

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

April 23, 2013 – 3:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on April 23, 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; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Administrative Assistant; and George Lyle, County Attorney.

Deputy Mike Hooper and Lt. Eric Hairston of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Debbie Hall of the Martinsville Bulletin, Ron Morris of B99, and Kip Wallace of WBTW.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Slaughter 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.

Mr. Tyler Millner asked to address the Board although he was not on the agenda. Mr. Adams explained to Mr. Millner he would have an opportunity to address the Board at the 6 p.m. meeting, which includes a time for public comments.

ITEMS OF CONSENT:

Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings

(Copy included in Board's File).

- March 26, 2013
- April 2, 2013
- April 4, 2013
- April 15, 2013

Approval of Accounts Payable

(Copy included in Board's File).

Resolution Establishing May 3, 2013 as "Fire and Rescue Volunteer Appreciation Day" in Henry County

(Copy included in Board's File).

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

PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING MAY 15, 2013 AS "NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY" IN HENRY COUNTY

Mr. Slaughter read aloud a proclamation designating May 15, 2013 as "National Police Officers Memorial Day" in Henry County and moved the Board adopt it as presented, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried 6 to 0.

Mr. Hall said the Henry County Sheriff's Office and the City of Martinsville are working on an event for that day and as soon as staff has the details, that information will be passed on to the Board.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. RICHARD S. PERREN

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution recognizing the service of Dr. Richard S. Perren who served Henry County as the Operational Medical Director for the volunteer rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety since 2009 before his recent resignation. Ms. Buchanan made a motion the Board adopt it as presented, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried. Dr. Perren was not present.

ADOPTION OF THE FY 2013-14 HENRY COUNTY BUDGET

Tax Rates

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board adopt the following tax rates for FY '14, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0:

- Real Estate - \$.488 per \$100 assessed value
- Personal Property and Machinery and Tools - \$1.48 per \$100 of assessed value for personal property, including motor vehicles, and \$1.48 per \$100 of assessed value for machinery and tools/business equipment.
- Personal Property Tax Relief - The effective reimbursement rate for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act on a qualifying vehicle is 49 percent.

School Budget

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board adopt the proposed budget for school expenditures for FY 2014 by category as summarized in Exhibits A and B, subject to the state, federal, and local funds becoming available as estimated, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

Mr. Kendall said Tyler Millner had contacted him before the meeting and requested that the Board consider postponing the adoption of the School Budget. As stated earlier by Mr. Hall, state law requires school boards to adopt their budgets by May 1 each year. Mr. Vaughn added that the School Board adopted their budget on April 22.

Total Budget

Mr. Bryant moved that the Board adopt the proposed FY 2014 Budget for fiscal planning purposes as summarized in Exhibits A and B, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 6 to 0.

Amendments to FY '13 Budget

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board approve the amendments to the FY 2013 County Budget as outlined in the appropriation sheet, with unexpended items carried over to the FY 2014 budget, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Scott Grindstaff was not present at today's meeting but his monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts were included in the Board's working papers.

Mr. John Rife with Taxing Authority Consulting Services was present to provide an update on delinquent tax collections. Mr. Rife said they have a publication set to go out for the sale of 50 properties valued at approximately \$250,000. Mr. Rife said they continue to aggressively pursue personal property collections and placed about 150 DMV stops in the past two months.

At Mr. Hall's request, Mr. Rife also provided an update on TACS local office which opened earlier this year in Martinsville. Mr. Rife said they hired four employees initially, have plans to hire three more in the next month, and hopefully three additional employees by fall of the year. Mr. Rife said they have been extremely pleased with the caliber of applicants they have met with.

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 12 projects, including 5 active projects.

Mr. Heath said several states have sought to recruit firearm/ammunition manufacturing companies away from states that are enacting stricter gun control legislation in the wake of recent large-scale shootings. Mr. Heath said the EDC staff has been aggressive in contacting 53 companies and have heard back from four. He said the companies are taking a wait and see approach before relocating. Mr. Heath said future marketing of the area to those companies will be done in partnership with the state.

Mr. Bryant asked Mr. Heath to look into the possibility of the EDC participating in the monthly uptown car shows. Mr. Heath said the EDC has been involved in the car shows in the past and he has asked Jennifer Doss to explore how we may support the event regularly.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: FOUR-4-LIFE FUNDS – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall said Henry County is receiving \$53,147.12 from the Commonwealth's Four-for-Life, return-to-localities fund. The funds must be used for emergency medical services training, supplies, and/or equipment. In the past, the funds were distributed equally between the five county rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety for ambulance operations; each entity would receive \$8,857.85 from this year's allocation.

Mr. Bryant moved the Board appropriate the funds equally between each rescue squad and the Department of Public Safety, seconded by Mr. Vaughn and carried 6 to 0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: HARVEST FOUNDATION GRANT – GATEWAY STREETScape

Mr. Hall said Lizz Stanley, Executive Director of Gateway Streetscape, is asking the Board to accept and appropriate a grant of \$10,000 from the Harvest Foundation to be used for its anti-litter efforts.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion the Board accept and appropriate the grant from the Harvest Foundation, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ASSET FORFEITURE – COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Bob Bushnell is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$1,400.00 from his asset forfeiture fund to his travel expenses line item to cover travel expenses for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Buchanan moved the Board approve the additional appropriation as outlined, seconded by Mr. Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

TRANSFER APPROPRIATION RE: ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall said the School Board is requesting approval of an additional appropriation of \$435,234. Based on revised projections from the State Department of Education, Henry County will receive an additional \$338,811 of State funding above and beyond what was included in the FY '13. Mr. Hall said there are also additional funds from the sale of school buses and reimbursed transportation costs. Dr. Cotton indicates that \$70,000 will be used to purchase a special education bus recently totaled in an accident; \$10,000 for vehicle repair supplies; and \$355,234 for the purchase of iPads and Mac Books.

Mr. Adams had several questions of Ms. Janet Copenhaver concerning the schools' iPad initiative including how many iPads the school system currently has and the number it plans to purchase with the additional funds. Ms. Copenhaver said they currently have over 4,000 iPads with students in grades three through five each having an iPad with their English, social studies, math, and soon to be science textbooks preloaded. Ms. Copenhaver said there are classroom sets in grades pre-K through second, sixth through 12th, and all career and technical classes. Ms. Copenhaver said the classroom sets consist of 25-30 iPads which the teacher checks out as needed. Ms. Copenhaver said the purchase of additional iPads will extend the one-to-one program to students through sixth grade. Ms. Copenhaver said the school system receives a minimal discount for purchases in increments of 10 and carries insurance on the iPads for grades three through six. Ms. Copenhaver said they really do not experience that many damaged iPads or failure of students to return. Ms. Copenhaver said the additional funds will purchase approximately 570 iPads/cases.

Mr. Adams asked if the additional state funds are earmarked for specific purposes. Dr. Cotton said the funds can be used at the School Board's discretion.

Ms. Buchanan inquired about the expected life span of an iPad. Ms. Copenhaver said they are going into the fourth year but they really do not know. Ms. Copenhaver said they feel replacement of current iPads should begin soon.

Mr. Vaughn asked if there is an estimate of savings using the iPads vs. textbooks. Ms. Copenhaver said the cost is about the same.

Mr. Adams asked if the School Board would have purchased the additional technology had it not received additional funding. Dr. Cotton said the purchases are on a prioritized list of items that are bought as funds become available and would not have been considered had the school system not received the additional funding from the state.

Mr. Adams asked Dr. Cotton where the School Resource Officers (SROs) stand on that list in terms of priority and if the School Board considered using part of the additional \$522,008 to hire SROs. Dr. Cotton said school security is a priority, but without the funds needed to pay for the positions in upcoming years, the additional positions likely would not be considered. Dr. Cotton said regardless of how this plays out, we are going to continue conversations about the SROs with the Sheriff's Office and safety will remain a priority.

Mr. Bryant said his concern is the public perception that the Board does not want to provide funding for the SROs, a sentiment shared by other Board members as well. Ms. Buchanan said it is a misconception to say that we did not fund the SRO positions; we fund the total school budget request and it is up to the School Board to spend the funds as it sees fit.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: INSURANCE PROCEEDS – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hall said Roger Adams is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$6,227 from an insurance reimbursement for storm damage to a shelter at Fisher Farm Park. The funds will be used to make necessary repairs to the shelter.

Ms. Buchanan moved the Board approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Vaughn said school security is a growing budget issue for localities across the Commonwealth and nation and he is hopeful as discussions evolve, funding will become available through grants or other resources. Board members echoed Mr. Vaughn's comments and expressed their concerns on school security.

Ms. Buchanan reminded the Board of the Fieldale Heritage Festival on May 17.

Mr. Hall reminded the Board of the fire/rescue appreciation dinner and games on May 3-4. Mr. Hall asked the Board to inform staff if you plan to attend either event.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:04 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 Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Community Policy and Management Team, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, and Southside Community Action 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 5:29 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Ms. Buchanan 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.

Tax Refund Settlement – Mr. Slaughter moved to authorize the County Administrator to appropriate up to \$263,000 from the uncommitted fund balance and issue tax refunds to settle cases (CL10000516, CL12000493, CL12000494,

CL12000495) pending in Henry County Circuit Court, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried 6 to 0.

Consideration of Change in Assessment Cycle

Mr. Vaughn said he received a call from one of his constituents, Barbara McCraw, concerning her real estate reassessment. Mr. Vaughn said Ms. McCraw addressed the Board a couple of months ago and she is requesting the Board to consider going to a two-year assessment period.

Mr. Hall explained that an assessment basically takes two years to complete and moving to a two-year assessment would probably necessitate additional staff. Mr. Lyle also said typically localities that follow the two-year cycle or even a one-year period are areas in a high growth region trying to capture a more accurate tax base which is not the case in Henry County. Mr. Vaughn said he is not interested in changing to a two-year assessment period but told Ms. McCraw he would present the idea to the Board for their consideration. Other Board members agreed they did not wish to change to a two-year cycle.

Mr. Adams recessed at 5:36 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.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-13-01 – SUSAN S. ADKINS

Mr. Lee Clark said the property is located at 15 Clearfield Road in the Collinsville District and is shown on Tax Map 30.8(7)/9,10. The applicant is requesting the rezoning from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The property was formerly the location of a three-space manufactured home park which was removed a number of years ago. Now the applicant wishes to place a double wide manufactured home on the property with a permanent foundation. Following a public hearing, both the Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:03 pm. There being no one present who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 6:03 pm. Mr. Bryant moved the Board approve the rezoning request as outlined, seconded by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

Ms. Hughes distributed a draft of the Secondary Roads Six-Year Plan and Construction Budget for the Board's review. Ms. Hughes said the public hearing is scheduled for the May 28 meeting.

Ms. Hughes reported on several projects:

- Pedestrian flashers, crosswalk, and handicap ramps at Bassett Library and Historical Center scheduled to be advertised May 31
- Route 174 & 609 – creating left turn lane in both directions
- Koehler Road and US 220 - waiting on deed of easement from Bojangles
- Wheeler Avenue – upgrading signals

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved to adjourn at 6:09 pm, seconded by Ms. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.