

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

December 14, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on December 14, 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, Major Eric Hairston, Deputy Tim Robertson, and Deputy Jason Keller of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin, Callie Hietala of the Henry County Enterprise, Charles Roark of Star News, and Daniel Crews of WSET TV.

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.

- November 23, 2021

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Dr. Martin made a motion to approve the Items of Consent, and Ms. Buchanan seconded it. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENTATION OF FY 2021 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, 2021. Ms. Jackson said Henry County received an unmodified clean report with no audit findings. The County's total general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$79,281,145, and the unassigned balance was \$33,779,866. On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board recommended acceptance of the Audit of County Accounts for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mary Martin from the Ridgeway District addressed the Board in opposition of reversion and the voluntary settlement agreement. Rev. Tyler Millner from the Iriswood District addressed the Board to ask them to consider making Martinsville and Henry County a better place and to involve the community when consideration is made for reversion. 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 94.83% of 2020 personal property taxes and 96.36% of 2020 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2021, TACS has collected approximately \$1,020,902.00. There were 51 VRW stops collected in November 2021, and 14 stops were collected in December 2021.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: FOUR-FOR-LIFE FUNDS – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall stated Henry County recently received \$53,422.72 from the Commonwealth's Four-for-Life, return-to-localities fund. This fund is derived from a fee charged by the State on each vehicle registered in Henry County. The funds must be used for emergency medical services training, supplies, or equipment. In the past, the funds were distributed equally among the five rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety for ambulance operations. As previously approved by the Board of Supervisors, the squads will be required to spend the funds before February 1, 2022, to allow staff time to complete the required reports and submit them to the Commonwealth. If the Board chooses to divide the funds among the six departments equally, each will receive \$8,903.78.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$53,422.72 from Four-for-Life funds by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: HVAC IMPROVEMENTS - COURTHOUSE

Mr. Hall stated staff is asking the Board to award a contract of \$259,356 to Trane, Inc. for the replacement of the primary chiller unit in the Courthouse heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The new chiller will effectively improve air quality and energy efficiency in the building. It will also be more environmentally friendly as it uses refrigerants that are safer for the atmosphere. Staff recommends using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for this purchase. Pricing is based on the County's existing contract with Trane.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$259,356 to Trane, Inc. for HVAC improvements at the Courthouse by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS FOR REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDDS)

Mr. Hall said each year that the West Piedmont Regional Economic Development District, which serves Henry, Patrick, Franklin, and Pittsylvania counties, the cities of Martinsville and Danville, and the town of Rocky Mount, compiles an updated update Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS). The plan will be forwarded to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to maintain the eligibility of the participating localities to receive EDA funding. The document must contain a list of prioritized projects, and the WPPDC annually requests that each locality submit its proposed future projects. It is essential that all projects the Board will consider within the next year be included in the CEDDS because only projects on the list are eligible for EDA funding.

Including a project in the CEDDS does not commit the County to undertake the project. It is merely a listing of potential projects from which EDA representatives choose for investment of federal funds in this district. IF EDA invites the County to submit an application for a specific project from the list, the Board would then be required to commit the local funds necessary for implementation. Staff developed the attached proposed list of projects for the Board's approval.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board approved the list of projects for submission in the regional CEDDS (Copy included in Board's File) by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

LAND PURCHASE APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION RE: RIVERVIEW PARK

Mr. Hall said in July, Henry County was awarded \$495,000 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase 56 acres adjacent to the Smith River Sports Complex. In addition, a local foundation is donating 60 acres adjacent to the Complex to the County. When combined, the County will have approximately 117 acres for the future development of outdoor recreation space known as Riverview Park. Staff is asking the Board to approve the purchase of land from Anne Vipperman and accept the donation of land from Newco, Inc.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the purchase of land from Anne Vipperman, accept the donation of land from Newco, Inc., and authorize the Board Chairman to sign all documents related to these real estate transactions by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF PATH FORWARD FOR HENRY COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT REALIGNMENT

Mr. Hall said with the release of updated census information every ten years, localities are required to revisit their magisterial district borders to ensure they still meet all requirements based on population. This process was impacted by delays in receiving census data as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it is time to start this work. The Board of Supervisors is charged with adopting district boundaries, usually as recommended by a committee appointed to do the preliminary work and present options to the Board. Additionally, public hearings will be held to receive citizen input.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved a committee comprised of County Attorney George Lyle, General Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn, Planning, Zoning and Inspections Director Lee Clark, Public Information Officer Brandon Martin, GIS Manager Jason Gardner, and the County Administrator to draft the redistricting changes for presentation to the Board of Supervisors at a future date by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION – VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Lyle said in August 2021 a Voluntary Settlement Agreement (VSA) between the City of Martinsville and Henry County was presented to the Commission on Local Government (COLG). In September 2021 the Commission held hearings on the topic of reversion as required by law, and in October 2021 the COLG approved the Voluntary Settlement Agreement as presented. The Board of Supervisors held a required public hearing regarding the VSA on November 23, 2021, and took no action on the item after the public hearing concluded. Supervisor Martin had asked Chairman Adams to place the item on today's agenda for consideration.

General discussion was made from the Board. Mr. Bryant made a motion to hold off on voting until next month to allow more time for any action by the General Assembly. The motion was not seconded.

Dr. Martin made a motion to not approve the Voluntary Settlement Agreement. It was seconded by Mr. Bryant and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Buchanan, Bryant, Martin, and Zehr.

NAYS: Adams, and Slaughter

CONSIDERATION OF DATE AND TIME FOR 2022 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 the meeting, the Board will set its meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year and elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board selected the date and time of Monday, January 3, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. for the 2022 Organizational Meeting by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Bryant thanked staff for all their hard work in getting blighted structures in the Villa Heights community removed.

Mr. Buchanan asked about the status of local bridges being named after fallen police officers in the area. Mr. Hall said Brandon Martin was working with Sheriff Lane Perry and would bring the matter to the Board in the future for consideration.

Mr. Adams said staff brought to his attention a basket to be presented to Dr. Martin for his time served on the Board. Dr. Martin thanked Martinsville and Henry County, and Patrick County for allowing him to serve the communities. Dr. Martin said it had been an honor and privilege.

Mr. Hall said the County had received a broadband grant to localities in the amount of \$3,571,073 which will bring broadband to 10,056 residences who are currently unserved in the counties of Henry, Franklin, and Patrick by 2024. Crown will host job fairs at the CCAT building on December 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and December 18 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The County will resume its community COVID update tomorrow via a zoom at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Hall noted that the County follows the State Holiday schedule and will be closed December 23 and 24 for the Christmas holidays and December 31 for the New Year's Day holiday.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Slaughter moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:57 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, 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)1 for Discussion of Personnel Matters.

Ms. Buchanan 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 5:50 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Bryant, 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. Zehr, Dr. Martin, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Adams.

Blue Ridge Regional Library Board – On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of M. Cheryl Via to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2023.

Patriot Centre/CCBC Advisory Board – On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointments of Richard Hall, Terry Cundiff, Nubby Coleman, and Gary Gibson to four-year terms ending December 31, 2023.

Southern Area Agency on Aging Board – On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Dr. Martin, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Melissa Puckett to a three-year term ending November 1, 2024.

Tim Hall stated he planned to retire from his position of County Administrator and PSA General Manager on July 1, 2022. Mr. Hall said it had been an absolute honor and privilege to work with the Board and to have their trust to do the job.. On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board accepted Tim Hall's resignation effective July 1, 2022, by the following vote:

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

Dr. Martin made a motion to hire Dale Wagoner as County Administrator with an effective date of July 1, 2022 and to authorize the Board Chairman to sign documents related to the hire and to engage in discussion with the PSA Board about continuing to share the position as General Manager of the PSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryant and passed unanimously with the following vote:

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

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 5:58 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

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

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTINSVILLE ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

Mr. Hall stated the Martinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated celebrated the 70th anniversary of its chapter last month. Over the last 70 years, members of the sorority have conducted numerous community service projects throughout the City of Martinsville and Henry County.

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution to recognize the value of this community service and congratulate the chapter on reaching its latest milestone and made a motion to adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Slaughter, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Several members of the Martinsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority were present to receive the resolution. Chapter President Brenell Thomas thanked the Board for the honor and highlighted some of the chapter's activities in the community.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Lisa Hughes, 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 3 election. This includes:

- *Board of Supervisors*
 - Jim L. Adams, Blackberry District
 - Joseph A. Bryant, Collinsville District
 - Garrett L. Dillard, Iriswood District

- *School Board*
 - Thomas E. Auker, Blackberry District (did not attend)
 - Elizabeth A. Durden, Collinsville District
 - Benjamin E. Gravely, Iriswood District

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Betty Emory from the Ridgeway District addressed the Board to express concerns she has on Farmbrook Road. She indicated that one of the residents is running a business from his home and frequently driving trailers with cars hastily down the road around the curve. She also noted problems with tire burning.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Dr. Martin seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.