

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 20, 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. Staff members present included County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, County Attorney Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr. and Management Services Director, Nancy M. Burchett.

1. Agency/Department Presentations:

a. Clerk of Circuit Court

Clerk of the Circuit Court, Glenwood Lookabill, appeared before the Board to request funding for an optical imaging system for the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Mr. Lookabill advised the proposed optical imaging system would solve his present filing storage problems. He reported some savings would be realized from this purchase but could not give an exact amount. Mr. Lookabill further advised that technology trust fund monies of approximately \$13,000 could be used toward the optical imaging system purchase leaving the county's first year costs to be \$10,200. He then reported on how this system could be of assistance to the Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer and other county departments and agencies.

Dr. Fariss expressed concerns regarding the storage problems with the Courthouse only being remodeled a few years ago. He also expressed concerns regarding the lack of hard copies of information.

Supervisor Cook requested Mr. Lookabill contact the vendor and determine if any savings could be achieved by a lump sum purchase rather than a four year purchase option.

b. Electoral Board

Dallas Cox, Chairman of the Electoral Board, addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding the need for new voting machines. He requested the Board consider purchasing 13 new voting machines and 51 booths at a cost of \$67,118. He advised there would be a reduction in the maintenance costs and number of election officials, if the new machines were purchased. In addition, Mr. Cox advised four (4) machines would have to be purchased this year in order to meet state guidelines (one machine for every 750 voters). This cost was estimated to be \$12,000.

Dr. Fariss asked questions regarding the type of voting machines selected and the cost of the paper required for the new machines. He inquired about machines with an electronic screen for voting. Kathy Webb, Registrar, advised the cost for this type of machine would be around \$6,000 each and would require a total of 32 machines to be purchased.

Supervisor White requested an analysis be prepared on the cost and savings over a 5 to 10 year period of time. He also requested a cost comparison be obtained from Wythe County on the operation costs of the new machines verses the old machines since Wythe County had recently acquired new voting machines.

The Board requested the County Attorney, Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., to contact the Justice Department for a determination on the legality of utilizing different voting machines at different precincts.

c. VPI Extension Service

Mr. Richard White, Extension Agent, requested the Board restore the requested salary funds approximately \$10,386 plus fringe benefits for the one-half secretarial position currently funded by the county. He advised the Extension Office would like to use these funds and the funds allocation for the part-time 4-H Technician position to create one full-time clerical position with benefits for the Extension Office.

d. Town of Pulaski Shared Services:

County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan, reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the following Town of Pulaski shared services and additional funding requested by the Town for said services:

1. Recreation – A request from the Town for an additional \$187,000 in county funds for recreation. Dr. Fariss requested staff to request from the Town the amount of money spent by the Town for youth programs only, youth being defined as 18 years of age or less with youth participants being broken down by town resident or non-town resident.
2. Fire Protection – A request from the Town for \$30,000 for fire calls service. Mr. Morgan noted the Fire Protection Committee had recommended the amount approved for purchase of fire services be no more than \$25,000 per year. Supervisor White requested information regarding number of fire responses from the town as well as fire responses from the volunteer fire departments to the town.
3. Thornspring Sewer Line Extension – Mr. Morgan advised this matter is presently under review and a long-term agreement will be needed.
4. Large Item Drop Off/Recycling Center – Mr. Morgan advised this may be a PSA expenditure, but consideration for funding assistance had been requested from the Town of Pulaski for the Dora Highway large item drop off site. In addition, this site may be a good prospect for a recycling center in the future.

2. Setting of the 1998 Real Estate Tax Rate

Chairman Sheffey advised the public hearing had been held on the real estate tax rate; however, individuals had requested to address the Board on the tax rate and the assessment of property. He then allowed the following citizens to make comments: Mr. W. D. McPeak and Mr. Sherrill VanDyke.

Staff explained the reassessment process, which had to adhere to state law.

Mr. Morgan at this time reviewed with the Board of Supervisors data received from the Commissioner of the Revenue on the 1998 real estate values after all the required hearings and appeals had been completed. The data reflected the amount of revenue generated based on the tax rates of \$0.56 to \$0.66.

Mr. Morgan advised the proposed budget had been prepared based on a tax rate of \$0.62 cents.

Supervisor White advised he could not support the \$0.62 tax rate. He further advised the Board needed to look at all requests and separate the needs from the wants. He advised he could support a tax rate of \$0.60.

Supervisor Sheffey advised the Board needed to review each budget request made and try to reach a fair decision; however, a tax increase is necessary to fund the school requests.

Dr. Fariss noted that a loss of \$134,805 in real estate tax revenues had occurred due to the Equalization Board action.

Supervisor Conner advised a tax increase was necessary to support the schools and other needs of the county.

Supervisor White stressed the need for the county to have a long-range plan regarding expenditures and capital needs.

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors set the real estate tax rate at \$0.62 per \$100 of assessed value for 1998.

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

Voting no: Dr. Fariss and Mr. White.

3. Scheduling of Public Hearing Re: Giles County Membership in NRRRA (June 1)

On the motion of Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors authorized staff to schedule the public hearing on the Giles County membership in the New River Resource Authority for the June 1, 1998 meeting of the Board, and directed staff to provide Board Members with a complete packet of information regarding this matter to send the new user agreement to supervisors as soon as possible.

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

Voting no: none.

4. Budget Work Session

Staff provided the Board of Supervisors with several additional budget related items including the following:

1. Letter from School Superintendent Asbury requesting an additional \$67,703 above the County Administrator's recommended figure of \$9,763,738.
2. Letter from Stan Crigger, Emergency Services Coordinator, regarding the need for a pumper tanker for Snowville Volunteer Fire Department.
3. Letter from David Smith, REMSI Executive Director, regarding replacement of the Rescue Squad Stations, crash truck and extrication equipment justification.

Dr. Fariss questioned the need for a tanker pumper at every fire department, and requested staff provide the Board with the number of fire calls the pumper had responded to over the past few years. He also suggested that one single rescue station be built on Newbern Road to serve the entire county.

Supervisor Conner requested staff confirm the constitutional officer's employees' salary increase approved by the State Compensation Board for FY 99.

The Board requested that the Financial Advisor make a presentation regarding current debt and other long-term capital projects at the regular board meeting scheduled for April 27, 1998 or at the May 4, 1998 special meeting.

Other items discussed included possible use of state literary funds for funding school capital projects, other means of increasing revenues such as BPOL tax or increase in personal property taxes, and the need for additional local funding for highway construction.

Supervisor White requested staff provide the Board with a chart to include the student enrollment figures, the number of teachers, number of teacher aides, administrative staff, and other staff for Pulaski County for the last 10 years.

5. Executive Session – 2.1-344(A)

On the motion of Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook 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: Mr. White.

Return to Regular Session

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

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, 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. 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.

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, Mr. White and Mr. Conner.  
Voting no: none.

6. Other Matters:

\*High School Chess Team Funding:

The Board of Supervisors approved a request from the High School Chess Team for \$1,000 to be used as travel expenses for the Chess Team to participate in the National Chess Championship Tournament to be held in Los Angeles, California. Further, the Board requested members of the team and the coach be available at the regular meeting on April 27, 1998 for the presentation of the check to the Team by the Board of Supervisors.

7. 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 next regularly scheduled meeting set for Monday, April 27, 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

---

Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk