

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

July 26, 2022 – 3:00 P.M.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on July 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 Dale Wagoner, County Administrator; JR Powell, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources; Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Sheriff Perry, Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, and Deputy Jeff Jones of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin and Sharon West of the Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. Dillard 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 at 3:00 P.M. must contact the County Administrator's Office seven days before 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.

- June 28, 2022

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

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

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

NAYS: None.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 93.92% of 2021 real estate taxes and 91.80% of personal property taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2022, TACS has collected approximately \$305,537.26. In addition, there were 30 VRW stops collected in June 2022, and 14 were collected in July 2022.

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

Mr. Wagoner said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to appropriate \$25,520 from the State Asset Forfeiture funds for the purchase of rifle optics used on the patrol rifles. Sheriff Perry explains the current rifle optics are outdated, have limited battery life, and have a delayed power cycle, all creating safety concerns. The replacement optics will improve visibility due to newer technology and provide safer and more accurate equipment for the deputies.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Dillard, the Board approved the appropriation of \$25,520 from the State Asset Forfeiture funds for the purchase of the rifle optics by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE 2020 STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SCAAP) – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Wagoner said Sheriff Perry is asking the Board to accept and appropriate a \$10,743 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice 2020 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The Sheriff’s Department will use the funds for deputy overtime to cover staff shortages, special operations, and off-site security of inmates during medical procedures.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board accepted the grant and approved the appropriation for \$10,743 to cover overtime costs as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: RETURN TO LOCALITY FUND – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Wagoner said Public Director Matt Tatum is asking the Board to appropriate \$56,352.56 received from the Virginia Department of Health’s Return to Locality Fund. In addition, Mr. Tatum asked the Board to consider changing the disbursement formula of the funds to the volunteer rescue squads. The Return to Locality fund is derived from a fee for each vehicle registered in Henry County. Authorized expenditures of the funds are for items such as emergency medical services training, supplies, or equipment.

Currently, the funds are distributed equally between the five volunteer rescue squads and the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Tatum had proposed a

change to the distribution formula that would provide a \$2,500 minimum allocation and remaining funds distributed based on the number of calls responded to for the previous 12 months, with a cap on the maximum distributed per agency. However, the Board expressed concerns that the change could make it more difficult for some of the rescue squads to cover expenses. No action was taken on the proposed change to the distribution formula.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the appropriation of \$56,352.26 by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Mr. Wagoner said the final version of the Commonwealth of Virginia's biennial budget approved on June 22, 2022, included additional funding from the Compensation Board to support salary compression increases at a rate of \$100 per year of continuous service for deputy sheriffs with at least three years of service, up to a maximum increase of \$3,000. Staff recommends the Board approve the additional salary compression raises to include additional funding needed to extend the same raises to eligible locally-funded deputy sheriffs. In addition, Sheriff Perry requested that local funds be used to extend the compression raises at a rate of \$50 per year of service for several of his deputies with considerable experience from other jurisdictions. Approximately 97 deputies would be eligible for increases, costing \$121,270. An additional \$50,044 in local funds is needed to fund these increases. The average increase per eligible deputy is \$1,000.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved salary compression raises for both Compensation Board-funded and locally-funded deputy sheriffs as outlined above, and the additional appropriation from the County's reserve fund by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: REPLACEMENT AMBULANCE – PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Wagoner said Public Safety Director Matt Tatum requests the Board to award a contract to Vest's Sales & Service, Inc., of Check, Virginia, for \$276,056 to purchase a 2023 Dodge Ram 5500 4x4 Osage Ambulance. The new ambulance will replace a current ambulance in service with a six-year-old chassis and an 11-year-old box. Delivery of the new ambulance is not expected until early 2024, adding two more years to the use of the ambulance being replaced. This contract is being awarded as sole source procurement following review and approval by the

Purchasing Department. Funds for this purchase are available in the Capital Replacement Fund.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the award of the contract to Vest's Sales & Service, Inc. for \$276,056.00 for the purchase of the ambulance by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: REPLACEMENT REFUSE TRUCK – REFUSE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Wagoner said that staff is asking the Board to award a contract to Excel Truck Group of Roanoke, Virginia for \$358,020.73 to purchase a 2024 Mack LR front loader garbage truck. This refuse truck will replace an existing truck experiencing repeated equipment failures. Pricing is based on the Virginia Sheriff's Association contract, and has been approved by the Purchasing Department. Funds for this purchase are available in the Capital Replacement Fund.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the award of contract to Excel Truck Group for \$358,020.73 for the purchase of the refuse truck by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING RE: BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mr. Wagoner said following the public hearing on the FY 2022-23 budget, the Board expressed an interest in providing additional funding to the Blue Ridge Regional Library System, but staff suggested the Board wait until the new fiscal year began before considering additional funding. The library had requested an allocation of \$774,968, but the budget recommended level funding of \$735,541, a difference of \$39,427. Martinsville City and Patrick County also share in the cost of operating the library system.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the additional funding to the Blue Ridge Regional Library and funding the increase from the Board's contingency fund by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTROL SYSTEM – MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Wagoner said staff is asking the Board to award a contract to Trane Technologies for \$123,958 to purchase a control system for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. The purchase will improve energy efficiency and add the ability to monitor and control the HVAC systems for

the Administration Building, Sheriff's Department, Courthouse, Social Services, and the Adult Detention Center. Funds for this project are included in the Capital Improvement Program.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the award of contract to Trane Technologies for \$123,958 for the purchase of the HVAC control system by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Dillard welcomed JR Powell to his first meeting as Deputy County Administrator.

Ms. Buchanan welcomed new Henry County Enterprise reporter Sharon West.

Mr. Wagoner said the Henry County Animal Shelter recently had some issues with the HVAC units requiring after-hours work for repairs. In addition, the animals were temporarily relocated to the Franklin County Animal Shelter during the repairs. Mr. Wagoner thanked the Sheriff's office staff for their outstanding work in overcoming the situation. The County has been working with two interns from Virginia Commonwealth University this summer to help improve the cybersecurity of the election equipment and other computers. Mr. Wagoner said he recently met with Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Caren Merrick, and Deputy Secretary Nicole Riley to discuss economic development in our community. Piedmont Arts Association recently received a Creative Communities Partnership Grant of \$5,000 for their work in our community. Henry County received an Appalachian Regional Commission grant of \$1.2 million to make improvements to Reservoir Road in Ridgeway, which is adjacent to Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre. The Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) County Official's Summit is August 18, 2022, in Roanoke, and the VACO Annual Conference is November 15-18, 2022, in Richmond. Mr. Wagoner said he and Deputy County Administrator J.R. Powell had met with every department manager and constitutional officer to make sure we get off to a good start and develop a shared vision for the County. Mr. Wagoner said over the past few weeks, he had spoken to the Lions Club, Rotary Club, and the Piedmont Masonic Guild about the many positive things we have going on in our community.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:51 P.M. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Parks and Recreation 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. Slaughter 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 5:05 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Ms. Buchanan, 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 5:08 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.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SMART SCALE APPLICATION

Mr. Wagoner said the Virginia Department of Transportation requires a resolution regarding the submission of projects for the Smart Scale program. In consultation with VDOT, staff is asking the Board to approve a resolution supporting three project submissions to the 2022 VDOT Smart Scale program. The first project proposes to relocate 2500 feet of the northbound lanes of U.S. 220, Virginia Avenue, north of Bassett Forks, to improve the vertical and horizontal alignments. The second project proposes to reconstruct the intersection of U.S. 220 South (Greensboro Rd), and SR87 (Morehead Ave) using a "Continuous

Green T” design to more efficiently and safely move traffic through this intersection. The third project proposes to improve 0.85 miles of Barrows Mill Rd (SR 663) by widening the roadway surface and improving vertical and horizontal alignment. This project will improve access to industrial and economic development sites. The project applications cannot be submitted without a resolution of support by the Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Dillard, the Board approved the resolution by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-22-11 – MARK S. AND DEBORAH L. MINTER

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 78 Robertson Ridge Rd, in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 45.9/93 and a portion of 45.9/92. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 13.48-acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct accessory buildings that exceed the square footage limitations.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:05 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:05 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Dillard and seconded by Mr. Zehr, 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

Jimmy Ford, Iriswood District, addressed the Board concerning solar energy.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:16 P.M. Mr. Zehr seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.