

JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2011

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Board meeting room of the Pulaski County School Board offices, in the Town of Pulaski, the following Board of Supervisors members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Frank R. Conner; and Dean Pratt. County staff present included; Pete Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Shawn Utt, Community Development Director; Diane Newby, County Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors. School Board members present included Paul Phillips, Chairman; John Wenrich, Vice-Chairman; Jeff Bain; and Dr. Rodell Cruise. School Board member Pam Chitwood was unable to attend the meeting. School Board staff present included: Dr. Robert Becker, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Thomas Brewster, Deputy Superintendent; Heather Freeman, School Board Clerk; Mr. Tim Barnes, Director, Information Technology; Lal Harter, School Finance Director; Dr. Greg Brown, Director of School Human Resources; and Toni Elitharp, Director of Special Education.

1. Welcome

Chairmen Sheffey and Phillips welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Phillips thanked Pat Huber for providing the desserts for the meeting.

2. Action Items – Focus of 3/10 Joint Services Board meeting

a. Surplus Property Disposal:

1. Newbern, Riverlawn, Draper and Dublin Primary - School Properties

Mr. Huber explained further the information that was reported in the Board packet, including that the School Board and Board of Supervisors have toured schools in need of major improvements as well as properties no longer being used by the Schools. He advised the disposition, return to taxable status and beneficial reuse of these facilities is recommended. Mr. Huber described examples of successful and unsuccessful reuses to include the NanoChemonics reuse of Calfee Elementary School, the eventual loss of Belspring School, and the continued deterioration of Jefferson, Hiwassee and Dublin Primary schools; the more recent successful reuse of Claremont, Grisham and Draper schools; and the successful development of the Stone Ridge (\$43,539 in real estate taxes) and Pine Grove (\$23,687 in real estate taxes) subdivisions.

Mr. Huber explained prospective reuse of the Old Riverlawn school could include a combination of community center and elderly housing; Draper Elementary could be reused as a community

center supporting the farm to market effort and/or as apartments; and Newbern Elementary could be used for either commercial purposes, as a support facility to the Ruritan National building or for residential apartments.

Draper School

Mr. Bain advised the County Attorney had reviewed the deeds to the various schools, including the former Draper Elementary School, but had made no recommendation as to the options available. Mr. Bain expressed concern over any consideration to disposing of the facility, noting the need to leave all options open for the benefit of the Draper community.

Mr. Hiss and Mr. Utt described the ongoing planning process, including an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, to determine what would be the most feasible reuse of the facility, noting this was an excellent opportunity to partner with the school system for reuse of the school for educational purposes.

Mr. Sheffey suggested the county attorney be directed to conduct more research as to options available to the county for reuse of the property.

Mr. Akers suggested removing the Draper school from consideration as surplus property until the ARC grant has moved forward.

Mr. Huber suggested consideration to allowing the Joint Services Committee to work in developing a "Request for Proposals" for potential reuse.

Mr. Bain indicated this may be a good time for consideration to using the Draper school as a community center. He also expressed a desire to have the location maintained for the potential location for housing a new school in the Draper community.

Mr. Conner expressed concern over the heating costs for the Draper school.

Mr. Phillips suggested allowing the ARC grant to proceed, and a determination on the Draper school reuse made following the grant process.

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By consensus, the two boards agreed to delay any action declaring the Draper school surplus to allow for the ARC grant to move forward.

Riverlawn School

Mr. Huber advised Anthony Akers may have a need for use of the gymnasium at the school for recreation events. He suggested issuance of "Request for Proposals" as a means of determining reuse of the remainder of the facility.

Mr. Bain expressed concern over any potential reuse of the former Riverlawn school as apartments, citing the difficulty that would be faced by the county in complying with building code standards, etc. He suggested consideration to using a portion of the school as a satellite office for county services.

Mr. Conner suggested use of a portion of the facility as office space.

Mr. Sheffey suggested potential use as a Library for the Fairlawn community.

Mr. Phillips indicated it was the general consensus of the Board that the facility should be put to the best use possible, keeping in mind the commitment to the Fairlawn community to reuse the school in a manner that would benefit the community and county overall.

Mr. Akers suggested consideration to use of a portion of the school as an "art annex", since the only other cultural activity within proximity of the county is currently in Radford at Radford University. Mr. Akers indicate his desire to have citizens in the Fairlawn community involved in the future plans for reuse of the school.

Mr. Huber suggested allowing Shawn Utt as the County's Community Development Director to pursue options for reuse of the schools.

Newbern Elementary

Mr. Huber reported each Board had indicated a desire to hold off on pursuing reuse options for this building, pending a better option for the relocation of the current School Board administrative offices. Mr. Bain advised the building which is

housing the current administrative offices of the School Board is being activity marketed.

Dublin Primary

Mr. Huber advised it was his understanding the Board of Supervisors and School Board desired to have the Dublin Primary school facility removed. He indicated staff would determine the cost for the building removal and provide an update at a future Board meeting.

2. Request by Fairgrounds for Use of Trailer at Former Newbern Elementary

Mr. Huber explained a request included in the Board packet from the New River Valley Fairgrounds for the use of a mobile classroom from Newbern Elementary for use at the NRV Fairgrounds as a coordination center for emergency management and law enforcement staff during major events.

Dr. Becker indicated he had received a formal request from the Fairgrounds Association. He advised County Attorney Tom McCarthy had recommended the School Board declare the trailer surplus, which would move the trailer's ownership to the county, allowing for use of the trailer by the Fairgrounds, should the Board desire.

Mr. Bain advised he was not in agreement with conveying county property to a private organization, such as the New River Valley Fairgrounds. He referenced the current lease between the county and the Fairgrounds and expressed concern that the formal request from the Fairgrounds was on Ccounty letterhead. Further, Mr. Bain advised he had received a number of complaints from citizens in the county as to the operation of the Fairgrounds by the Fair Association.

Mr. Sheffey explained the formal request for use of the trailer was placed on county letterhead due to the county owning the fairgrounds property.

Mr. Pratt advised he served on the New River Valley Fair Association Board as a representative from the Board of Supervisors. He indicated the New River Valley Fair Association was a non-profit organization.

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By general consensus, the Board agreed the School Board may declare the trailer surplus, allowing for the Board of Supervisors to take action to convey the trailer to the Fair Association. However, no action was taken by the School Board declaring the mobile unit as being surplus.

b. Efficiency Study: Payment for Study and Commitment to implementation

Mr. Huber explained the administrative staffs recommend consideration to the funding and implementation of an efficiency study covering schools, joint services and County operations. He advised it was also recommended that the study be done without state financial participation so as to give both boards maximum flexibility in the implementation of study recommendations since state funding would include a requirement for financial penalties in the event recommendations are not implemented.

Mr. Huber requested a commitment by both boards to allow for pursuing implementation of the study.

Dr. Becker explained his experience with such a study at his previous employment.

By consensus, the Board of Supervisors and School Board agreed to allow staff to proceed with the study.

3. Update on Current Initiatives

a. Facilities and Transportation – Dr. Becker advised Ronnie Nichols was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Bain recommended board members tour the lower level of the Bob White building, expressing appreciation for the improvements made to the area.

b. Telecommunications - Regional Wireless Grant – As reported, in the Board packet, Citizen's Telephone Cooperative has received a \$9.2 million grant to be matched locally with \$600,000 in funding from the Board of Supervisors. This grant will provide for open access fiber connections through the County, as well as the equipment needed to connect various existing County and School facilities at significantly lower costs than we currently pay. Mr. Barnes provided the Board with a diagram entitled "New River Valley Regional Open Access Network – Radford/Pulaski" and described in detail the areas for fiber installation. He also described the need for easements to allow for installation.

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- c. Finance and Health Insurance – Mr. Hiss provided a summary of Health Insurance options for county employees, indicating an increase of only .4% for county employees. He advised this increase would equate to approximately \$4 to \$6 per month increase for employees.

Mr. Brown also provided a summary of Health Insurance options for school employees.

Mr. Sheffey inquired if other groups had joined the Consortium. Mr. Hiss advised no other groups had joined, but efforts had previously been made to recruit Montgomery County, with no success.

Mr. Bain inquired as to the potential for joining Aetna. Mr. Hiss advised staff intended to review all options in the next budget year and would provide information to both boards.

Mr. Sheffey inquired as to how joining Aetna would affect the use of the local Pulaski Lewis Gale hospital. Mr. Hiss advised most of the doctors in the Lewis Gale pool are with Anthem, so the affects could be significant.

Ms. Newby provided a summary regarding requests for the upcoming budget year, including Capital Improvement requests totaling approximately \$8 million. She advised county staff would be reviewing the overall revenues and expenditures prior to scheduled budget work sessions. Mr. Harter also provided a summary regarding the school budget.

- d. Administration Building Window Replacement – As reported in the Board packet, former County Engineer Ron Coake secured a \$300,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy for the replacement of lights at the Pulaski Library and the windows at the County Administration building.

Mr. Huber advised staff is currently negotiating with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in order to be able to install energy efficient windows that can also be opened and cleaned from the inside. He noted the net result should be to make the building easier to heat and cool while improving the workplace environment.

- e. Other Initiatives

Mr. Akers requested consideration to the renaming of the "Bob White Building" to a more suitable name, which would be identifiable with the county. Mr. Huber provided a history of the naming of the building.

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4. Other items for Future Discussion

Mr. Sheffey advised the following items were presented as future discussions by the joint boards, noting the items were a part of ongoing discussions by the Joint Services Committee:

- a. Personnel Policy Revisions
- b. Transfer of Leave Accruals
- c. Building Maintenance

5. Board of Supervisors Closed Session - 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7

Chairman Sheffey advised a Closed Session would need to be held as follows:

A closed meeting is requested pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.(3) of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss personnel, legal, land acquisition/disposition, and prospective industry matters.

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors entered a Closed Session for discussion of the following:

Property Disposition or Acquisition – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)3 discussion for consideration of the disposition or acquisition of publicly held property regarding:

- Shae Dawn Industrial Park

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

Voting no: None.

Return to Regular Session

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board returned to regular session.

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

Voting no: None.

Certification of Conformance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution certifying conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

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WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia, has convened a closed meeting of this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Pulaski County, Virginia hereby certifies to the best of each members' knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in this motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors.

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

Voting no: None.

6. Next meeting

By consensus, the Board of Supervisors and School Board scheduled its next joint meeting for Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pulaski Elementary School in the Town of Pulaski.

7. Adjournment

By consensus, the Board adjourned its special joint meeting. The next meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors is a regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2011 beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. and regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W., in the Town of Pulaski.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator