

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
Planning Session**

February 8, 2011 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its annual Planning Session on February 8, 2011, at 3:00 pm at the Emergency Services Training Center, DuPont Road, Martinsville, 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; Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; Dale Wagoner, Public Safety Director; Matt Tatum, Deputy Director of Public Safety; and Suzie Helbert with the Public Safety staff.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Major Steve Eanes, Sgt. Ronnie Minter and Officer Michael Hooper from the Sheriff's office were present. Dr. Anthony Jackson, DeWitt House, and Bill Wingfield of Henry County Schools were present. Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin, Ron Morris of B-99 and Diane Akers of ComBiz Solutions were also present.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

STATEMENT FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BENNY SUMMERLIN

Mr. Summerlin released a statement regarding his health issues. The statement was as follows:

Recently I went to my physician for a routine physical and after several subsequent tests I was shocked to learn that I have colon cancer. My treatment will consist of chemotherapy beginning this week and continuing for six months. Surgery will probably follow after chemotherapy.

I feel fine and my physicians indicate my condition is very treatable and have encouraged me to keep up my normal activities as much as possible. I will need to take accrued medical leave periodically to attend medical appointments. If things change I will make adjustments as necessary.

My wife Robin and I appreciate all the prayers and words of encouragement we have received over the past two weeks and ask you to continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Lastly, more than 40 million men in the United States over the age of 50 have not been screened for colon cancer. If you are in that age category, please get tested.

Ms. Buchanan said on behalf of the Board that if they could do anything to assist Mr. Summerlin during this time, to please let them know.

UPDATE ON HENRY COUNTY EMS PROGRAM – DALE WAGONER

Mr. Wagoner reviewed for the Board the County's EMS program, which was altered in November 2010 to include some paid staff to augment volunteers. Implementation included:

- o Creating EMS Advisory Committee
- o Changes in County Code
- o Adjusting Response Boundaries
- o Collaboration with Rescue Squads
- o Supplemental Staffing

Mr. Wagoner said the Board's instructions for the new system included several guidelines. He listed those items and how they have been included in the new system:

- Preserves volunteer rescue squads as an essential part of the EMS system
 - o None of the changes by the County will prevent volunteer rescue squads from remaining a primary part of EMS
 - o Volunteers have first opportunity to run the call in their district
 - o Resource sharing and mutual aid between volunteer squads are encouraged.
 - o Revenue sharing agreement with volunteer squads
 - o Rescue Squads' involvement in the EMS Advisory Committee
- Utilizes paid personnel or contracted services to cover service gaps
Implemented County supplemental staffing
 - o (2) Advanced Life Support Providers available for all hours of the day, every day of the year.
 - o (5) Full-time Paramedics
 - o Cadre of Part-time Paramedics/EMT-I
 - o Martinsville Station
 - o (1) Ambulance
 - o (1) Response Vehicle
- Operates in a way that does not expect new revenue but redirects current revenue and utilizes revenue options
 - o Using a compassionate billing process (soft-billing) the County has generated the additional revenue necessary to launch the supplemental staffing
 - o No new taxes

Other key points and how they were addressed included:

- Supplemental Staffing Goals:
 - Integrate seamlessly into the existing system of volunteer rescue squads
 - Improve Patient Care
 - Increase ALS Availability
 - Reduce Response Time
 - Ensure every County citizen has access to quality care, when needed, regardless of their ability to pay
- Program Overview
 - 5 Full Time Paramedic/FF
 - 9 Part Time Intermediate or Paramedic/FF
 - 2 Staff members working 24/7
 - 12 Hour Shifts
 - 1 Ambulance
 - 1 Quick Response Vehicle
 - Utilizing Martinsville Station as base
- Program Responses
 - 315 Ambulance Responses
 - 268 with County Ambulance
 - 37 with loaner ambulance from Bassett due to mechanical failure of county ambulance
 - 10 with loaner ambulance from Horsepasture due to inclement weather
 - 506 Assisted calls
- Program Strengths
 - Centralized system
 - Reduced fiscal strain to the citizen
 - Compassionate Billing
 - Improved Quality of Service/Patient Care
 - Improved public perception of volunteers
 - Volunteer mentoring
 - Improved collaboration with other organizations – Hospital, PHCC, Martinsville, Franklin Co.
 - Improved Revenue Recovery for the Volunteer Rescue Squads
 - In three months, supplemental staff assisted volunteer rescue squad on 506 calls. Prior to implementation, these calls would have been turned over to a private contractor and resulted in lost revenue for the volunteer rescue squad.
- Program Weaknesses
 - Limited availability to assist volunteers and respond to calls with only two staff members at any given time.
 - Had hoped that staff would have time to assist volunteers with non-response activities such as training, station duties, grants, etc.
 - Fire Departments had hoped that staff would be available to assist with fire calls during critical times
 - Logistical issues at times because of varying volunteer availability.
- Program Opportunities

- Organizational structure is now in place to monitor improvements, make recommendations for future actions, and implement any approved improvements.
- Implementation of modern, state-of-the-art medical science and devices as they evolve.
- Grants
- Program Threats
 - System is operating at its maximum capacity!
 - Supplemental staff has earned holidays, vacation, and sick time
 - Quality providers require on-going quality training. Paramedics must complete a minimum of 72 hours of continuing education every two years
 - A tremendous amount of staff time is committed to:
 - scheduling and operational matters
 - managing the revenue sharing agreement and other aspects of revenue recovery
 - Emergency Vehicles
 - Both the ambulance and response vehicle were well-used prior to use by supplemental staff
 - The ambulance is running more calls than expected
 - The life expectancy of the ambulance will be much shorter than planned
 - Maintenance costs have been higher than expected
 - Vehicle issues at shift change
 - Backup System
 - Martinsville Fire Department when available
 - Private Ambulance Service when available
 - A few incidents where neither of the backups was available; fortunately none of the incidents had negative outcomes
 - County still depends on the “Backup System” as a primary responder – Over 30 calls per month.
 - Revenue
 - A large percentage of the County population does not have health insurance (diminishes revenue derived from soft-billing)
 - Continued upward inflationary trend in the purchase of medical devices and maintenance of medical devices
 - Potential for reduction in funding from other sources (both volunteers and County)
 - Volunteers
 - Still a need for quality volunteers
 - Conflict and lack of leadership continue to be a problem in volunteer rescue squads
- Summary
 - These changes have had a tremendously positive impact on emergency medical service in Henry County.

After some general discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Wagoner for his presentation.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2010 COUNTY AUDIT – CREEDLE, ALGA AND JONES, PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Ms. Robin Jones of Creedle, Jones, and Alga, Public Accountants, presented her firm's audit of County finances for FY 2010. She said the audit shows no issues with County finances and is a clean opinion. She said the County ended the year on sound footing financially. On a motion by Mr. Vaughn and a second by Mr. Bryant, the Board voted 6-0 to accept the audit report.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL SYSTEM ISSUES – DR. ANTHONY JACKSON

Dr. Jackson thanked the Board for the opportunity to update the Board on issues regarding the Henry County school system. Dr. Jackson's presentation included:

- Vision Statement
 - Henry County Public Schools where critical thinking is expected, creativity is nurtured, technology and innovation are embraced, and learning is celebrated.
- Mission Statement
 - Henry County Public Schools, a high-performing school division, provides all students with an exemplary education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence.
- Beliefs
 - School Safety
 - We believe respect cultivates success and is the foundation for a safe school environment.
 - Educating All Students
 - We believe all students are entitled to an education rich with opportunities that focuses on their emotional, physical, and intellectual needs and prepares them for lifelong learning.
 - Diversity
 - We believe that respect for diversity enables adaptability in a competitive global environment and nurtures student talents.
 - Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum and Instruction
 - We believe that a rigorous and relevant curriculum is student-centered and ensures opportunities for intervention, enrichment and extension for all students.
 - Technology and Innovation
 - We believe that students must be prepared to seek options and take advantage of opportunities using cutting-edge technology.
 - High Quality Professionals
 - We believe that high quality, well-trained, caring professionals are essential to the success of the school division.
 - Family and Community Involvement

- We believe that collaboration with families is essential to effectively prepare students to become self-sufficient problem solvers who contribute responsibly to the community.
 - Communication
 - We believe communication, collaboration, and outreach are essential to the success of all students and the future of our community.
 - Effective Use of Resources
 - We believe it is imperative to use all human and financial resources effectively, efficiently, and responsibly.
- Parameters
 - The needs of students will always come first.
 - There is a direct relationship between teacher expectations and student achievement.
 - Integrity is essential to decision-making.
 - Unethical behavior is never accepted, ignored or tolerated.
 - Everyone has the right to feel physically and emotionally safe at school.
- Strategic Priorities
 - Priority 1: High Quality Instruction
 - Priority 2: High Quality Professionals
 - Priority 3: Safe and Orderly Schools
 - Priority 4: Innovative and Cutting-Edge Technology
 - Priority 5: Effective and Efficient Resource Management
 - Priority 6: Family Engagement and Community Involvement
- Major Challenges
 - Funding
 - State, Federal Mandates
 - Loss of Stimulus Funding
 - Recruitment and Retention of Highly Qualified Staff
 - Recovery from impact of cuts made in 2010
 - Ensuring the competitiveness of our students
 - Long-range planning and investments in facilities, equipment and infrastructure
- Recognitions and Achievements
 - Henry County Public Schools was one of eight school divisions (6%) in Virginia to earn the 2011 Board of Education Excellence Award.
 - The following schools received the Virginia Board of Education's VIP Excellence Award. Only 17% of schools in Virginia received this recognition. Carver Elementary School, Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School, and Sanville Elementary School.
 - The following schools received the Virginia Board of Education's VIP Competence to Excellence Award. Only 16% of public schools in Virginia received this recognition. Campbell Court Elementary School, Drewry Mason Elementary School, Irisburg (Axton) Elementary School, Magna Vista High School, Mt. Olivet Elementary School, and Stanleytown Elementary School.

- Bassett High School Marching Band received second place honors at the U.S. Scholastic Band Association's 2010 competition.
- Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School was one of five middle schools in the country to receive the National Breakthrough School of the Year Award by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- All schools are fully accredited.
- 93% of schools and the Henry County Public School Division made AYP.
- Magna Vista High School Floriculture Team placed 4th in the nation at the National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event.
- The school division received a Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association for the Helping Hands volunteer program.
- Bassett High School Marching Band received first place honors in the State U.S. Scholastic Band Association's 2010 competition.
- Bassett High School student Megan Smallwood was selected to the All State Band.
- Career Hub received the VA Dept. of Education 2009 Creating Excellence Award for Region VI and Virginia for outstanding contributions to career and technical education.
- 42% of HCPS teachers have an advanced degree.
- Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School was one of five schools in Virginia to be selected as a School to Watch for 2010 by Virginia Schools to Watch®.
- Laurel Park Middle School was selected by Motorola to serve as the national showcase school for Motorola technology.
- Fieldale-Collinsville Middle School student Joshua Amos' artwork was selected as the Blue Ridge Regional middle school winner in the annual VA School Boards Association art contest.
- Magna Vista High School student Jonathan Penn was selected to the All State Choir.
- Magna Vista High School agriculture teacher Darryl Holland received the VA Dept. of Education 2010 Creating Excellence Individual Award for Region VI for exceptional and exemplary contributions to career and technical education.
- 57.5% of HCPS students scored pass advanced on one or more VA SOL tests.
- Rich Acres Elementary School student Evan Pruitt's artwork was selected as the Blue Ridge Regional elementary school winner in the annual VA School Boards Association art contest.
- iPad Initiative
 - 1,700 iPads in use by students each day
 - State Superintendent Dr. Patricia Wright made Beyond Textbooks announcement at Rich Acres Elementary School
 - Partners include Adobe, Apple, and Pearson
 - HCPS was featured on the front-page of the Business & Innovation Section of The Boston Globe January 31, 2011.

- Highlights of Significant Budget/Program Cuts Impacting FY2011
 - Consolidated Axton/Irisburg Elementary Schools
 - Closed the South Martinsville Facility
 - Contracted Custodial Services
 - Eliminated EMT/Firefighting Program
 - Eliminated 70 Teaching Positions
 - Eliminated 45 Support Positions (nurses, counselors, safety officers)
 - Reduced Hours of Special Population Drivers
 - Salaries Remain at FY09 Levels
 - Reduced School Based/Central Office Administrators
 - Reduced Locally Funded Travel
 - Delayed Equipment Purchases/ Capital Improvements

Dr. Jackson also presented the Board with a request to restore items cut out of last year's budget (a complete list of those items is filed with the records of this meeting). He also covered the School System's major capital and maintenance needs and ways to fund those needed items. After considerable discussion on the items, the Board thanked Dr. Jackson for his presentation.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTEES TO REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Mr. Summerlin informed the Board that with the Census data being compiled every 10 years, it was time for the County to consider any changes needed to its magisterial and voting districts. In the past the County has appointed a Redistricting Committee to assist staff with that process.

The following were presented by Board members as candidates on that committee:

- Judy Forsythe, Horsepasture District
- Melody Turner, Collinsville District
- Randy Dyer, Reed Creek District
- Rita Shropshire, Ridgeway District
- Deborah Hairston, Blackberry District
- Skip Ressel, Iriswood District
- Bob Petty, At-Large Representative

On a motion by Mr. Adams and a second by Mr. Slaughter, the Board voted 6-0 to appoint the citizens listed above to the County's Redistricting Committee.

PREVIEW OF FY 2011-2012 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Summerlin briefed the Board on issues regarding the upcoming budget cycle. He began with a brief review of the current budget year. This review included:

- Reduced appropriations by most departments
- School Division level funded
- Plant closures

- American of Martinsville
- Stanley Furniture
- Hiring Freeze
- Fund Balance strong

For the FY 2012 Budget, Mr. Summerlin said the issues would include:

- Reduced aid from the Commonwealth
- General Assembly action
 - Machinery and Tools/BPOL
- Reduced local revenues
- Fuel costs?
- State shifting “line of duty” benefits
- Virginia Retirement System?
- Employee compensation/Health insurance
- Capital expenditures?

REVIEW OF BOARD’S 2010-2011 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND CREATION OF 2011-2012 LIST

Mr. Hall introduced Ms. Diane Akers of ComBiz Solutions, who has assisted the Board with its Planning Session for the past four years. Ms. Akers led the Board through the rest of the Planning Session. Ms. Akers reviewed the Board’s short-term and long-term/continuing goals from last year and provided updates to those items.

- Short-Term Goals
 - Get through FY 11 budget cycle
 - Done
 - Provide essential services with reduced resources
 - Done
 - Maintain fund balance
 - Preliminary audit figures show an increase of about \$4 million
 - Develop and implement plan for EMS and Rescue under Public Safety
 - Implemented November 2010
 - Develop ED infrastructure
 - Water and sewer for CCBC
 - Partnership with City, Tobacco, EDC in motion
 - Dick and Willie Trail
 - Opened October 2010
 - Broadband implementation
 - Working with Mid-Atlantic Broadband to get service throughout County
 - Develop and implement energy efficiency process
 - Energy project nearing completion
 - Job Creation
 - Job Announcements:
 - Monogram Snacks, 150 jobs/\$4 million investment

- Kimball, 67 jobs/\$1 million investment
 - SleepSafe Beds, 13 jobs/\$1 million investment
 - Tile Shop, 25 jobs/\$1.3 million investment
 - Martinsville Speedway guaranteed two races per year for at least the next five years
 - RTI/Airbus Event – RTI ramping up to opening
- Sheriff's Office Accreditation
 - Ongoing process
- 58 West water project
 - Staff continues to work on this project
- Long-Term/Continuing Goals
 - Push for NCI to become a 4-year university
 - Commission recommended NCI become a branch of an existing 4-year university; SCHEV recommendation due in 2012
 - Continue to support infrastructure needs for school system
 - Ongoing
 - Emphasize energy efficiency/green initiatives
 - Energy project about to be completed
 - Promote community health care resources
 - Ongoing
 - Address jail needs
 - Little progress
 - Work with the Corps of Engineers to improve the flow of water through the Smith River
 - Ongoing
 - Initiate a Comprehensive Plan update
 - No progress
 - Work to improve "County pride"
 - Ongoing
 - Work to improve our educational facilities
 - See above
 - Support the Martinsville-Henry County EDC and continue to fund its efforts, and support its tourism initiatives
 - Ongoing
 - Continue to pursue delinquent taxes
 - Ongoing
 - Endorse and participate in regional cooperation
 - Ongoing
 - Endorse and participate in cooperative efforts with City of Martinsville
 - Ongoing
 - Continue to support the New College Institute and Patrick Henry Community College
 - Ongoing
 - Continue to support Blue Ridge Airport
 - Ongoing

Ms. Akers then instructed the Board and staff to divide into two teams and select three top goals from 2010 and three new goals. The groups then were asked to select their highest priorities based on the overall items considered. The top priorities were:

1. Expansion of New College Institute into a four-year university or a branch campus of an existing four-year university.
2. Continued support of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation's efforts including tourism and retail development.
3. Continued development of the County's industrial sites.
4. Addressing school facilities and infrastructure needs.
5. Addressing transportation needs and improvements.
6. Endorsing regional cooperation.
7. Addressing Community pride/appearance
8. Improving the viability of the EMS system
9. Addressing needs for jail space
10. Continuing to address collection of delinquent taxes.

The Board and staff then agreed to Ms. Akers' suggestion of a "parking lot" of additional needs, and placed the jail space, collection of delinquent taxes, and the community pride/appearance issues on that list as ongoing concerns. The Board also added items concerning support of Blue Ridge Airport and health care resources to that list.

Ms. Akers then asked Board and staff how they could work to move the top priorities forward. She asked for suggestions for each item. The consensus on those items included:

1. NCI
 - a. Lobby legislators for support
 - b. Appoint a small support team of County and City staff to assist with any issues
 - c. Encourage local students to enroll at NCI
2. EDC
 - a. Provide products for sale – sites, buildings, infrastructure
 - b. Provide a good workforce
 - c. Provide adequate funding
 - d. Create a retail emphasis
3. Industrial parks
 - a. Get electrical substation and natural gas for Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre
 - b. Grading and infrastructure improvements for CCBC
 - c. Grade Lot 2 at Patriot Centre
 - d. Develop Bryant property and explore funding partners
4. School facilities and infrastructure
 - a. Work toward approval of pending application for \$6 million in school bonds to be spent on Magna Vista HVAC and various roofing projects

- b. A community discussion of how to replace Collinsville Primary and John Redd Smith Elementary with one new building, and funding options.
- 5. Transportation improvements/build Interstate 73
 - a. Review report on alignment alternatives
 - b. Keep the issue in front of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the legislature, and the federal government.
 - c. Ask the Virginia Department of Transportation to mow each median in the County at least once a year.
- 6. Sustainability of the EMS system
 - a. Address the local match for a new ambulance that may be funded at 80% by a grant.
 - b. Provide additional maintenance for the facility on Hooker Street.
 - c. Address future staffing needs.

After some additional discussion about the various items, Ms. Buchanan thanked Ms. Akers for her help with this year's session.

On a motion by Mr. Kendall and a second by Mr. Bryant, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.