

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

January 24, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on January 24, 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, Tommy Slaughter, and Ryan Zehr. Garrett Dillard attended via zoom.

Staff members present were Dale Wagoner, County Administrator; JR Powell, 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, Lt. Col. Steve Eanes, Major Eric Hairston, Deputy Jason Keller, and Deputy Jeff Jones of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin, Lideah Shively of the Henry County Enterprise, and Charles Roark of Star News.

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 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.

- December 13, 2022
- January 9, 2023

Summary 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, Slaughter, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT

Mr. Wagoner said staff is requesting the Board of Supervisors to approve an additional appropriation of \$1,200,000 awarded through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The grant funds are specified for improvements to Reservoir Road at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$1,200,000 received from the Appalachian Regional Commission grant for improvements to Reservoir Road by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: PART-TIME EMPLOYEE – CIRCUIT COURT CLERK’S OFFICE

Mr. Wagoner said Henry County Clerk of Court Jennifer Ashworth is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$8,114. The appropriation will fund a part-time employee to assist with a project within the Clerk’s office, estimated to take six months. The Clerk’s office will reimburse Henry County for the additional appropriation through funds under the control of the Clerk.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$8,114 to the Clerk of Court’s office as presented by the following vote:

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

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

Mr. Wagoner said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$95,000 from the State Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase two replacement vehicles for use by the special investigations division.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$95,000 from the State Asset forfeiture funds for the purpose of purchasing two replacement vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office special investigations division by the following vote:

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

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

Mr. Wagoner said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to award a contract to Sheehy Ford in Richmond for the purchase of three Police Interceptor Utility

Vehicles totaling \$118,404. Funds for this purchase are included in the FY'23 Capital Improvements Plan budget.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board awarded a contract to Sheehy Ford in Richmond for \$118,404 to purchase three Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION GRANT

Mr. Wagoner asked the Board to appropriate grant funds of \$50,000 received from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The funds will be used for a sign at Philpott Marina and other tourism-related activities.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$50,000 received from the Virginia Tourism Corporation grant by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS – COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Mr. Wagoner said commonwealth's Attorney Andrew Nester is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$3,000 from State Asset Forfeiture funds to cover travel expenses for his office.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$3,000 from the State Asset Forfeiture funds as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CARRYOVER FUNDS – SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Wagoner said the School Board is requesting the Board of Supervisors approve an appropriation to the current year budget for \$549,342 of unexpended school funds from FY'22. Superintendent Sandy Strayer has indicated that the carryover funds will be used to cover the cost of capital projects, such as a new rooftop heating and cooling system at Laurel Park Middle School. This request is in accordance with the joint resolution approved previously by both Boards regarding carryover funds.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the appropriation of FY'22 carryover funds of \$549,342 to the FY'23 School Budget for school-related capital projects as presented by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA RECORDS PRESERVATION GRANTS – CIRCUIT COURT CLERK’S OFFICE

Mr. Wagoner said Circuit Court Clerk Jennifer Ashworth is asking the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$50,884 received from two grants awarded from the Library of Virginia Circuit Court Records Preservation Grant Program. The grants will be used for reformatting and indexing of wills from 1777-1974 and preservation of marriage bonds for multiple years between 1832 and 1851.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$50,884 received from the Circuit court Records Preservation Grant Program as requested by the following vote:

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

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES – FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Wagoner said Creedle, Jones & Associates, P.C. has served as independent auditors for both the County of Henry and the Public Service Authority since 2007. The current contract ended with the most recent audit, and staff is requesting the Board to award another contract to the firm extending their services through FY 2027, with the option of an additional two-year extension. The fee for FY 2023 and FY 2024 is \$64,250 annually, increasing to \$66,250 for FY 2025 and FY 2026 annually and \$68,250 for FY 2027. The Purchasing Department has reviewed and approved this request.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board awarded a contract to Creedle, Jones & Associates as outlined above for financial auditing services by the following vote:

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Dillard thanked Mr. Wagoner and George Lyle for attending the Martin Luther King Day Stop the Violence and Iriswood District Forum.

Ms. Buchanan presented a letter for the record from the Preston Scale Drive area regarding the Appalachian Power rate increase.

Mr. Wagoner reminded the Board of a Planning Session on February 6 at CCAT Building at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre at 4:00 P.M. Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer updated the Board on the new County website.

Appalachian Power representatives Teresa Hall and David Swisher explained that the recent increase in the residential electric bill was due to two rate increases and a cold snap in December.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:43 P.M. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Industrial Development Authority, Blue Ridge Regional Library Board, 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

Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion, and it passed by the following vote:

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

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 4:25 P.M. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, and it carried by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Powell read the Certification of the Closed Meeting and took a roll call vote.

Board members voting in the affirmative were Mr. Zehr, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Slaughter, and Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 4:33 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 2022 JACK DALTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Wagoner 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. The Board reviewed all nominations and ranked the top three according to their preference.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board unanimously approved a resolution honoring H. William Martin as the recipient of the 2022 Jack Dalton Community Service Award. Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution saying Mr. Martin has served in almost every position for the Horsepasture Volunteer Fire Department since he joined its ranks in 1992. Mr. Martin goes beyond his contributions to the fire department, including helping with the annual Smith River Clean-Up, doing handy work for widows in the community, and taking food to shelters for the homeless.

Members of the Board presented Mr. Martin with a plaque.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES RE: NOVEMBER ELECTION – GENERAL REGISTRAR

Henry County General Registrar Dawn-Stultz-Vaughn and Board of Elections Rita Shropshire, Valeria Edwards, and Ellen Boone presented certificates to the winners of the most recent general elections: Champ C. Hardie, Jr., Ridgeway District School Board Member; Craig A. O’der, Jr., Mayor, Town of Ridgeway; and Town of Ridgeway Council Members: Timothy L. Wood, Michael R. Bass, James B. Hairston, and Maeve S. McCulloch. Henry County General Registrar Dawn-Stultz-Vaughn recognized Valeria Edwards for her service on the Board of Elections.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-01 – RANDOLPH C. CAMPBELL

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 49 AND 81 Tanks Prestige Avenue, in the Horsepasture District. The Tax Map numbers are 39.7/123R, 124. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 2 lots from Agricultural District A-1 to Mixed Residential District M-R. The applicant wishes to create two additional lots out of the property.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:15 P.M. Larry Redd, Henry Tanks, and Gloria Tanks of the Horsepasture District all spoke with concerns of how the rezoning would affect the community. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:20 P.M.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-02 – BRYAN A. TIMBROOK

Mr. Clark said the property is located in the south west corner of the intersection of Maple Leaf Rd and A.L. Philpott Hwy, in the Horsepasture District. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 0.74-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to market the property for commercial purposes or the potential placement of a general advertising sign (billboard).

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:22 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:22 P.M.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-03 – RAY P. REYNOLDS, JR.

Mr. Clark said the property is located on the west side of Blackberry Rd, just behind the address of 2814 Blackberry Rd., in the Blackberry District. The Tax Map numbers are 26.5(23)/1-4. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 4 lots, containing a total of approximately 20 acres from Rural Residential District R-R to Agricultural District A-1.

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

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Lewis and Betty Turner of the Blackberry District addressed the Board to discuss an expansion of the Bassett Library.

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, Slaughter, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.