

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

January 25, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on January 25, 2022 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; Joe Bryant, Vice-Chairman; Debra Buchanan, Garrett Dillard, Tommy Slaughter, and Ryan Zehr.

Staff members present were Tim Hall, County Administrator; Dale Wagoner, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Darrell Jones, 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, and Deputy Tim Robertson of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin, and Callie Hietala of the Henry County Enterprise.

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.

- December 14, 2021
- January 4, 2022

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the Items of Consent, and Mr. Zehr seconded it. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Doug Stegall from the Collinsville District addressed the Board expressing his opposition to the City's efforts to revert to a town.

PRESENTATION BY THE BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Mr. Rick Ward, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library System updated the Board on activities at the library over the past year. (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 Board's File).

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall stated the School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors approve appropriations totaling \$350,381 received from the following coronavirus relief funds:

- \$ 42,451 – American Rescue Plan (ARP) Homeless II Funds
- \$13,682 – Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds
- \$294,248 – United States Department of Agriculture

Superintendent Sandy Strayer provided a memorandum discussing how the funds will be used. (Included in Board agenda).

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriations of \$350,381 to the School budget for the purposes indicated by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FOR RECORDS PRESERVATION – CLERK OF COURT

Mr. Hall said Jennifer Ashworth, Clerk of Court, is asking the Board to appropriate \$45,176 received as a grant from the Library of Virginia. The funds will be used for preserving records in the Circuit Court.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$45,176 received from the Library of Virginia by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS – RIVERVIEW PARK

Mr. Hall stated that staff is asking the Board to appropriate \$45,000 received as a grant from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. The funds will be used for initial engineering and surveying of Riverview Park.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$45,000 for Riverview Park by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS – PHILPOTT LAKE AND MARINA

Mr. Hall said staff is asking the Board to appropriate \$30,000 received as a grant from the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. The funds will be used for a new entrance sign for Philpott Lake and Marina.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$30,000 for a new sign for Philpott Lake and Marina by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to appropriate \$52,550 received from State and Federal Asset Forfeiture funds. The Sheriff has indicated that the funds will be used to buy uniforms for new and existing officers.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$52,550 from Asset Forfeiture funds to be used for uniforms by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: PATROL VEHICLES – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$178,088.50 to Sheehy Ford located in Richmond for the purchase of five Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles (\$35,617 each). Pricing is based on a vehicle procurement program of the Virginia sheriff’s Association and has been approved by the County’s Purchasing Department. Funding for this purchase is included in the current year budget.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the award of contract in the amount of \$178,088.50 to Sheehy Ford for the purchase of five Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR BRIDGE MEMORIALS TO HONOR FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer said at the request of the Board, Staff has worked to identify bridges in the County to name in honor of seven local law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Staff is continuing its efforts to locate family members of the officers to verify the information. The seven officers are as follows:

- George Melvin Brown
- George S. Frame
- John Hughes Mitchell
- John J. Johnston
- Paul Edward Grubb
- J. Michael Philippi Memorial Bridge
- Willis Herman Ferguson

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Hall said the Annual Planning Session would be February 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the new Adult Detention Facility. The 2022 Budget work has begun with department budgets due in the office by February 11th.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:39 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Industrial Development Authority and Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program 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

Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it passed by the following vote:

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

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 4:28 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Bryant, Buchanan, Dillard, Slaughter, and Zehr.
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, Mr. Dillard, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 4:30 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.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 JACK DALTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Hall said the Board of Supervisors established the Jack Dalton Community Service Award in 2001. The award is presented annually to the Henry County resident, who best exemplifies the standards for community service set by the late Mr. Dalton. Nominations were received from community members, and the Board was asked to rank all nominees according to preference.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously approved a resolution honoring Chief Charlie “Junior” Lynch, Jr. as the recipient of the 2021 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Ms. Buchanan said, “The Bassett Volunteer Fire Department is led by a Chief who not only serves selflessly but enhances the public service of his peers through monthly training sessions that inspire the next generation of leaders to continuously think outside the box, and this year’s recipient through devotion to servant leadership in the realm of public safety has earned this Chief the admiration and respect of not only his crew, but the Fire Service Community at large.”

Members of the Board and Ms. Lois Dalton, wife of the late Jack Dalton, presented Mr. Lynch with a plaque.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: TURNOUT GEAR AND AIR PACKS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Hall said at a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a representative of the eight volunteer fire departments requested funding for turnout gear and air packs. Since that time, the Emergency Services Advisory Council (ESAC) has vetted the request, and formal bids for the items have been solicited. As a result, the ESAC and Public Safety Director Matt Tatum requests allocation of \$514,600 for the turnout gear and air packs for the volunteer departments and an additional \$47,800 for turnout gear for Public Safety personnel. If the Board

wishes to fund these items, staff recommends using funds from the American Rescue and Recovery Act (ARPA) to cover the cost of the items. Additionally, staff recommends awarding a contract of \$306,600 to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for air packs and a contract of \$255,800 to Vest's Sales and Services, Inc. for the turnout gear.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the using American Rescue and Recovery Act (ARPA) funds to cover the cost of the items and award a contract of \$306,600 to Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for air packs and contract of \$255,800 to Vest's Sales and Services, Inc. for the turnout gear by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-22-01 – BERNICE J. CROWE, JR.

Mr. Clark said the property is located at the former 435 Sanville Heights, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 25.9(43A)/B. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.5-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant wishes to allow for the placement of a single wide manufactured home.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:12 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-22-02 – BARRY L. NELSON

Mr. Clark said the property is located on the south side of Process Road, approximately 0.2-mile east of River Road in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map number is 28.4/62. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 16.76-acres from Industrial District I-1 to Suburban Residential District S-R. The applicant wishes to develop the property for single family residential purposes.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. Mr. Gary Caldwell from the Horsepasture District addressed the Board in support of the development of single family properties. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the rezoning request by the following vote:

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

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Dorothy Carter from the Reed Creek District addressed the Board concerning her objection to the County using money received from the Sales and Use Tax for School Construction and Capital Projects to pay bonds for prior school construction. Ms. Carter said on December 21, 2021, Attorney General Mark Herring ruled the sales tax was not to be used for prior construction and asked the Board for accountability of the funds.

Mr. Ben Gravely from the Iriswood District addressed the Board to see if any consideration would be given to naming of bridges to fallen service members.

Mr. Todd Norman from the Blackberry District thanked the Board, staff, and Public Safety for purchasing new turnout gear and airpacks for volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Ester Waller from the Blackberry District addressed the Board with concerns of unkempt property along Riverside Drive in Bassett.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bryant moved to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. Mr. Zehr seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.