

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**January 22, 2013 – 3:00 pm**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on January 22, 2013, at 3:00 pm in the Summerlin 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 Tim Hall, County Administrator; Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Administrative Assistant; and Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources.

Deputy Mark Jamison and Lt. Eric Hairston of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Paul Collins of the Martinsville Bulletin, Ron Morris of B99, Kip Wallace of WBTW, and Charles Roark of Cable 18.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Lyle 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. He 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).

- December 18, 2012
- January 2, 2013

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

(Copy included in Board's File).

**Proclamation Establishing February 7-14, 2013 as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" in Henry County**

(Copy included in Board's File).

Mandy Horsley, a local resident and mother of a child with a congenital heart defect, requested the Board to join other state and local organizations in declaring February 7-14, 2013 as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week."

Mr. Bryant moved the Items of Consent be adopted, seconded by Mr. Vaughn. The motion carried 6 to 0.

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC – ALTON FOLEY**

Mr. Alton Foley, Reed Creek District, was present to speak to the Board concerning dog issues, particularly dogs that are chained or tethered for 24 hours per day. Mr. Foley urged the Board to consider making changes to the current ordinance to address this type of cruelty to animals.

### **PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING FEBRUARY 2013 AS "TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH" IN HENRY COUNTY**

Mr. Hall said Citizens Against Family Violence requested the Board declare February 2013 as "Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month" in Henry County.

Ms. Buchanan read the proclamation aloud and moved the Board adopt it as presented, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried. Mitzi Marsh was present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Marsh thanked the Board for its support.

### **REPORT ON AUDIT OF COUNTY ACCOUNTS FY '11-'12**

Mr. Hall said the firm of Creedle, Jones and Alga, P.C., has completed its audit of County accounts for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2012.

Robin Jones of the CPA Firm Creedle, Jones, and Alga presented the FY 2012 Henry County Audit. Ms. Jones said the audit was a "clean opinion" which means there were no findings and no issues of non-compliance. Ms. Jones said the County's "report card" would be an A plus and was determined to be a low-risk auditee.

Mr. Vaughn moved the Board accept the audit report, seconded by Mr. Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO "WATCH FOR CHILDREN" SIGNS**

Mr. Hall said several supervisors have inquired about the possibility of the County taking over the responsibility for installing "Watch for Children" signs since the Virginia Department of Transportation chose to discontinue it. Effective July 1, 2012, the General Assembly amended the state code to provide that the County may install and maintain these signs through a written agreement with VDOT, and that the County will pay for the associated purchase, installation and maintenance costs. The previous process in which the County requested that VDOT acquire and install these signs is no longer an option. Likewise, installation of these signs on behalf of the County is also not

an option. VDOT will continue to maintain the existing signs until they reach the end of their useful life, at which time they may or may not be replaced (at VDOT's discretion).

Mr. Hall said currently, the Planning, Zoning & Inspection Department is responsible for the purchase, installation and maintenance costs of the green County road name signs. Using the same process that is currently used to manage that program, it was determined that the County could provide this service for "Watch for Children" signs for approximately \$300 per sign installation.

Mr. Lee Clark answered some general questions from the Board concerning the process. Mr. Vaughn said he sees numerous problems with the County taking over the "Watch for Children" signs and questions the overall effectiveness of the signs. Mr. Slaughter agreed with Mr. Vaughn and said if the County decides to pay for these signs, there could be repercussions later with numerous other road signs. Mr. Kendall said he does not feel citizens should be required to pay for the signs but he also understands that funding must come from somewhere. Mr. Bryant said while he does not necessarily feel the County should pay for the signs, he does think the County should offer the service to the citizens if they are willing to pay it. Ms. Buchanan pointed out the signs are not enforceable while speed limits signs are.

Mr. Bryant moved the Board table discussion until next month after the Board has more time to review, seconded by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

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

Mr. Scott Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts. Mr. Grindstaff noted that 97.90% of 2011 personal property taxes have been collected; 94.83% of 2011 real estate taxes; and in 2012, TACS collected approximately \$548,000. In addition, Mr. Grindstaff said there are 285 in-house accounts; 15 VRW stops collected in the month of January and 845 in 2012.

Mr. Vaughn asked Mr. Grindstaff if he was aware of the bill currently before the General Assembly that would prohibit localities from selling real property to satisfy delinquent tax debts. Mr. Grindstaff said he was aware of the bill and the different treasurer's associations are in negotiations and plan to speak to delegates next week. Mr. John Rife with TACS was present and responded as well that while it is an effective tool in collections, he has only sold one owner-occupied home in all of the years he has been in business. Mr. Rife said most people make arrangements to pay before it reaches the point of sale.

### **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 13 projects, including 7 active projects.

Mr. Heath presented information for the Board's consideration of a new shell building to be built on Lot 8 in the Patriot Centre. Mr. Heath said while shell buildings do

not guarantee success, they do guarantee much improved prospect traffic when combined with a strong marketing strategy.

Mr. Heath said they would use the same funding format as previously used for shell buildings currently owned by RTI and Commonwealth Laminating. Henry County IDA will be the owner/borrower; EDC will cover architectural/engineering costs and interest and related maintenance costs through one year from completion; County/City share carry costs after first year based on revenue sharing agreement (two-thirds/one-third), estimated at \$75,000 annually; and if the shell building is not sold in five years, the Harvest Foundation will be approached for funding. At this time, Harvest is not a formal partner. Mr. Heath said the estimated cost of construction for the 75,000 sq. ft. building is \$2,625,000 at an interest rate of 2.5%.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion the Board move forward with the shell building contingent on City Council approving the same at its meeting tonight, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 6 to 0.

### **UPDATE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD) – 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

Mr. J.R. Powell, Director of Communications, was present to provide an update on Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), which went into operation in October 2012. Mr. Powell explained that with the EMD service, dispatchers have scripted, medically approved questions to ask callers. The responses to the questions help dispatchers determine the nature and urgency of the problem and the computer system uses the answers to give dispatchers medically approved instructions to relay to the caller. The instructions may be for such things as CPR, choking, delivery and childbirth. Mr. Powell said seconds mean lives and since October, the center has processed just over 4,000 EMD calls. As part of quality assurance, they are required to review 7% of all calls for each dispatcher and the dispatcher is graded monthly. If they fall below a certain level, they are required to do additional training.

Mr. Powell also reported on how the Martinsville-Henry County Communications Center compares to other medium-sized centers. Mr. Powell said he based his information on four criteria: the number of agencies served by the center, national average, 12, Martinsville-Henry County serves 19; the number of services provided, national is seven, local center provides 13; total number of annual calls dispatched, national average is 54,000, local dispatched 84,045 calls in 2012 (received 174,379 calls); and the average number of calls processed annually per dispatcher, national average is 5,200, while the local average was 9,176. Mr. Powell also explained that dispatch centers are assigned sizes based on a formula that incorporates the number of dispatchers at the center, the number of phone lines and the number of people served. He said medium-sized centers have between 14 and 28 dispatchers; Martinsville-Henry County has 19, putting it on the smaller end. Mr. Powell said people from out of state have visited the center and are amazed at how staff handles the workload.

Mr. Hall commended the 9-1-1 Center and said he has had preliminary discussions with the City to possibly address additional staffing needs due to call volume and the extra duties they have undertaken.

## **CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOWING COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Mr. Hall said at the December meeting, the Board approved some additional time off for County employees for the holidays. Since then, staff polled County and PSA employees about remaining with their current list of holidays or switching to the Commonwealth of Virginia's holiday schedule. Mr. Hall said 64.3% of the 154 responders polled indicated they would prefer to follow the Commonwealth's holiday schedule. The Commonwealth's schedule provides for the same number of holidays annually (12) that employees currently receive, but swaps the current days of Easter Monday and Christmas Eve for Washington's Birthday in February and Columbus Day in October. Mr. Hall said in recent years the Governor has also granted a half day off the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and a full day off on Christmas Eve, but those decisions are on a year-by-year basis.

Mr. Kendall made a motion the Board adopt the state's holiday schedule for employees effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried unanimously.

## **AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: ACTUARIAL SERVICES – FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Hall said Finance Director Darrell Jones is requesting that the Board award a contract to the firm of Stanley, Hunt, DuPree & Rhine (SHDR), a division of BB&T, for actuarial and consulting services. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for state and local governments require an annual review of other post employment benefit (OPEB) plans. A complete valuation (commonly known as GASB 45) must be performed at least every other year. The fee is \$10,410.00 in years of full valuation and \$1,870.00 in interim valuation years. The cost of the services will be shared between Henry County, Henry County Public Schools, Henry County Public Service Authority, and the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.

Mr. Bryant moved the Board award a contract to Stanley, Hunt, DuPree & Rhine as outlined, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 6 to 0.

## **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUNDS – CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE**

Mr. Hall said Clerk of Court Vickie Helmstutler is asking the Board to appropriate \$5,950 from the Virginia Technology Trust Funds (TFT) to purchase four public view terminals in the deed room at the Courthouse. The availability of the funds is contingent on collections through May 2013.

Mr. Kendall made a motion the Board approve the additional appropriation as requested, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Comments from the Board**

Mr. Vaughn commented on the opening of the new Northwest True Value Hardware.

Mr. Bryant said he had the opportunity to hear first-hand from a citizen who had recently utilized the new EMD system and how it saved the life of a heart attack victim.

Ms. Buchanan opened discussion on the possibility of expanding a retail division in economic development. Ms. Buchanan said retail sales are the backbone of the economy and a vital part of business. Ms. Buchanan said she feels we can identify market niches that would not impact existing retail business. Ms. Buchanan said she would like to ask the Board to consider working with the City of Martinsville, the EDC, and the Chamber of Commerce, and ask The Harvest Foundation to fund a three to five year pilot program housed at the EDC office.

Mr. Slaughter added he recently had the opportunity to talk with a young attorney who moved here from Portsmouth in 2006. He said the young man praised Martinsville-Henry County as a wonderful place to live and raise a family. He said the people here do not realize what a "gem" they have. Mr. Slaughter agreed with the need to grow retail.

Mr. Hall reminded the Board of the joint meeting with the School Board on January 28. Mr. Hall said we will meet at 3 pm at the Administration Building and ride a bus to John Redd Smith and Magna Vista schools for a tour and then return for a dinner and discussion on school capital improvements.

Mr. Hall also reminded the Board of the planning session on February 5. Mr. Hall said we will plan to meet at the Administration Building around 2:30 pm. We will take a bus to the Commonwealth Laminating facilities for a tour and return to the Administration Building for the remainder of the meeting at which time we will discuss the EMS Study and goals and objectives. Mr. Hall said dinner will be provided and the meeting should conclude by 7 pm.

Mr. Bryant, Mr. Vaughn, and Mr. Kendall voiced their support of Ms. Buchanan's recommendation to explore the retail division as part of economic development. Mr. Heath responded to the Board's request and said the EDC is very interested in retail and has invested in studies in past years.

Mr. Adams said the challenge if the Board chooses to move forward with the retail initiative is to remain committed to the process.

Lt. Hairston introduced Deputies Montrief and Jones who were present as part of their field training requirements.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:51 p.m., seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, Patrick Henry Community College Board, Building Code Board of Appeals, and the Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Board.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Discussion of Pending Legal Matters.
- 3) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Discussion of the Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate.
- 4) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.

### **OPEN MEETING**

The Board returned to an open meeting at 5:47 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried.

### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:**

Mr. Wagoner read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote. Those voting in the affirmative were Mr. Bryant, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Vaughn, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Adams.

Building Code Board of Appeals – Mr. Bryant moved the Board reappoint Charles Bradshaw, Eddie Light, and Larry Wright; and appoint Rodney Clark and Bruce Adkins to four-year terms ending January 31, 2017, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 6 to 0.

Mr. Adams recessed at 5:48 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.

### **PRESENTATION OF 2012 JACK DALTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Mr. Adams said the Board of Supervisors established the Jack Dalton Community Service Award in 2001. The award is presented annually to the Henry County resident who best exemplifies the standards for community service set by the late Mr. Dalton.

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resume of volunteerism and community service and proudly announced that Beatrice “Bea” Bullard is the recipient of the 2012 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Ms. Bullard is a lifelong resident of Fieldale, has been co-chairperson of the Fieldale Heritage Festival since its inception in 2006, a strong supporter of the Fieldale Community Center, and did a lot of work to get Fieldale on the National Registry of Historic Villages. Members of the Board of Supervisors and Ms. Lois Dalton, wife of the late Jack Dalton, then presented Ms. Bullard with a plaque.

Ms. Bullard thanked the Board and everyone present and gave an update on the upcoming Fieldale Heritage Festival.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE HENRY COUNTY LITTER ORDINANCE**

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Perry recently requested the Board consider amending the penalties for the litter ordinance so that the penalties mirror the Virginia statute prohibiting littering. County Attorney George Lyle suggested changes to the litter ordinance to set the minimum fine to \$250.00 for violators.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:10 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:10 pm. Ms. Buchanan moved the Board adopt the proposed ordinance revision, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.

### **MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

### **GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS**

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

Mr. Slaughter requested Ms. Hughes to assess some newly painted center lines on Reed Creek Drive. Mr. Slaughter said the lines near the electrical tower as you come around the curve appear to be about three feet over; if you stay to the right of lines, your vehicle would be off of the right side of the road.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved at 6:13 pm to continue the meeting until January 28, 2013 at 3 pm for a special meeting with the Henry County School Board, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 6 to 0.