

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

February 28, 2012 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on February 28, 2012, 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 Jim Adams, Vice-Chairman Tommy Slaughter, Debra Buchanan, H.G. Vaughn, Milton Kendall, and Joe Bryant.

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

Lt. Eric Hairston and Deputy Mike Hooper from the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Debbie Hall and Paul Collins of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B99.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Hall gave the invocation and Mr. Bryant led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Adams 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.

Mr. Adams noted an addition to the Items of Consent agenda.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Consideration of Proclamation Establishing March 2012 as "American Red Cross Month" in Henry County

(Copy included in Board's File).

Ms. Buchanan read the proclamation aloud and moved that the Board adopt it as presented, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6-0.

Linette Nuckols from the American Red Cross was present to accept the proclamation.

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- January 24, 2012

- February 7, 2012
- February 20, 2012

Approval of Accounts Payable

(Copy included in Board's File).

Consideration of Resolution in Honor of Opal Hall, General District Court Clerk

Mr. Adams informed the Board that there will be a reception honoring Ms. Hall on March 1 at 5:30 pm in the General District Courtroom for those who wish to attend. (Copy included in Board's File)

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

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Scott Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts. Mr. Grindstaff noted that 88.9% of 2011 personal property taxes have been collected; 89.3% of 2011 real estate taxes; and since the first of January, TACS has collected approximately \$29,000. In addition, Mr. Grindstaff said there are 160 in-house accounts and there were 121 VRW stops collected in February.

Ms. Buchanan revisited why we are not billing for uncollected decal fees. Mr. Grindstaff explained that when someone disposes of an old vehicle and purchases a new one, the old vehicle remains on the records until the next year. In 2011, Mr. Grindstaff said his office billed for 59,000 decals, of which 11,323 decals were not sold; however, 12,566 decals were sold that were not billed.

Mr. Summerlin said there still seems to be a significant difference as the current year budget shows \$930,000 for decal sales which is approximately 46,000 decals; however, DMV records show 62,000 vehicles registered in Henry County. Mr. Summerlin said he realizes that some of those may be utility trailers or similar items that do not require decals but there is still a considerable difference between 46,000 and 62,000. Mr. Grindstaff said the DMV numbers are entered by the Commissioner of the Revenue's office. In addition, Mr. Grindstaff said they average 3,500 vehicle abatements each year which lowers that number. Mr. Grindstaff said he has been working with the IS Department since last month's meeting to try and determine who has not purchased decals based on what was actually billed, but so far they have been unable to ascertain that information. Mr. Summerlin said the revenue for decal sales has continued to decrease each year. Mr. Grindstaff said he will continue to work with IS on the issue and will also try to determine why there is such a difference between DMV and County records. Mr. Vaughn said DMV records may show vehicles that have actually been sold but for some reason have not been removed.

Ms. Buchanan inquired about delinquent meals tax accounts. Mr. Grindstaff said he would provide an update next month.

Mr. Summerlin suggested that Mr. Grindstaff crosscheck his vehicle numbers with public safety since they receive the return to locality funds under the Four-For-Life program for each vehicle registered in Henry County.

PRESENTATION BY JON MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEP, INC.

Mr. Jon Morris, Executive Director of STEP, Inc., was present to update the Board regarding his organization. Mr. Morris distributed an Annual Report (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Morris said STEP offers 23 services for low- to moderate-income families and currently has offices in Rocky Mount and Stuart and plans to expand in Martinsville-Henry County. Mr. Morris said services range from the Head Start program to providing meals to seniors with more than 5,500 people served last year.

DISCUSSION OF LITTER ISSUES IN HENRY COUNTY

Mr. Vaughn requested that this item be placed on the agenda given the recent discussions over Henry County's litter problems. Mr. Vaughn said in past years we have started initiatives to address litter problems but along the way they have lost momentum and fallen by the wayside. Mr. Vaughn said we need to be proactive, prevent the problem and provide for prosecution and punishment. Mr. Vaughn said we need to address the litter issue frequently and make it a monthly agenda item. Mr. Vaughn requested staff to look into the use of surveillance equipment and cameras to target problem areas. In addition, Mr. Vaughn asked the county attorney to determine if a program used by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries could be adapted for use in litter control; whereby numbers on the sides of boats can be reported if boaters are operating in an unsafe manner, suggesting that vehicle license plates may be used to report people who litter.

Ms. Buchanan said that she, Mr. Vaughn, and Mr. Summerlin met with Mr. Reid Young last week to discuss litter issues. Ms. Buchanan said Mr. Young is working to organize a community effort to combat litter and possibly even legislation to assist in litter prevention. Ms. Buchanan said they hope to have a community meeting soon.

Mr. Vaughn said he has also met with Dr. Jared Cotton, school superintendent, about the possibility of incorporating anti-litter campaigns in schools.

Mr. Bryant said he had done some research on how other localities address litter and he would pass that information on to the Board. Mr. Bryant said he serves on the CrimeStoppers Board and there have been discussions about using billboards to send a message that litter is not acceptable.

Mr. Kendall said he agrees with the use of surveillance equipment. Mr. Kendall said litter is one of our biggest problems and probably one of the easiest to fix if everyone gets involved.

Mr. Vaughn said people need to realize that litter not only detracts from economic development but it affects your property values as well.

There was some general discussion about the use of signs to caution litterers that if convicted, they can be fined up to \$2,500 and/or sentenced to a year in jail.

Mr. Slaughter said prosecution of offenders and education in the schools are key components to litter prevention. Mr. Slaughter also asked about the status of Gateway and their possible assistance with litter pick-up.

Mr. Amos reported that Gateway has hired an interim director, Liz Stanley. Mr. Amos said Ms. Stanley will work about 20 hours per week but her main goal will be fundraising due to Gateway's current financial predicament. Mr. Summerlin said he has requested a budget and list of proposed projects from Gateway since the County is their

fiscal agent. Mr. Amos explained that the Clean Community program concentrated on litter and education in the schools but when it merged with Gateway, Gateway's main focus is beautification. Mr. Amos said once Gateway's finances are stable, they need to restore the litter initiative.

Mr. Adams reported that Camp 28 residents will soon begin picking up litter on the Bypass thus freeing up Mr. Amos' work crew to concentrate on other problem areas. Mr. Adams said they also hope to identify other groups that may qualify for roadside cleanup. Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Amos and all parties involved for their part in the anti-litter efforts.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Mark Heath, President of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, was present to make the monthly update to the Board. Mr. Heath reviewed a summary of activities by division (Copy included in Board's File). Mr. Heath said the EDC is working with a total of 28 projects, including 14 active projects.

Mr. Heath said economic development is about more than job creation, it is also about expanding the tax base. Mr. Heath said according to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, out of 135 localities in Virginia, Martinsville-Henry County ranked 13th in the state in new announcements, 10th in new jobs, and 23rd in capital investments over a period from 2006 to present. In addition, Mr. Heath noted that the EDC has returned \$3.3 million to the community through product development, including investment in sites/buildings, welcome signs, etc.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: COMMONWEALTH CROSSING BUSINESS CENTRE GRADING PROJECT

Mr. Summerlin said six bids were received for grading at the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre and the low bid of \$13,737,000 was placed by Blythe Development of Charlotte, NC. Blythe is currently grading Lot 2 in the Patriot Centre. Mr. Summerlin said we are hopeful that grading can begin sometime this spring.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board award the contract for grading at CCBC to Blythe Development of Charlotte, NC in the amount of \$13,737,000, contingent upon receiving all appropriate permits for the project, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS RE: REPLACEMENT VEHICLES FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Summerlin said Sheriff Perry is requesting that the Board award two contracts for the purchase of vehicles, one to Haley Ford – South in Richmond in the amount of \$211,723 for six patrol cars, one van, and one animal control truck; and R.K. Chevrolet, in Virginia Beach, VA for \$31,250 for a Chevrolet Tahoe police SUV. Mr. Summerlin said funding for these vehicles is included in the current budget.

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board award the contracts as outlined, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 6-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Summerlin reminded the Board of the employee service banquet on March 15. Mr. Summerlin noted that the household hazardous waste day will be April 14 from 9-12 at the Henry County Service Center.

CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:08 p.m., seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointee to the Industrial Development Authority and Planning Commission.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Pending Legal Matters.
- 3) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate.
- 4) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Consultation with the County Attorney re: Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.

OPEN MEETING:

The Board returned to an open meeting at 4:43 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded 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. Vaughn, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Kendall, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Adams.

APPOINTMENTS

Industrial Development Authority – Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board reappoint Len Dillon representing the Reed Creek District and Steve Isley, At-large representative to four-year terms expiring March 31, 2016, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

Planning Commission – Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board reappoint Paul Setliff, Ridgeway District; Lawrence Penn, Horsepasture District; and Herman Haley, Reed Creek District, to four-year terms ending March 31, 2016, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried 6-0.

The Board recessed its meeting at 4:45 p.m. until the 5:00 budget work session with the School Board.

BUDGET WORK SESSION WITH THE HENRY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Adams called the Board of Supervisors meeting back to order.

Chairman Kathy Rogers called the School Board meeting to order and thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to hold the joint session. Members of the School Board present were: Chairman Kathy Rogers, Vice Chairman Joseph DeVault, Rudy Law, Francis Zehr, Betsy Mattox, Curtis Millner, and Terri Flanagan. Superintendent Jared Cotton and Chief Financial Officer Dawn Lawson were also present as well as other staff members of the School Board.

Dr. Cotton made a presentation and reviewed the FY 2013 Budget with members of the Board and staff (Copy of Presentation included in Board's File).

Dr. Cotton said assuming level funding from the County, the schools are looking at an estimated \$2.8 million shortfall due to rate increases to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and insurance premiums. Dr. Cotton noted several other budget challenges including unfunded state and federal mandates, loss of stimulus funding, fluctuations in student enrollment, and unpredictable fuel costs. In addition, Dr. Cotton said capital improvements are needed to address safety and security issues but also long term, the need to replace John Redd Smith Elementary School.

Dr. Cotton outlined a three-tier plan to address the budget shortfall which included everything from cuts in purchased services and increasing class sizes to staff reductions and a hiring freeze. Dr. Cotton said the School Board is also hopeful that the County will allow it to keep \$1.74 million in carryover funds for several projects such as replacing roofs at some schools and a new gym floor at Axton Elementary.

Mr. Summerlin said the County is facing similar challenges of increased payments to VRS and insurance premiums. In addition, Mr. Summerlin said he anticipates property values will decrease in the reassessment that will take effect in 2013. Without a tax increase, decreased values will mean decreased revenues.

Ms. Mattox made a motion to adjourn at 5:35 p.m., seconded by Ms. Flanagan and carried unanimously.

Mr. Adams recessed at 5:35 p.m. until the 6:00 evening meeting.

Mr. Adams called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

There was no one present who wished to speak.

PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATHY ROGERS AND THE MINDS IN MOTION TEAM XXL, PIEDMONT ARTS ASSOCIATION

Ms. Barbara Parker, Director of Programs for Piedmont Arts Association, was present to provide an update on activities and educational outreach programs offered by Piedmont Arts. Ms. Parker stated that PAA is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and thanked the Board for its continued support. Also present was Ms. Heidi Pinkston, Education Coordinator. Ms. Pinkston also coordinates Minds in Motion which is a year-long program that teaches fourth grade students discipline, dedication, and self-awareness. Ms. Pinkston said the program is open to all fourth grade students and the theme is always SOL related. Members from the Minds in Motion Team XXL troupe were also present to tell what the program means to them.

Mr. Vaughn said he had the opportunity to meet actor Gary Sinise, who will be performing with his "Lt. Dan Band" on March 31 at Martinsville High School. Mr. Vaughn explained that the proceeds from the concert will benefit Cpl. JB Kerns, an Ararat native and triple amputee veteran. Mr. Vaughn said ticket sales will help build a "smart home" to allow Cpl. Kerns to live independently. Mr. Vaughn said tickets are available from Piedmont Arts and urged everyone to support our troops.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE RESCUE SQUAD ASSOCIATION FOR FY '12-'13 FUNDING

Mr. Stuart Bowman of the Rescue Squad Association was present to address the Board and thanked them for their continued support of the rescue squads. Mr. Bowman said they are requesting that the \$95,000 in capital funding included in the Budget be awarded to the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad to go towards the purchase of a new ambulance. Other funding requests included the continuation of Four-For-Life funds from the state; reinstatement of County funding for radios; increase in training funds equivalent to that of the fire departments; and operational support of \$10,000 per squad.

Mr. Summerlin noted that based on the number of calls assisted by Public Safety career staff and the one-third revenue sharing agreement with the rescue squads, approximately \$170,000 in revenue should have gone back into the volunteer rescue system.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FOR FY '12-'13 FUNDING

Mr. Kiah Cooper, President of the Martinsville-Henry County Firefighters Association, was present to address the Board on FY '12-'13 funding. Mr. Cooper said the association is requesting that the capital improvement funds included in the Budget be awarded to Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department to be used towards the purchase of a new fire truck. Mr. Cooper said the current funding is \$175,000 and the association is requesting consideration of \$200,000. In addition, the association is requesting continuation of the Board's annual contribution which accounts for about one-third of each department's operating budget. Lastly, Mr. Cooper asked the Board to consider reinstating the high school firefighter training program. Mr. Cooper thanked the Board for its support in the past and continued support in the future.

Mr. Bryant questioned why the revenue recovery program could not be used by the fire departments. Mr. Wagoner said there has been discussion but he is only aware of one fire department in Virginia currently billing for service. Mr. Wagoner said it is hard to quantify what a fire department does and many insurance providers refuse to pay. Several fire departments have attempted to bill unsuccessfully and basically said the return on investment was not worth the effort put in. Mr. Wagoner said there is legislation pending making it mandatory for insurance companies to pay a minimum of \$250 to volunteer fire departments for structure fires.

Mr. Kendall thanked all of the volunteers for their dedication and service. Mr. Adams thanked both the Rescue Squad and Firefighters Associations for their presentations and said the Board will certainly consider their requests.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

Ms. Hughes reported that the Six-Year Improvement Plan hearing is scheduled for the March Board meeting and a copy of the proposed plan is provided for review. Ms. Hughes noted two projects, Routes 687 and 650, were fully funded by the Governor's Transportation Package. Ms. Hughes requested that the Board review the remaining projects and make adjustments by priority but stated that the allocation will only be about \$174,000. Ms. Hughes said \$158,000 is this year's allocation which has already been committed to the Preston Road project; additional funding will come from the Governor's Transportation Package. Ms. Hughes pointed out that the \$1.7 million for Route 650 is fully funded by the Governor's Transportation Package and both projects should be under construction by mid to late 2014.

Mr. Summerlin said the Board should give some consideration to adding Barrows Mill Road to the Six-Year Plan. Mr. Summerlin said there are still undeveloped lots in the Patriot Centre and the only access is from Barrows Mill Road (from Nautica Way to Terry's Mountain Road). Ms. Hughes said in order to add a project, you will need to remove an existing project.

Ms. Hughes said the annual spring clean-up will be April 21-22 and asked that the Board promote the event. Ms. Hughes said anyone who is interested should contact her office for bags, vests, and guidelines for trash pick-up. Mr. Vaughn questioned if the scaled back mowing was possibly a deterrent for those who do volunteer due to tall grass/weeds. In addition, Mr. Vaughn said litter seems to accumulate more in the tall grass. While Ms. Hughes said it is possible, she is not really aware of any issues with volunteers.

Mr. Vaughn said he was recently made aware of a litter tax collected by certain types of businesses and questioned where that money goes. Mr. Summerlin said the City, County, and Ridgeway receive about \$16,000 each year from the state which is appropriated to Clean Community/Gateway Streetscape.

Mr. Bryant asked if the County could place "No Littering" signs on state roads. Ms. Hughes said the signs would have to be on private property. Ms. Hughes said "sign clutter" has a negative effect on regulatory signs in place.

Ms. Buchanan asked for an update on the intersection of Route 58 and Carver Road. Ms. Hughes said the flashers should go up this year. Ms. Buchanan also asked

about Routes 683 and 609 in Rangeley. Ms. Hughes said they had reviewed the area again for a signal but the traffic count does not justify one. Ms. Hughes said they had also looked at adjusting the flashers. Ms. Hughes said she would like to lower the grade as you pull out of The Great Road but there are no safety funds available and funding would have to come from the six-year secondary construction money.

Mr. Slaughter inquired about the old bridge on Route 220 South. Ms. Hughes said she would have to look into the matter.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved at 6:48 pm to continue the meeting until March 5, 2012 at 9:30 am, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.