

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2003

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, May 5, 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. School Board members present included Chairman Paul Phillips and Jeff Bain. School Superintendent Dr. Donald Stowers was also present.

1. Bike Proclamation:

No action was taken by the Board of Supervisors on this matter at this meeting.

2. Budget Matters:

a. Presentation by Supervisor Fariss:

Supervisor Fariss reviewed a PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the school's enrollment figures; the county's population as compared to the declining school enrollment figures; and the increase in school expenditures over the past several years. He noted the request for additional county funds by the constitutional officers this year due to state reductions in expenditures for these offices. In addition, he cited the county funds allocated for the debt on the construction of a new elementary school, and the purchase of school buses not reflected in the School Board's budget for FY 04.

Supervisor Fariss asked if the School Board could possibly review its FY 04 proposed budget request to determine if reductions could be made in order to assist the county in balancing the overall county budget for FY 04.

b. School Board Presentation:

Dr. Donald Stowers, School Superintendent, reviewed with the Board of Supervisors the following pertaining to the FY 04 School Board budget request:

- Reviewed the budget process of the School Board this year;
- Reviewed the plan the School Board used in arriving at the budget estimate of needs;
- Reviewed the school revenue sources; and
- Reviewed the challenges facing the school system in the future.

Dr. Stowers noted the School Board was one of the largest employers in the New River Valley in that a total of 804 individuals were employed, and this number did not include substitute teachers. He advised that two principles were used by the School Board in arriving at the budget estimates for FY 04.

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These were strategic initiatives and equity among the schools. Further, he estimated the school carry-over of funds to be approximately \$850,000, less \$450,000 which would be used to fund the 2% employee raise in salaries for FY 03. Dr. Stowers noted that every 1% increase in salary costs \$235,000.

In closing, Dr. Stowers pledged cooperation and mutual respect from him and his staff in working with the Board of Supervisors on the FY 04 budget. Further, he advised he would be willing to meet with Peter Huber, County Administrator, to review the school's budget request for FY 04 to determine if any reductions could be made.

The Board of Supervisors emphasized the need for the schools and the county to consolidate efforts in the areas of fleet maintenance, purchasing, and other technology areas.

The Board requested that Superintendent Stowers and County Administrator Huber meet in the following week to determine if the school budget could possibly be reduced to assist the county with a deficit in the FY 04 proposed budget of approximately \$130,000.

c. Review of Building Permit Fees:

Staff advised the Board that an increase in the building permit fees may be a source of additional revenue for the FY 04 budget.

The Board directed staff to provide them with a chart/report on the building permit fees currently being charged by the surrounding localities as compared with the Pulaski County permit fee structure. Staff was also instructed to conduct a survey of the contractors/developers seeking input from them on what difficulties they are encountering in building in Pulaski County.

Supervisor Cook expressed objections to the possible increasing of building permit fees at this time. He advised this would discourage individuals from wanting to build in Pulaski County.

Supervisor Conner advised there should be a lower minimum building permit charge for the small home projects/improvements that a citizen may want to do.

d. Other Requests:

- Town of Pulaski – Request to Defer Funding of \$25,000 for Recreation:

The Board declined to accept this request due to the county's proposed FY 04 budget not being balanced at this time.

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- Fine Arts Center – Request to Assist with Funding for the Maple Shade Shopping Project:

The Board declined to provide funding for the Maple Shade Shopping Project at this time.

- Camp Virginia Jaycees – Request for \$1,500:

The Board declined the above request for funding in FY 04 in the amount of \$1,500.

- Center in the Square:

The Board declined this request for inclusion of the Center in the Square in the FY 04 budget.

3. Items of Consent:

- Clean-up of Virginia Patton Property:

County Administrator, Peter Huber, advised the above noted property was near the New River Trail. Further, the State of Virginia had an interest in possibly purchasing this property. However, the state had inquired if the county could possibly provide assistance in the clean-up of this property.

The Board directed the county administrator to negotiate the clean-up of the above noted property with state officials contingent upon the state waiving the parking fees recently imposed at the New River Trail. Further, the Board requested staff to determine the estimated costs of the clean-up, and report this via the weekly update.

- Chamber of Commerce:

On the motion of Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved sponsorship of a reception honoring Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Nancy Bowman, and the costs of county T-shirt for the Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee members for a total cost of \$1,020.

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

Voting no: none.

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4. Other Matters – James Smith – Federal Emergency Management:

Mr. James Smith of the Federal Emergency Management Office addressed the Board of Supervisors. He advised that Pulaski County had been declared eligible for federal assistance for the flooding occurring on February 15 and 28, 2003 in the county. Further, he requested suggestions from the Board members on publicizing this to the citizens. Mr. Smith then noted the deadline of May 27, 2003 for citizens to apply for assistance.

Chairman Sheffey suggested that FEMA possibly publish in the local newspaper the criteria on income guidelines for individuals that may have been affected by the flooding of February 15 and 28, 2003.

5. Closed Meeting – 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7:

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:

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:

- Visitor Center/Chamber Staff

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

Voting no: none.

Return to Regular Session

A motion was duly made and seconded that the Board of Supervisors return 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 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:

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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.

6. Adjournment

It was moved and carried that the Board of Supervisors adjourn to reconvene for a special meeting on Monday, May 12, 2003, at 6:00 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