Regional marketing effort
- Working on consultant trips and lead generation projects for remainder of 2010 (had three calls in August with potential prospects)

- Working with HD Web Studio on site optimization and Lot 4 designation page as well as a newsletter/email blast template
- Currently working with 20 Total Projects, comprised of 11 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

**DESIGNATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 2010 VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACO) ANNUAL MEETING**

Ms. Buchanan said the 2010 VACO Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 8-10 and each County is asked to designate a member of its elected Board and an alternate to vote on the County's behalf on any issues that may arise. Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Summerlin plan to attend.

Mr. Adams moved to designate Mr. Slaughter as the County's voting representative at the VACO conference and Mr. Summerlin as an alternate, seconded by Mr. Vaughn, and approved 6 to 0.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: REPLACEMENT VEHICLE – PARKS AND RECREATION**

Mr. Summerlin said the purchase of a replacement truck for the Parks and Recreation Department was included in the FY 2011 County Budget. A request for bids was sent out by the Purchasing Department, and two companies responded to this item. Hall Automotive was the low bid at \$23,102. The truck is a Ford 3/4 ton pickup.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the award of contract in the amount of \$23,102 as requested, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: REPLACEMENT VEHICLES – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. Summerlin said after speaking with the Sheriff, staff is requesting this item be withdrawn from the agenda. Mr. Summerlin said we have applied to Rural Development for grant funds and we do not want to jeopardize the grant award by awarding the contract prematurely. Mr. Summerlin said it would be put on the agenda again in the next couple of months.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: SALE PROCEEDS – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to make an additional appropriation of \$3,230.45 into the law enforcement uniform line item. The funds were received through the Sheriff's Office's sale of found and abandoned items on www.propertyroom.com. Sheriff Perry indicates the money would be used to purchase new uniforms for the Honor Guard.

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

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GRANT – SCHOOL BOARD**

Mr. Summerlin said Superintendent Anthony Jackson is asking the Board for an additional appropriation of \$138,325 to the schools' nutrition budget for the fresh fruit and vegetable program at Axton, Campbell Court, Carver, Rich Acres and Sanville elementary schools. The funding for the appropriation is federal money from the Department of Education.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve the appropriation as requested, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS GRANT – SCHOOL BOARD**

Mr. Summerlin said Superintendent Anthony Jackson is asking the Board to accept a grant and make the additional appropriation for it in the amount of \$213,335. The grant is from the Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free Schools program and would be used over a two-year period for training and risk assessment within the school system.

Mr. Kendall moved to accept the grant and approve the additional appropriation as requested, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ASSET FORFEITURE – COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Mr. Summerlin said Commonwealth's Attorney Bob Bushnell is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$850 from his asset forfeiture fund to his travel expenses line item to cover travel expenses for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the appropriation as requested, seconded by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Comments from the Board**

Mr. Summerlin reminded the Board of the dedication ceremony scheduled October 11 at 1:30 for the new Dick & Willie Passage. Mr. Summerlin said it will be held at the Liberty Street trailhead and Congressman Boucher will be present for the dedication. Mr. Summerlin stated that one of the recommendations in the budget message last spring was for staff to analyze fire and rescue equipment needs in the County. Mr. Summerlin said the County usually funds about \$265,000 and he has recommended that we receive outside assistance in this project. Mr. Summerlin said he understands that the Virginia

Department of Fire Programs will provide this analysis at very little or no cost to the County. Mr. Summerlin stated that the volunteer rescue squads and fire departments provide an annual inventory, so we know what we have. The question is what we need. Mr. Summerlin stated that he needs Board approval to proceed with the analysis. Mr. Adams moved that staff proceed with a needs assessment of public safety equipment, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Mr. Adams moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:25 pm, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the 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 5:49 pm on a motion by Mr. Slaughter, second by Mr. 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:**

Mr. Slaughter moved to reappoint Mr. Bob Davis and Mr. Ben Gravely to the Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority for four-year terms, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

The Board recessed its meeting at 5:50 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 several issues.

- Mr. Staples said the Martinsville Bulletin misquoted him last month, that he did not request Public Safety, VDOT, and the Martinsville Speedway do a study on heavy traffic on Route 220 South on race days, but he requested that the Board ask them to look into a solution to the problem.
- Mr. Staples said there are numerous power outages in his area, and in his opinion, are due to negligence by Appalachian Power. Mr. Staples said he would appreciate any assistance the Board can provide.
- Mr. Staples said he has spoken with Ms. Hughes about the traffic problems on Route 220 South and she assured him she would look into it. Mr. Staples said if he could not get the issue resolved locally, he would go to Salem and then Richmond if necessary.
- Lastly, Mr. Staples addressed the Board concerning the County auctions and why a personal check is not accepted from a local person. Mr. Staples noted that Franklin County and the City of Martinsville have recently advertised auctions and both accept cash and checks.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATIONS**

### **R-10-03 – Clarence D. Newman**

Mr. Lee Clark said the property is located at 32 Key Drive in the Blackberry District and shown on Tax Map 25.5/256. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1.5-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant intends to remove the old house from the property and replace it with a double wide manufactured home. Mr. Clark said following a public hearing, both the Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of this request.

Ms. Buchanan stated the applicant is present and opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Adams moved that the Board follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and staff and approve the rezoning request, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 6 to 0.

### **R-10-04 – Larry S. Biggs**

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 2220 Irisburg Road in the Iriswood District and is shown as part of Tax Map 53.6/50. The applicant is

requesting the rezoning of approximately 1-acre of a 2.197-acre lot from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant has a 50' x 30' private garage on the property and now wishes to use this for commercial auto repair. The property will be sub-divided separating out the commercial lot from the rest of the property. Following a public hearing, both the Planning Commission and staff recommend that the rezoning request be approved and acceptance of the written proffers that include certain screening requirements and relocating of the planned entrance.

Ms. Buchanan stated the applicant is present and opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 6:07 p.m. Mr. Kendall made a motion to approve the rezoning request from Mr. Biggs, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

### **GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS**

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

- Speedway access road about 90% complete
- Safety study on intersection of Routes 58 and 684, Carver Road, has been approved and expect money for design to be available March 2011
- Currently working on two pavement projects, Route 57A – from old Bassett High School to Blackberry Road; Route 220 Bypass – southbound lane from Bassett Forks to Carver Parkway overpass
- Mr. Slaughter asked if the painting had been done in the County. Ms. Hughes said no, they have a painting contractor who is currently in Carroll County, will move to Patrick County next and then Henry County. Mr. Slaughter asked about the Patriot Centre. Ms. Hughes said the Patriot Centre still needs to be done. Ms. Hughes said the trees that were discussed would be done within the next couple of weeks.
- Mr. Kendall asked about the speed study on Route 620 near Carlisle School. Ms. Hughes said she would follow-up.
- Mr. Adams asked when the improvements in front of the new historical building will begin. Ms. Hughes said it should be around March 2011.
- Mr. Adams asked if there are any guidelines on “Watch for Children” signs. Ms. Hughes said there are no written guidelines, basically a judgment call. Mr. Adams asked what the cost of the sign and installation is. Ms. Hughes said around \$250 for the sign, another \$250 for material and labor. Mr. Adams asked if the signs are ever “recycled”, for instance taken down because all of the children on a street are grown. Ms. Hughes said no, they typically do not take them down. Ms. Hughes said they do try to evaluate the “School Bus Stop Ahead” signs periodically and they should probably look at the others as well. Mr. Adams said he would like to come back to the Board with the request he has received after he has had time to investigate how many children are actually on the street.

- Ms. Buchanan asked if the mowing schedule has changed due to the weather. Ms. Hughes said they did lose a day or so and are back on secondary roads. Ms. Buchanan asked about Airport Road and Ms. Hughes said they have completed it.
- Mr. Slaughter asked about the intersection of Kings Mountain and Beaver Hills. Ms. Hughes said they are going to take care of that. Mr. Slaughter asked if turning lanes had ever been considered on Kings Mountain in front of the Administration Building and at Jack Dalton Road. Ms. Hughes said she would look into the matter.

### **Request for “Watch for Children” Sign on Philpott Drive**

Mr. Slaughter requested a “Watch for Children” sign on Philpott Drive near 3350 Philpott Drive in the Reed Creek District, seconded by Mr. Bryant and approved 6 to 0.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY CODE CHANGES REGARDING EMS SERVICE IN HENRY COUNTY**

Mr. Summerlin stated that in January 2010, the Board assigned oversight responsibility of EMS services in Henry County to the Public Safety Department. Since that time, staff has developed a plan for EMS that the Board approved last month, including supplemental staffing. The proposed change to County Code establishes the Public Safety Department with oversight responsibility of EMS services. Additionally, since the supplemental staffing involves billing for services, Virginia Code requires the locality to establish the authority to do such billing. A public hearing is required for any County Code changes.

Ms. Buchanan opened the public hearing at 6:18 p.m. and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak.

John Mitchell, Irisburg District, was present to speak in favor of recent action by the Board regarding EMS. Mr. Mitchell said he feels this is a step in the right direction and will be especially beneficial to District 5 which has had no support since the closing of the Martinsville-Henry County Rescue Squad. Mr. Mitchell said he does have one concern regarding the EMS Advisory Committee. Mr. Mitchell said his concern is for the dedicated individuals who serve on the EMS squads, that they will eventually find themselves in a conflict between squad survival and patient care. Therefore, Mr. Mitchell said he feels some citizens should be involved in the committee. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Board, Public Safety, and citizens for their efforts on this important issue.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Ms. Buchanan closed the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Mr. Vaughn moved to adopt the code changes as presented, seconded by Mr. Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Adams moved at 6:21 pm to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.