

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

March 28, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on March 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, Tommy Slaughter, and Ryan Zehr.

Staff members present were Dale Wagoner, County Administrator; JR Powell, Deputy County Administrator; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources; Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Captain Wayne Davis and Deputy Jeff Jones of the Sheriff's Office were present. Also present were Monique Holland of the Martinsville Bulletin and Taylor Boyd of the Henry County Enterprise.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. Bryant 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.

- February 28, 2023

Summary of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Mr. Slaughter made a motion to approve the Items of Consent, and Ms. Buchanan 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 91.45% of 2022 real estate taxes and 94.86% of 2021 personal property taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2023, TACS

has collected approximately \$210,906.97. In addition, there were 13 VRW stops collected in February 2023, and 9 were collected in March 2023.

CONSIDERATION OF A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. Wagoner said staff had prepared a proclamation for the Board's consideration declaring April 23-29, 2023, National Library Week in Henry County. Ms. Buchanan read aloud a proclamation recognizing National Library Week (Copy included in Board's file).

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the proclamation recognizing April 23-29, 2023, as National Library Week in Henry County by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Rick Ward, Director of the Blue Ridge Regional Library, and other representatives were present to receive the proclamation.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION – PARTNERSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION GRANT

Mr. Wagoner said staff is asking the Board to appropriate grant funds of \$665,000 received from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) for the development and construction of phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Trail. At the February 2023 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, an additional appropriation was approved for \$641,700 received from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for this same portion of the Dick and Willie Trail. Combined, 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 Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the additional appropriation of 665,000 received from the Appalachian Regional Commission Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization for phase 6A of the Dick and Willie Passage by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Mr. Wagoner said in 2022, the Virginia General Assembly approved the School Construction Assistance Program and appropriated funds to award grants on a competitive basis to local school boards that demonstrate

a commitment and need for funding for the construction, expansion, or modernization of public school buildings. Our school administration is currently working on an application for this program and has requested a letter of support and commitment from the Board of Supervisors. Having the support of the Board will strengthen the application. Mr. Wagoner read aloud a resolution supporting the application to the Virginia School Construction Assistance Program in the 2022-2024 Biennium (Copy included in Board's file).

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Dillard, the Board expressed its support of the Henry County Public Schools application to the School Construction Assistance Program and will thrive to maintain the percentage of local revenue dedicated to public education throughout the duration of the project by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Mr. Wagoner said he was pleased to report that the Commonwealth reimbursed Henry County last week for its 25% share of the construction cost for the Adult Detention Center. Total All-In Costs to construct the jail was \$73,293,642. That includes the generator that still needs to be ordered. Reimbursement from the State was exactly \$18,875,216, which actually is closer to 26% of the total cost. The total cost to Henry County is \$54,518,426. In the near future, the Board will need to appropriate the funds received from the State so we can use it to make a lump sum payment on the debt service. Since it will be more than 1% of the total County budget, a public hearing will have to be scheduled. We'll have more information for you at a future meeting. The Proposed County Budget will be presented on April 4 at 5:00 P.M. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building. The budget Work Session is on April 6 at 5:00 P.M. in the 4th Floor Conference Room. The Employee Service Banquet is on April 11 at 6:00 P.M. at the Bassett Train Station. The Household Hazardous Waste Day is April 26 at the Bassett Service Center.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:15 P.M. to discuss the following:

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

Ms. Buchanan 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 4:10 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. Powell 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.

Business License Fee Refund. – Mr. Zehr made a motion to issue a refund of business license fees for the years 2021 and 2022 to Roochi Traders, Inc. in a total amount of \$20,468.25 and appropriate the money from the county's general fund balance. The refund represents an erroneous overpayment by the business. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan and carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Vesper Energy Siting Agreement – On a motion by Mr. Dillard and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board set a public hearing for April 17, 2023, at 7 P.M. to consider the Vesper Energy Siting Agreement by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Patrick & Henry Community College Board – On a motion by Mr. Slaughter and second by Mr. Zehr, the Board unanimously appointed Stuart Warren to an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024.

Mr. Adams recessed the meeting at 4:17 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. Ms. Hughes said the six-year secondary road plan hearing will be on April 25, 2023. The Commonwealth Transportation Board Spring public hearing will be in Roanoke on May 16, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. The location is unknown at this time.

PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTATION

Daniel Reynolds, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced the league champions for winter sports.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO HENRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING DOG LICENSES - TREASURER

Mr. Wagoner said that Treasurer Scott Grindstaff asked the Board to consider changing the County ordinance to allow for lifetime dog tags. A public hearing must be held before changing the ordinance. The public hearing has been properly advertised and scheduled for this meeting.

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 Mr. Zehr, the Board approved the change in the County ordinance regarding dog licensing as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-04 – WILLIAM W. HITT

Mr. Clark said the property is located on the south side of Ward Road, between the addresses of 178 and 400 Ward Road, in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map is 43.2(61)A/1. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of 8.1-acre from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to build a home on the property and use the land for agricultural purposes, including the keeping of animals.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:12 P.M. Jessie Ward addressed the Board with concern of the smell from the animals. Justin Hitt addressed the Board to explain this would be a small farming operation. Mark Wingfield addressed the Board with concerns of trees being cut and close proximity to other homes and the Mount Olivet Ruritan Building. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:18 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Dillard and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the rezoning request as presented by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-05-EVERYTHING OUTDOORS, LLC/TRAVIS CROUCH

Mr. Clark said the property is located in the south west corner of the intersection of Virginia Ave and Camilla Dr., in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map is 16.8/126A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 1-acre from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant wishes to construct a billboard on the property. This particular use would also require the issuance of a Special Use Permit by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:25 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:25 P.M.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-23-06-EVERYTHING OUTDOORS, LLC/TRAVIS CROUCH

Mr. Clark said the property is located in the north east corner of the intersection of Camilla Dr. and Thornwood Dr., in the Reed Creek District. The Tax Map is a portion of 16.8/124. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 5-acres from Suburban Residential District S-R to Agricultural District A-1. The applicant wishes to construct a large storage shelter on the property.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:26 P.M. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:26 P.M.

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

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

NAYS: None.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Mark Wingfield of the Iriswood District addressed the Board concerning the need for speed limit signs on Ward Road near Chatham Road to stop speeding traffic.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:33 P.M. Mr. Zehr seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.