

**HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

January 26, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on January 26, 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, David Martin, and Ryan Zehr.

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/Public Information Officer; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Sheriff Lane Perry, Deputy Nicole Dunn, Captain Eric Hairston, and Deputy Jeff Jones 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.

- December 15, 2020
- January 4, 2021

Approval of Accounts Payable

Copy included in Board's File.

Approval of Non-Discrimination Policy

Copy included in Board's File

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, Martin, 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 Board's File). Mr. Heath also showed a video produced to market CCBC.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION EFFORTS

Mr. Grindstaff noted that 94.53% of 2019 personal property taxes and 95.98% of 2019 real estate taxes had been collected. Since January 1, 2020, TACS has collected approximately \$1,056,420.21. There were twenty VRW stops collected in November 2020 and five stops collected in December 2020.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CARRYOVER 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 \$500,000 of unexpended school funds from FY'20. Superintendent Sandy Strayer has indicated that the carryover funds will be used to cover the cost of capital projects, including up-fitting the transportation garage and improvements to the cafeteria and kitchen at George Washington Carver Elementary 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 Dr. Martin, the Board approved the appropriation of FY'20 Carryover funds of \$500,000 to the FY'20 School Budget for school-related capital projects by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: ASBESTOS ABATEMENT – JOHN REDD HOUSING PROJECT

Mr. Hall said staff asks the Board to approve an additional appropriation of \$80,000 from the County's share of the Schools' FY'20 carryover funds. The funds will be used to abate asbestos at the former John Redd Smith Elementary School.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Ms. Buchanan, the Board approved the appropriation of \$80,000 from the FY'20 Carryover funds for asbestos abatement by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

AWARD OF CONTRACT RE: MAPPING PROJECT – ENGINEERING AND MAPPING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Hall said staff asks the Board to award a contract for \$178,160 to Spatial Data Consultants, Inc. for updates to the aerial photography and the Geographical Information System (GIS). The updates include new digital airborne imagery, orthoimagery, and plan metric improvements. The Public Service Authority and Industrial Development Authority are assisting with the cost of this project. Funding for the County's share of this project was appropriated at the Board's organizational meeting on January 4, 2021.

On a motion by Dr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Zehr, the Board approved awarding the contract to Spatial Data Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$178,160 by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: GRANT FUNDS FOR BROADBAND PLANNING STUDY

Mr. Hall said Henry County has been awarded two separate grants to cover a Broadband Planning Study's cost. The primary grant of \$50,000 is from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. This grant requires a \$10,000 match. The second grant of \$15,000 is from the Harvest Foundation to cover the required matching funds and other associated costs. The study will identify broadband service gaps in both the County and the City of Martinsville and provide a roadmap for addressing the gaps.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and the \$15,000 from the Harvest Foundation to cover the costs associated with conducting a Broadband Planning Study by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: CLERK OF COURT

Mr. Hall said Jennifer Ashworth, Clerk of Court, asks the Board to appropriate \$11,863 received as a grant from the Library of Virginia. The funds will be used for preserving records in the Circuit Court.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the additional appropriation of \$11,863 received from the Library of Virginia by the following vote:

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

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: BULLETPROOF VEST PROGRAM – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Perry asks the Board to appropriate a grant of \$7,787 from the Department of Justice's Bulletproof Vest Program. Funds in the current operating budget will be used for the required 50% local match. The grant will provide protective vests for law enforcement personnel.

On a motion by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the appropriation of \$7,787 received from the Department of Justice for the purchase of bulletproof vests by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION RE: JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mr. Hall said Sheriff Perry asks the Board to appropriate grant funds of \$13,797 received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The grant funds will be used for overtime hours to provide high-impact law enforcement activities in areas experiencing increases in crime.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board approved the appropriation of \$13,797 received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ARC GRANT APPLICATION RE: RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC FIELDALE RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Hall said, in partnership with the Fieldale Heritage Board and the Fieldale Recreation Center, Henry County is applying for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to fund the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center's restoration. Improvements to this historic building were identified in the Economic and Physical Improvement Master Plan for the Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization Project. The restoration project will consist of complete interior building rehabilitation. Restoration of this structure will play a significant role in revitalizing the Fieldale Business District and supporting economic development, tourism, and quality of life among the Smith River Small Towns.

The projected costs of improvements to the Recreation Center are \$1,500,000. This total includes \$500,000 from the ARC grant funds, \$850,000 from federal and state grant funds, and \$150,000 from private funds. A 30% match is required and will be covered by private funds.

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

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

NAYS: None.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SAT GRANT APPLICATION RE: RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC FIELDALE RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Hall said, in partnership with the Fieldale Heritage Board and the Fieldale Recreation Center, Henry County is applying for a National Park Service Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant to fund the Historic Fieldale Recreation Center's restoration. Improvements to this historic building were identified in the Economic and Physical Improvement Master Plan for the Smith River Small Towns Business District Revitalization Project. The restoration project will consist of complete interior building rehabilitation. Restoration of this structure will play a significant role in revitalizing the Fieldale Business District and supporting economic development, tourism, and quality of life among the Smith River Small Towns.

The projected cost of improvements to the Recreation Center is \$1,500,000. This total includes \$350,000 from the SAT grant funds, \$1,000,000 from federal and state grant funds, and \$150,000 from private funds. A 50% match is required and will be covered by State Grants.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board approved the proposed resolution in support of the grant application to the National Park Service by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Comments from the Board

Dr. Martin said Dogwood Road has been recommended to receive funding from Round 4 of Smart Scale. The improvements will include constructing turn lanes on 58 and adding a lane to Dogwood Road. This will help alleviate the backups from traffic exiting Laurel Park Middle School. The estimated cost is 2.5 million. Dr. Martin wanted to thank Iriswood District Henry County School Board member Ben Gravely for his help in keeping this matter in the forefront of the school system. Dr. Martin said Rev. Tyler Millner has contacted him with concerns about how the Board was handling the pandemic. Dr. Martin noted that the County was taking its lead from the Martinsville Health Department and closely following the Virginia Department of Health guidelines.

Mr. Bryant said VDOT has approved a replacement of a pipe on Miles Road. Mr. Bryant also said he would be running for re-election for Supervisor of the Collinsville District.

Mr. Adams said he thought staff and the local media were working hard to inform citizens regarding the pandemic.

Mr. Hall said the VDOT plans to replace a 6' x 8' double box culvert pipe on Miles Road, which will require a road closure and detour. The

project will take 30 days to complete, but it is specified that the work is done between June 1, 2022 and August 5, 2022 when school is out.

On a motion by Mr. Zehr and seconded by Dr. Martin, the Board approved authorizing County staff to write a letter to VDOT in support of the project by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

Mr. Hall said Dr. Angeline Godwin will retire as President of Patrick Henry Community College effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Hall noted Dr. Godwin had served us well and will be hard to replace.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Zehr moved that the Board go into a closed meeting at 3:32 p.m. to discuss the following:

- A) §2.2-3711(A)1 for Discussion of Appointees to the Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, and Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services
- 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.

Dr. Martin seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None.

OPEN MEETING

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:18 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Dr. Martin, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Buchanan, Slaughter, Bryant, Martin, 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. Adams, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Zehr, Dr. Martin, and Mr. Slaughter.

Mr. Adams recessed at 5:22 p.m. until the 6:00 p.m. evening meeting.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-01-PUGAZHENTHI SELVARAJ

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 20 Water Plant Rd, in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 62.4/151. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 2.65-acres from Government and Special Use District G-S to Limited Industrial District 1-2. The applicant intends to use the existing building for research, development, and assembly operations in the renewable energy industry.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-02- WEST LEASING, LLC

Mr. Clark said the property is located on the east side of Gallagher Rd in the Iriswood District. The Tax Map number is 43.9/99A. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 10-acres from Commercial District B-1 to Limited Industrial District 1-2. The applicant intends to construct a new warehouse on the property to be used for food distribution.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING APPLICATION R-21-03-HOWARD D. TATE

Mr. Clark said the property is located at 3660 Old Leaksville Rd, in the north east corner of the intersection of Morehead Ave. and Old Leaksville Rd, in the Ridgeway District. The Tax Map number is 73.7(3A)/1,2. The applicant is requesting the rezoning of approximately 3-acres from Agricultural District A-1 to Commercial District B-1. The applicant intends to construct a new convenience store on the property.

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 Mr. Slaughter, the Board approved the rezoning request by the following vote:

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

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

Doug Stegall from the Collinsville District addressed the Board concerning the lack of newspaper and website coverage of his remarks at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Stegall expressed concern with speeding traffic near the Fieldale Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Stegall said he heard rumors of someone making derogatory remarks about the Lester Family regarding the proposed solar farm and felt this was wrong.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 JACK DALTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Hall 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. Nominations were received from community members, and the Board was asked to rank all nominees according to preference.

On a motion by Ms. Buchanan and seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board unanimously approved all healthcare workers on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Buchanan read aloud the resolution stating, "Our frontline healthcare workers risk their own health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their loved ones, to continue their work during the COVID-19 pandemic and these workers far too often go without acknowledgment and thanks for their heroic efforts and community impact."

Lois Dalton, wife of the late Jack Dalton, did not attend the meeting in the interest of staying safe during the pandemic but did convey her appreciation to everyone and expressed her congratulations to the award winner.

Members of the Board presented several staff members from Sovah Health Martinsville with a plaque.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

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