

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

May 26, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on May 26, 2020, 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, Tommy Slaughter, David Martin, and Ryan Zehr.

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

Sheriff Lane Perry and Lt. Col. Steve Eanes of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present was Brandon Martin of the Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Slaughter gave the invocation, and Ms. Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

- April 28, 2020
- May 18, 2020

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COVID-19 GRANT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$48,233 received from the United States Department of Justice's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. The Sheriff

has indicated he will use the funds to procure personnel protective equipment, teleconference equipment, and sanitizing equipment.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved appropriating the grant funds of \$48,233 to assist the Sheriff's Office in managing the COVID-19 pandemic locally.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATING RE: HARVEST FOUNDATION GRANT – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall said Public Safety Director Matt Tatum is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 received from the Harvest Foundation. Mr. Tatum has indicated the funds will be used to assist with the purchase of a disinfecting system to use at the jail, in ambulances, and other County facilities.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved appropriating the grant funds of \$10,000 to assist Public Safety in managing the COVID-19 pandemic locally.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CATEGORICAL TRANSFER – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall said the School Board is asking the Board of Supervisors to approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$750,000 from the Administration, Attendance and Health, Pupil Transportation, and Facilities Categories to the Instruction Category. According to documents provided by the School Board, the funds are needed to help with year-end purchases and ongoing budgetary needs.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the categorical transfer in the amount of \$750,000.

CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT EXTENSION WITH HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS REGARDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS/ANNUAL CARRYOVER

Mr. Hall said the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Henry County School Board executed an agreement in 2017 regarding the automatic distribution of any carryover funds realized by the School board at the end of a fiscal year. That agreement allowed the School Board to automatically keep up to \$500,000 of any carryover funds, as identified in the County audits, for Fiscal Years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. Any funds between \$500,000 and \$1 million would automatically stay with the County, and carryover funds in excess of \$1 million would be split evenly between the School Board and the County. Attached is a new agreement that would leave this policy in place through Fiscal Year 2023-24 (Copy included in Board file).

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved the resolution as presented, contingent upon approval by the School Board.

ADOPTION OF THE FY 2020-2021 HENRY COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Hall said the Board is scheduled to set the tax rates and adopt the budget today. The appropriation of the budget is scheduled for June 23, 2020.

Tax Rates

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously adopted the following tax rates for FY 2021:

- Real Estate - \$.555 per \$100 assessed value
- Personal Property and Machinery and Tools - \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed value for personal property, including motor vehicles, and \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed value for machinery and tools/business equipment.
- Personal Property Tax Relief - The effective reimbursement rate for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act on a qualifying vehicle is 41.12 percent.
- Motor Vehicle License Fee: Cars - \$20.75, Motorcycles - \$12.00, and Trailers - \$12.00.

School Budget

Dr. Martin moved that the Board adopt the proposed budget for school expenditures for FY 2021 by category as summarized in Exhibits A and B, subject to the state, federal, and local funds becoming available as estimated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and it unanimously carried. (Exhibits included in Board's File).

Total Budget

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board adopt the proposed FY 2021 Budget for fiscal planning purposes as summarized in Exhibits A and B. It was seconded by Mr. Slaughter and it unanimously carried. (Exhibits included in Board File).

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES SURROUNDING THE MAY 24, 2020 STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Mr. Hall said because of the impact from significant rainfall, the County Administrator declared a State of Emergency in Henry County on Sunday, May 24, 2020, as allowed under Sec. 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia. As part of that process, the governing body of the locality must take official action to authorize that declaration. These actions must take place at the governing body's next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special called meeting within 14 days of the declaration.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the proclamation affirming declaration of the emergency. (Copy included in Board file).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Dr. Martin thanked the County staff for their continuing efforts, often exceeding expectations, during the response to the on-going pandemic and recent flooding events.

Mr. Bryant thanked the County Fire and EMS volunteers for their tremendous response and efforts.

Ms. Buchanan discussed allowing the volunteer Fire & EMS agencies to receive funding from the FY21 budget before the required audit reports from the agencies are completed. The pandemic has prevented the agencies from hold fundraisers and the funds would help with their ongoing expenses. By consensus, the Board directed Mr. Hall to send a letter to Fire and EMS agencies notifying them partial funding may be provided prior to completion of the departmental audit reports if department can provide proof the audit is forthcoming. Ms. Buchanan asked Matt Tatum to update the Board on Fire and EMS appreciation event and annual awards. Mr. Tatum said the dinner was cancelled due to Coronavirus, but individual awards would be presented to the individuals.

Mr. Slaughter thanked the volunteers and wanted staff to let them know how much they mean to the Board and the community.

Mr. Hall updated the Board on the impact that the Coronavirus has had on sales, lodging, and food tax revenues. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) is projecting economic recovery during the 3rd quarter of 2020. Mr. Hall presented the most recent unemployment rates: National-19.6%, State-14.8%, and Southern Virginia-16.9%. Henry County will receive money through a Federal CARES Act Grant. More clarification on how the money can spent will be needed before this grant money can be allocated. Per Executive Order #63 issued by Governor Ralph Northam, all employees in government building must wear a mask while at work effective May 29, 2020. Executive Order #63 also requires patrons of brick-and-mortar commercial establishments and public buildings to wear a mask or face covering. Enforcement is to be managed by the Health Department, not law enforcement.

CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:35 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Zehr and the motion unanimously carried to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Parks and Recreation Board, Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board, Economic Development Corporation, Patrick-Henry Community College Board, Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, and Southern Area Agency on Aging Board.
- B) §2.2-3711(A)7 for Discussion of Pending Legal Matters.

C) §2.2-3711(A)3 for Discussion of Acquisition/Disposal of Real Estate

D) §2.2-3711(A)5 for Discussion of As-Yet Unannounced Industries.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 4:55 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Hall 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, Mr. Zehr, Dr. Martin, and Mr. Slaughter.

Parks and Recreation Board - On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointments of Mervin L. Brown, Jr., Iriswood District; and Scott Prillaman, Reed Creek District to three-year terms ending June 30, 2023.

Economic Development Corporation – On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Gracie Agnew to a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.

Patrick Henry Community College Board – On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Gary Collins to a four-year term ending June 30, 2024, and the appointments of Monica Hatchett, and Wayne Moore to four-year terms ending June 30, 2024.

Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board– On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Lillian Holland to a four-year term ending May 31, 2024.

Piedmont Regional Community Services Board– On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Eric Hairston to a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 5:01 p.m., seconded by Ms. Buchanan and unanimously carried.