

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

October 26, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on October 26, 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; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources; Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, Major Eric Hairston, and Deputy Jeff Jones of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin, Charles Roark of Cable 18, Luis Romero of BTW 21, and Callie Hietala and Taylor Boyd 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 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.

- September 28, 2021 Joint Meeting with IDA
- September 28, 2021 BOS Meeting

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.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Doug Stegall from the Collinsville District addressed the Board to express his disapproval of the Board of Supervisors and Henry County Public School Board members being eligible to receive health insurance benefits from the County.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 94.60% of 2020 personal property taxes and 95.86% of 2020 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2021, TACS has collected approximately \$924,768.17. There were 75 VRW stops collected in September 2021, and 31 stops were collected in October 2021.

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. In addition, Mr. Heath reviewed a summary of activities by each division (Copy included in Board's File).

DESIGNATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 2021 VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACo) ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Hall stated the VACo Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 14 - 16, 2021. Each County is asked to designate a member of its elected Board and an alternate to vote on the County's behalf on any issues that may arise. If no members of the Board are attending, the Board may designate a non-elected official to serve as the voting representative. Supervisor Tommy Slaughter and County Administrator Tim Hall are scheduled to attend the annual meeting.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board selected Tommy Slaughter as the voting representative and Tim Hall as an alternate for the 2021 Virginia Association of Counties Annual Meeting by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.
NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall stated School Superintendent Sandy Strayer is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$235,061 to the Schools' nutrition budget for the fresh fruit and vegetable program for the elementary schools. The funds are provided by the Virginia Department of Education from a United States Department of Agriculture allocation.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$235,061 to the Schools' nutrition budget as requested by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.
NAYS: None.

DISCUSSION OF STIPEND FOR CERTAIN COURTHOUSE STAFF

Mr. Hall said at the last meeting, Dr. David Martin informed the Board of requests by the Clerks of Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the General District Court to consider their staff for hazardous duty stipends since they had to work during the pandemic. All of the staff in these courts are employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia and not under the personnel policies of Henry County.

Dr. Martin made a motion to provide a \$2,000 stipend to each employee in Henry County Juvenile and Domestic Relations and General District Court, and it was seconded by Mr. Zehr. The Board denied the motion by the following vote:

AYES: Martin and Zehr.

NAYS: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, and Bryant.

CONSIDERATION OF SHERIFF OFFICE'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPUTIES

Mr. Hall said that last month Sheriff Lane Perry spoke to the Board of Supervisors to request additional compensation for Sheriff's deputies. The Board directed staff to meet with members of the Sheriff's Office to gather more information on the topic and to report back to the Board. A compensation report was provided to the Board (copy included in the Board's file).

Dr. Martin made a motion to use American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide a compensation supplement from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022, equivalent to \$2/hour for Sheriff's deputies and Public Safety certified personnel. It was seconded by Mr. Slaughter and passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

UPDATE ON REVERSION

County Attorney George Lyle and the County's outside counsel, Jeremy Carroll, updated the Board on the proceeding of the Commission on Local Government (COLG) and the next steps in the reversion process (Copy of the COLG report included in the Board's File).

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board set a public hearing for November 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to receive comment on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Hall said each year staff and the Board of Supervisors construct a legislative agenda of items we would like the General Assembly to consider. It is up to the Board of Supervisors to approve the final list for submission to our

General Assembly delegates. In the past, we have sent the Legislative Agenda via email to our state representatives or presented it in person during a roundtable discussion of the issues (Copy included in Board's File).

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the 2022 Legislative Agenda by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Ms. Buchanan reminded everyone of the Coat Drive for Kids running through November 30, 2021. Coats can be dropped off at Hollywood Cinema, Salvation Army, or One-Hour Martinizing on Rives Road.

Mr. Hall said the Veterans Award Ceremony is on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Historic John D. Bassett Event Center. The County follows the State Holiday schedule and will be closed on November 2 for Election Day and November 11 for Veterans Day. The December Board of Supervisors Meeting will be on December 14. There will be a groundbreaking for hiking trails at the future Mayo River State Park site on October 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Race weekend is October 30 - 31. Mr. Hall asked Public Safety Director Matt Tatum to update the Board on equipment needs and concerns of the local Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Tatum indicated he was working with the Fire Chiefs and Emergency Services Advisory Council on recommendations to bring back to the Board at a future date.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:15 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board; Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board, West Piedmont Planning District Commission, and Blue Ridge Regional Library 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.
- E) §2.2-3711(A)10 for Discussion of Special Awards.

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

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.
NAYS: None.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:10 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, 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.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 5:12 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

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

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

ACCEPTANCE OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY TO FACILITATE THE ADDITION OF DUPONT ROAD INTO THE SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM

Mr. Hall said only a portion of DuPont Road is in the State's secondary road system. With the new Adult Detention Center opening in April and other development in the works at the DuPont campus, it will be beneficial to have the entire road in the State's secondary road system, so the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) can maintain it. Several steps must be taken in order for the State to accept it into the system. The first step is that the current owner, E.I. DuPont Company, must deed the road right-of-way to Henry County. Once Henry County owns it, improvements can be made to the road to make it part of the construction budget for the new Adult Detention Center and will be eligible for 25% reimbursement from the State. Staff asks the Board to approve the deed transferring the DuPont Road right-of-way from E.I. DuPont to Henry County.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the property transfer from E.I. DuPont Company for the DuPont Road right-of-way by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Zehr, Bryant, and Martin.
NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-17- JRS REALTY PARTNERS, LLC

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 94 Bryants Lake Rd, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map numbers are 13.8/61F,61G,61H,61IJ,61K. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 21-acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct additional accessory buildings on the property.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the rezoning request by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Eric Phillips from the Irisburg District expressed his appreciation for the Board's urgency in approving the additional compensation for Sheriff's Office and Public Safety personnel. In addition, Mr. Phillips thanked staff and the Board for their Economic Development work in the County.

Anita Gravely from the Irisburg District addressed the Board, stating her disapproval of the Board's denial of the \$2,000 stipend for Henry County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court and Henry County General District Court employees.

Andrew Palmer from the Collinsville District addressed the Board in support of the Board's approval of the Sheriff's Office and Public Safety supplemental compensation for employees. Mr. Palmer thanked the Board for their work.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.