

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

April 5, 2012 – 5:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on April 5, 2012, at 5:00 pm in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a work session on the FY '12-'13 Total County Budget. The following Board members were present: Chairman Jim Adams, Vice Chairman Tommy Slaughter, Debra Buchanan, H. G. Vaughn, Joe Bryant, and Milton Kendall.

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.

Paul Collins of the Martinsville Bulletin was present. Sheriff Lane Perry and Lt. Colonel Steve Eanes of the Sheriff's Office were also present.

Dr. Jared Cotton and Ms. Dawn Lawson of the School Board were present.

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. He stated the meeting is a continuation of its April 3, 2012 meeting.

WORK SESSION ON FY 2012-2013 PROPOSED HENRY COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Summerlin said he will review the budget by category and if the Board has any questions, he will respond. The following categories of the FY '12-'13 Budget were reviewed and discussed:

REVENUES

EXPENDITURES

- General Government Administration
- Judicial Administration
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Health and Welfare
- Education
- Recreation/Culture
- Community Development
- Non-Departmental
- Special Funds
- Capital Improvements

Mr. Bryant requested that the Board reconsider the proposed budget allocation to the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, as recommended by the Rescue Squad Association. Mr. Bryant said the Fieldale-Collinsville Volunteer Rescue Squad was expecting \$95,000 to assist in the purchase of a new ambulance and they were blindsided by the \$11,000 in the proposed budget. Mr. Summerlin explained that the Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad received grants totaling \$142,300 to purchase a new ambulance and based on a recent ambulance purchase by the County, recommended that they receive only \$11,000. Mr. Bryant said the rescue squad had made plans on how to use the funding including the purchase of a quick response vehicle (QRV). However, Mr. Summerlin said Board policy stipulates the funding only be used for the purchase of an ambulance. Mr. Bryant said he was not aware of that policy and it was his understanding that the County has in the past provided capital funding to some rescue squads for expenses. Mr. Summerlin said to his knowledge, the County has never deviated from the policy, though years ago, used to provide no-interest loans to rescue squads. In addition, Mr. Summerlin pointed out that the volunteer rescue squads have received net revenue of \$600,000 from soft billing since the County hired supplemental career staff.

Some general discussion ensued, and several Board members said they could understand the dilemma if the rescue squad had been planning on the funding from the County. Mr. Vaughn suggested that the rescue squad should have been notified in advance and asked County staff to meet with representatives of the Fieldale-Collinsville squad to discuss the \$95,000 funding request.

Mr. Summerlin said when you are facing revenue shortfalls, capital funding is the first place to look for cuts. Mr. Summerlin said various departments and agencies will receive less money than they anticipated in the proposed budget. Mr. Summerlin said in recent years, the Sheriff's Office has only received funding for about half the police cars it requested; the Sheriff's Office asked for 16 new vehicles, but there is only enough funding for eight.

Ms. Buchanan suggested the possibility of using revenues from soft billing to assist Fieldale-Collinsville. Also mentioned was the use of contingency funds. Ms. Buchanan also pointed out that the squad could use the proceeds from the sale of their two surplus emergency vehicles to help offset expenses. Mr. Slaughter said if the Board chooses to give the additional funding to the rescue squad, policy guidelines must also be changed; Mr. Summerlin concurred.

Ms. Buchanan said the long-range assessment of what emergency vehicles are needed should be completed by next fiscal year and she thinks the results will be eye-opening. Mr. Vaughn said hopefully the study will give us updated information necessary to evaluate future needs. Mr. Vaughn said the structure of the EMS system has changed significantly with the implementation of the supplemental staff. Mr. Vaughn said instead of the annual rotation between the five squads, we may need to look at funding based on need, which squads are answering the bulk of the calls and which vehicles have the most mileage.

Mr. Vaughn and the Board commended Mr. Summerlin and staff for their oversight and planning on the budget. Mr. Adams added that the increase in the County's fund balance did not "happen by accident."

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved to adjourn at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.