

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2006

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Central Conference Room, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Frank R. Conner, Vice Chairman; William E. "Eddie" Hale; Ranny L. Akers and Dean K. Pratt. School Board members present included Paul Phillips, Chairman, John Wenrick, Jeff Bain, Beth Nelson and Pam Chitwood. Staff members present included: Peter Huber, County Administrator; Dr. Donald Stowers, School Superintendent; Nancy M. Burchett, Assistant County Administrator; Jean Cox, Clerk School Board; Dr. Jim Sandidge and Ronnie Nichols, School Board staff. Also present was Jack Martin of the Southwest Times, Paul Dellinger of the Roanoke Times and an unidentified individual.

### 1. Introduction

Following a light dinner, Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

School Board Chairman Phillips made some brief remarks regarding joint services pertaining to the number of years of experience of the joint services oversight staff.

### 2. Joint Services Oversight:

#### a. Operations and County Fleet Maintenance

Ronnie Nichols updated the Boards regarding joint services efforts between the school bus shop, the county garage and PSA Refuse Departments. He provided a written report on progress made in these areas. Mr. Nichols noted the need for an additional roll-off truck and reported that the New River Resource Authority had recently assisted the PSA with roll-off trucks in order to accommodate the need of the new James Hardie Plant in Pulaski.

Both Boards highly commended Ronnie Nichols for his leadership and work in the joint services efforts between these departments over the past months.

Dr. Stowers advised that weekly meetings consisting of him, Peter Huber and the joint services oversight team leaders were needed in the future. He also noted some staffing changes had taken place recently at the School Board level in order to allow for the increased work load of Ronnie Nichols. Further, Dr. Stowers noted that salary levels for the joint services oversight staff needed to be evaluated and possibly adjusted in the near future.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2006

Supervisor Akers inquired if there were any plans in the future for purchasing a refuse truck with the capability of lifting trash cans. Mr. Nichols reported the current PSA flipper truck had this capability.

School Board member Pam Chitwood emphasized the need to encourage recycling and inquired about any future plans for curbside pick up of recycled items. Peter Huber advised that recycling/drop centers may be open additional hours. Ms. Chitwood stressed that a plan was needed to encourage more recycling in the county.

Ronnie Nichols advised the schools would be a good place to start encouraging recycling with the students. Peter Huber also noted that recycling efforts in the governmental buildings was needed.

Chairman Sheffey noted that Giles County may have a roll-off truck for sale that the PSA may be able to acquire. Ronnie Nichols advised he would check into this.

### b. **Information Technology**

Dr. Jim Sandidge gave a brief written report to the Boards pertaining to current and proposed use of technology, including local and regional wireless broadband initiatives, plans for a joint telephone system and the status of joint staffing. Dr. Sandidge reported that separate location of offices was a problem and similar personnel policies were also needed for the joint services staff.

The Boards commended Dr. Sandidge for his work and efforts in this area of joint services.

### c. **Fiscal Services**

Nancy Burchett reviewed with the Boards a listing of tasks that were either currently being worked, on or in the past had been done, involving the school finances, personnel and miscellaneous activities. She also noted the office locations of staff as being a potential problem.

The Boards thanked Ms. Burchett as well for her work and efforts in this area of joint services.

d. **Personnel Services**

Staff discussed with the Boards certain personnel service areas that may be an area to explore as an additional joint service. One example, in particular, was employee health insurance since the plan benefits were the same.

School Board member Jeff Bain expressed concerns of "overload" should too many areas be affected at one time and before the other areas had been perfected.

Other members voiced no concerns in investigating and reviewing the possibilities of additional joint services, but also agreed that too many areas too soon could be a problem.

The Boards then directed staff to review the area of joint personnel services that may be advantageous or easily done and report back to the Boards at the next semi-annual meeting.

e. **Buildings and Grounds**

The area of building and grounds was also discussed as a potential area for joint services in the future. The areas of custodial services and mowing were specifically discussed.

The Boards directed staff to review the costs for contracting out the custodial and maintenance services such as mowing, both privately and with the School Board staff doing, and report back on this at the next semi-annual meeting of the Boards.

f. **Health Insurance**

Nancy Burchett reported the renewal of the employee health insurance for FY 07 had been completed. She reported on a joint effort with the school board staff for an employee wellness fair to be held possibly early Fall at the high school. She noted that funds for this wellness fair would mainly come from the Southern Health matching funds and a surplus in the self-insured dental fund.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2006

Pertaining to retiree health insurance coverage, Ms. Burchett provided a graph of medical/prescription drug claims paid for active employees, retired employees pre 65 years of age and retired employees 65 or older. The graph showed the usage of the retired employees pre 65 years of age to be 116% above the aggregate or average. She also reported a retiree group insurance through the Virginia Municipal League for local government retirees age 65 or older may be available to retirees as early as July 1, 2006. Further, if this group goes well, VML may offer a retiree group for the retirees less than 65 years of age.

#### 4. **Purchase of Fairlawn Property**

Dr. Stowers reported that payment had been made to the landowners for the Fairlawn site for the Riverlawn School replacement. He further reported of plans to renovate/expand the Dublin Elementary School prior to any more schools being built after the Riverlawn School.

Peter Huber suggested that a bond referendum might be appropriate at this time for the November ballot on the building of any new schools in the county. He further suggested that a date be scheduled by the Boards to view the school site for the Fairlawn area.

#### 5. **Other Matters:**

- **Date for Board of Supervisors Touring of DeHaven Park**

The Boards agreed to set either Saturday, April 29, 2006 or Saturday, May 6, 2006 after 12 p.m. as dates to view the DeHaven Park, the Fairlawn school site and the new James Hardie Plant in the Town of Pulaski. County staff was directed to contact the personnel of the James Hardie Plant to arrange for a tour and on one of the above noted dates. Further, staff was directed to advise the Boards once one of the above noted dates had been confirmed.

- **Appalachian Electric Power Claytor Lake Relicensing Hearing**

Chairman Sheffey acknowledged receipt of a letter from County Attorney, Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., pursuant to Section 2.2-3115 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, advising that his firm, Gilmer, Sadler, Ingram, Sutherland and Hutton, had been retained by Appalachian Electric Power for legal representation on an "as needed" basis.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2006

6. **Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The Board of Supervisors and School Board agreed to meet again on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at the School Board Office, located on Washington Avenue, in the Town of Pulaski at 6:30 p.m.

7. **Adjournment**

It was moved by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Hale and carried to re-convene for a budget work session on April 17, 2006 at the County Administration Building, Middle Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.

---

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

---

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator