

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

March 23, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on March 23, 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; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Sheriff Lane Perry, and Lt. Brian Lawson of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Kim Meeks of the Martinsville Bulletin and Brandon Martin of Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Adams gave the invocation, and Mr. Slaughter 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.

- February 22, 2021
- February 23, 2021

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Consideration of Extending the Continuity of Government Ordinance

Dr. Martin moved to approve the Items of Consent, and Mr. Zehr seconded it. Motion approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2021 AS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB WEEK

Mr. Bryant read aloud a proclamation declaring March 28 - April 3, 2021, as "Boys and Girls Club Week" in Henry County and moved the Board to adopt the proclamation. It was seconded by Mr. Zehr, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Ms. Joanie Petty, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge, was present to receive the proclamation.

CONSIDERATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Dr. Martin read aloud a proclamation declaring April 4-10, 2021, as "National Library Week" in Henry County and moved the Board to adopt the proclamation. It was seconded by Mr. Slaughter, and the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

Library Board Chairman Betsy Haskins was present to receive the proclamation.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 89.20% of 2020 personal property taxes and 92.30% of 2020 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2021, TACS has collected approximately \$174,146.71. There were seventy-four VRW stops collected in February 2021 and seventy-nine stops collected in March 2021.

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

No one was present to make a report.

Mr. Adams said the School Board made an urgent request to add a financial item to the agenda. Since the revised agenda was not advertised within three days of the meeting, a motion would be needed to approve the revised agenda. Dr. Martin moved the Board approve the revised agenda, and Mr. Slaughter seconded it. The motion was approved by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Hall said the School Board is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve an appropriation to the current year budget in the amount of \$489,024. The funds were allocated by the General Assembly and the Virginia Department of Education to address learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and modifications to facilities to assist with COVID-19 mitigation strategies for in-person learning.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the appropriation of \$489,024 to the FY'21 School Budget by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT AND THE PRETRIAL SERVICES ACT

Mr. Hall said Henry County, Patrick County, the City of Martinsville, and Franklin County are four of only five localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia that currently have neither local probation nor pretrial services. Staff has had informal discussions with officials from Halifax County, which is the closest entity within the region currently providing these services, possibly expanding these services into Henry County. As the program currently exists, we would have to partner with Halifax County to extend these services to our County. Grant funds are now available to make this a reality. Halifax/Pittsylvania Court Services currently provides pretrial services and local probation to Halifax County, Pittsylvania County, and the City of Danville, with Halifax County serving as fiscal agent, and that would be the same process to bring these services to Henry County. Staff has discussed this possibility with the Sheriff and the Commonwealth's Attorney, and they support this effort.

To begin the process, the attached resolution would need approval. Henry County is not responsible for any costs except potentially providing office space.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board approved the resolution as proposed by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Slaughter said the County needs to work more to stop citizens from littering.

Mr. Bryant agreed we had a Countywide litter issue.

Mr. Adams said he felt in recognition of the employee's good work and dedication in these trying times, the Board should approve Friday, April 2, as an additional holiday for employees. On a motion by Dr. Martin and

seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved Friday, April 2 as an additional holiday for employees by the following vote:

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

Mr. Hall said the budget calendar needed to be revised. The Board discussed some dates and conflicts. On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the following revisions to the budget calendar:

- Present Total County Budget to Board of Supervisors - April 13,
- Work Session on the Budget - April 14
- Advertise Public Hearing on the Budget - April 18
- Public Hearings on both School and County Budget - April 27
- Adoption of School Budget and Total County Budget - May 10

The vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Hall said the Henry-Martinsville Health Department had unexpended funds from the FY'20 in the amount of \$14,177.65. They ask to keep the funds due to COVID-19 and the uncertainties of expenses in the upcoming year. Mr. Hall said the County also has concerns with the County budget and indicated that staff recommends the money be returned to the County. On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board voted to ask the Henry-Martinsville Health Department to return the excess funds to the County by the following vote:

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

Mr. Hall said the NASCAR races would be in the area on April 8-10, and all three races would be at nighttime for the first time at Martinsville Speedway. Each race will allow approximately 9,000 spectators in attendance.

The John Redd Smith Project has received designation as a State Historic Structure. The Jack Dalton Awards were well received and appreciated by the recipients.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:36 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services and West Piedmont Planning District Commission.
- 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 carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 4:45 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Bryant, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Hall 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.

Henry Martinsville Department of Social Services – On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Paul Kennedy to an unexpired term ending May 31, 2024.

West Piedmont Planning District - On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Wesley George to a term ending April 30, 2025.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 4:49 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

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

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RE: ROADS IN COMMONWEALTH CROSSING BUSINESS CENTRE

Mr. Hall said the Board is being asked to consider a resolution granting the right-of-way to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for roads in

Commonwealth Crossing Business Center (CCBC). This action will allow VDOT to take the streets into their secondary road system and perform maintenance on them.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the resolution granting the right-of-way to the Virginia Department of Transportation by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Lisa Hughes, Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGARDING A MARTINSVILLE SPEEDWAY COOPERATIVE MARKETING AGREEMENT

Mr. Hall said the Board is being asked to approve an ordinance to allow a cooperative marketing agreement between the Martinsville Speedway and WynnBet, a Virginia sports betting permit holder. As part of the marketing agreement, any marketing activities must be conducted in compliance with the existing zoning and other site plan authorizations permitted for the Martinsville Speedway site. Before the Board can consider the ordinance, it must hold a public hearing to allow public comment on the proposed ordinance.

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. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the proposed ordinance allowing Martinsville Speedway to enter into a cooperative marketing agreement with WynnBet by the following vote:

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

NAYS: Bryant

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENT FY '20-'21 SCHOOL BUDGET AND TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Hall said the School Board had received \$8,037,505 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds. The School Board has indicated it will use the funds for essential instructional and maintenance supplies, personnel costs, and school facilities upgrades.

The Board of Supervisors must hold a public hearing in order to amend the FY '20-'21 budget and appropriate these funds. Whenever a budget is altered by more than 1% of the total budget, a public hearing is required. Following the public hearing, staff will ask the Board to approve an appropriation of \$8,037,505 to the schools.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the appropriation of \$8,037,505 by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BOND

Mr. Hall said the Board heard a presentation last month regarding the opportunity to issue a Virginia Public School Authority (VSPA) General Obligation bond to refund the existing lease revenue bonds issued by the Industrial Development Authority to finance Meadowview Elementary School. The refinancing has the potential to save approximately \$1,000,000 over the life of the borrowing. To move forward with issuing the bonds, the Board must hold a public hearing on the matter and adopt the resolution authorizing the bond's issuance.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board approved the proposed resolution authorizing the issuance of a bond to refinance loans held on Meadow View Elementary School by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATIONS R-21-04-SCOTT FRYE/STIMMEL ASSOCIATES

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 3446 Virginia Ave., in the Collinsville District. The Tax map number is 29.4(17)/52A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.59-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Commercial District B-1. The applicant intends to use the subject property for an adjacent parking lot in conjunction with the planned restaurant to be developed on Virginia Ave.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, 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-21-05-DONNA T. 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 Rural Residential District R-R. The applicant intends to remove the old house from the property and replace it with a manufactured home.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.

On a motion by Dr. Martin 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.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-06 – CHRISTINA N. PORTER

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 263 George Hairston Road, in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map number is 27.8,92. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5.6 acres from Rural Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to keep chickens, which is only allowed on agricultural zoned property.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – RELOCATION OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW (#405) VOTING PRECINCT

Mr. Hall said the Henry County Electoral Board wishes to move the Mountain View (#405) voting precinct from the VFW Building on Old Chatham Road to the Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church on the same road. General Registrar Dawn Stultz-Vaughn attended the meeting to provide additional information to the Board. A public hearing is required before moving forward with the change to the ordinance. The public hearing has been properly advertised and is scheduled for this meeting.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Rita Shropshire, Chairperson of the Electoral Board, addressed the Board concerning the need to change the voting precinct from the VFW Building on Old Chatham Road to the Woodland Heights Free Will Baptist Church due to new ownership and renovations of the VFW Building. Ms. Shropshire said if the precinct change is approved, the Registrar's Office will mail letters to each registered voter in the Mountain View (#405) voting precinct informing them of the new location. The precinct change will also be noted on the Henry County Registrar's Webpage and the local newspaper. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the County ordinance to reflect the precinct changes as requested by the Electoral Board by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION RE: RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC FIELDALE RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Hall said as part of the grant process for an application to the Virginia Department of Housing Community Development, the Board must hold a public hearing to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted for the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center Restoration Project. The public hearing has been properly advertised and scheduled for this meeting. Staff is also asking the Board to approve a resolution in support of the application. The grant will provide up to \$1,000,000 toward the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center's renovation if funded.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. Ms. Nancy Arnold and Doug Stegall of the Collinsville District separately addressed the Board in support of the grant application and commented on the community-wide efforts to reinvigorate the Fieldale Recreation Center and the Fieldale community. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the resolution in support of the CDBG grant application by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No one present wished to speak.

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, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Zehr, and Martin.

NAYS: None.