

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

February 28, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on February 28 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, and Ryan Zehr. Tommy Slaughter was absent.

Staff members present were Dale Wagoner, County Administrator; JR Powell, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy 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, Captain Wayne Davis, and Deputy Jeff Jones of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin and Taylor Boyd 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.

- January 24, 2023
- February 6, 2023

Summary 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, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 90.25% of 2022 real estate taxes and 94.62% of 2021 personal property taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2023, TACS has collected approximately \$134,851.68. In addition, there were 17 VRW stops collected in January 2023, and 12 were collected in February 2023. Finally, Mr. Grindstaff proposed Henry County offer a lifetime dog tag license for \$20.00.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board set a public hearing for March 28, 2023, at 6 P.M. to consider adopting the lifetime dog tag license by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

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 the Board's File).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING LT. COLONEL STEVE EANES – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Wagoner said Lt. Colonel Steve Eanes from the Sheriff's Office is set to retire on March 1, 2023. Colonel Eanes has honorably served our community for over 45 years in different capacities ranging from volunteer agencies, Public Safety, 911 Center and the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Buchanan read aloud a resolution honoring Lt. Colonel Steve Eanes.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the resolution as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Lt. Colonel Eanes said it had been a rewarding experience and career.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT

Mr. Wagoner said staff is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds of \$641,750 received from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the development and construction of phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Trail. This funding will provide 2.9 miles of trail passage, connecting the trail currently ending at Mulberry Creek to the trailhead on Spruce Street, which leads onto the Smith River Sports Complex. Once completed, the entire Dick and Willie Trail will be approximately 11 miles.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$641,750 received from the Land and

Water Conservation Fund for phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Passage by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: VEHICLE INSURANCE SETTLEMENT FUNDS – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Mr. Wagoner said Sheriff Lane Perry is asking the Board to appropriate funds received from vehicle insurance settlements in the amount of \$41,788. The funds will be used for repairs and maintenance to vehicles from both the Sheriff’s Office and the Adult Detention Center.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Dillard, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$41,788 received from vehicle insurance settlements as presented by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BLUE RIDGE AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND OVERSEE A FUNDING REQUEST TO THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Wagoner said the Blue Ridge Airport Authority requests the Board to consider authorizing the Airport Authority to apply for funding through the Airport Access Program from the Commonwealth Transportation Board on behalf of Henry County. If awarded, the funds will improve Airport Road (SR 698) to provide better access to the Blue Ridge Regional Airport. County staff will be engaged in the project, ensuring the agreement is followed. Mr. Paul Brown with Eden and Associates, and Jason Davis, Blue Ridge Regional Airport Managing Director, updated the Board on funding and improvements (Copy included in Board’s file).

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the resolution as presented by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING OF THE COUNTY’S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS- COUNTY ATTORNEY

Henry County Attorney George Lyle requested that the Board adopt the attached resolution approving the County’s participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims. This settlement is specifically related to claims against Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and their related corporate entities and provides authority for the County attorney, or the County’s participation in the settlements (Copy included in Board’s File).

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the resolution authorizing the County's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Wagoner said our public safety team was recently presented with the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service in Fire Training for implementing the Blue Ridge Fire & EMS Academy. Leading the effort for Public Safety are Suzie Helbert and Kenny Shumate, who briefly talked about the program. As a reminder, after closed session, the Board will return to this room to certify the closed meeting and then reconvene at 5:00 P.M. in the School Board conference room on the 3rd floor. The grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Fieldale School Apartments comprised 23 new apartments of 17 one bedroom, 4 two bedroom, and 2 two bedrooms with a loft. These units preserved much of the history, including lockers, chalkboards, etc. The units come with a pool pass. The Chamber of Commerce's Fast Track 2023 Trade Show is at the Clock Tower building in Martinsville next week. VIP night is Tuesday, March 7, and general admission is Wednesday, March 8. It starts at 4:00 P.M. each day.

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
- E) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Personnel Matters

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

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

NAYS: None.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 4:50 P.M. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Bryant, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Bryant, Buchanan, Dillard, 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. Dillard, and Mr. Adams.

The Lester Group, Inc. – Mr. Zehr made a motion to enter into a deed of affirmation between the County and The Lester Group concerning a parcel of land located at Kings Mountain Road. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Industrial Development Authority – On a motion by Mr. Bryant and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously re-appointed Barry Helmstutler and Marshall Stowe to four-year terms ending March 31, 2027.

Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Board – On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously re-appointed Scott Barker to a three-year term ending March 31, 2026.

Mr. Adams continued the meeting to 5:00 P.M. joint budget meeting of the Board of Supervisors and School Board

JOINT SESSION WITH SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Chairman Teddy Martin called the Joint Budget Meeting to order at 5 P.M.

Members of the School Board present were Chairman Teddy Martin, Vice-Chairman Ben Gravely, Elizabeth Durden, Terri Flanagan, Tom Aucker, Cherie Whitlow, and Champ Hardie.

Ms. Strayer presented the school division's FY 2024 Budget outlook. (Copy of presentation included in the Board's File).

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 5:19 P.M. until the 6:00 P.M. evening meeting.

School Board Chairman Martin adjourned the School Board meeting at 5:19 P.M.

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

GENERAL HIGHWAY MATTERS

David Kiser, Assistant Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation, updated the Board on general highway matters. Mr. Kiser said VDOT needed to schedule their six-year secondary plan hearing for April 25, 2023.

COSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION CREATING THE “CLAUDE A. COBLER OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER EMS OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

Mr. Wagoner said Claude A. Cobler served Henry County as a member of the Bassett Volunteer Rescue Squad beginning in 1966. During his decades of service, Mr. Cobler served as Captain, President, and many other roles within the rescue squad. Mr. Cobler was a committed public servant, not only to Bassett Rescue Squad, but to all emergency services abroad. The Board is being asked to name the annual award presented to the Outstanding EMS Officer of the Year as the “Claude A. Cobler Outstanding Volunteer EMS Officer of the Year” award. The Emergency Services Advisory Council (Copy included in Board’s file) has endorsed this action.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the resolution creating the Claude A. Cobler Outstanding Volunteer EMS Officer of the Year award by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PRESENTATION BY THE BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Rick Ward, Director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library and Leandio Gravely, Program Director, provided a brief presentation to the Board of recent events and activities offered through the libraries serving Henry County.

PUBLIC HEARING – RELOCATION OF THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY (#305) VOTING PRECINCT

Mr. Wagoner said the Henry County Electoral Board wishes to move the Mountain Valley (#305) voting precinct from the Mountain Valley Leatherwood Club (MCL Club) on North Fork Road to the Granberry United Methodist Church on Granberry Road, Martinsville. 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 6:07 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. Dillard and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the change in the County ordinance to reflect the precinct change as requested by the Electoral Board by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Van Drewery of the Horsepasture District addressed the Board concerning noise and debris on Carver Road in the area of the Teal-Jones Pine Products Facility. Several residents in the Carver Road area attended, speaking on the matter and supporting needed action on this complaint.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Buchanan moved to adjourn at 6:47 P.M. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.