

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

September 28, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on September 28, 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; Darrel 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. Brian Lawson, Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, and Deputy Nicole Dunn of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin, Freelance Writer Samantha Evans, and Callie Hietala of the Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Bryant 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.

- August 24th, 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.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 94.45% of 2020 personal property taxes and 95.66% of 2020 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2021, TACS has collected approximately \$803,598.19. There were 77 VRW stops collected in August 2021, and 41 stops were collected in September 2021.

APPROVAL OF PURCHASE RE: TRUCK FOR PATRICK-HENRY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall stated that Public Safety Director Matt Tatum is asking the Board to authorize the disbursement of Virginia Fire Program funds in the amount of \$203,542 to Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a new tanker-style fire truck from C.W. Williams & Company, LLC. The County's purchasing department recommends the award of purchase to C.W. Williams & Company, LLC, after a thorough evaluation of the proposals. The Board appropriated funding for this purchase at the July 2021 meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the disbursement of the funds to Patrick-Henry Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a new tanker-style fire truck from C.W. Williams & Company, LLC by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT PROGRAM FUNDS

Mr. Hall stated staff is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$315,000 from the General Fund to cover overages in the Children's Service Act (CSA) Program Fund. The cost of providing services to certain at-risk youth continues to escalate, resulting in expenditures exceeding the budgeted amount.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$315,000 to the Children's Services Act Program Funds by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENTATION BY SHERIFF LANE PERRY RE: RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF DEPUTIES

Sheriff Lane Perry addressed the Board to discuss ongoing issues related to the recruitment and retention of deputies. Sheriff Perry requested the Board increase starting salaries of deputies to \$42,000 and to provide a 10% raise, up to \$5,000, for employees with more than two years of service.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board asked staff to develop a Request For Proposal (RFP) to hire a vendor to perform a compensation and benefits study to include all county employees and to invite

Henry County Public Schools to participate in the study. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board asked staff to explore a formalized exit study for County staff and invite the Sheriff's Office to participate in it. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board asked staff to coordinate a meeting with Administration, Finance, and Sheriff's Office personnel to coordinate information and evaluate the financial implications of providing raises by January 1, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Bryant thanked staff, especially Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams, for all of his work on the Henry County Fair.

Dr. Martin read a letter from Nora Green, Henry County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and Staci Prillaman, Henry County General District Court, requesting a \$2,000 stipend for their work efforts during the pandemic. The J&D Relations Court and General District Court personnel are State employees and are not subject to County personnel policies or practices.

Dr. Martin made a motion to pay a stipend of \$2,000 to Henry County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and Henry County General District Court employees. It was seconded by Mr. Zehr. After general discussion on the topic, Ms. Buchanan offered a substitute motion to postpone any decision to allow the Board more time to research the request. Dr. Martin seconded the motion. The substituted motion passed by the following vote:

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

Dr. Martin noted that he was not invited to a meeting hosted by the Rev. Tyler Millner.

Mr. Bryant thanked Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams and his staff for his work on the Henry County Fair.

Ms. Buchanan reminded everyone of the Horsepasture District Community Meeting on October 19, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Hall said there was an economic announcement today welcoming Schock North America to the Patriot Centre Industrial Park. Schock will invest \$85,000,000 and create at least 355 new jobs over ninety-six (96) months. The deadline for Veteran's Day Award nomination is October 15, 2021. The December Board of Supervisors meeting was moved to December 14 because of the holidays. Household Hazardous Waste Day is October 9, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Henry County Service Center.

CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Buchanan moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:48 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Southern Area Agency on Aging 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.

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 5:56 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 5:56 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

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

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL HEALTH TRENDS – DAVID ROSE, DAVENPORT FINANCIAL

Mr. Kooch of Davenport Financial updated the Board on the financial health trends of Henry County. (A copy of the report is included in the Board's file).

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

David Kiser, Assistant Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RE: APPLICATION TO VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to approve a resolution requesting \$915,846 from the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Revenue Sharing Program for improvements to Reservoir Road (State Route #689). Reservoir Road is a secondary road located in the Ridgeway District that bisects the Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC). The roadway upgrade will be approximately 3,550 linear feet, starting at the intersection of S.R. 689 and Greensboro Road and continuing to the end of the roadway just past the limits of the CCBD property.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the proposed resolution requesting \$915,846 from VDOT's Revenue Sharing Program by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-14-MARK A. SPANGLER

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,61I,61J,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.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-15-DONNA MELLOTT

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 3090 Mt. Olivet Road, in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 43.5/56. The applicant is requesting the

rezoning of approximately 12-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant intends to remove the old house from the property and replace it with a double-wide manufactured home on a masonry foundation.

In March of 2021, the applicant applied to rezone this property to Rural Residential, which was unsuccessful. The applicant has now amended the request.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-16-EQUETTA BURNETTE

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 1285 Bassett Heights Road, in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map numbers are 15.6(034)/113, 1A-3A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.7-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to place a single wide mobile home on the property.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m. Elaine Bryant and Emma Clark, Reed Creek District, spoke in support of the rezoning. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENTATION BY CHIEF TODD NORMAN, FIELDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Todd Norman, Chief of the Fieldale Volunteer Fire Company, discussed the equipment needs of the County's eight volunteer fire departments. Chief Norman requested \$957,200 from the County to fund the purchase of firefighter turnout gear and air packs. The Board thanked Chief Norman and the volunteers for their service to the community and advised they will review their request for more funding.

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.

Andrew Palmer from the Collinsville District addressed the Board in support of the Sheriff's Office request for raises and the Volunteer Fire Departments' request for more funding.

Donald Turner, Chief of the Patrick Henry Volunteer Fire Department, thanked the Board for providing funds for a new fire truck and attending their 50th-anniversary celebration

Deputy Matt Duffy from the Reed Creek District addressed the Board to express support of Sheriff Perry's request for raises for the Sheriff's Office.

Eric Phillips from the Irisburg District addressed the Board in support of the Sheriff's Office request for raises and the Volunteer Fire Departments' request for more funding.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Dr. Martin seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.