

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2009

At a special budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Conference Room of the County Administration Building located 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 R. Conner. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; and Gena T. Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members to the special budget work session.

2. Recommended Administrative Revisions

Mr. Huber reviewed in detail the anticipated revenues. He advised of a significant change in the public service corporation revenues due to a change in sales ratios. He projected a decline in the sales tax for February, indicating the February figures would not be available until mid April.

Mr. Huber also reviewed the requested and proposed expenditures by agencies and departments for FY 2010. He provided a detailed explanation for which adjustments were made from the requested amount to the recommended amount.

Mr. Huber advised of sizable changes in the Capital Improvements listing. He noted it was his recommendation to defer most capital improvements projects, rather than recommend laying off of county employees.

Mr. Akers inquired as to any plans for improvements to the Cleburne Wayside. Mr. Huber advised VDOT maintains the wayside. He suggested the funding cuts by VDOT may affect VDOT's ability to continue maintaining the wayside and suggested the use of grant funds as a means of maintaining the wayside. Mr. Sheffey requested staff review options for maintaining Cleburne Wayside.

Mr. Huber explained in details the needs at the brick and stone courthouses, including the need for new windows, the HVAC at the brick courthouse, and improvements to the jury room at the brick courthouse.

a. Circuit Court Clerk Equipment Funding

Mr. Huber explained the Clerk of Circuit Court is requesting full funding of the Law Library, the maintenance service contract and full funding of the Circuit Court food service line item. (Peter: Is food service line item appropriate wording for this?)

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Staff was directed by the Board to put back in the recommended budget for FY 2010 full funding for the Law Library, the maintenance service contract and the requested \$600 for Circuit Court for food items.

b. Library Use of Funds Earmarked for Dublin Roof Repair

Mr. Huber explained funding for the Library, noting if funding to the Library is less than the previous year, it affects the revenues from the State to the Library. He advised the Library had requested the Board carry over the \$30,000 previously budgeted for a new roof at the Pulaski Library for use in other areas of need at the Library. Mr. Conner and Mr. Pratt expressed concern over the Library using the funds previously allocated for a new roof for other items. Mr. Akers suggested a new roof is likely to be needed in the future, and if funds previously allocated for the roof are used elsewhere, additional funding for roof repairs would be sought by the Library from the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Sheffey requested Mr. Huber seek the assistance of Building Inspector Ty Kirkner in looking at the roof of the Library and providing a recommendation as to the need for a new roof and the projected "life expectancy" for the existing roof.

c. Additional Information:

Mr. Huber advised of one new request from the "Round the Mountain" organization in the amount of \$2,500. Supervisor Akers advised the organization would provide a much need tool in attracting tourism to the county. Mr. Hiss recommended the Board consider funding the request, noting it would not only attract tourism, but would also be an economic tool for the county.

Mr. Huber advised of plans to review the fire department budgets with the Fire Protection Committee, specifically as it relates to a recommendation that fire truck purchases be approved for every other year. Mr. Conner suggested consideration to replacing parts on the existing fire trucks, rather than purchasing new trucks each year. (Peter: I know that Dean was concerned about this, so I wanted to make sure the language I've used is appropriate).

By consensus, the Board requested staff add back into the budget funding for the pay-off of the telephone contract.

Mr. Huber presented a request submitted from the School Board on behalf of the Pulaski County Education Association for Board of Supervisors funding of additional the health insurance costs for school employees. The Board of Supervisors noted a significant increase in

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School Board funding.

Mr. Akers expressed concern over the signage at the Route 114 bridge which indicates entrance in Pulaski County and requested staff follow-up with VDOT requesting moving of the signage to the other side of the bridge.

Mr. Huber expressed concern over funding any projects which may require pulling from the county's reserves.

3. Presentation(s)

There were no presentations scheduled by agencies or departments.

4. Discussion of Budget Alternatives

The Board thanked and commended county staff for the work in preparing the FY 2010 budget recommendations.

5. Additional Budget Questions, Directions for Staff or Request for Additional Information

Supervisor Pratt requested Board consideration to increasing the Fairgrounds budgeted amount to \$5,000. The Board requested staff change the recommended budgeted amount for the Fairgrounds to \$5,000.

Supervisor Pratt questioned staff's recommendation for level funding of Brain Injury Services. Mr. Huber advised level funding was based on the percentage of Pulaski County residents served by Brain Injury Services.

Mr. Hiss provided updated on health insurance alternatives for county employees, including the offering of an HMO. The Board declined to offer an HMO as part of the overall health insurance packet for this year.

6. Other Matters:

a. Review of Letter to VDOT Re: Closing of Rest Stops

By consensus, the Board approved the letter to VDOT drafted by staff opposing the closing the rest stops in Virginia. Mr. Akers requested the letter be modified to include language expressing concern regarding the safety issue if rest stops are closed.

b. Letter to Governor Kaine re: Visiting Volvo

The Board approved sending a letter to Governor Kaine inviting

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Governor Kaine to visit the Volvo manufacturing plant.

c. Resolution of Moral Obligation

Mr. Huber presented a draft Moral Obligation Bond resolution for review by the Board of Supervisors which is for the New River Valley Competitiveness Center. He advised the county attorney was reviewing the resolution and expected it to come before the Board for action at a future meeting.

d. April 13th meeting with Auditors

The Board of Supervisors cancelled its April 13, 2009 budget work session, indicating there was no need for additional information from staff at this time. However, the Board agreed to continue with the previously scheduled April 20 budget work session. Mr. Huber also advised of a request by the county's auditors, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates to present the FY 08 audit at an upcoming Board meeting. The Board requested staff schedule the audit presentation at its April 20 Board meeting.

e. Meeting with School Board on Thursday evening

Staff advised of an invitation by the School Board for the Board of Supervisors to participate in a presentation on the GASB 45 valuation with the presentation scheduled for Thursday, April 9 at 4:30 p.m. By consensus, the Board agreed to meet with the School Board on April 9, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. at the School Board offices. Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Conner advised they would be unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

f. Reassessment

Mr. Huber presented a final billing from Wingate Appraisal Company and advised the Board of Equalization had indicated the billing was a fair statement for the services provided by Wingate. Mr. Huber also advised that Harold Wingate had offered to pay one-half of a \$1,000 fee towards the hiring of Tom Morelli, formerly with Department of Taxation, to conduct an evaluation of the recent reassessment by Wingate Appraisal.

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board approved paying one half of a \$1,000 fee, or \$500, towards the hiring of Tom Morelli, formerly with Department of Taxation, to conduct an evaluation of the recent reassessment by Wingate Appraisal.

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

Voting no: none.

7. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its regular meeting to a special joint meeting with the Pulaski County School Board scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. at the Pulaski County School Board offices located at 202 North Washington Avenue, Pulaski, Virginia with the next meeting to be a special budget work session on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m..

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

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator