

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2008

At a special meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 21, 2008 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; Charles Bopp; and Dean K. Pratt. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; and Gordon Jones, Finance Director. Guests included: William Benson, Joe Hocker, and Angie Clevinger of the Pulaski County Education Association.

1. Welcome & Call To Order

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Budget Presentation

Mr. Huber presented the recommended FY 08-09 budget. He gave credit to the individuals who helped in the preparation and distribution of the budget.

Mr. Huber discussed the revenue charts and tables. He reported the meals tax should increase with more restaurants, including Fatz Café. Proceeds from the property reassessment will take effect during the June 2009 billing cycle. No additional reassessment revenue is included in this budget. The Board will have almost a year to decide on whether or not to increase the real estate rate. BPOL resulted in a \$300,000 increase in revenue over the amount of merchant capital tax with 60% of the total increase being paid by national corporations. Mr. Huber recommended increasing the commercial and industrial building permit fees. He also recommended a 14 cent increase in the personal property rate, meaning that someone with a \$10,000 vehicle will experience a \$14 increase. He advised that this increase is completely a result of the state cuts and is recommended to be rolled back if state funds are reinstated.

Mr. Huber discussed the expense charts and tables and organizational chart. He noted that fuel costs are increasing from \$350,000 to \$500,000. The budget calls for \$50,000 in additional building permit revenue and staff will research the level of the commercial and industrial fees needed to approach this budgeted number. Mr. Hiss reported that the county will experience an additional \$10,000 increase in health insurance costs above what was previously reported due to just receiving the final numbers from Southern Health. Mr. Huber explained that the budget process is to approve the advertisement of the recommended budget at the Board's April meeting, have the public hearing at the May meeting, and adopt the budget at the June meeting.

Mr. Bopp explained that he would like further cuts instead of a tax increase. He advised with the increases in gas and food prices, the average citizen cannot also afford to pay more taxes.

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Mr. Akers said that the county's contingency is already low and that further cuts could hurt the overall budget. He stated that rapid increases in CSA costs and uncertain fuel estimates can use up the entire contingency.

Mr. Benson inquired as to the difference in costs between the county's health insurance and the school systems insurance rates. Mr. Huber responded that it is mostly due to experience, age, and sex of the employees.

3. Other Matters

Mr. Huber reported a meeting to be held on April 25, 2008 in Salem between the Governor's Office and those jurisdictions bordering the proposed rail intermodal facility. Montgomery County is urging the jurisdictions to support their position regarding the power of local land use decisions. Mr. Huber was asked by the Board to attend the meeting and support Montgomery County's position in regards to property owner rights, the power of local decision making, and then using State authority.

Mr. Connor expressed concern about the status of the Maple Shade lease and recent statements in the newspaper that a few town officials may want to back out of the purchase. Mr. Huber reported that three leases are still outstanding, which still need to sign the county's lease, but that some progress has been made with each one. Mr. Huber and Mr. Sheffey are to meet with Mayor Wade and John Hawley on April 23 to discuss the Maple Shade issue.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Pratt, and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned the special meeting at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be its regular meeting to be held on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building.

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

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator