

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, April 6, 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; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss; Charles E. Cook; and Frank R. Conner. Absent: Vice-Chairman, Jerry White. 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; Assistant School Superintendent, Phyllis Bishop; and School Board Secretary Jean Cox.

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the Pulaski County School Board.

1. Pulaski County School Board Presentation
 - a. FY 99 Budget Request:

School Board Chairman, Lewis Pratt, presented to the Board of Supervisors the School Board's proposed budget request for FY 99. Mr. Pratt advised the School Board budget for FY 99 targets the following areas:

1. Full Accreditation
2. Student Academic Performance
3. Early Intervention/Prevention
4. School Facilities/Capital Needs
5. Teacher/Support Personnel Salaries/Benefits

He reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the goals for FY 99, anticipated additional state revenues estimated at \$761,673 and a summary of expenditure increases needed by the School System. In addition, revenues and expenditures by categories were reviewed by Mr. Pratt. Additional local dollars needed by FY 99 for school operating needs was reported to be \$659,954.

Mr. Pratt also discussed with the Board of Supervisors the school accreditation process. Under this new state mandate, seventy percent or more of all students within a school have to pass the required SOL tests in order for the school to be accredited by the state. Said SOL tests being required at the elementary grade levels and the end of course tests in the high school and middle schools.

Other matters discussed regarding school issues included school safety, proposed salary increases, current drop-out rates, closing of Ashtree Building, moving of certain administrative offices to a the 3rd Floor of the old NationsBank Building, and purchase of school buses.

At this time Dr. William Asbury, School Superintendent, presented information to the Board of Supervisors regarding possible state funds available for school construction. Dr. Asbury advised Pulaski County could receive up to approximately \$350,000 for capital school needs, if proposed legislation is approved by the General Assembly and the Governor. On behalf of the School Board, Dr. Asbury requested the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution of support for the proposed legislation regarding state funding for school construction.

b. Design Work Report – Snowville/Critzer Project

Mr. Phil Pappas and Mr. Randy Jones of Oliver, Webb, Pappas & Rhudy, Inc., architects/engineers, presented preliminary drawings and plans for the additions and renovations to the Critzer and Snowville Elementary Schools. The preliminary cost estimate for the Critzer Elementary School addition was reported to be \$2,442,882, and the preliminary cost estimate for the Snowville Elementary School was reported to be \$4,809,743.

c. Resolution on Proposed School Construction Legislation

RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

On the motion of Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution supporting the concept for the General Assembly of Virginia to directly assist localities in the funding of school construction beginning July 1, 1998 and continuing thereafter:

WHEREAS, based on the Department of Education School Facility Status Survey reports and statistics and reports received and studied by various committees and commissions in the past several years which document the growing crisis surrounding school construction in every locality in the Commonwealth, it is critical that immediate action be taken with respect to this issue; and

WHEREAS, this crisis has reached staggering proportions of up to \$8 billion of needs statewide, as a result of the need for renovation and renewal of outdated facilities and high growth in student populations in some areas; and

WHEREAS, having reviewed legislation, plans and published reports concerning how best to fund direct grants to localities, the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County believes that a viable solution has been proposed; and

WHEREAS, the plan set forth in a bi-partisan House of Delegates' compromise, which legislation passed unanimously in that body, represents a fair and equitable compromise, when coupled with local car tax relief; and

WHEREAS, such plan would establish the Virginia Public School Construction Grants Fund consisting of two equal pools of funds, with one allocated on the basis of average daily membership adjusted by local ability-to-pay; and the other distributed so that each locality receives the same set amount except school divisions having growth rates exceeding the statewide average which would get slightly more; and

WHEREAS, both pools would require commensurate local match for funding for construction, renovation, retrofitting and enlarging, site acquisition and debt service for projects completed within the past five years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED unanimously by the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors that the General Assembly be requested at its session commencing on April 22, 1998, to provide funding in a way which approximates the above-outlined compromise plan as the method for fair and equitable state participation in direct grants to localities for school construction.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Mr. White.

2. Budget Work Session:

a. Delivery of Complete Document on April 10

County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, advised plans were to have as much as possible of the complete budget document for FY 99 delivered on April 10, 1998 to the board members.

b. Scheduling of Agency Presentations on April 20

The Board set April 20, 1998 as the meeting date to hear from departments and agencies regarding the FY 99 budget requests. It was noted at this meeting the tax rate would need to be set.

c. Schedule of Budget Work Sessions – May 4 – 11

The Board set budget work sessions for May 4 through May 11, 1998.

d. Review of Draft Budget Document

Joseph N. Morgan, County Administrator, reviewed with the Board of Supervisors preliminary revenue and expenditure projections. Mr. Morgan reviewed various charts and graphs pertaining to the FY 99 budget. He advised it would take an additional six cents (.06) on the real estate tax rate to fund the school capital projects. Further, each one cent (.01) on the real estate tax raises about \$110,000.

e. Other Desired Budget Information

The Board at this time did not request any additional budget information beyond those documents provided by staff in previous years.

3. Other Matters

*County Government Week Recognition

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors declared the Week of April 19-25 as County Government Week and approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, America's earliest immigrants placed great faith in the county form of government, which traces its roots to the English shire; and

WHEREAS, county government is truly vital to the nation's citizenry, serving as the most resonant and pure of local government voices; and

WHEREAS, when the federal government was formed, the framers of the Constitution gave great weight to the importance of county government and its dual value to both the state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, county government's primary concern is to assure that county leaders provide information and encouragement to its citizens so that together they can build strong, sustainable communities which nurture the economic, environmental and social well-being of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for all Americans is dependent upon choices that accommodate economic development while preserving vital natural environmental systems; and

WHEREAS, natural scenic, cultural and historic resources are important community assets; and

WHEREAS, the process of arriving at a community vision should be open and inclusive and reflect the diverse population of the community; and

WHEREAS, because communities and their surrounding areas are interdependent, there is a recognized need for collaborative approaches to problem solving; and

WHEREAS, safe, healthy, drug-free communities are necessary to ensure a high quality of life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, community stability and social well-being go hand in hand; and

WHEREAS, community leaders and all citizens should take a step to learn about resources and programs available that can work to improve their community's sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the week of April 19-25, 1998 at National County Government Week.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Mr. White.

4. 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: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.
Absent: 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: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Mr. White.

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

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner 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.

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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: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Mr. White.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn until the special meeting of the Board set for April 20, 1998 at the County Administration Building, Board Room. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Monday, April 27, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 3rd 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