

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2003

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Board Room, 143 3rd Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss, Vice-Chairman; Charles E. Cook; William E. "Eddie" Hale; and Frank R. Conner. Staff members present included: County Administrator, Peter M. Huber; and Assistant County Administrator, Nancy M. Burchett.

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order.

2. Presentation of FY 04 County Budget

County Administrator, Peter Huber, presented to the Board of Supervisors the proposed budget for FY 04. Mr. Huber reported the proposed budget was balanced by making significant cuts to the requested amounts from a number of departments and agencies. Further, he advised the proposed budget provided for the current level of funding with the exception of pay increases for employees and additional employee health insurance costs for FY 04. In addition, the proposed budget also called for a 4 cent real estate tax increase either now or after the reassessment is completed early next year in order to fund the new school debt and a collaboration fund.

The proposed fund would set aside an amount of money which could be earned through innovation and collaboration between departments and agencies with the goal of increased services and/or decreased operational costs.

Mr. Huber also recommended that the county consider an increase in the 911 tax rate to cover the expenses of replacing the existing dispatching equipment at the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office at such time as a workable plan is developed. He recommended increasing the 911 tax from \$1.00 to \$1.65 over the next five years to address this need.

Mr. Huber also reviewed a number of charts and graphs including an effective tax rate chart and revenue and expenditure history charts.

The Board requested staff to provide the following additional information:

- Determine the current 911 tax rate for the Town of Pulaski;
- Provide a report on the land transfers for the last 6 months or so to include the assessed value of land transferred and the amount the land actually sold for;
- Provide a chart on obligations based on future debt load; and
- Provide the amount of pay increase proposed by the School Board for School Board members for FY 04.

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The Board invited all Constitutional Officers to attend the April 21, 2003 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors to present their budget concerns and also to invite the Newbern Fire Department Chief to this meeting to address the proposed purchase of a fire truck/trucks for FY 04.

3. Suggestions and Response from Board members:

Supervisors Cook and Fariss expressed objections to the establishment of a collaboration fund citing that this was already being done by the Board of Supervisors.

The Board emphasized the need for a joint dispatching system for the county, the Town of Pulaski, and the schools. Board members expressed no objections to the proposed upgrade of existing dispatching equipment being funded by an increase in the 911 tax.

Supervisor Fariss made note of the Planning Commission's concerns regarding the need for the county to extend water and sewer services to all areas of the county. In addition, Dr. Fariss expressed the need for the county to develop an additional industrial park in the near future.

Several Board members expressed concerns regarding proposed reductions in the amount requested by the Newbern Fire Department for a fire truck/trucks and instructed staff to reinstate these funds.

The Board deferred consideration of an increase in the real estate tax rate until after the reassessment is completed early next year.

4. Health Insurance Renewal:

Nancy Burchett, Assistant County Administrator, updated the Board of Supervisors regarding employee health care coverage for FY 04. She advised the New River Valley Consortium had requested proposals for health care coverage several months ago and a total of eight (8) proposals had been received. However, all the proposals required an increase in current premiums ranging for 27% to 56%.

Further, she reported the Consortium had recommended awarding the coverage for FY 04 to Southern Health for employee medical and vision and Aetna for the dental benefits. Under this recommendation, this would mean an approximate 25% increase in premiums for Pulaski County.

Ms. Burchett also advised of additional entities currently considering joining the Consortium and the impact this would have should this occur.

It was then moved by Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, to approve staff recommendation to continue providing employee health insurance through the New River Valley Consortium for FY 04 with Southern Health being the selected carrier

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for employee medical and vision coverage and Aetna US Healthcare being the carrier for the dental coverage.

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

Voting no: none.

5. Review and Revision of the Budget Calendar:

The Board reviewed the budget calendar previously adopted and agreed to hold a budget work session on May 21, 2003 in order to meet with Constitutional Officers and the Fire Chief of the Newbern Fire Department.

6. Closed Meeting – 2.2-37711.A.1.3.5.7

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

Personnel – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1 discussion for consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of public officers, appointees or employees, regarding:

- Emergency Management Coordinator Vacancy

Prospective Industry – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)5 discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business and industry, where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

- Project Emmitt

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

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It was moved by Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Cook 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 2.2-3712(D) 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.

Personnel Matters:

The Board requested staff to poll surrounding counties and obtain salary range information for the position of Emergency Management/Services Coordinator, and request information on whether this position has additional duties other than emergency services. Further, staff was requested to determine if surrounding counties have a Public Information Officer on staff.

The Board also instructed staff to proceed in advertising for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator by whatever means appropriate.

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7. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn to reconvene on Monday, April 21, 2003 for a budget work session. The next regular meeting is set for April 28, 2003, 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