

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

February 24, 2015 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on February 24, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The following Board members were present: Chairman H.G. Vaughn, Vice-Chairman Jim Adams, Debra Buchanan, Tommy Slaughter, 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; County Attorney George Lyle; Susan Reynolds, Director of Human Resources; and Michelle Via, Administrative Assistant.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Vaughn 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 p.m. 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 p.m. 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

- January 21, 2015
- January 27, 2015
- February 2, 2015

Approval of Accounts Payable

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.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Scott Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts. Mr. Grindstaff noted that 90.4% of 2014 personal property taxes have been collected; 89.02% of 2014 real estate taxes; and since January 1, TACS collected approximately \$82,722. Mr. Grindstaff said tangible property forms have been mailed and decals are now on sale. Lastly, Mr. Grindstaff reported that the initial advertisement for the next real estate sale should be in the next week or so. Mr. Grindstaff said there are around 70 to 80 parcels that will be advertised.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Mark Heath, President and CEO 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).

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CARRYOVER OF FY '14 FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

School Superintendent Dr. Jared Cotton and the County Administrator requested the Board to approve a carryover amount of \$1,615,583 from the schools' FY 2014 Budget. Mr. Hall said the largest portion of the carryover, \$864,408, would go toward the continuing upgrades at Basset High School. Mr. Hall said the remaining balance would be used for one-time stipends for School Board and County employees. Mr. Hall said the County stipends, if approved, would take \$190,500 of the carryover amount; and the School Board stipends, if approved, would take \$560,675.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Kendall, the Board unanimously approved the carryover request as outlined.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: RESPONSE VEHICLE – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall said Henry County has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF). The funds must be used toward 50% of the costs to replace a response vehicle being used by the supplemental EMS staff. Mr. Rodney Howell is asking the Board to approve the necessary appropriations for the grant and match, and to award a contract to Jim Mills Auto in the amount of \$31,627 for the 2015 Dodge Durango SSV.

Mr. Hall said revenue generated from EMS soft billing continues to exceed the FY '15 budget amount. Part of this increase can be attributed to the fact that the number of calls handled by the EMS supplemental staff continues to increase. Because of the increased number of responses, operating expenses are also expected to exceed FY '15 budgeted funds for fuel and vehicle repairs.

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation totaling \$56,000 from the EMS soft billing revenue to match the grant (\$20,000) and cover anticipated fuel (\$23,000) and vehicle repairs (\$13,000) for the remainder of the year.

On a motion by Mr. Kendall and second by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously approved the various appropriations as outlined, including the grant of \$20,000 and \$56,000 from EMS billing revenue; and awarded a contract to Jim Mills Auto in the amount of \$31,627 for a new Dodge Durango.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Kendall discussed the need for residents to clearly mark their home addresses to ensure prompt assistance in the event of an emergency. Mr. Hall said he and Mr. Kendall had discussed the issue and had come up with a few ideas. Mr. Hall said Sheriff's deputies and other county employees who are frequently on the road are asked to take note of areas where address numbers are not clearly marked and report those to the 911 Center. Mr. Hall said staff can also address the issue through social media as well as a media campaign.

Mr. Hall noted the Fast Track Trade Show March 3-4; VIP night is March 3. Mr. Hall reminded the Board of the joint meeting with the School Board on March 5 at 4 p.m. Mr. Hall said the employee appreciation dinner is scheduled March 26 and will be held at NCI this year; formal invitations will be forthcoming.

Mr. Wagoner said he recently attended a meeting for Virginia local government leaders in Staunton at which many of the speakers spoke specifically about Henry County when citing examples of good economic decision making in southwest Virginia. One of several examples Mr. Wagoner offered was that of former Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, who said that looking back at his time in office, he was most proud of the economic progress he was a part of in southern Virginia. Mr. Wagoner added that several people attending the meeting asked him how they could replicate some of Henry County's initiatives, for example, the paid supplemental EMS staff and the extensive use of iPads in County schools.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:30 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.
- 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 5:18 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. Adams, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Vaughn.

Industrial Development Authority – On a motion by Mr. Kendall and second by Mr. Bryant, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Marshall Stowe and Barry Helmstutler to four-year terms ending March 31, 2019.

Fieldale Community Center Lease – Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board authorize the County Administrator to terminate the lease with the Fieldale Community Center, seek a new tenant and negotiate a lease for the community center building, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

There being no further action, Mr. Vaughn recessed at 5:20 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

Mr. Vaughn called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Dorothy Carter of the Reed Creek District thanked the Board on behalf of the Henry County Education Association for approving carryover funds to be used to provide one-time bonuses for school employees and additional improvements to Bassett High School. Ms. Carter also commended the Board for its continuing fiscal responsibility and urged them to consider funding the school system's full budget request in next year's County budget.

Skip Ressel of the Iriswood District and president of the Martinsville-Henry County I-73 Committee was present to address the Board concerning \$8.5 million in funds that has long has been earmarked for preliminary engineering of the planned interstate near Martinsville. Mr. Ressel said we would to get started with preliminary engineering on I-73 and the eventual purchase of the right-of-way at the interchange at the Patriot Centre headed toward Laurel Park interchange, and also include the interchange at Clover Road.

Following Mr. Ressel's comments, Mr. Kendall said he has been concerned that this money may eventually go away and feels the Board needs to take action. Mr. Kendall made a motion to direct the County Administrator to write a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on behalf of the Board asking CTB to use those earmarked funds to begin preliminary engineering work on I-73 between Patriot Centre and U.S. 220 South as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, will address the Board on general highway matters. Ms. Hughes said depending on the

weather, the safety project to improve an intersection on Carver Road is scheduled to begin March 2. In addition, the bridge on College Drive is scheduled for repair and will be closed for up to 45 days.

UPDATE ON THE BENNY SUMMERLIN SCHOLARSHIP

April Haynes, Executive Director of the Martinsville Area Community Foundation, was present to provide an update on the Benny Summerlin Scholarship Fund. Ms. Haynes said the scholarship was started in August 2012 and this will be the second year the scholarship is awarded to a student seeking a college degree with an interest in a public service career. Last year, Kolton Helbert received a \$1,000 scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University, where he is studying criminal justice with plans to become a Virginia state trooper. Ms. Haynes said the scholarship application is available online at www.martinsvilleareacommunityfoundation.org and has a deadline of April 1. Ms. Haynes thanked the Board and County employees for their support of the scholarship fund.

PRESENTATION OF 2014 JACK DALTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Adams said the Jack Dalton Community Service Award is presented annually to the Henry County resident who best exemplifies the standards for community service set by the late Mr. Dalton, who served on the Board for more than 24 years.

Mr. Adams proudly announced that J. Smith Chaney, Jr. is the recipient of the 2014 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Mr. Adams said in 2014 alone, Mr. Chaney served as treasurer of the Kiwanis Club; on the board of directors for the Martinsville Area Community Foundation; as a moderator for the Presbytery of the Peaks board of trustees; on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity, and also built houses for the organization; on the executive board for the Blue Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America; as treasurer for the Patrick Henry Community College board of directors; as a board member of the MARC Workshop; and as secretary to the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation board. Also in 2014, Mr. Chaney volunteered to provide computer support and building maintenance to Piedmont Arts Association; volunteered to provide building maintenance to the First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, where he also is part of the choir, praise band and hand bell choir; and volunteered to provide computer support for the Grace Network. In addition, Mr. Adams said Mr. Chaney is a founding member of the Smith River Singers, plays trombone for the M-City Jazz Ensemble and acts and serves as technical director for the Wesley Senior Theater.

Members of the Board and Ms. Lois Dalton, wife of the late Jack Dalton, then presented Mr. Chaney with a plaque.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to continue the meeting to March 5, 2015 at 4 p.m. for a joint meeting with the School Board, seconded by Mr. Bryant and carried 6 to 0.