

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

April 14, 2008 – 7:00 pm

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held a meeting on April 14, 2008, 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 '08-'09 School Budget and Total County Budget. The following Board members were present: Chairman Jim Adams, Vice Chairman H. G. Vaughn, Debra Buchanan, Paula Burnette, Jim McMillian and Tommy Slaughter.

Staff members present were Benny Summerlin, County Administrator; Tim Hall, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Susan Biege, Administrative Assistant; Jimmie Wright, Director of Accounting; Darrell Jones, Assistant Director of Accounting; and Mrs. Susan Reynolds, Human Resources/Public Information Director.

Mickey Powell of the Martinsville Bulletin was present.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Major Steve Eanes, Sergeant Eric Hairston and Lieutenant Nelson Thomas were present from the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Adams welcomed everyone present. Before calling the meeting to order, the Board held a moment of silence in honor of the victims and families who lost loved ones in the tragedy one year ago on April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech. Mr. Lyle then gave the invocation.

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order which was a continuation of the Board's April 10, 2008 meeting. He stated there are two public hearings scheduled with the first public

hearing on the FY '09 School Budget and following is the public hearing on the FY '09 Total County Budget.

Mr. Adams stated if anyone wishes to address the Board to come to the podium and state your name and the district in which you live. He noted those wishing to speak will agree to exhibit respect to the Board and they also would receive the same level of respect. He asked that comments be kept to three to five minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY '08 SCHOOL BUDGET:

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 7:04 pm. The following persons spoke and expressed basically some of the same concerns regarding the School Budget being fully funded by Henry County. Concerns discussed were continuing accreditation of schools, student/teacher ratios, competitive teacher salaries, encouraging economic growth, and no programs being cut. Another concern discussed was that bus drivers, janitors, cafeteria workers and teacher's aides are not covered under Henry County's Healthcare Plan.

- Kathy Rogers, Chairman, School Board-Collinsville District
- Susan Crews – Horsepasture District
- Kathy Byrd, Co-President of the Henry County Education Association – Ridgeway District
- Tim Durham – Ridgeway District
- Sally Rogers, Principal at Sanville Elementary
- Tameia Easley – Collinsville District
- Leigh Eden – Business Owner in Henry County
- Teresa Nichols – Horsepasture District
- Paige Wilkinson – Pleasant Grove Community
- Desiree Childress – Henry County Resident
- Sharon Quigg – Ridgeway District
- Yvonne Pack – Henry County School Bus Driver
- Genelle Brown – Horsepasture District

- Kenny Lovelace – Collinsville District
- Alton Foley – Collinsville District

There being no further comments on the FY '09 School Budget the public hearing was closed at 7:37 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY '09 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET:

The public hearing was opened at 7:38 pm.

Mr. Chris Cousins a representative of the Southside Business Technology Center, on behalf of Ms. Eva Doss, Executive Director, expressed SBTC's sincere thanks to the Board of Supervisors for its leadership and support.

Mr. Dick Ephgrave, Executive Director of the Longwood University Small Business Development Center, thanked the Board for its financial support over the past eleven years; however for the past two years their funding requested has been cut in half. He asked the Board to consider reinstating full funding of \$10,000 to the Longwood Small Business Development Center.

There being no one else present to speak on the FY '09 County Budget the public hearing was closed at 7:43 pm.

Chairman Adams on behalf of the Board thanked each speaker for their comments.

Mr. Summerlin reminded the Board that the budget calendar previously adopted provides for adoption of the School and Total County Budget at its April 29th meeting. He stated before the Board adjourns its meeting tonight staff would need indication of any changes to the proposed budget.

Mr. Vaughn noted that the Board of Supervisors fully funded the School Budget in 1996, which included \$1,000,000 out of the County's surplus funds for the laptop program. He

stated the Board of Supervisors fully understands the importance of education; unfortunately, Henry County has taken a hit for several years and also on a national level. He said it is especially tough this year because the County has no idea how many more hits it's going to take.

Mrs. Buchanan stated as she listened to the comments tonight, most were of the same opinion; everyone wants to see the best for their children and the best education possible. She stated fully funding the School budget is not going to be the answer for all the problems. She stated the County is going through tough times and the Board has tried to balance the budget without a tax increase. She stated on behalf of the Board it will do the best it can with the finances and resources available.

Mrs. Burnette stated after hearing comments there probably should be some points of clarification regarding funding from the State for SOL's. She stated those funds come through the County and back to the schools as a direct pass through. She stated as far as the additional \$440,000 requested in the School budget, she did not know where those funds would come from. She stated next year funding is going to be worse and would ask for everyone's patience. She stated what's included in the budget is the best the County can do at this point with what they have to work with.

Mr. Slaughter stated he appreciated the dedication of employees in law enforcement, school teachers, public works, and other government employees. In the County Administrator's preparation of the budget he felt it was fair with what staff had to work with. He stated this year is tough but next year will be even tougher.

Mr. Adams stated he had confidence in the School Board and its administrative staff to work within the confines of what has been proposed. He stated the School Board and staff had always done a great job and he attributed a lot of the hard work to its teachers and support units. The Board of

Supervisors is trying to fund and support education, one of the most important concerns in the community; however, at the same time the Board is also trying to be considerate and supportive of other important offices such as Social Services, Constitutional Officers, etc. Mr. Adams noted that several comments were made during the public hearing regarding school bus drivers having no health insurance. He stated that would be a policy decision of the School Board, and perhaps the School Board could look into that issue further.

Mrs. Burnette stated another issue the Board of Supervisors would not be able to determine is if the Board could fund the \$440,000 that's not being funded. It would be up to the School Board as to what category those funds would be placed.

Mrs. Buchanan stated the lottery was also mentioned along with State funding, which the Board of Supervisors has no jurisdiction over.

Mr. Adams asked if there were any comments on the Total County Budget. The Board had no comments.

Mr. Vaughn moved that the Board direct the County Administrator to proceed with the FY '09 Total County Budget as presented, second by Mrs. Burnette and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. McMillian moved at 8:05 pm to adjourn, second by Mrs. Buchanan and unanimously carried.