

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

April 14, 2014 – 7:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on April 14, 2014, at 7:00 pm in the Summerlin 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 '14-'15 School Budget and Total County Budget. The following Board members were present: Chairman H. G. Vaughn, Debra Buchanan, Jim Adams, Joe Bryant and Milton Kendall. Vice Chairman Tommy Slaughter was absent due to an illness.

Staff members present were Tim Hall, County Administrator; Dale Wagoner, 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.

Ben Williams of the Martinsville Bulletin was present. Also in attendance were Lt. Troy Easter and Deputy Mike Hooper of the Sheriff's Office.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Hall gave the invocation and Ms. Buchanan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Vaughn 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 '14-'15 School Budget and the second public hearing is on the FY '14-'15 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 '14-'15 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Vaughn opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm.

School Board members speaking were Chairman Dr. Joseph DeVault and Curtis Millner. Also present to address the Board was Dorothy Carter, President of the Henry County Education Association. Each urged the Board to consider fully funding the School Board's request, citing the funds are critical to meet the needs of the students' education, safety in the schools, and unfunded state mandates.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:16 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY '14-'15 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET

Before opening the public hearing, Mr. Vaughn explained there is no money left in the current year contingency fund; therefore, any significant additional funding either would have to be taken from another budget item or new revenues would have to be identified.

Mr. Vaughn opened the public hearing was opened at 7:16 pm.

Eva Doss, President of The Launch Place (formerly Southside Business Technology), made an appeal to the Board to reinstate funding for her organization. Ms. Doss said that since opening in 2005, Henry County has contributed roughly \$35,000 in funding, which has allowed The Launch Place to leverage \$813,522 in grant funding. Ms. Doss said receiving no grant funding from the County will make it difficult for the organization to continue obtaining many of the state and local grants it has received in previous years.

Others who spoke at the public hearing included Rick Ward, Director of Blue Ridge Regional Library; Dr. Mark Crabtree, President of Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation; Kathy Rogers, Executive Director of Piedmont Arts Association; Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History; and Nicole Harris, Executive Director of the Martinsville-Henry County SPCA, all of whom thanked the Board for their support.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:44 pm.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES

Mr. Hall said at the conclusion of tonight's meeting, staff will need any changes the Board wishes to make to the proposed FY '15 budget, as it will be included in the Board package for adoption at the April 22 meeting and scheduled for appropriation at the May meeting. Mr. Hall said any changes the Board wishes to make to the current FY '14 Budget may be done any time prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Vaughn asked Board members for comments and suggestions on the FY '15 Budget. There was some general discussion and all Board members commended staff for their diligence in preparing a well-balanced budget with no tax increases. Board members agreed they would like to see more funding for the schools but the only option would be to take money from the Fund Balance which is not recommended for recurring expenses.

After continued discussion, the Board made only one change to the proposed FY '14-'15 Total County Budget. On a motion by Mr. Adams and seconded by Ms.

Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved an allocation of \$500 to The Launch Place to be appropriated from the Contingency Fund.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved at 8:07 pm to adjourn its meeting, seconded by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.