

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2009

At a special called meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Conference Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Dean K. Pratt, Vice-Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Charles Bopp; and Frank Conner. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., County Attorney; Diane Newby, Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk. Also present was Melinda Williams, Reporter for the Southwest Times.

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and thanked the Board and staff for meeting at 4:00 p.m.

1. Review of Historic Revenue and Expenditures

Mr. Huber provided detailed spreadsheets related to the history of revenues and expenditures, a copy of which are filed with the records of this meeting.

Mr. Huber advised the county currently has a growing fund balance. Mr. Huber indicated the county could absorb a fair amount of additional expenses due to the recent growth of the fund balance. However, he would not recommend expenditures causing a decline in the fund balance.

Mr. Sheffey expressed appreciation to the staff overseeing the revenue projections.

2. Calculation of Equalized Real Estate Rate

Mr. Huber reviewed in detail spreadsheets which provided a summary of reassessment results. He also reviewed details related to the equalized rate of \$.46. He provided specific information regarding changes in revenue, should the Board adopt a higher rate than the equalized rate of \$.46, following a required public hearing. A copy of all spreadsheets are filed with the records of this meeting.

Mr. Huber advised an equalized rate would reduce the overall expenditures by \$72,099, due to the equalized rate being \$.46, as opposed to \$.46225.

Mr. Huber explained the amount that would be raised in revenue with each one cent increase was based on current reassessment figures and that each one cent rate increased would result in \$257,278.

Mr. Sheffey inquired as to the number of individuals who had met with the assessors during the review of assessments. Staff advised it would provide this information via the weekly update.

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Mr. Conner inquired as to the ability of the Board of Equalization to make changes to the assessments. Mr. Huber advised the Board of Equalization may make general adjustments to the assessments; however, it cannot set aside or redo the overall assessment.

Mr. Huber confirmed the Board of Equalization would be appointed by the Circuit Court Judge and the Board of Equalization would have the authority to make changes as it deems appropriate. Mr. Huber presented handouts describing the responsibilities of the Board of Equalization. He also presented a draft of the public hearing notice, should the Board desire to raise the real estate tax rate above the equalized rate of \$.46.

Mr. Huber recommended an advertised rate of \$.54 and advised the advertised rate needed to be high enough to meet the budget needs. He clarified the Board did not have to adopt the rate advertised, but that advertising at \$.54 gave the Board the flexibility of adopting a rate at, or below, the advertised rate.

3. Suggested Adjustments

Mr. Huber reviewed in detail the following: operating shortfall; Forestall District exemption; Public safety & Constitutional offices – state cuts; Schools - state cuts; Indoor Recreation Center; and other initiatives as may be suggested by the Board.

Mr. Conner inquired if the higher rate would help offset school costs. Mr. Huber indicated adoption of the higher rate would help some with the school costs; however, it would not cover all costs, due to so many unknowns related to the budget.

Mr. Pratt indicated review of the spreadsheets showed a change in the percentage in the amount of taxes for the Draper District. He advised he felt the advertising of \$.54 would be too high.

Mr. Akers confirmed it was the Board's understanding that the rate can be adjusted down from the advertised rate, but not increased.

Mr. Bopp expressed concern if the rate is advertised too high, specifically as it relates to new construction, this would not be favored by county citizens.

Mr. Huber advised if the Board desired to have reassessment conducted each year, he would recommend setting a real estate tax rate of \$.46. He indicated it would be feasible at this time to set the real estate tax rate to cover one year at a time.

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Mr. Huber advised sales tax results from December 2008 will not be known until February 2009; however, as of November 2008, there did not appear to be a decline in sales tax revenues.

4. Determination of advertised maximum real estate rate

Mr. Sheffey called for a motion to set the advertised real estate tax rate, noting the rate could be reduced at the public hearing from that advertised.

Mr. Conner noted if the Board set a \$.46 equalized rate, no public hearing would be required.

Mr. Akers expressed concern at setting the rate too low and then needing more money in the future to cover expenses.

Mr. Pratt inquired as to the difference in revenues between setting the rate at \$.46 and \$.54. Mr. Huber advised the difference was approximately \$2 million.

Mr. Pratt asked about the timetable for moving along with the renovations to the Maple Shade center. Mr. Huber advised monies for the expenses in renovating the Maple Shade had been allocated in previous years and the Maple Shade renovations should not be affected. Mr. Pratt inquired as to how the renovations to the Maple Shade Center would proceed if the real estate tax rate is set too low and more money is needed for the renovations. Mr. Huber advised Social Services would be paying for a certain amount of the Maple Shade renovations, as long as the renovations are completed in a certain timeframe. He indicated pulling monies from reserves would be the best option, should this occur.

Mr. Akers expressed concern that the 2010-11 fiscal year may be more difficult financially than the upcoming fiscal year due to so many unknowns where funding is concerned.

Mr. Huber expressed concern with advertising the real estate tax rate at an equalized rate, also due to unknowns with funding.

Mr. Conner advised it had been the Board of Supervisors tendency to advertise at the higher rate, taking into consideration the unknowns. He indicated he understood staff's recommendation to advertise at the \$.54 rate.

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On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board set an advertised maximum real estate tax rate of \$.50.

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

Voting no: Mr. Bopp.

5. Resolution commending Pulaski County High School Football Team

Mr. Sheffey commended the Pulaski County High School football players, coaches and fans for an outstanding 2008 season and recommended the Board adopt a resolution honoring the football team, coaches and fans.

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board adopted the following draft resolution honoring the Pulaski County High School football players, coaches and fans and requested staff invite the football players and coaches to attend the January 26, 2009 regular Board meeting to accept the resolution:

*Resolution
Commending the
2008 Pulaski County High School Football Team*

WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors desires to recognize those citizens, who by virtue of their achievements and honors, have brought positive recognition to the County; and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 Football Season, the Pulaski County High School Cougar Football Team, through hard work, skill and determination compiled an undefeated record, were River Ridge District Champions, Region IV Champions, and advanced to the State playoff finals; and

WHEREAS, members of the team and staff who received postseason awards and honors are:

Coch Jack Turner – River Ridge District, Region IV, and Friday Football Coach of the Year

Nubian Peak – River Ridge District Offensive Player of the Year, WSLC Player of the Year, Region IV Co-Offensive Player of the Year, River Ridge District and Region IV First Team Offense, and All State Offense

Josh Miller - River Ridge District Defensive Player of the Year, River Ridge District First

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Team Offense and Defense, Region IV First Team Offense and Defense, and All State Offense

Brandon Hazzard – River Ridge District and Region IV First Team Defense and All State Defense

Zane Quesenberry - River Ridge District and Region IV First Team Defense, All State Defense, and River Ridge District Second Team Offense

Tahrick Peak - River Ridge District and Region IV First Team Defense

Ralph Miller and Seth Parris – River Ridge District Second Team Offense

Jared Cole, CJ Burlison, EJ Dobbins, and Antwyn Calfee - River Ridge District Second Team Defense; and

WHEREAS, the team and individual accomplishments are a great source of pride to Pulaski County and all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional season is evidence to the dedication and discipline of the team as a whole and to the young adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, a successful team must have outstanding leadership from the coaches who willingly give many hours to oversee the accomplishments of the Cougars.

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, by the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors sitting in regular session this 26th day of January, 2009 that the Board extends its thanks and appreciation on behalf of our entire community, to the players, coaches, cheerleaders, sponsors, and fans of the Pulaski County High School Cougar Football Team for their outstanding 2008 season,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the text of this proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Supervisors this 26th day of January, 2009, in permanent testimony of its appreciation to the success of the Cougar football team.

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

Voting no: none.

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Community Meetings

Mr. Huber presented a draft of suggested dates, times and locations for community meetings to be held to allow citizen input on reassessment. Mr. Sheffey expressed a desire to have at least one Saturday meeting to allow for citizens to attend who may be unable to attend a weekday meeting. After discussions regarding meeting dates and locations, the Board set community meetings in January to allow for citizen input on reassessment and directed staff to confirm the meeting arrangements and include these meetings on the meeting calendar of the weekly update.

Mr. Huber advised of an advertising requirement of at least ten days prior to Board of Equalization hearings.

Board of Equalization

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board approved nominating the following individuals to the courts to serve on the Board of Equalization: Andy McCready, Al Smith, Don Dalton and Ed Belcher as alternate.

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

Voting no: none.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board adjourned its special called meeting to its regular meeting to be held on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N.W. located in the Town of Pulaski.

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

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator