

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

November 24, 2015 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on November 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.

Deputy Brian Lawson of the Sheriff's Office was present. Also present was Ben Williams of the Martinsville Bulletin and Ron Morris of B99.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Hall gave the invocation and Mr. Kendall 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

- October 27, 2015

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File

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

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT TOTAL ACTION FOR PROGRESS (TAP)

Mr. Rick Sheets, Director of Energy Conservation and Housing Rehabilitation for Total Action for Progress (TAP) was present to update the Board on activities at the organization. TAP is the designated indoor plumbing and rehabilitation administrator for Henry County. Mr. Sheets said that over the past year, TAP spent \$86,700 to rehabilitate several county homes. (Handout included in Board's File)

CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS FOR REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Mr. Hall said each year the West Piedmont Regional Economic Development District compiles an updated *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*. Mr. Hall said the document must contain a list of prioritized projects and the WPPDC annually requests that each locality submit its proposed future projects. It is essential that all projects the Board will consider within the next year be included in the CEDS because only projects on the list are eligible for EDA funding. Mr. Hall said it also is recommended that projects that may be funded from other sources be included in order to give the County maximum flexibility in the management of its resources.

Mr. Hall said County and PSA staff developed a proposed list of projects for the Board's consideration. Including a project in the CEDS does not commit the County to undertake the project. It is simply a listing of potential projects from which EDA representatives choose for investment of federal funds in this district. If EDA invites the County to submit an application for a specific project from the list, the Board would then be required to commit the local funds necessary for implementation.

Mr. Kendall moved the Board approve the proposed CEDS list, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Scott Grindstaff reviewed the monthly reports on delinquent tax collection efforts. Mr. Grindstaff noted that 97.15% of 2014 personal property taxes have been collected; 94.35% of 2014 real estate taxes; and since January 1, TACS collected approximately \$827,331; and 130 new DMV stops were placed in October.

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). Mr. Heath noted the Philpott Marina was recently named the

Best New Recreational Facility in Virginia by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS). In addition, Mr. Heath showed a promotional video designed by the EDC for Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre and Faneuil.

CONSIDERATION OF 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Hall said each year staff and the Board construct a legislative agenda of items we would like for the General Assembly to consider. Mr. Hall said new areas of focus on the agenda include the construction of Interstate 73; jail funding; legislation allowing magistrates to obtain criminal history reports in order to lessen the burden on the 911 center; legislation to prohibit “penny auction” businesses or similar attempts at establishing illegal gambling operations in the Commonwealth; and stormwater management.

Ms. Buchanan moved that the completion of Route 58 be added to the agenda and forwarded to our representatives, second by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried.

UPDATE ON FINANCING OPTIONS FOR NEW COLLINSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITY – DAVID ROSE, DAVENPORT & COMPANY, LLC

David Rose with Davenport & Company was present to provide an update on the process of financing the new Collinsville District elementary school. Mr. Rose said his firm distributed a Request for Proposals (RFP) on November 6 for the purchase of the Lease Revenue Bond being issued on behalf of the County by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). The funds will provide a portion of the funding required for construction of the new elementary school. Mr. Rose said only two lenders responded – Carter Bank and Trust of Martinsville and American National Bank of Danville – with Carter Bank and Trust offering the slightly better deal. Mr. Rose said Carter Bank and Trust will offer up to \$10 million in an approximately 20 year loan with a fixed interest rate of 2.5 percent. Mr. Rose added that the loan would be pre-payable at any time without penalty, and with no additional bank closing costs. Mr. Rose said the County would not have received such an attractive proposal if Carter Bank did not feel that the County is in good financial shape. (Handout included in Board’s File)

On a motion by Mr. Adams and second by Ms. Buchanan, the Board moved to schedule a public hearing regarding the financing options for the December 15 meeting.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ANIMAL TRANSPORT BOXES – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Perry is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$6,352. The funds will be used toward the purchase of two animal transport boxes for the Animal Control division of the Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Hall said the boxes are necessary to meet requirements as set forth by the

Commonwealth of Virginia. Adequate funding was not included in the current operating budget. Staff recommends appropriating the additional needed funds in the amount of \$6,352 from the Board's contingency fund.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Kendall, the Board unanimously approved appropriating \$6,352 from the Board's contingency fund for the purchase of two animal control boxes.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: SALARY INCREASES – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall said the School Board is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$385,095 received from the Commonwealth as part of the 1.5% salary incentive increase for all funded SOQ instructional and support positions in fiscal year 2016. Additional funds needed for the salary increases will come from existing school funds.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and second by Mr. Kendall, the Board unanimously approved the additional appropriation of \$385,095.

REQUEST FOR CARRYOVER FY'15 COUNTY FUNDS

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to approve committed carryover funds from the FY'15 budget year to the current FY'16 budget. Mr. Hall said a list of carryover items by cost center was provided in the Board's working papers. Items on the carryover list are committed items encumbered or obligated from the prior budget year but the item was not received or the service was not performed prior to June 30. It also includes unexpended grant funds that may have been awarded in the prior fiscal year and other commitments not completed prior to June 30. This year's carryover request totals \$28,755,040.31, including interfund transfers of \$7,267,762.52.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: HOME ELECTRONIC MONITORING – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Perry is asking the Board to appropriate \$18,000 of revenue generated from the Home Electronic Monitoring (HEM) program to the expenditure line item of the same program to cover operating expenses to the end of the fiscal year.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Adams, the Board unanimously approved the additional appropriation as requested.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SMITH RIVER SMALL TOWNS BUSINESS DISTRICT REVITALIZATION BOARD

Mr. Hall said staff is requesting the establishment of the Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization Board to implement the Smith River Small Towns CDBG Project. Duties of the board shall include, at a minimum: preparation and implementation of the program design, review and approval of applications, review contractor bids and recommendation of contract awards. Mr. Hall said appointed members shall serve for the duration of the project.

On a motion by Mr. Kendall and second by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved establishment of the Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization Board.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Adams said the Martinsville Speedway will hold its Annual Christmas Toy Drive on December 12 with all proceeds and toys going to Grace Network for distribution to those in need in our community. Mr. Adams also commented on the generosity of County employees through the Employee Activities Committee (EAC) annual "Bear Tree" which provides gifts and care packages to families in need during the holiday season.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, Mr. Adams thanked Mr. Vaughn for his 16 years of service and commitment to the County and its citizens. Mr. Adams said Mr. Vaughn should take pride in knowing he has been an important part in Henry County's success. We want you to know, more than anything, that you are truly appreciated and you will be missed. Mr. Vaughn received a standing ovation and was presented with a gift basket and a plaque by Mr. Hall. Mr. Vaughn jokingly said this was not on his agenda and thanked everyone for their kind sentiments. Mr. Vaughn said serving the County has been a rewarding experience and afforded him the opportunity to meet thousands of people that he would not have had the chance to meet were it not for this job.

Mr. Vaughn said that he and the Mayor of Martinsville presented a proclamation to Ricky "Big Bird" Holcomb at the Christmas parade recognizing his years of dedication in organizing the annual toy drive.

Mr. Hall reminded the Board of the roundtable meeting with legislative members scheduled for December 21 at NCI from 5-7 p.m. Also, Mr. Hall reminded Board members that the December meeting is December 15 due to the holidays. Mr. Hall noted that County/PSA offices would be closed from noon Wednesday through Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Hall said if anyone would like to submit suggestions for the naming of the new Collinsville District school, they may do so on the school's website through December 4. Lastly, Mr. Hall said that he recently attended the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) convention in Williamsburg along with Dr. Cotton and other members of the School Board. Mr. Hall said that he and Dr. Cotton gave a presentation on

the collaborative nature of the local governing body and the school division. Mr. Hall said the event and the reaction to it just reinforced that we have a great working relationship here.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Adams and unanimously carried to discuss the following.

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Public Service Authority, Anchor Commission, Patriot Centre Advisory Board and Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization 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 5:40 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Adams 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.

Anchor Commission – On a motion by Mr. Kendall and second by Mr. Bryant, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Erin Jenkins to an unexpired term ending December 31, 2018.

Patriot Centre Advisory Board – On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and second by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved reappointing Hal Prillaman, Richard Hall, Terry Cundiff, Nubby Coleman, and Gary Gibson to a two-year term ending December 31, 2017.

Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization Board – On a motion by Mr. Adams and second by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously appointed William Bennett, Lee Clark, Tim Hall, Tommy Slaughter and Debra Buchanan to the newly formed board for a term that lasts the duration of the project.

There being no further action, Mr. Vaughn recessed at 5:42 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

Mr. Vaughn welcomed everyone to the 6 p.m. meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN HORSEPASTURE DISTRICT

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution concerning possible safety upgrades at the intersection of Dillons Fork Road and The Great Road. On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved the resolution and requested staff to send it to VDOT for its consideration.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Mr. David Kiser, Assistant Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on several general highway matters. Mr. Kiser said he would pass along the resolution regarding safety improvements at the intersection of Dillons Fork and The Great roads to have an updated study done. Mr. Kiser said the resolution passed last month concerning safety improvements on Route 220 South, at the intersection with Lee Ford Camp Road and Church Street in Ridgeway has been submitted for an updated study as well.

Board members requested Mr. Kiser to follow-up on a number of issues including mowing; complaints of roughness on the newly resealed road on Route 57 near Pittsylvania County line; completion of striping on 220 Bypass; removal of plastic barrier on Route 58 West since safety project is complete; and street sweeper along Route 220 Collinsville corridor, Bassett, and new Fieldale Bridge.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-15-05 – THOMAS L. JAMES

Mr. Lee Clark said the property is located at 4009 Fairystone Park Highway in the Blackberry District. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of this property from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. Mr. Clark said the applicant wishes to open an automobile sales lot on this property. Mr. Clark said following a public hearing, both the Planning Commission and staff recommended that the rezoning request be denied, based on the zoning's inconsistency with other uses that exist in the immediate area.

Mr. Vaughn opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Members of the public who spoke included Glenda Stone, John Pegram, Susan Hodges, Bassett Library Branch Manager Karen Barley, Ruby Davis, and Jose Ramos. With the exception of Mr. Ramos, the speakers were all opposed to the rezoning request citing concerns that a car lot would not fit with the mostly residential surroundings of the corridor; increased traffic on a two-lane road with no left-hand turning lane; and the work and funds already expended to beautify the area by the County, residents, and the Greater Bassett Area Community. Mr. Ramos said the County is in need of new business and urged the Board to consider approving the rezoning request. Mr. Vaughn closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Mr. Adams asked if there was any other zoning classification considered by the Planning Commission. Mr. Clark said the Commission would have been willing to rezone the lot to a lesser commercial classification which allows for office and professional buildings; however, the B-1 classification necessary to operate the car lot would also open the property to a variety of much higher-intensity uses in the future.

Mr. Adams moved the Board deny the rezoning request as recommended by the Planning Commission, second by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-15-06 – HERBERT E. AND DEBBIE R. CLARK

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 1805 River Road in the Horsepasture District. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3.7-acres from Industrial District I-1 to Suburban Residential District S-R. The applicant wishes to construct a new home on this property. Mr. Clark said both the Planning Commission and staff recommend approval of the rezoning request.

Mr. Vaughn opened the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. There was no one present who wished to speak. Mr. Vaughn closed the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Adams, the Board voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request as outlined.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Craig O'Der, Mayor of Ridgeway, was present to honor Mr. Vaughn for his dedicated service to the citizens of Henry County. Mayor O'Der presented Mr. Vaughn with a key to the Town of Ridgeway.

Several individuals spoke concerning proposed changes to the distribution formula for Four-for-Life Funds. Darren Lockridge, Ridgeway District Volunteer Rescue Squad President and Vice-President of the Henry County Rescue Squad Association, asked the Board to leave the equal distribution of funds as-is but said he was not opposed to implementing a deadline to expend the funds. Also speaking in favor of leaving the equal distribution formula in place were Melissa Hubbard, Horsepasture Volunteer Rescue Squad; and Jessica James with the Axton Life-Saving Crew.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA FOR FOUR-FOR-LIFE FUNDS – PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety Director Matt Tatum said following discussion at the July and August meetings, the Board directed staff to encourage the volunteer rescue squads to spend the funds or risk losing them. Mr. Tatum recommended a change that would allocate the funds based on the number of responses by each agency. Mr. Tatum said the main issue is some of the squads are using the funds as a savings account rather than saving the funds generated by soft billing, which

are not ear-marked for specific uses and cannot potentially be revoked by the state.

Following some discussion, Mr. Bryant moved the Board leave the equal distribution formula as-is but implement a January 31 deadline for spending the Four-for-Life funds, second by Mr. Kendall and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved to adjourn at 6:54 p.m., seconded by Mr. Slaughter and carried 6 to 0.