

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2010

At a special budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, March 8, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of the County Administration Building located in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Frank R. Conner; and Dean K. Pratt. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Diane Newby, Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

Also present reporter Mike Williams of The Patriot.

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order. Mr. Sheffey called for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Mr. Bopp's mother Dorothy Kitts, as well as the passing of Mr. Curtis Graham, a long time resident of Pulaski County.

### 2. Review of Budget Options

Mr. Huber provided an update on the following: consideration to options on seeking input from the public on budget issues; status of proposed funding for constitutional officers; early retirement possibilities for employees; hiring freeze of county positions vacated; review of budget options to help in offsetting some of the impact from the state on the school system, including raising real estate and personal property taxes, increasing machinery and tools tax, and/or increasing vehicle license tax; detailed review of expenditure and revenue summaries; review of capital improvements listing; review of proposal from House regarding the VRS program reduction in total retirement fees to schools; and review of the budget calendar.

Mr. Hiss provided an update on anticipated health insurance rates for FY 11. Board members requested staff provide details related to the potential for the county to pay the increase in health insurance premiums.

Board members directed staff to request the School Board to provide a listing of proposed specific budget cuts to the schools.

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After considerable discussion and on a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board authorized advertising for a public hearing to consider a maximum six cent increase in the real estate tax rate.

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

Voting no: Mr. Akers, Mr. Bopp.

### 3. 2010 Fireworks Displays

As reported in the Board packet, it is the consensus of staff that county funding for fireworks displays (both Claytor Lake and July 4<sup>th</sup>) be discontinued. Mr. Huber reported the county spends approximately \$20,000 per year in costs to providing fireworks for both events.

Mr. Pratt, Mr. Conner and Mr. Bopp expressed concern over the costs associated with providing the fireworks displays. Mr. Sheffey suggested consideration to eliminating the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display, noting the Motor Mile Speedway also provides fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pratt suggested consideration to seeking corporate sponsors for the funding for fireworks displays. Mr. Huber advised a decision by the Board could be made at a later date. By consensus, the Board requested staff to review the possibility of seeking corporate sponsorships for the fireworks displays.

### 4. Adoption of Revised Budget Calendar

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Bopp, the Board approved a revised budget calendar eliminating the April 5 and 12, 2010 budget work sessions, with budget work sessions to be scheduled for March 29 and April 19, 2010.

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

Voting no: none.

### 5. Citizen Survey

Mr. Hiss reported the latest edition of the county newsletter would be distributed within the next week and could be used to solicit input in survey form from the public regarding the proposed increases in real estate and personal property tax rates, with the resulting revenue increases applied to school needs. Mr. Sheffey requested that the County staff work with the School Board staff to provide examples of the various scenarios related to the proposed tax increases in real estate and personal property taxes.

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Staff was directed to include the draft survey in the county newsletter, on the web site, through the cable channel and whatever means possible in soliciting input from the public.

### 6. Other Matters

Mr. Hiss reported extensive damage to the Health Department roof and some office space due to the deterioration of the existing roof. He advised the recent accumulation of snow on the roof had compounded the situation resulting in some material collapsing through the ceiling tiles. He advised some replacement of flooring may be needed, as well as some painting in the various offices. He indicated difficulty in estimated repairs costs, suggesting a minimum of \$12,000 for repairs to a worst case scenario of \$20,000. He advised negotiations of the Health Department lease would be underway soon, with recouping some of the repair costs to be considered as a part of the new lease negotiations.

On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board approved the contracting of the Health Department roof replacement and repairs to an outside contractor, as well as authorized county staff to negotiate a new lease agreement to include some or all of the costs associated with the roof replacement/repairs.

Voting yes: Mr. Akers, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.  
Voting no: none.

### 7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its special meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a Closed Session and 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W., in the Town of Pulaski.

Voting yes: Mr. Akers, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.  
Voting no: none.

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Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

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Peter M. Huber, County Administrator