

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

August 25, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on August 25, 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.

Steve Eanes, Lt. Brian Lawson, Deputy Nicole Dunn, and Deputy Jeff Jones 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. Zehr 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 the 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.

- July 28, 2020

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

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

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 92.90% of 2019 personal property taxes and 94.43% of 2019 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2020, TACS has collected approximately \$550,130.41. There were 13 VRW stops collected in July 2020 and nine stops collected in August 2020.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Mark Heath, President/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).

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: AMBULANCE – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall said Public Safety Director Matt Tatum is asking the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$249,330 to Vest's Sales and Service, Inc. for a new ambulance. The ambulance will improve staff's ability to respond and treat patients experiencing symptoms of COVID19. Vest's Sales and Service has been approved as a sole source vendor for County ambulances. Staff is recommending that coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds are used for this purchase. The ambulance will be delivered prior to December 30, 2020.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved awarding a contract to Vest's Sales and Service, Inc. in the amount of \$249,330 for a new ambulance.

CONSIDERATION OF PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS WITH DRAKE EXTRUSION AND APPLIED FELTS/FERRATEX SOLUTIONS

Mr. Hall said because of the ongoing pandemic response, economic development announcements have transitioned from the regular in-person announcement to the issuance of press releases from the Governor's Office. Two companies located in Henry County – Drake Extrusion and Applied Felts/Ferratex Solutions – announced expansions earlier this year via this new method. The Board of Supervisors is being asked to approve the performance agreements for each of these expansions formally. The Henry County Industrial Development Authority also will consider the approval of these documents.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved the Performance Agreements, pending approval by the Industrial Development Authority.

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES SURROUNDING THE AUGUST 21, 2020 LOCAL DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

County Administrator Tim Hall declared a local state of emergency in response to the significant flooding occurring in the County, 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 and, when appropriate, to declare the emergency to be over. Attached is the official declaration of the emergency, a resolution declaring it to have been in force and now closed, and a copy of the Code of Virginia outlining the process (Copy included in Board's File).

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the official declaration of the emergency and the proclamation of the Board of Supervisors declaring the emergency to be over.

CARES ACT REPORT

Mr. Hall updated the Board on several items the County has used CARES Act funds to purchase. Mr. Hall said CARES Act funds may be used to cover compensation of public safety and law enforcement personnel responding and mitigating COVID-19. The County is proposing to pay up to \$3 per each hour worked from March 1 thru August 31 for these employees. Employees must be employed by Henry County on September 1 to get the extra pay. The estimated cost is about \$500,000. Mr. Hall indicated he would like to consider doing a second hazard duty supplement from September 1 to December 30 (deadline to have CARES Act money spent). No other County employees can be paid from CARES Act money; however, we would like the Board's approval to consider doing something similar for this group of employees from the regular County budget. We will approach the PSA Board of Directors for similar actions for PSA employees (Copy included in Board's File).

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved authorizing the expenditure of CARES Act funds for the payment of a hazard duty supplement to County EMS and law enforcement personnel, up to \$3 per hour per qualifying employee, for COVID-related work hours between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. Qualifying personnel must be employed by Henry County on September 1, 2020, to receive the supplement.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved directing staff to work on a plan to provide additional compensation to County employees not included in the hazard duty supplement and to bring that to the Board at a future date for consideration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Dr. Martin updated the Board on the outcome of talks between Comcast and the School Board. Comcast has a program to provide low-cost internet to families that cannot afford it if services are available in the area. If Comcast services are not available in the area, Comcast will provide the closest hotspots location to the student.

Mr. Bryant asked if funds may be available in the future for Fieldale-Collinsville Rescue Squad to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Hall said some readjustments to the budget may be brought to the Board later in the year.

Mr. Adams asked how much business was now being conducted in the building as opposed to using the dropbox outside? Mr. Hall said the Administration Building is open, but citizens are using the dropbox along with other online methods. Mr. Adams requested that the Board consider authorizing County offices to close a half-day early on Friday before the Labor Day holiday. On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the half-day early dismissal on Friday, September 4, 2020.

Mr. Hall said VDOT is hosting a Public Hearing on the environmental impact study for the Martinsville Southern Connector on September 1, 2020, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Jack Dalton Park picnic shelter.

Tim Pace updated the Board on the Dick & Willie Passage (Copy included in Board's File).

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:35 p.m. Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Southern Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority.
- 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 4:38 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Zehr 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.

Mr. Adams recessed at 4:40 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

Mr. Adams welcomed everyone to the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters, including a presentation of Route 220 improvements planned (copy included in Board's file).

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENT FY '20-'21 COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Hall said the County has received an additional \$4,410,903 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 funds. The CARES Act provides that the funds may be used to cover costs that:

- 1) Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respects to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
- 2) Were not accounted for in the County's budget

- 3) Were incurred during the period of March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

The Board must hold a public hearing in order to amend the FY -20-'21 Budget and appropriate these funds. Whenever a budget is altered by more than 1% of the total budget, a public hearing is required. Following the public hearing, staff will ask the Board to approve an appropriation of \$4,410,903. The public hearing has been appropriately advertised and scheduled for the 6:00 p.m. portion of the meeting.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the appropriation of \$4,410,903.

PUBLIC HEARING – CHANGE TO LOCAL ORDINANCE RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY FEES

Mr. Hall said the Virginia General Assembly recently passed legislation allowing localities to increase courthouse and courtroom security fees to \$20. Henry County currently has an ordinance authorizing a \$10 fee. Following the discussion at the last meeting, the Board set a public hearing for tonight on this topic.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the changes to the local ordinance setting the courthouse and courtroom security fee to \$20.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No one present wished to speak.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:14 p.m., seconded by Mr. Zehr and unanimously carried.