

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, March 9, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W. in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Jerry D. White, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss; Charles E. Cook; and Frank R. Conner. Present from the Pulaski County School Board were: Lewis Pratt, Chairman; Ronald E. Chaffin; Warren Jeff Bain; Beth C. Nelson; and Rhea Saltz. Staff members present included County Attorney Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan; Management Services Director, Nancy M. Burchett; School Superintendent William Asbury; School Business Manager, Walt Shannon; and School Board Secretary Jean Cox.

1. Joint Meeting with School Board:

a. 1998-99 Budget Request:

1. Salaries
2. Buses
3. Possible the Early Retirement Incentives Program (ERIP)
4. Refinancing the former Early Retirement Plan
5. State Revenue Projects

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order and called on School Board Chairman, Lewis Pratt, to address the above listed items on behalf of the School System.

School Board Chairman Pratt thanked the Board of Supervisors for their past support and reported on each of the above noted items. He advised for every 1% increase in salary the cost is \$212,000; reported the School System is trying to replace 5 buses per year; reported the School Board is investigating a possible early retirement incentive program for employees for next year (provided savings can be achieved); and reviewed preliminary state revenue projections for FY 99.

Supervisors White and Cook expressed concerns regarding the transferring of funds last fall from the purchase of a school bus to the painting of a auto body booth at the vocational school.

Chairman Pratt further reported that the expected school enrollment for FY 99 is estimated to be 5,075.

b. Capital Plans

1. Construction  
Snowville  
Critzler  
Claremont & Other
2. Repairs, Etc.  
Roofs – Status of Plans  
Other Needs Included in CIP

Chairman Pratt reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the above listed construction plans, roof repairs and other capital needs of the school system. Chairman Pratt advised the School Board had purchased an additional three and one-half acres for the Snowville School ballfield.

He also reported the roof repairs at the High School were urgent repair needs. In addition, Chairman Pratt advised the School Board is currently working on a priority listing of capital needs for the entire school system.

3. Leasing of Second Floor of Bank Building

Dr. William Asbury, School Superintendent, reported the School Board had recently signed a four year lease in the amount of \$15,000 per year for administrative staff office space at the old NationsBank Building. Dr. Asbury reported the school administrative staff has had a critical space problem. He advised with the closing of the Ash Tree Building in Dublin, currently being used for office staff, the School Board will save approximately \$10,000 per year due to savings on utilities and maintenance on the Ash Tree Building. He reported the Ash Tree Building will be used for storage.

c. Health Insurance

1. Rates for New Year

Nancy M. Burchett, Management Services Director, reported to the Board of Supervisors and the School Board regarding employee health insurance renewal rates for FY 99. Ms. Burchett reported the renewal rates reflect an increase of 11% over FY 98 rates. The Boards reviewed rates for the last four years as well as calculations for the 11% increase (premiums paid verses claims paid information), as presented by staff.

Supervisor White noted his concerns regarding the prescriptions drug claims and the dental claims paid representing 25% of the total claims paid. He advised user education was important to encourage the employees to keep costs down.

The Board requested staff to provide additional information regarding the prescription drug claims to include how the 1997 amount compares to the 1996 prescription drug claims amount and a comparison with other groups regarding prescription drug claims experience.

2. Future Plans

Ms. Burchett advised of the following possible options for the county to consider next year regarding health insurance coverage for employees: join the Virginia Municipal League (VML) in forming a new pool of local governments within the State of Virginia; participate in a recent effort by Pulaski Encouraging Progress (PEP) to form a pool of both private and public sector employees for health insurance coverage; and consider the Local Choice Pool again next year since this coverage is due for rebidding by the State of Virginia for coverage beginning July 1, 1999.

d. School/County Collaboration

County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, advised the Board of Supervisors and the School Board of a recent report prepared by the University of Virginia Institute of Local Government regarding school/county collaboration efforts in the state. Mr. Morgan advised that Pulaski County had been reported several times in this report as having school/county cooperative efforts ongoing. He further reported that Ms. Phyllis Bishop, Assistant School Superintendent, and Ms. Nancy M. Burchett, Management Services Director, had been the staff personnel who had supplied this information to the University of Virginia.

Mr. Morgan commended Ms. Bishop and Ms. Burchett for their efforts regarding this matter.

2. Financial Advisor Selection

County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, advised proposals had been received for a financial advisor. He reviewed with the Board his recommendation to award this service to First Union with the principal contact being Mr. James R. Johnson.

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved staff recommendation to accept the proposal submitted by First Union for financial advisor services at a set hourly rate fee ranging from \$175 per hour to \$100 per hour, with reasonable out-of-pocket expenses including travel, meals, copies, telephone and computer time.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

It was noted by both the County Attorney, Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., and the County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, of presently serving on the Advisory Board of the First Union Bank (formerly Signet Bank) and of their having no material interest in or conflict with the awarding of this contract to First Union by the Board of Supervisors.

At this time a recess was called by the Chairman and the School Board adjourned their meeting.

3. 1998 Tax Rate Public Hearing Notice

- a. Projected Budget Summary – Table and Pie Chart
- b. Reassessment Worksheet
- c. Adjacent Reassessments Chart
- d. Homeowners Impact Chart
- e. Comparison of Property Tax Rates
- f. Machinery & Tool Tax Rate Chart
- g. Capital Improvements Plan
- h. Summary by Department, Commitments, Maintenance  
Recommended and Optional Table:
  1. Summary by Priorities Table
  2. Capital Projects Priorities Chart
  3. Capital Commitments Chart

The County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, presented the above listed reports and/or charts to the Board for review and information.

Supervisors White and Fariss expressed concerns regarding advertising the proposed tax rate at \$.66 per \$100 of assessed value.

It was noted the rate could be lowered after the public hearing; however, the rate could not exceed the amount advertised.

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to advertise the following tax notice on March 15, 1998:

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE

The County of Pulaski proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by twenty-five percent (25%).
2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.56 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. Effective Rate Increase: The County of Pulaski proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.66 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.10 per \$100, or eighteen percent (18%). This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase."

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Pulaski County will exceed last year's by eleven and one-half percent (11.5%).

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Monday, March 23, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W. in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting yes: Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: Dr. Fariss and Mr. White.

4. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed at this time

5. Executive Session – 2.1-344(A)

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors entered executive session in accordance with Section 2.1-344(A) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss personnel, legal, land acquisition/disposition and prospective industry.

Voting yes: Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Conner.

Voting no: Dr. Fariss and Mr. White.

Return to Regular Session

On the motion of Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, the Board of Supervisors returned to regular session.

Voting yes: Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

Certification of Conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act & Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, that the Board of Supervisors adopt the following resolution certifying conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and to adjourn this special called meeting.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia, has convened an executive meeting of this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia hereby certifies to the best of each members' knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in this motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors.

Voting yes: Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. White and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for Monday, March 23, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Board Room in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia.

---

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman  
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

---

Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk  
Pulaski County Board of Supervisors