

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2001

At a reconvened joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, April 9, 2001 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; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss, Vice-Chairman; Charles E. Cook; William E. "Eddie" Hale; and Frank R. Conner. School Board members present included: Paul Phillips, Chairman; Jeff Bain; and John Wenrich. Staff members present included: County Administrator, Peter M. Huber; Assistant County Administrator, Nancy M. Burchett; School Superintendent, Dr. David Cox; School Business Manager, Rick Patterson; and School Board Clerk, Jean Cox.

1. Call to Order and Welcome of School Board

Board of Supervisors' Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed the School Board members and staff.

2. Pulaski County School Board Presentation

◆ FY 01 Budget Request

School Board Chairman Phillips thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to present the School Board budget for FY 02. He spoke briefly regarding the present era of competitiveness in acquiring and retaining employees. He noted that 87% of the proposed school board budget costs were personnel related. Further, he reported the School Board was concerned with providing a quality education for the school children.

School Superintendent Cox at this time reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the process the School Board followed in developing the FY 02 proposed budget and identified the following budget objectives:

- Student Achievement
- Capital Building Plan
- Employee Evaluation of Development
- Communications
- Development by Leadership Council Working with staff members
- Zero-Based Approach
- Result: Increased Needs of \$4,046,169

Dr. Cox then requested Ms. Jackie Freeman, President of the Pulaski County Education Association, to review the salary improvement plan for teachers.

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Ms. Freeman presented data comparing Pulaski County's teacher pay scale to other jurisdictions. She reported Pulaski County was currently losing teachers to other jurisdictions such as Montgomery, Radford, Salem and Roanoke County due to a higher pay scale. She emphasized the need for Pulaski County to continue with the three-year pay plan approved last year in order to not fall behind and to continue to be competitive with other surrounding localities.

School staff reported that \$1,579,632 was needed to fund the second year of the salary improvement plan.

Dr. Cox then reviewed cost reductions that school board staff had previously presented to the School Board members. He reviewed these reductions in three tiers as follows:

- Tier I – Reductions from non-personnel expenditures;
- Tier II – Reductions from natural attrition in not filling positions; and
- Tier II – Reductions from further reducing staff through a reduction in force.

Dr. Cox reported an additional \$790,086 in local funds was being requested from Pulaski County for the FY 02 school budget. Further, he advised the School Board would utilize savings from the above noted tiers, thereby enabling the school system to continue to fund the second year of the salary improvement plan for the teachers.

Chairman Sheffey inquired as to how many Pulaski County students go out of the county for educational purposes. Dr. Cox reported the number going out of the county is about as many that are coming into Pulaski County for education from other jurisdictions. Therefore, the two figures offset each other.

Chairman Sheffey also inquired as to the estimated amount of school surplus funds at the end of the fiscal year. Dr. Cox advised he did not know this amount at the present time.

3. Update on Local Redistricting Plan

County Administrator, Peter M. Huber, gave an updated report regarding the Local Redistricting Plan. He reported the following immediate goals:

- Combine the Newbern and Dublin voting places at the Dublin Lions Building to alleviate the current handicap access problems. No redistricting will be necessary.
- Relocate the Snowville voting place from the fire stations to the Snowville School. No redistricting will be necessary.
- Relocate a portion of the boundary between Robinson and Massie Districts to eliminate use of a non-existent power line.

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In addition, Mr. Huber reported of the need to reduce the population within the Ingles District and increase the population within the Robinson District. He further advised the local plan has to be completed by July 2001.

4. Public Comment:

Ms. Carolyn McCain, teacher and homeowner in Pulaski County, spoke in support of the proposed school board budget for FY 02.

5. Other Matters

◆ Implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statement 34 (GASB34)

The Board reviewed with staff a proposal from Robinson, Farmer, & Cox Associates to assist the county in implementing the new county financial statements required due to the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34. Total amount quoted by Robinson, Farmer, & Cox Associates for these services was reported to be a maximum fee of \$16,500 which could be spread over the next two fiscal years.

Nancy M. Burchett, Assistant County Administrator, reported the new standards have to be met by the county for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. Further, the standards will require additional staff time and education for the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. She advised staff recommended accepting the proposal from Robinson, Farmer, & Cox. In addition, she reported an additional \$4,000 is planned to be included by staff in the FY 02 general fund budget for this purpose.

The Board expressed no objections to accepting the proposal from Robinson, Farmer, & Cox Associates as recommended by staff.

6. Closed Meeting – 2.1-344(A)

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, that the Board of Supervisors enter closed session for discussion of the following:

Property Disposition or Acquisition - Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)3 discussion for consideration of the disposal or acquisition of publicly held property regarding:

- Replacement of Claremont School
- Allocation of Sewer Treatment Capacity

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Legal Matters – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.1-344(A)7 consultation with legal counsels and briefing by staff for discussion of specific legal matters and matters subject to probable litigation regarding:

- Implementation of Tax on Natural Gas Consumption

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

Voting no: none.

Return to Regular Session

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

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

Voting no: none.

Certification of Conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act

It was moved by Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried, that the Board of Supervisors adopt the following resolution certifying conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia, has convened a closed 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 closed 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 closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in this motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors.

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

Voting no: none.

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7. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried that the meeting be adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for April 23, 2001, 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 3rd Street, NW, Pulaski, Virginia.

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

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator