

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

April 26, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on April 26, 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.

Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, 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 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.

- March 22, 2022

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

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

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- A) Resolution Honoring World War II Veteran Jim Weinerth
- B) Resolution Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Piedmont Community Services
- C) Resolution Honoring the 40th Anniversary of Martinsville-Henry County Crimestoppers
- D) Resolution Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Oak Level Ruritan Club
- E) Proclamation Declaring May 11-17, 2022 as National Peace Officers Memorial Week in Henry County

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Piedmont Community Services. It was seconded by Mr. Bryant, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Executive Director Greg Preston and Board Chair Brenda Ephraim were present to receive the resolution.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the resolutions and proclamation above by the following vote:

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

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Sandra Haley, Esq. addressed the Board concerning compensation issues in the Public Defender's Office and asked the Board to consider supplementing the State salaries of employees in the office with local funds. (Copy included in Board's File).

Ms. Kathy Deacon, Executive Director of the Martinsville UP Town Partnership, addressed the Board to discuss revitalization efforts. (Copy included in Board's File).

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 92.06% of 2021 real estate taxes and 88.34% of personal property taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2022, TACS has collected approximately \$183,078.03. In addition, there were 66 VRW stops collected in March 2022, and 23 have been collected in April 2022.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Sarah Hodges, Director of Tourism and Talent Development of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, was present to make the monthly update to the Board.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: CONSTRUCTION OF DICK & WILLIE PASSAGE TRAIL PHASE 6A

Mr. Hall stated that Staff is asking the Board to appropriate grant and reserve funds totaling \$1,380,387 for the construction of section 6A of the Dick & Willie Passage Trail. The amount includes \$257,251 from the reserve fund for the County's match.

In addition, Staff asks that the Board award a contract for \$1,902,470 for the construction to Inland Construction, Inc., located in Abingdon, Virginia. Inland was the low bidder for the project. Staff also asks the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$265,000 to Hurt & Profitt, Inc. for construction administration and testing services related to the project.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the appropriation totaling \$1,380,387 and awarded contracts to Inland Construction, Inc. and Hurt & Profitt, Inc., as outlined above by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: GRADING WORK AT COMMONWEALTH CROSSING BUSINESS CENTRE, LOT #5

Mr. Hall said Staff asked the Board to award a contract in the amount of \$750,000 to C.W. Cauley & Sons, Inc. for site work at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, Lot #5. C.W. Cauley & Sons was the low bidder. This project consists of clearing, grubbing, excavation, erosion control, vegetation, and stormwater management to prepare a 6.7-acre pad-ready site.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board awarded a contract in the amount of \$750,000 to C.W. Cauley & Sons, Inc. for site work at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, Lot #5 by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SITE WORK AT COMMONWEALTH CROSSING BUSINESS CENTRE, LOT #2

Mr. Hall said the County was recently awarded a grant from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program to perform site work at Lot #2 in Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC). Staff asked the Board to award a contract in an amount of \$800,000 to the Timmons Group for engineering services for the site work. The contract is based on the terms of a current contract with Timmons for work at CCBC.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board awarded a contract in an amount of \$800,000 to the Timmons Group for engineering services for site work at CCBC, Lot #2 by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall said the School Board requests that the Board of Supervisors to appropriate the following funds totaling \$355,424:

- 1) \$50,000 received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief grant for a tutoring program, and after-school program.
- 2) \$133,656 received from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) School-Based Mental Health Grant to aid in recruiting and retaining mental health workers.
- 3) \$171,768 to the School Board Contingency Reserve for grants to account for the VDOE grant and any additional grants awarded this fiscal year by the VDOE.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the additional appropriations totaling \$355,424 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 asks that the Board appropriate \$26,957 received from State Asset Forfeiture funds. Sheriff Perry has indicated that the funds will be used to cover the overtime costs associated with moving inmates from the old jail to the new adult detention center and for the other overtime expenses associated with changes in the Court mandated by the Circuit Court Judge.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$26,957 from the State Asset Forfeiture fund by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RE: WEST PIEDMONT MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARDOUS MITIGATION PLAN – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Hall said Matt Tatum, Director of Public Safety, is requesting Board approval of the West Piedmont Multi-jurisdictional Hazardous Mitigation Plan. County staff has worked closely with the Staff of the West Piedmont Planning District and other jurisdictions to draft the proposed updates to the plan. Localities are required to update the plan every five years.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the proposed resolution in support of the West Piedmont Multi-jurisdictional Hazardous Mitigation Plan by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Dillard said he recommended that any high-level jobs in Henry County be posted internally and externally and offer some training programs for County employees to be best prepared for those jobs.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved recognizing POW Memorial remembrance by flying the POW-MIA flag along with the American flag at the Administration building during the month of May by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Ms. Buchanan wanted to remind everyone of the Memorial Day program at Roselawn at noon on May 30, 2022. In addition, Ms. Buchanan thanked Staff for writing a letter to SOVAH concerning the temporarily closing of the maternity ward. On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved sending the letter to Mr. Alan Larson, Market President of SOVAH Health Danville, and Mr. Spencer Thomas, CEO of SOVAH Health Martinsville, concerning the temporary pause in providing delivery services at the SOVAH-Martinsville facility by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

Mr. Adams said on a suggestion by Mr. Dillard that the Board was wearing the new Martinsville Speedway 75th anniversary logo shirts and thanked Brandon Martin and other Staff for the design.

Mr. Hall said he attended the NC3 National Signing Day today at Patrick & Henry Community College. The event recognized students' decisions to pursue a college education at Patrick & Henry Community College for a trade or two-year degree. Mr. Hall said there would be a grand opening of the Chief Tassell apartments on April 28th at noon. The School and County Budget Public Hearing will be on May 9th at 7:00 P.M. in the Summerlin Meeting Room. The employee recognition banquet is on May 12th at 6:00 P.M. at New College Institute.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 4:00 P.M. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Patrick & Henry Community College Board, and Piedmont Regional Community Services 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

Mr. Bryant 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 4:53 P.M. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Zehr, 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.

Henry-Martinsville Social Services Board – On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Joshua B. Tucker to a four-year term ending May 31, 2026

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 4:56 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Adams welcomed everyone to the 6:00 P.M. portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – SIX-YEAR SECONDARY ROAD PLAN, OPEN FORMAT, 6:00 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. (MEETING ROOM #1 – RIGHT SIDE)

Mr. Adams said the joint public hearing by VDOT and the Board of Supervisors is being held in an open format from 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. in meeting room #1 (right side). VDOT advertised the public hearing. Citizens will have the opportunity to come in during the public hearing to review and discuss the Six-year Secondary Road Plan with VDOT officials. Lisa Hughes will prepare the minutes of the hearing, make any recommended changes to the list of projects, and submit the revised document to the Board for approval at its May 24 meeting.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAK LEVEL RURITAN CLUB

Mr. Slaughter read aloud a resolution honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Oak Level Ruritan Club. It was seconded by Mr. Bryant, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Members of the Oak Level Ruritan Club were present to receive the resolution.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NELSON MOTORSPORTS RACE TEAM

Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution recognizing the Nelson Motorsports Race Team. It was seconded by Mr. Slaughter, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Members of Nelson Motorsports and Jack McNelly, CARS Tour Owner, were present to accept the resolution. Mr. McNelly said the team was successful on the track and had integrity, loyalty, and cooperativeness.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF UPDATE TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Hall said Henry County is a partner with the City of Martinsville and the Town of Ridgeway in a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The Plan outlines the long-term strategy and goals set by the three entities concerning solid waste management. The goals of this SWMP include coordinating the effects of the entities regarding solid waste management and planning. In addition, the Plan outlines objectives for the management of solid wastes, including, at a minimum, all of the following elements: source reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery (waste-to-energy), and landfilling and transfer stations. The Board must hold a public hearing before approving the plan.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:14 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:15 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the updated Solid Waste Management Plan by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING A TOURISM ZONE

Mr. Hall said at the last meeting, Staff recommended that the Board consider establishing a Tourism Zone in Henry County to help recruit tourism-related businesses to our community. Much like traditional industry enterprise zones, a tourism zone allows companies to take advantage of state and local tax incentives not available to businesses elsewhere. These incentives aim to stimulate business attraction, growth, and increased employment opportunities within the County.

Staff recommends that Henry County's tourism zone mirror the areas of the County zoned as Commercial B-1. To be eligible for incentives similar to enterprise zone incentives, the tourism-related business would have to make new capital investment of at least \$500,000 and create five new full-time jobs.

Before adopting the ordinance, the Board must hold a public hearing on the matter. The public hearing has been properly advertised and is scheduled for this meeting.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:15 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:15 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board adopted the tourism zone ordinance by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET AMENDMENT ALLOCATING SALES TAX REVENUE

Mr. Hall said at the last meeting that the Board voted to replace \$2.6 million in the budget previously appropriated for school debt from the reserve funds and set a public hearing for April 26 at 6:00 P.M. as required when amending the budget by more than 1%. The public hearing has been properly advertised and scheduled for this meeting.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:15 P.M. Mary Martin addressed the Board in favor of replacing \$2.6 million in the budget appropriated for schools. Ms. Martin also stated her disapproval of the Proposed County FY 2022-23 Budget cutting funds to the schools. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:22 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the appropriation to replace \$2.6 million in the budget previously appropriated for school debt from the reserved funds by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Roger Saunders addressed the Board concerning the lack of a local Comcast office.

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters. The Commonwealth Transportation Board Spring Public Hearing will be in Roanoke on May 12, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Valleyview at 4:00 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Bryant moved to adjourn at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.