

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

**Annual Planning Session
February 6, 2014 – 2:45 pm**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its annual planning session on February 6, 2014 at 2:45 pm at the Henry County Administration Building. Prior to the start of the meeting, members of the Board of Supervisors and several members of County staff traveled to and toured Bassett Furniture Industries and PHCC Motorsports in the Patriot Centre Business Park.

The following Board members were present: H. G. Vaughn Chairman; Tommy Slaughter, Vice Chairman; Debra Buchanan, Jim Adams, Joe Bryant and Milton Kendall.

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; and Rodney Howell, Director of Public Safety.

Also present was Ben Williams of the Martinsville Bulletin.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2013 COUNTY AUDIT – ROBIN JONES, CREEDLE, JONES & ALGA

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, 2013.

Robin Jones of the CPA Firm Creedle, Jones, and Alga presented the FY 2013 Henry County Audit. Ms. Jones said during the course of the audit, it was determined there is an opportunity for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency, specifically with regards to timely payment and submission of invoices as well as the timeliness of making and posting deposits.

Debra Buchanan moved the Board accept the audit report, seconded by Milton Kendall and carried 6 to 0.

CONSIDERATION OF BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Mr. Hall presented a performance agreement between the County of Henry, the Industrial Development Authority and Bassett Furniture Industries for consideration.

The IDA approved the agreement on February 4, 2014. In exchange for investing \$1.5 million dollars and creating 25 new jobs, Bassett Furniture Industries will be eligible for state and local grants totaling \$125,000.

On a motion by Joe Bryant and seconded by Milton Kendall, the Board unanimously approved the performance agreement with Bassett Furniture Industries. A copy of the agreement is included in the file.

CONSIDERATION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL GUARD FOR PATRIOT CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT AND AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: PROJECT DESIGN

Mr. Hall detailed how Henry County applied for and was successful in obtaining an Innovative Readiness Training grant with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. An agreement with the Army National Guard will allow them to rough grade the remainder of Beaver Creek Drive to Barrows Mill Road and Lots 11 and 14 in the Patriot Centre Industrial Park. The National Guard will deploy resources in May for this project. The IDA will be responsible for some of the costs such as engineering design, timber clearing, geotechnical study, erosion and sediment installation and construction materials. Because the National Guard is providing manpower and equipment, the total cost will be significantly less than if the IDA hired a firm to do all of the work.

On a motion by Milton Kendall and seconded by Tommy Slaughter, the Board unanimously authorized the County Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Army National Guard for the project. A copy of the MOU is included in the file.

Additionally, on a motion by Jim Adams and seconded by Debra Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved a contract of approximately \$196,000 to Wiley & Wilson for engineering and design work for the project.

REVIEW OF CURRENT YEAR BUDGET

Mr. Hall presented a brief review of the general fund balance. In the year ending June 30, 2013, the total general fund balance increased to \$28,974,361. The unassigned portion of the fund balance has increased to \$18,459,968, up from \$17,599,959. Mr. Hall presented a chart illustrating Henry County has the 3rd lowest taxes per capita in Virginia. Only Lee and Nottoway Counties have a lower tax burden. Henry County has the 9th lowest debt per capita in Virginia.

A copy of the presentation is included in the file.

REVIEW OF BOARD'S 2013-14

Mr. Hall reviewed the Board's priorities from last year's planning session, and the progress made on those goals. The report included:

- Economic Growth
 - Lot 2 at the Patriot Centre has been graded and currently being marketed
 - Construction is underway of a new shell building on Lot 8 at the Patriot Centre
 - Cautiously optimistic about permitting at Commonwealth Crossing
 - New Jobs and Investments
 - Monogram Foods – 100 jobs, \$1.2 million
 - Commonwealth Laminating – 60 jobs, \$5.45 million
 - Eastman – 25 jobs, \$40 million
 - Bassett Furniture – 25 jobs, \$1.5 million
 - Kilgour Industries – 155 jobs, \$27.3 million
 - Retail Development
 - Building permits for 8 new commercial buildings valued at \$1.5 million
 - Building permits for 43 commercial renovation/expansion valued at \$4.1 million
 - Dollar General/Family Dollar growth
 - Ribbon cutting for Tractor Supply on February 15, 11 a.m.
 - Eco-tourism
 - Marina near completion
 - Open House on February 16, 2-4 p.m.
 - Smith River Fest – Over 2,400 attendees from 14 states
 - Smith River Sports Complex
 - Significant use of trails and river access points
- Raise Education Levels
 - Collinsville Primary and John Redd Smith Schools
 - Proposal by School Officials
 - “New Tech” program at Magna Vista
 - Support New College Institute
 - New building set to open in 2014
 - Collaborating on economic development/workforce readiness
 - Support Patrick Henry Community College
 - Collaborating on economic development/workforce readiness
 - Firefighter and EMT programs (dual enrollment)
- Public Safety
 - Fire & EMS
 - Committee formed and work is on-going
 - Consensus CIP for fire departments
 - SAFER grant (13 new career positions)
 - Will be able to add an additional crew and supervisor - 24/7

- Provide additional fire dept. assistance
 - Firefighter and EMT to be offered to high schools with a dual enrollment agreement with PHCC
- Economic solutions for jail overcrowding – no progress
- School security – on-going
- Improving community appearance / litter issues
 - Inmate litter program
 - Picked up 5,745 bags of garbage from roadway in 2013
 - 134 bags more than in 2012
 - Volunteer efforts
 - Gateway Streetscape, DRBA, Trout Unlimited, etc.
 - Sponsor Gardens
 - Harvest Foundation sponsored our first near City hydroelectric plant

FISCAL PREVIEW OF FY'15 BUDGET

Mr. Hall gave a brief presentation of what to expect as the FY '15 budget is developed. Issues presented included revenues projections, possible legislation, school issues, employee retirement issues, garbage disposal costs, healthcare costs, and capital improvement needs.

PRIORITIES FOR 2014-15

The Board and staff divided into two groups each to discuss and develop a list of priorities for the upcoming year. Each group presented its discussion to the entire group of participants. Priorities discussed for 2014 include:

Economic Development

- Begin grading at Commonwealth Crossing Business Park
- Support the EDC, including efforts of industry recruitment, retail recruitment, and tourism.
- Support I-73 and completion of U.S. 58 to I-77
- Further develop infrastructure at Patriot Centre and CCBC

Education

- Support NCI & PHCC and continue collaboration on industrial recruitment and workforce readiness efforts
- Develop a path forward to address school facility needs in Collinsville
- Support pre-K-12th grade education

Public Safety

- Improve recruitment and retention of fire and EMS volunteers
- Deploy SAFER grant and improve overall response to fire and EMS calls
- Explore ways to improve jail facility

Quality of Life

- Support recreational activities including expansion of walking trails
- Improve curb appeal
- Decrease litter
- Support recreational tourism (SRSC, Smith River Fest, etc).
- Mitigate possible deterioration of employee benefits

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.