

# HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

**April 13, 2021– 5:00 p.m.**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on April 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to present the FY 2021-2022 County Budget. The following Board members were present: Chairman Jim Adams; Vice Chairman Debra Buchanan, Tommy Slaughter, Joe Bryant, Ryan Zehr, and David Martin.

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

Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin and Brandon Martin of The Enterprise were present. Also present was Sheriff Lane Perry, and Lt. Col. Steve Eanes; and Ben Boone, Henry County Schools Director of Finance

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

## **CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE REGARDING MARTINSVILLE SOUTHERN CONNECTOR**

Mr. Hall said with the U.S. Congress and the Biden Administration in discussions on a wide-ranging infrastructure plan, a local effort is underway to include the Martinsville Southern Connector in that federal infrastructure bill. Staff worked with the City of Martinsville staff to draft a proposed joint resolution in support of this effort (copy in Board's file).

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the joint resolution as proposed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET**

Mr. Hall gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Operating Budget for the County of Henry. (Copy of presentation and proposed budget included in Board's file).

Mr. Hall highlighted several accomplishments this year and outlined the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

## **FY 2020-21 Highlights**

Despite the historic challenges we faced in FY' 20-'21, it was a very successful year in many ways. Our economic development achievements highlighted that success:

- Applied Felt/Ferratex - \$1.95 million, 11 jobs
- Drake Extrusion – \$6.9 million, 30 jobs
- Advance Energy Solutions - \$1.4 million, 15 jobs
- Laminate Technologies - \$4 million, 42 jobs
- Crown Holdings - \$145 million, 126 jobs
- Many existing industries are doing well and growing

### **COVID 19 Response**

- Increased training/expectation of our first responders
- Implemented safe workplace practices
- No interruption of services to our citizens
- Expanded online services
- No loss of payroll for employees
- Generous leave policies & rapid testing procedures
- Commitment and hard work by our employees
- Small Business Grants
- Stipends for Front-line Personnel
- Payroll – Public Safety/Sheriff's Office
- Assistance with Utility Bills
- Assistance with Child Care
- Improved Teleworking Capabilities
- Assisted with Distance Learning
- Supported Food Programs
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Building Modifications

### **Board of Supervisors' GOALS FOR FY' 21-'22**

- Treat employees better
- Tell the County's story better by hiring a PIO/Community Liaison

### **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

- Hiring freeze for much of the year
- Progress on the new Adult Detention Center
- Expanding the Dick & Willie Passage Trail
- Expanding the Philpott Marina (16 new rental slots)
- Repurposing of John Redd Smith School
- Adding compactors at three more convenience centers
- Progress on Pretrial Services and Local Probation
- 1% Sales Tax for School Projects
- Henry County Fair scheduled for September 22 - 25
- Acquired land for future expansion at Smith River Sports Complex

## **PROPOSED FY 2021-22 COUNTY BUDGET**

- No Tax Increase
- Proposed Budget - \$167,837,406
- 7.3% Increase over the bare-boned COVID-Impacted budget of \$156,358,217 for the current year
- Includes \$1,396,223 from the fund balance

### **Employee Compensation**

- States mandates a raise of 5% for constitutional officers
- Other County staff will receive one salary step and a cost of living increase, totaling +/-5%
- Employees did not receive a raise last year, and salaries have remained stagnant
- The school system is proposing raises of approximately 5% for employees

### **School System Funding**

- \$19,373,777 in local funds
- \$16,768,217 for operations
- School Board requested \$507,345 in new County funds
- The proposed budget includes \$516,485 more than the current budget for school operations
- Removed revenue from the recordation tax that is no longer sent to the County
- \$2.6 million for school construction debt and approximately \$2.6 million set aside for future construction/renovation needs

### **Adult Detention Center**

- The hiring of new employees and initial operational expenses
- Phasing in 79 of the expected 97 positions
  - Four positions – 7/1/21
  - 20 positions – 9/1/21
  - 25 positions – 12/1/21
  - 30 positions – 3/1/22
- Full budgetary effect of new hires and operation of the facility will not be felt until FY '22-'23
- Compensation Board will cover much of the personnel costs, but it will impact our local budget by approximately \$2.5 million
- Debt Service is budget at \$2.7 million for FY '21-'22

### **Other Notes**

- Slight increase in real estate assessments (0.89%)
- Unassigned fund balance increased by \$5.5 million
- Expenses with the Children's Services Act continue to explode

- Travel, education, and office supply expenses were cut across the board
- Does not include funds for a Media/Community Relations Officer as requested by the Board

### **PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS**

- Limited capital projects included in the proposed budget
- Recommending to fund from the following items from the current budget:
  - Additional funding for removal of unsafe structures - \$90,000 (\$15,000 for each magisterial districts)
  - Replacement vehicle in Building Inspection - \$34,000
  - Digitization of records for the Circuit Court Clerk's Office - \$22,000
  - Employment management software for Human Resources - \$22,000
  - Server replacement for Information Services - \$30,000
  - Emergency radio system component replacements - \$60,000
  - Roof replacement at the Henry County Recreation Center (former Collinsville YMCA) - \$175,000
  - Vehicle replacement in Parks and Recreation - \$36,000
  - Vehicle replacement in Public Safety Training Division - \$39,000
  - Repairs to the Public Safety Burn Building - \$20,000
  - Replacement of front loader for Refuse Department - \$315,000
  - Replacement of four patrol cars for Sheriff's Office - \$156,000
  - Purchase of electronic poll books for Registrar's Office - \$85,000

### **ON THE HORIZON**

- Reversion will lead to the need for significant additional tax revenue
- Federal Stimulus Funds (ARPA)
- Ability to implement an additional tax on cigarettes
- Revenue possibilities from online sports betting and legalization/sale of marijuana
- Community Project Funding by Congress
- The proliferation of solar projects
- Talent acquisition and retention

Mr. Bryant, Dr. Martin, Ms. Buchanan, and Mr. Adams all expressed support for the PIO position.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved hiring a PIO using contingency funds and to ask the Public Service Authority to share in the cost of the position. The vote was as follows:

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

NAYS: None.

### **Advertise FY 2021-22 Budget**

Following the presentation, Mr. Zehr moved that the Board advertise the FY '21-'22 Budget. It was seconded by Dr. Martin, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Mr. Hall said the budget will be available on the County website.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

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