

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES**

**December 17, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on December 17, 2019, 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: Jim Adams, Chairman, Debra Buchanan, Vice-Chairman, Joe Bryant, David Martin, Tommy Slaughter, and Ryan Zehr.

Staff members present were Tim Hall, County Administrator; Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; George Lyle, County Attorney; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources/Public Information Officer; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Deputy Nicole Dunn, Captain Wayne Davis, and Lt. Steve Raines of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Kim Meeks of the Martinsville Bulletin and Brandon Martin of Henry County Enterprise.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. Slaughter led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence before the invocation for respect and honor of the Bradshaw family and others who have recently passed.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. 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 22, 2019
- November 13, 2019

**Approval of Accounts Payable**

Copy included in Board's File.

**Consideration of Resolution Regarding Fiscal Impact Legislation**

Copy included in Board's File.

Mr. Bryant moved the Items of Consent be approved, seconded by Dr. Martin. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESENTATION OF FY 2019 AUDIT- CREEDLE, JONES, AND ALGA**

Kim Jackson with Creedle, Jones, and Alga, P.C., presented its audit of County accounts for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019. Ms. Jackson said Henry County received an unmodified clean report with no audit findings. However, the firm did note one instance of noncompliance in the Commissioner of Revenue's Office where there was no management approval of tax abatements. The County's total general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$96,467,976, and the unassigned balance was \$27,797,559. On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously recommended acceptance of the Audit of County Accounts for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019.

### **PRESENTATION BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DESIGNATING HENRY COUNTY AS A STORMREADY COMMUNITY**

Mr. Phil Hysell of the National Weather Service made a presentation designating Henry County as a *StormReady* community. *StormReady* is a community preparedness program that encourages government entities to prepare for severe storms. Mr. Hysell presented Matt Tatum, Public Safety Director and J.R. Powell, Director of Martinsville-Henry County 911 Center with certificates of appreciation for their work.

### **REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS**

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 93.48% of 2018 personal property taxes and 95.32% of 2018 real estate taxes have been collected. Since January 1, 2019 TACS has collected approximately \$1,226,028.04. There were thirty-two VRW stops collected in November 2019 and fifteen stops collected in December 2019.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS – CENSUS 2020**

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds of \$10,000 received from The Harvest Foundation for the purpose of promoting participation in the 2020 census. Population totals from the census have a significant impact on future funding for our communities. The grant will allow Henry County to collaborate with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the City of Martinsville in encouraging residents to complete the 2020 census.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appropriation of \$10,000 for the Census 2020 project.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS – DICK & WILLIE PASSAGE TRAIL SECTION 6A**

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds received from the Harvest Foundation in the amount of \$320,600 for planning, designing, and engineering Section 6A of the Dick & Willie Passage Trail. This section of the multi-use trail will extend from the end of the trail near Mulberry Creek to the trailhead on Spruce Street. Once this section is complete, the Dick & Willie Passage Trail will be over 10.5 miles of continuous paved trail.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously approved the additional appropriation in the amount of \$320,600 as requested.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: STATE ASSET FORFEITURE – COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

Mr. Hall said Commonwealth’s Attorney Andrew Nester is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$2,066 from State Asset Forfeiture funds. The funds will be used to purchase a new computer and associated software and to hire Land Records Research, LLC to perform a title search.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved the additional appropriation State Asset Forfeiture funds in the amount of \$2,066.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT – SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Mr. Hall said the Sheriff’s Office has been awarded an FY2019 State Homeland Security Program grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in the amount of \$196,106 for the purchase of a mobile elevated surveillance platform. The grant does not require a local match. Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to appropriate the grant funds and award a contract in the amount of \$196,106 to Safeware, Inc. for the purchase of the platform. The pricing is based on U.S. Communities cooperative contract #4400008468.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the additional appropriation of \$196,106 and the award of contract in the same amount to Safeware, Inc. for the purchase of an elevated surveillance platform.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLE – SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to award a contract to R K Chevrolet, Inc. in the amount of \$29,494 for the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Truck. The new vehicle will be assigned to the Animal Control Division. Pricing is based on the Virginia Sheriff’s Association Vehicle Procurement Program, specification #20-03-0925. Funding for this purchase is included in the FY2020 budget.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved awarding the contract to R K Chevrolet in the amount of \$29,494 for a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Truck.

**AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: AMBULANCE RE-CHASSIS – PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Hall said Public Safety Director Matt Tatum is asking the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$139,915 to Vest Sales and Service, Inc. of Check, VA for the re-chassis of an existing ambulance module to a new 2020 Dodge chassis. In addition, Mr. Tatum is asking for the Board to approve Vest Sales and Services

as the sole source vendor for this work. Additional information is outlined in Mr. Tatum's memorandum attached. Funding for this item is included in the capital improvements budget.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved awarding the sole-source contract for an ambulance re-chassis in the amount of \$139,915 to Vest Sales and Services, Inc.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RE: ADOPTION OF THE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

Mr. Hall said Public Safety Director Matt Tatum is requesting the Board adopt the resolution regarding the County's Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is required by state law to be updated by the end of the year. The plan has been updated to reflect changes recommended by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and other best practices.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the proposed resolution adopting the plan.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF DATE AND TIME FOR 2019 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Mr. Hall said the Board of Supervisors is required to have an organizational meeting at or soon after the first of the year. During this meeting, the Board will set its meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year and elect a chairman and vice-chairman. County offices are closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously selected the date and time of January 2, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. for the 2020 Organizational Meeting.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF FY 2020-21 BUDGET CALENDAR**

Mr. Hall said a proposed calendar for preparation of the FY 2020-21 County Budget was included in the Board's working papers. The calendar provides for preparation, adoption, and appropriation of the budget in accordance with the deadlines provided in the *Code of Virginia*.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously adopted the budget calendar for the FY 2020-2021 County Budget.

#### **UPDATE ON THE PLANS FOR A COUNTY FAIR – PARKS AND RECREATION**

Roger Adams, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided an update on the plans for a County Fair in 2021 and revealed the logo that will be used to help "brand" the event.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF RE-DEVELOPMENT OF FORMER JOHN REDD SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Hall said John Redd Smith Elementary School was closed after the completion of the 2017-18 academic year. Since then staff has worked with various community partners on a plan to redevelop the facility. This work has included discussions with our school system on conveying ownership of the

building to Henry County; meeting with partners in the community on possible future use; and meeting with Virginia Department of Transportation officials on issues such as road abandonment, future road alignments, etc.

Staff would like to see if the facility can be redeveloped into mixed-use and/or residential use, which would help us address the ongoing shortage of suitable workforce housing in the community. This process would begin with issuing a Request for Proposals for any developers to indicate their interest, simultaneously with getting a deed of the property from the School Board to the County and with putting into place the process for abandoning some state-maintained roadway within the parcel.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the School Board's request that the County take ownership of the parcel, dependent on the School Board's conveyance of the deed on the property, and authorizing the County Administrator to execute the deed and authorized staff to move forward with a Request for Proposals for redevelopment of the property, contingent on the deed being finalized.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Comments from the Board**

Mr. Zehr wished the county staff and employees Happy Holidays and New Year and to enjoy their time off.

Mr. Bryant wished the same as Mr. Zehr.

Mr. Slaughter said the Fraternal Order of Police had their children's Christmas shopping day on December 14<sup>th</sup> and was very touching.

Mr. Adams requested that the Board consider authorizing County offices to close on December 23<sup>rd</sup> for Christmas and a half-day on December 31<sup>st</sup> for New Years. On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved December 23<sup>rd</sup> and a half-day early dismissal on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Hall said an updated personnel directory draft was uploaded to the Board's iPad for review and to expect action to approve at the January Board meeting. The unemployment rate held at 2.9% in October. The county flag has been lowered through December 19<sup>th</sup> in memory of the Bradshaw family. The EAC distributed food and gifts to children and senior citizens in the area on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **CLOSED MEETING**

Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:46 p.m., seconded by Mr. Slaughter and unanimously carried to discuss the following:

- 1) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board and Piedmont Regional Community Services Board.
- 2) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Discussion of Pending Legal Matters.
- 3) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.

## **OPEN MEETING**

The Board returned to an open meeting at 5:03 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.

Board members voting in the affirmative were Mr. Adams, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Buchanan, Dr. Martin, Mr. Zehr, and Mr. Slaughter.

Mr. Adams recessed at 5:04 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

Mr. Adams welcomed everyone to the 6:00 p.m. meeting. Mr. Adams welcomed Boy Scout Troup 167 and the Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS**

David Kiser, Assistant Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters.

## **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR ELECTRICAL OFFICIALS**

Jennifer Ashworth, Circuit Court Clerk, and Rita Shropshire, Secretary of the Electoral Board were present to participate in the Swearing-In Ceremony for those placed in office in the November 5 election. This includes:

- *Board of Supervisors*
  - Debra Parsons Buchanan, Horsepasture District
  - Tommy J. Slaughter, Reed Creek District
  - Ryan F. Zehr, Ridgeway District
  
- *School Board*
  - Terri C. Flanagan, Horsepasture District, absent
  - Teddy Doyle Martin II, Reed Creek District, absent
  - Francis E. Zehr, Ridgeway District
  - Cherie Joyce Whitlow, At-Large
  
- *Commonwealth's Attorney* - M. Andrew Nester
  
- *Sheriff* - Lane A. Perry
  
- *Commissioner of Revenue* - Linda N. Love
  
- *Treasurer* – Scott B. Grindstaff
  
- *Soil and Water Conservation Directors*
  - R. Darryl Holland, Blue Ridge District

- Andrew L. Barker, Blue Ridge District

**MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bryant moved to adjourn at 6:23 p.m., seconded by Mr. Zehr and unanimously carried.