

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2004

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, February 9, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Central Conference Room, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Frank R. Conner, Vice Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; William E. "Eddie" Hale; and Dean K. Pratt. Staff members present included: Roger Leonard, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor; Willie Richardson, Emergency Management Coordinator; Ron Coake, County Engineer; Anthony Akers, Director of Community Programs, and Peter Huber, County Administrator. Press present included Jane Graham of the Southwest Times and Don Simmons of the Roanoke Times. Others present included: Don Stowers, Superintendent of Schools; Jack Gill, Commissioner of the Revenue; Rose Marie Tickle, Treasurer; Ronnie Nichols, Director of Fleet Maintenance; Paul Phillips, School Board Member; H. W. Huff, Jr., PSA Chairman; Jerry Kopf, Radford University Business Assistance Center; and Richard Guthrie, Planning Commission Chairman.

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Following a sandwich dinner, Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and asked each to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Previous Goals and Accomplishments Over the Past Eight Years

Mr. Huber reviewed the accomplishments from the 1996 through 1999 and 2000 through 2003 terms of the Board of Supervisors, a copy of which is filed with the records of this meeting.

3. Suggestions and Comments from Constitutional Officers, Public Service Authority, Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission Chairs and Staff

Ms. Tickle suggested that joint operations need to be committed to prior to being implemented, noting the failed attempt to collect real estate taxes on behalf of the Town of Pulaski.

Mr. Gill suggested scheduling tax collections to allow more uniform utilization of the courthouse to avoid major crowding and to smooth revenue flows.

Staff discussed the potential for modifying personal property tax collections and vehicle decals to allow for earlier collection of local, as well as state revenue.

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Mr. Huff described the history of the Public Service Authority and its current standing as one of the top performing public service authorities in the State of Virginia. He also foresaw needs in the placement of water storage tanks and the installation of backup generators at all sewer pump stations.

Mr. Guthrie described the need to consider implementation of impact fees and other proffers from rezoning requests to support the costs of development.

Anthony Akers described a vision for improving winter recreation opportunities through the installation of a removable cover over the Randolph Park Pool, and/or the development of an indoor recreation facility. Other improvements to Randolph Park to better handle summer crowds included the construction of a splash park, the construction of another picnic shelter, and the need for additional parking.

Dr. Stowers described the priorities of the School Board as being improved benefits and salaries for School Board employees, consistent with other county employees, and building needs, with priorities being: 1) the construction of a new Riverlawn Elementary School to house 450 students, with the potential for integration of a recreation center, police and library annex; 2) replacement of the Governor's School building; 3) the provision of 25,000 to 30,000 square feet for central office staff personnel.

Mr. Richardson noted the need for improving radio communications for police, fire and rescue needs.

Mr. Leonard suggested Randolph Park use and the Governor's School as being his primary concerns.

Mr. Coake noted the county's water and sewer system was of high quality, with the primary need being in the construction of additional water storage tanks and the extension of additional sewer collection lines.

Mr. Huff encouraged the Board to focus on educational needs as a priority over recreation issues.

4. Establishment of Board Goals

Following a hearing of concerns, the Board agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2004 at the County Administration Building for the purpose of concluding the development of four-year goals.

5. Five Dollar (\$5) Per Ton State Landfill Fee

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board adopted the following resolution opposing the institution of a \$5.00 per ton state landfill fee, as recommended by the New River Resource Authority:

WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors is opposed to the adoption of any state tax, fee or surcharge on solid waste generated in Virginia and disposed of at Virginia solid waste management facilities, including landfills, incinerators and transfer stations; and

WHEREAS, such taxes, fees or surcharges unnecessarily raise waste disposal costs for all Virginia households and businesses; and

WHEREAS, it appears likely that one or more "trash bills" will be introduced at the 2004 General Assembly and/or are being studied as a source of increased funds for state environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, the danger exists that any such trash tax proposal will increase over time and ultimately will be used to fund state and not local revenue needs and there is no guarantee that the revenues raised will continue to be used for the purposes originally intended; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Authority that it is inappropriate to levy and collect such a state tax at the local level, particularly when the New River Resource Authority permits receipt of waste only from its member jurisdictions of Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, the Town of Dublin, Virginia, Giles County, Virginia, Pulaski County, Virginia, and the City of Radford, Virginia, and which, by its terms of existence is limited in its ability to compete with outside waste disposal operations; and

WHEREAS, such a trash tax may result in the reduction of the waste stream to the Authority's landfill by increasing the diversion of waste by commercial operators to other interstate disposal sites, thereby reducing the Authority's economies of scale and increasing the Authority's tipping fees to its users; and

WHEREAS, such a trash tax represents a potential economic disincentive to local industries that have been encouraged to abandon industrial dedicated landfills and to dispose of their waste in co-mingles landfills, such as that operated by the Authority; and

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WHEREAS, there is no identifiable benefit inuring to the Authority by virtue of the adoption of such a trash tax.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESVOLED by the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors that the Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its formal opposition to the adoption of any state tax, fee or surcharge on solid waste generated in Virginia and disposed of at Virginia solid waste management facilities, including that facility or those facilities owned and operated by the New River Resource Authority and that the County Administrator is hereby authorized to convey the Authority's opposition as expressed in this Resolution to our state legislators and other potential sources of interest and influence in this regard.

Adopted this 9th day of February, 2004.

Voting yes: Mr. Hale, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Akers,
Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: none.

6. Other Matters

There were no other matters to discuss at this time.

7. Closed Meeting – 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7

On a motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors voted to enter Closed Session for discussion of the following:

Property Disposition or Acquisition – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)3 discussion for consideration of the disposition or acquisition of publicly held property regarding:

- ◆ Radford University Development of the Fairlawn Business Technology Park

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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.

◆ Randolph House

Voting yes: Mr. Hale, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Akers, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: none.

Return to Regular Session

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

Voting yes: Mr. Hale, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Akers, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: none.

Certification of Conformance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act

On a motion by Mr. Hale, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted 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: Mr. Hale, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Akers,
Mr. Pratt.

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Voting no: none.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Akers seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned to reconvene at its goal setting session to be held on Monday, February 16, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W., in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting yes: Mr. Hale, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Akers, Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: None.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator