

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

May 25, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on May 25, 2021, 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, Ryan Zehr, and David Martin.

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

Sheriff Lane Perry, Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, and Major Eric Hairston of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin and Brandon Martin of Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Adams gave the invocation, and Mr. Bryant 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.

- April 27, 2021
- May 10, 2021

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Dr. Martin moved to approve the Items of Consent, and Mr. Zehr seconded it. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH “LIZ” STONE

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a proclamation honoring Elizabeth “Liz” Stone for her life of service to our community as Henry County’s General Registrar from 1979 until the time of her death in 2020. Mrs. Buchanan made a motion to adopt the proclamation. It was seconded by Mr. Bryant, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.

E.C. Stone thanked everyone on behalf of the family and said it was a great honor.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 92.93% of 2020 personal property taxes and 94.61% of 2020 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2021, TACS has collected approximately \$530,242.31. There were 169 VRW stops collected in April 2021, and 48 stops were collected in May 2021.

UPDATE FROM THE PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD

Everlena Ross, Executive Director of Pittsylvania County Community Action, Inc. (PPCA), updated the Board on activities with her organization. PCCA is the designated community action agency providing comprehensive services to low-income families in Pittsylvania County, Danville, Henry County, and Martinsville (Copy included in Board’s file).

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 the Board’s File).

UPDATE ON THE BROADBAND PLANNING STUDY

Christian Youngblood, Director of Information Services, updated the Board on the progress of the broadband planning study.

CONSIDERATION OF WAIVER REQUEST TO MAINTAIN SPLIT VOTING PRECINCTS PENDING REDISTRICTING – GENERAL REGISTRAR

Mr. Hall stated that the Virginia General Assembly recently passed legislation requiring each voting precinct to be wholly contained within a single congressional district, Senate District, House of Delegates district, and local districts. However, a locality may request a waiver to delay this action pending redistricting. Henry County has the following split precincts in need of a waiver:

#203 Horsepasture #2
#304 Mount Olivet
#505 Dyers Store

Split: House District 14 and 16
Split: Congressional District 5 and 9
Split: Congressional District 5 and 9

General Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn asks the Board to approve the request for a waiver for these precincts until redistricting can be completed.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the waiver as outlined above by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: EXCESS FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall stated that the School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors approve three appropriations needed for the end of year instructional purchases, facilities upgrades, and employee bonuses. The School Board has approved a bonus in the amount of \$1,400 to be paid to all eligible full-time and part-time employees. The total fiscal impact is estimated to be \$1,764,544. The bonus is in addition to the \$1,000 paid to school employees and school board members in November of this fiscal year. The appropriation requests are as follows:

- 1) Transfer of \$175,000 from the Pupil Transportation category to the Instruction category
- 2) Transfer of \$140,000 from the Administration, Attendance, and Health category to the Facilities category
- 3) Appropriation of \$145,032 from the Pupil Transportation budget to the School Nutrition budget

Dr. Martin said he did not have a problem with school employees receiving the bonus but questioned the School Board voting for a bonus for themselves. Ms. Strayer, Superintendent of Schools, said the Board received extra phone calls and emails during the pandemic.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the appropriation as outlined above by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Dr. Martin congratulated David Scott on obtaining his Doctorate of Education degree.

Mr. Bryant said he would be having a Town Hall Meeting on June 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room. Guest speakers will be Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator; Sheriff Lane Perry, Lisa Hughes, VDOT Resident Engineer; and George Lyle, County Attorney.

Mike Amos, Project Manager, introduced Adam Roop as his replacement. Mike will retire on June 30, 2021, after 40 years of service.

Mr. Hall said that if individuals are fully vaccinated, no masks will be required in the Administration Building. County and PSA offices will be closed on Monday, May 31 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Mr. Hall reminded the Board of a special joint meeting with Martinsville City Council on May 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at New College Institute.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:08 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Community Policy and Management Team, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, and Southside Community Action 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.

Dr. Martin seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:35 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mr. Zehr, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.

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.

Blue Ridge Regional Library Board – On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and second by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appointments of Sherry Vestal, Blackberry District; Lewis Turner, Reed Creek District; and the re-appointment of Margaret Caldwell, Collinsville District to four-year terms ending June 30, 2025.

Parks and Recreation Board - On a motion by Mr. Zehr and second by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appointments of Michael Smith and Sandra Adams to terms ending June 30, 2024.

Planning Commission - On a motion by Dr. Martin and second by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Jeff Prillaman, Reed Creek District, to fill an unexpired term ending March 31, 2024.

Community Policy and Management Team – On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointments of Stephanie Tucker, Anita Hobbs, and Darrell Jones to two-year terms ending June 30, 2023.

Piedmont Regional Community Services Board – On a motion by Dr. Martin and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Garrett Dillard to a three-year term ending June 30, 2024.

Southside Community Action Board – On a motion by Mr. Zehr and second by Ms. Buchanan, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Alisha Hill to a two-year term ending June 30, 2023.

Mr. Adams said a number of employees will be helping with events and traveling on Memorial Day. He asked for the Board's consideration in giving employees ½ day holiday on Friday, May 28. On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved Friday, May 28 as an additional ½ day holiday for employees by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 5:40 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – SIX-YEAR SECONDARY ROAD PLAN, OPEN FORMAT, 6:00 p.m. TO 6:30 p.m. (MEETING ROOM #1 – RIGHT SIDE)

Mr. Hall said the joint public hearing held by VDOT and the Board of Supervisors had been scheduled in an open format from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in meeting room #1 (right side). VDOT advertised the public hearing. Citizens will have the opportunity to come in any time during the public hearing to review and discuss the Six-year Secondary Road Plan with VDOT officials. The Board is not required to take any action at this meeting. Lisa Hughes will prepare minutes of the hearing, make any recommended changes to the list of projects, and submit the revised document to the Board for approval at its June 26 meeting.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Doug Stegall from the Collinsville District addressed the Board to praise all the volunteers who have helped get the Fieldale pool operational for the season.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bryant moved to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.