

MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MARCH 13, 2000

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, March 13, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Board Room, 143 3rd Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following supervisors were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles E. Cook; and William E. "Eddie" Hale; absent were Dr. Bruce L. Fariss, Vice-Chairman; and Frank R. Conner. School Board members present included: Paul Phillips, Chairman; Jeff Bain; Dr. Beth Nelson; Rhea Saltz; and John Wenrich. Staff members present included: County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan; County Attorney, Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr.; Management Services Director, Nancy M. Burchett; School Superintendent, Dr. David Cox; School Business Manager, Walt Shannon; and School Board Clerk, Jean Cox.

1. Welcome of School Board Members & Superintendent

Chairman Joseph Sheffey welcomed the School Board members and the School Board staff to the meeting. He then requested the County Administrator to review the estimated local revenues for FY 2001.

2. County Revenue Estimates

County Administrator, Joseph Morgan, reviewed revenue estimates for FY 2001 by revenue categories. He advised that a 4.74% increase in local revenues were expected which would mean an additional \$877,833 more in local revenues above the estimated revenue amount for FY 2000.

3. School Board Budget Information Presentation

At this time, School Board Chairman Paul Phillips thanked the Board of Supervisors for allowing the School Board to meet regarding the FY 01 school budget. He advised that the School Board budget request reflects real needs of the school system. Further, he noted important issues considered included technology, recruitment and retainment of quality personnel and capital needs. Mr. Phillips then requested the School Superintendent to report on the FY 01 school budget request.

Dr. David Cox, School Superintendent, reviewed the goals set by the School Board for FY 00-01. Said goals reviewed as follows:

Goal 1 – Student Achievement – Pulaski County students will perform to the best of their ability as measured by National, State, and Local assessments.

Goal 2 – Evaluation and Employee Development – A system of employee evaluation and development will be implemented.

Goal 3 – Open lines of communication – Will be maintained to convey educational goals and achievements and to meet the educational needs of the community.

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Goal 4 – Capital Building Plan – Continue with Phase I of the plan with effort to obtain a site for a new elementary school and proceed with planning and design.

Dr. Cox then reviewed the following factors affecting the FY 01 school budget request:

1. Student Achievement – SOL tests – affect on graduation.
2. Accreditation of Schools.
3. Meeting the needs of at risk students.
4. Technology – new and replacement.
5. Maintaining Pupil/Teacher Ratio.
6. Salaries – well below State averages.
7. Cost of Health Insurance.
8. Benefits for Classified Employees.
9. Rising Cost of Material.

School Business Manager, Walt Shannon, reviewed the state and federal revenues estimates for FY 01. Said revenue estimates were reported to be an additional \$1,329,187 above FY 00 revenues. Mr. Shannon reported that 50% of the state lottery money had to go for capital projects or construction debt.

Mr. Shannon then reviewed the projected school expenditures for FY 01 by the goals established. The amount of \$3,420,011 was reported to be the local amount needed to fund the proposed school expenditures for FY 01.

Mr. Shannon further reported that a 2.4% increase in teacher pay had been approved by the state with an effective date of December 1, 2000. In addition, he advised that school salaries were low in comparison with the surrounding localities.

Supervisor Sheffey requested additional information be provided regarding the comparison of school salaries. School Board Member Jeff Bain suggested the Pulaski County Education Association be permitted to make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding salaries since they had recently made a presentation to the School Board on this matter.

Supervisor Cook inquired regarding the number of new positions being requested for funding. School staff advised that approximately 14 new positions were being proposed for funding.

Supervisor Cook questioned the addition of the 14 new positions in light of the school enrollment still going down. Comments were then made by Dr. Cox, Jeff Bain, Dr. Beth Nelson, and Rhea Saltz noting needs of the school system which do not relate to the school enrollment numbers.

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Chairman Sheffey again thanked the School Board for meeting with the Board of Supervisors and advised of the April 10, 2000 meeting date set for the School Board's formal presentation of the budget for FY 01.

4. Other Matters:

a. Workforce Investment Board

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following regarding the Workforce Investment Board and the designation of a grant fiscal agent for WIA funds:

The Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, as the local Grant Recipient of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area, desires to designate the New River Valley Planning District Commission (PDC) as the Grant Fiscal Agent. In this role, the PDC will act as the fiscal agent for all WIA funds allocated to the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area and will also function as the local administrative entity and will provide staffing for both the Chief Local Elected Official Consortium and the local Workforce Investment Board.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Dr. Fariss and Mr. Conner.

b. Animal Control Supervision

County Administrator, Joseph Morgan, advised he had met with Sheriff Davis to discuss Sheriff Davis' concerns regarding his department's continued supervision of the animal control department. He advised he hoped to resolve the concerns; however, this matter may be placed on the April agenda for possible action by the Board of Supervisors.

c. Resolution of Commendation for County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Response to New River Castings

On the motion of Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution of appreciation for the county fire, rescue and emergency services response to the recent New River Castings plant explosion:

Proclamation

In Recognition of Emergency Personnel from the County of Pulaski Responding to the March 5, 2000 Explosion at New River Castings in the City of Radford.

Whereas, on March 5, 2000 at approximately 9:30 in the evening an explosion occurred at New River Castings, a large foundry operation located in the City of Radford; and

Whereas, the incident was of such a magnitude that the City of Radford contacted the Emergency Communications Center at the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office and requested assistance from both Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services Agencies; and

Whereas, Communications Center Personnel promptly notified the appropriate departments and coordinated their response to the event; and

Whereas, Fire and Medical Personnel responded immediately to the call for assistance and coordinated their efforts with Emergency Responders from not only the City of Radford but other communities as well; and

Whereas, Fire and Medical Units were reallocated to provide standby coverage to communities in Pulaski County whose vehicles and personnel were called to the incident; and

Whereas, Emergency Personnel from the County of Pulaski participated in a coordinated Search and Rescue Operation inside the damaged foundry facility; and

Whereas, these Personnel risked their personal safety in order to search for, locate and remove injured persons from the site of the explosion; and

Whereas, Firefighters actively worked to control fires inside the facility despite potentially hazardous conditions; and

Whereas, Emergency Medical Personnel provided care and transportation to the injured persons; and

Whereas, All Area Hospitals implemented appropriate Mass Casualty Responses in order to deal with the potential number of injured persons; and

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Whereas, Because of the well coordinated efforts of Fire and Emergency Personnel from throughout the New River Valley lives were potentially saved and suffering diminished;

Now, therefore, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski, Virginia issues this Proclamation to express its appreciation and admiration for the dedication to duty and heroism demonstrated by the personnel responding to this tragic event.

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

d. Other Matters:

Chairman Sheffey noted the upcoming New River Community College Career Fair exhibition set for April 5, 2000 at New River Community College. He advised of a lack of participants in this program due to it involving the entire day. He suggested the county consider providing lunch for the participants. He requested that this matter be placed on the consent agenda for the Board to consider at the March 27, 2000 meeting.

5. Adjournment:

It was moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried, that the meeting be adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors is set for Monday, March 27, 2000 at the County Administration Building, Board Room, 143 3rd Street, NW, Pulaski, Virginia.

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

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk