

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2003

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 21, 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. Presentations:

a. Newbern Fire Department:

Chief Miller Farris of the Newbern Volunteer Fire Department presented a written statement to the Board of Supervisors requesting funding for a new pumper truck and a single axle chassis at an estimated cost of \$290,000 to \$300,000. Chief Farris further reported on the territory covered by the Newbern Fire Department, as well as the number of fire calls made in the last year, and the response time to fire calls by the fire department. Chief Farris also advised the Fire Protection Committee had recommended funding by the Board of Supervisors for the purchase of the pumper truck and chassis.

b. Commonwealth Attorney:

Commonwealth Attorney Mike Fleenor addressed the Board at this time. He advised he realized the budget problems were not created by the Board of Supervisors but by the State. He reported he had received an e-mail from the Compensation Board of a reduction in state funding for his office next year in the amount of \$25,261. Further, he reported the state staffing standards had set the appropriate staffing number for his office at 6 attorneys. However, the state had funded only 4 attorneys. In order to reduce the budget per the Compensation Board, he advised he had reduced the offices expenses and part time salaries to zero, but there remained a shortfall of \$18,167. However, with the recent resignation of one of the Assistant Commonwealth Attorney's, Mr. Fleenor advised he planned to reduce the starting salary of this position by \$7,444.00 resulting in his office needing an additional local amount of \$10,723 for FY 04.

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Mr. Fleenor then noted he thought the Board of Supervisors agreeing to provide additional local funds to the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer's Offices was unfair to other constitutional offices, and may send a message to the public that the Board may be more concerned with collecting taxes than dealing with crimes and the recording of legal documents.

In summary, Mr. Fleenor requested the Board of Supervisors to fund the \$10,723 in salaries in order to avoid a reduction in services, staff salaries, and possible back log in prosecuting offenders.

c. Clerk of Circuit Court:

Clerk of the Circuit Court Woodie Lookabill addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding recent state funding cuts for his office. He advised the state staffing standards for his office to be below the staff levels by 3.2 employees. He then reviewed with the Board of Supervisors sources of county revenues currently being collected by the Clerk's Office, including grantee taxes, fines and interest on fines, law library fees, courthouse maintenance fees, state technology fees, copying fees, electronic equipment fund fees (410), jail processing fees, and courthouse security fees. Mr. Lookabill also cited potential additional revenues of \$7,303 in FY 02 if the county had a local probate tax fee. In addition, he noted areas of savings to the county by the Clerk's Office in employee vacancy savings of \$2,908, new computer paid with state funds in the amount of \$4,000, and monies voluntarily remitted to the county to provide access and security to Pulaski County's local area network including access to the Internet.

Mr. Lookabill requested the Board to Fund \$20,342 in salaries in order for his office to maintain the current level of services and to avoid reductions in staff salaries.

3. Additional FY 04 Budget Matters:

*Commonwealth Attorney & Clerk's Office Fund FY 04:

The Board of Supervisors expressed concerns with staff salaries having to be reduced by the Commonwealth Attorney and the Clerk's Office due to state budget cut backs.

Therefore, on a motion made by Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved providing in FY 04 additional local funding for salaries and fringe benefits for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Clerk's Office per their requests in the amount of \$20,342 plus fringe benefits for the Clerk's Office and \$10,723 for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

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

*Newbern Volunteer Fire Department – Pumper and Chassis:

On the motion of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved funding in the amount of \$300,000 for a pumper truck and a chassis for the Newbern Volunteer Fire Department for FY 04.

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

The Board directed county staff to review the overall recommended FY 04 budget figures and provide the Board with a recommendation on funding sources for the additional funds approved by the Board for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Newbern Volunteer Fire Department via the next weekly update to the Board of Supervisors.

4. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn to reconvene for the regular meeting on Monday, April 28, 2003, at 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