

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2010

At a budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, March 29, 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.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Sheffey called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session and hear comments from agencies and/or departments having concerns related to their respective budgets.

2. Recommended Administrative Revisions

Mr. Huber reported information received from the Compensation Board announcing an additional reduction of approximately \$201,000 in state reimbursement for constitutional officers, which mainly affects the capital budget. He described efforts by staff in determining the budget needs as it relates to requests for a pumper for the Fairlawn Fire Department, Sheriff's vehicles and school buses. Mr. Huber described the current practice of replacing of Sheriff's vehicles and school buses, as well as provided details regarding costs associated with replacing the vehicles and school buses. Due to the inability to reduce Sheriff's officers, it was noted that state cuts have a net affect on the capital budget. He also described the new emissions standards for buses, which was a factor in replacing school buses.

By consensus, the Board authorized staff to adjust the budget to allow for the purchasing of two Sheriff's vehicles and reducing the allowance for a new pumper at the Fairlawn Fire Department. Staff was requested to contact Sheriff Davis regarding the vehicles needed, determine what type of pumper the Fairlawn Fire Department is requesting, update the budget chart to reflect the school bus purchases and provide updates to the Board at its April 19, 2010 budget work session.

Mr. Huber offered to provide the Board with a listing of employees taking county vehicles home on a regular basis.

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3. Presentation(s):

▪ Brain Injury Services

Ms. Helen Butler, Executive Director of Brain Injury Services (BIS), described the history of the founding of BIS, as well as the status of the current funding for BIS and request from Pulaski County of \$7,500. Ms. Butler thanked the Board for providing funding to BIS.

4. Discussion of budget alternatives

a. Revenue and Expenditure Tables

Mr. Huber provided an update on revenue and expenditure tables, including reductions in regional jail costs. Mr. Hiss provided updates regarding the health insurance, workers compensation adjustments, increased CSA costs, and the addition of the Crooked Road membership. Mr. Huber also provided details related to reduced costs of a school bus, and increased capital expenditures, with a focus on public safety and vehicle replacements.

b. Voluntary Retirement Program

Mr. Hiss presented a draft of a program which encourages a voluntary reduction in force, described what other New River Valley localities are doing relative to retirement programs and described the school system retirement program. Mr. Huber advised the purpose of the program was to introduce the concept and provide any thoughts on options or alternatives. A copy of the draft of the program is filed with the records of this meeting.

Board members requested staff discuss the retirement incentives and options with leadership staff and provide an update to the Board at a future meeting.

c. Setting of Real Estate Taxes

Mr. Huber provided specifics regarding a proposed increase in the real estate tax rate with a staff recommendation of increasing the real estate tax rate by four cents. He noted the full amount of the additional revenue from such an increase would go to the school system. Mr. Huber also presented a comparison of nominal real estate taxes for surrounding counties, as well as described options for increasing the personal property taxes in addition to real estate tax rate. He presented a suggestion from Ms. Francis Viars to

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implementing a tax increase on a temporary basis, along with a suggestion to renovating the two existing middle schools, rather than consolidation of the two middle schools.

School Superintendent Tom Brewster provided details regarding the School Board budget request. Dr. Brewster also described specifics related to items that had been placed back in the budget from the original version, as well as reduction in funds to other areas, all in an effort to provide a savings to the overall budget. Board members posed questions to Dr. Brewster related to the SAT scores and the total enrollment at the Governor's School. Dr. Brewster expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the School Board for considering additional educational funding.

Mr. Sheffey confirmed the staff recommendation of a four-cent tax increase on the real estate tax rate.

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board approved a four-cent increase on the real estate tax rate for Pulaski County.

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

Voting no: Mr. Akers, Mr. Bopp.

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

Mr. Huber requested the Board contact staff if specific information is needed relative to the budget. He confirmed information desired by the Board and to be presented at the April 19, 2010 budget work session will include an update on the Fairlawn Fire Department pumper, Sheriff's vehicle needs, and school bus savings.

6. Other Matters

a. Report on Rotation of On Call Wrecker Service

Mr. Huber advised Sheriff Davis plans to meet with his staff to develop a plan to address the cost differentials between services, and differences in response time due to the location of various services. Sheriff Davis plans to also review the draft plan with the county attorney.

Supervisor Akers advised he had been in contact with a representative for at least three of the wrecker services in the county and those contacts indicated they were pleased with the current

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practice. Mr. Huber advised he would contact the local Virginia State Police Office staff to determine the current practice of the State Police in seeking wrecker services when needed and would provide an update to the Board.

b. Filing of Condemnation Proceedings

Mr. Huber provided details explaining the reasoning for the urgency in proceeding with the condemnation was due to the timeframe to meet the deadline for the current interest rate. Mr. Akers and Mr. Bopp expressed concern over the lack of information presented to the Board and the short notice in requesting action for condemnation. Mr. Sheffey requested staff provide a drawing of the property proposed for condemnation. Mr. Huber apologized for not having more specific details on the condemnation request.

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board authorized the condemnation of water and sewer easement for the Commerce Park as part of the Rural Development loan as follows:

DECLARATION

Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr. is hereby declared to be the duly authorized agent and attorney for the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County for the purpose of instituting condemnation proceedings and filing condemnation proceedings in the name of, and on behalf of, the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia, against Donna Akers, for the purpose of condemning real property for the purpose of construction of water and sewer lines.

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

Voting no: Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.

c. Revised CDBG Baskerville Resolution

Mr. Huber advised a resolution had previously been adopted by the Board; however, the figures contained in the resolution had changed from what was originally presented. He indicated the change in the amount would not affect the county; however, a revised resolution would need to be adopted by the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board approved the following revised CDBG resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the County of Pulaski has identified the Baskerville Neighborhood as a priority area for housing rehabilitation based on the neighborhood's deteriorating housing and infrastructure conditions; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) to assist in implementing the Baskerville Neighborhood project with said project benefiting 37 existing, habitable and occupied units with 81 persons of which 28 households (76%) are estimated to be low and moderate income (LMI) households with 60 LMI residents based on returned surveys and applications.

WHEREAS, one hundred percent (100%) direct benefit will result from the implementation of the rehabilitation component of the program for 11 LMI owner-occupied units with 23 persons; substantial reconstruction of 6 LMI owner-occupied units with 18 persons; and the rehabilitation of 1 investor-owned units with 2 persons to standard housing units.

WHEREAS, the County of Pulaski has committed \$3,000 for legal, advertising and training services related to implementing the DHCD grant; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pulaski has committed \$6,000 in in-kind services to provide a Spring Break Neighborhood Cleaning in partnership with SERCAP's Alternative Spring Break Program; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pulaski has committed \$14,100 for project costs including legal fees as well as recordation costs; and

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WHEREAS, the County has committed to waive building permit fees for rehabilitating and substantially reconstructing 18 houses for low and moderate income beneficiaries, valued at \$4,100; and

WHEREAS, the County has committed \$11,600 in in-kind services from the Building Official's Department for inspection costs; and

WHEREAS, the County has committed \$7,500 for the demolition of a vacant, blighted structure within the Project Area; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley HOME Consortium has committed \$207,345 in HOME funds for the project; and

WHEREAS, Community Housing Partners has applied for \$180,000 in State HOME funds for the project; and

WHEREAS, the County has secured a commitment from Community Housing Partners, its non-profit partner on the project, to provide \$38,350 from its Weatherization Assistance Program funding allocations during the term of the project to help fund housing rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, both the New River Valley HOME Consortium and Community Housing Partners have committed to work with households in the Baskerville project area to provide credit counseling, assist with securing home mortgages as needed, and to conduct home maintenance classes; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pulaski has properly advertised and conducted public hearings on Monday, January 25, 2010 and Monday, March 22, 2010 which addresses the CDBG program and the CDBG project application, thereby meeting citizen participation requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski, Virginia that:

1. The County of Pulaski wishes to apply for \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) of Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds for the Baskerville Neighborhood Rehabilitation project and hereby commits a total of \$46,300 in County investment and has secured \$457,795

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in additional non-CDBG funds for a total project cost of \$1,504,095 for the purpose of undertaking a housing rehabilitation program.

2. The County hereby authorizes the County Administrator, the County's chief administrative official, to execute and file all appropriate documents necessary for submission of the County of Pulaski's 2010 Community Development Block Grant application on or before March 31, 2010 and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

This Resolution is effective upon adoption and is hereby adopted this 22nd day of March, 2010 by the duly recorded vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski.

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

Voting no: none.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its special meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be at a budget work session to be held on Monday, April 19, 2010 (later rescheduled for Tuesday, April 20th) at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 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.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator