

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2008

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pulaski Elementary School, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Frank R. Conner, Vice Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Charles Bopp; and Dean K. Pratt. School Board members present included Paul Phillips, Chairman; Jeff Bain; Pam Chitwood; Rodell Cruise; and John Wenrich. Staff members present included: Dr. Donald Stowers, Superintendent; Jean Cox, Clerk to the School Board; Ron Nichols, Director, Operations; Dr. Jim Sandidge, Director, Technology; Joe Makolandra, Human Resource Specialist; Linda Hill, Director of Instruction; Chris Stafford, School Finance Director; Tom McCarthy, County and School Board Attorney; Pete Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Shawn Utt, Community Development Director; Gordon Jones, County Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Executive Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Supervisors. Also present were Bill Benson, Angela Clevinger, Cynthia Anderson, Annyce Levy and Jena Hardy, Reporter, *The Southwest Times*.

1. Welcome and Dinner

Mr. Phillips called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Phillips thanked both boards and staff for their collaborative efforts.

Mr. Sheffey welcomed all in attendance and explained the process for the joint meeting. Mr. Sheffey stated the joint meetings of the two Boards results in the overall betterment of Pulaski County.

2. Update on Status of Maple Shade Acquisition

Mr. Huber provided an update on the Maple Shade acquisition, including a recommendation from the building needs committee that the county proceed with designing the space needed by Social Services, Court Services, and Information Technology in order to address the most critical needs first. He advised the committee also suggests that the design for the use of the space incorporate the co-location of administrative functions in the remaining portions of the building. Mr. Huber advised the purchase contract with the Town of Pulaski calls for the transfer of existing leases prior to closing on the building and that efforts are underway to obtain those leases. Further, the architect is reviewing ways to arrange offices to allow for the maximum flexibility in accommodating other offices.

Mr. Bain questioned who would be working with the architect to determine office space needs. Mr. Huber advised the architects are working with those individuals in the various offices to determine space needs, as well as the overall advisory committee.

3. Update on Riverlawn Elementary

Dr. Stowers called on Mr. Nichols to provide an update on the construction phase of the school project. Mr. Nichols advised the construction was ahead of schedule. He provided specifics on the various stages of the project and advised the target date for the new school opening would be late fall or early November 2008.

Mr. Nichols presented a display of the various items to be used in the construction of the new school.

Dr. Stowers answered several questions related to the brick to be used on the building and the choice of a metal roof as opposed to a flat roof.

Dr. Stowers provided a detailed explanation regarding the entrance to the school and advised the entrance was in compliance with VDOT standards for a commercial entrance; however, following review of the completed design, VDOT will require a larger radius and tangent section at the Mills Avenue intersection. He further explained that VDOT review typically requires two months for this size project. The plans need to be at, or near, 100% completion for this review to be effective. This project was bidding at the very end of the spring bidding cycle and could not be delayed for completion of a VDOT review. Delay of the project six months to the next bidding cycle would have increased the cost of the project by approximately \$400,000.

Dr. Stowers provided Board members with specific details related to four options to remedy the entrance road matter.

Mr. Utt advised the only option presented to the Planning Commission was Option 1; however, he offered to take the four options to the Planning Commission for a recommendation.

Dr. Stowers advised of plans to take the options to the Riverlawn community and church for review.

A copy of the four options are filed with the records of this meeting.

Mr. Huber explained the process for financing of the school including issuance of a "Request for Proposals" with the banks for conventional financing at the same time as applying for Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) financing. He advised a resolution of the School Board starting the application process is needed by February 21st following an application due on February 15th. He further advised VPSA financing and any type of bond financing cannot give an absolute interest rate like a bank. He indicated a commitment needs to be locked in by April 1st.

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Mr. Sheffey recommended staff survey other localities regarding school construction financing. Mr. Sheffey indicated Annie B. Crockett-Stark may have offered a Bill to address school financing.

4. Wireless Authority Staffing

Dr. Sandidge advised applications are being accepted for a Wireless Technician position. Dr. Stowers advised of usage of the wireless service at the new Claytor Lake State Park facility.

5. Proposal for Joint Mowing Operations

Mr. Huber explained the current practice for mowing of county property. He advised the Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of four full-time persons as an alternative to continued contracting for mowing services. He indicated this step opens up the opportunity for transportation and operational efficiencies in mowing industrial parks, limited roadsides, recreational parks, ball fields, water and sewer installations and school properties this summer. Both Boards concurred with this arrangement.

6. Impact of Declining Enrollment

Mr. Stafford provided information regarding the declining enrollment and the impact of reduced state funding on the school budget. He provided a spreadsheet detailing the "Pulaski County High School 9th Grade Entry/Withdrawal Summary for the Fall Semester 07-08 (9/5/07 – 1/14/08)".

Dr. Stowers advised monitoring of the discretionary spending would need to be done due to the anticipated shortfall; however, no prediction could be made on any additional funding that may be needed.

Mr. Sheffey inquired as to any particular school that was losing students. Dr. Stowers advised they were unable to determine a trend. Mr. Sheffey asked if students from the new Camelot Schools are counted as part of the overall declining enrollment. Dr. Stowers advised those students were counted as a "deduct" from the overall enrollment.

Mr. Akers encouraged everyone to write legislators to oppose the removal of any monies previously earmarked to education as a result of the repealing of the abusive drivers fees.

Dr. Stowers advised there was no additional funding set aside to allow for teacher salary increases and that local School Board members were meeting with legislators to discuss funding matters.

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7. Update on Current Joint Operations

- a. Refuse collection and vehicle maintenance – Mr. Nichols advised improvements had been made during his four years in supervising the PSA Refuse Collection and county garage. He indicated more efficient service was being provided due to the overall restructuring of the PSA Refuse Department.

Mr. Bain expressed concern over the lack of improvements at the Dora Highway Drop site. He requested action be taken to either improve the site or to close it. Mr. Nichols advised he was waiting on a response from the Town of Pulaski to a request for improvements to the site. Mr. Bain suggested visiting the drop center site in Radford, due to the cleanliness and organization of the site. Mr. Huber advised discussions were underway with the Town of Pulaski regarding the site.

- b. Finance - Mr. Jones advised he was working on the FY 08 audit, including the implementation of the auditing standards and efforts to coordinate a report with the School Board. He advised he hoped to have the report available one week following the February 4th joint meeting. Mr. Huber commended Mr. Jones for his work on preparing the audits for the county, Public Service Authority, Wireless Authority, and Industrial Development Authority.
- c. Information Technology – Dr. Sandidge provided a detailed written report including a detailed map of the county's network, school network, and Wireless Authority. He advised the new technician would be assigned duties to include work on the Authority networks. A copy of the entire report is filed with the records of this meeting.
- d. Youth Services – Mr. Huber reported the after school program was active in four of the elementary schools including Newbern, Dublin, Snowville, and Riverlawn with a steady attendance. He advised the charges for student participation allow for the program to pay for itself. He further advised the program is expected to begin at Critzer Elementary in August 2008.

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8. Other Matters

Mr. Huber presented calendars for 2008 to the School Board and staff with aerial photographs of sites throughout the county. He indicated Bob Atkins had offered to provide \$1,000 toward the development of a county calendar that could be distributed to the students in all of the county schools. Mr. Sheffey advised the coordination of a county calendar could be a project for the educational foundation.

Mr. Sheffey requested discussions regarding plans for the old Riverlawn Elementary School be placed on the agenda of the next joint Boards meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the joint Boards was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008 at the Pulaski Elementary School.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried the Board of Supervisors adjourned to the February 11, 2008 planning retreat with the next joint board meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008 at the Pulaski Elementary School.

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

Voting no: None.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator