

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

April 16, 2012 – 7:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on April 16, 2012, at 7:00 pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to hold public hearings on the FY '12-'13 School Budget and Total County Budget. 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.

School Superintendent Dr. Jared Cotton, Chief Financial Officer Dawn Lawson, and several School Board members were present.

Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B99 were present. Also in attendance were Sheriff Lane Perry, Lt. Colonel Steve Eanes, and other members of the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone present and stated there are two public hearings scheduled; the first public hearing is on the FY '12-'13 School Budget and the second public hearing is on the FY '12-'13 Total County Budget. He stated if anyone wishes to address the Board to come to the podium, state your name and the district in which you live. He stated those who wish to speak will agree to exhibit respect to the Board and they would receive the same level of respect.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY '13 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 7:01 pm. The following persons spoke:

- Kathy Rogers, Chairman of the School Board, expressed the School Board's appreciation for level funding and continued support.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 7:03 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY '12-'13 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET

The public hearing was opened at 7:04 pm.

Several individuals were present to address the Board as follows:

- Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director of Virginia Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Dennis Casey, Director of Education for the museum, were present to provide an update on activities and thank the Board for their continued support.
- Mr. Adams noted a letter received from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission thanking the Board for its consideration of support in the FY '13 budget.

Supporters of the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA were present to request that the Board consider fully funding the SPCA's initiative with Henry County Animal Control.

- Joe Grogan, SPCA board member
- Leslie Hervey, Executive Director of the SPCA
- Laura Bowles, SPCA board member
- Julie Hall
- Victoria Foster
- Nicole Cooke
- Speaking in opposition to additional SPCA funding was Mervin Winkler, Collinsville District

Members of the Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad as well as other rescue squads were also present to ask that the Board reconsider the proposed funding of \$11,000 toward the purchase of a new ambulance.

- Clinton McCloskey, Chief of F-C Rescue Squad – Mr. McCloskey proposed that the Board consider funding an additional \$40,000 for a total of \$51,000 to assist with the purchase of an ambulance and quick response vehicle (QRV).
- Stuart Bowman, F-C Rescue Squad board member – Mr. Bowman asked that the Board fully fund the \$95,000 as requested by the Rescue Squad Association.
- Darren Lockridge, Ridgeway Rescue Squad
- Marcus Stone, Bassett Rescue Squad

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:50 pm.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES BEFORE EXHIBITS ARE FINALIZED FOR BUDGET ADOPTION

Mr. Summerlin said at the conclusion of tonight's meeting, staff will need any changes the Board wishes to make to the proposed FY '13 budget, as it will be included in the Board package for adoption at the April 24 meeting and scheduled for appropriation at the May meeting. Mr. Summerlin then updated the Board on several budget-related items.

Virginia Retirement System

Mr. Summerlin said the proposed County budget contains a state-mandated 5% pay adjustment to offset a required a 5% contribution to the Virginia Retirement System by all County employees. Since the budget was prepared, the Governor has offered an amendment allowing the phase-in to occur over five years with an annual 1% pay adjustment and 1% contribution to the retirement system. This was previously approved for school employees; however it required an amendment to allow local governments to phase in the contribution over five years. Phasing in the 1% contribution will result in savings of approximately \$216,947 over five years, so it is recommended that the Board approve the 1% phase-in each year for five years.

Since the budget was presented, the General Assembly Conference Committee also reported on the budget, which is still subject to final approval by the General Assembly. The Conference report mandates a 3% stipend, or bonus, to all state employees and state-supported employees payable in December if certain state revenue projections are met. This would include all the constitutional officers and the Department of Social Services employees.

Extra state revenue should be forthcoming to assist with this requirement for a majority of the employees, leaving the County with the responsibility to consider the balance of the employees. Since this requirement is based on state revenues meeting certain targets which will be determined later, it is recommended that after the County receives all revenue estimates that would affect state-supported local employees and the state revenue estimates are verified to meet the threshold, that the County amend its budget to accommodate this stipend/bonus requirement. There are 229 state-supported employees of the 367 County employees.

School Budget

Finally, it appears the school division will receive approximately \$672,893 in additional state aid than what was projected in the FY '13 Budget. Final numbers will be received from the Department of Education after the General Assembly finalizes the budget process, so a budget amendment will be needed to accommodate this change sometime before the beginning of the new fiscal year. The School Board will need to take action to request the specific categories for the appropriation.

General discussion followed concerning the rescue squad's request for additional funding. Mr. Vaughn said the rescue squads and fire departments are our most valuable volunteer resource and we respect that. However, Mr. Vaughn said considering that the capital improvements program is strictly for the purchase of ambulances and the fact that grants have been obtained to help fund the purchase of an ambulance, the Board should only fund the difference between the actual cost, \$165,800, and the grants, \$142,300. Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board appropriate \$12,500 from the current year Contingency Fund, in addition to the \$11,000 in the proposed FY '13 budget for a total allocation of \$23,500 to the F-C Rescue Squad, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 4-2. Mr. Bryant and Mr. Kendall voted in opposition.

The Board discussed additional funding for the SPCA and Mr. Bryant made a motion to give them \$15,000 from the Contingency Fund. The motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Slaughter suggested that the Board defer a decision until closer to the end

of the current fiscal year so it will have a better idea on the amount of money remaining in the Contingency Fund. The Board was in agreement.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved at 8:40 pm to adjourn its meeting, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.