

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

At a budget work session of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 18, 2011 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.

Mr. Huber introduced new county engineer Jared Linkous and provided background information on Mr. Linkous's previous employment. Mr. Huber advised that Mr. Linkous will be overseeing one of the "districts" in response to the tornado events. Board members extended a welcome to Mr. Linkous.

### 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.

### 2. Tornado Response Summary

Mr. Huber provided a summary of the tornado response by the county.

Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Pratt commended the residents of the Draper District, indicating major work had been accomplished to remove debris that was the result of the recent tornado.

Board members commended county staff for the immediate follow-up response to the event.

Mr. Huber commended Ronnie Nichols for his efforts in providing equipment for the cleanup.

Mr. Pratt confirmed the U. S. Forestry Department assisted in cleanup efforts.

Mr. Conner inquired regarding salvaging of the Draper Elementary School. Mr. Huber advised an insurance adjuster had estimated the damage to be approximately \$300,000, which includes loss of the school's roof and the roof on the cannery.

Mr. Bopp commended Robert Hiss and Peter Huber for working closely with the town in responding to the tornado disaster.

Mr. Hiss provided Board members with the Governor's news release regarding a request to the President for declaration of the county as a federal

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

disaster area.

Mr. Conner inquired if funds from a federal declaration will assist in home repairs for the residents whose homes were damaged. Mr. Huber advised funds could be used for home repairs, but would likely not cover the total cost to complete the repairs.

Mr. Sheffey inquired if there had been a determination on identifying residents who had insurance. Mr. Huber advised a survey was underway and information is being collected and included in a spreadsheet which would be shared at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Bopp encouraged residents to be aware of contracting "scammers" as homeowners are making repairs.

Mr. Sheffey inquired if the county was utilizing building inspectors from other localities. Mr. Huber advised of standing offers from the City of Radford, Montgomery County, and Gloucester County.

Mr. Huber advised the Montgomery Regional Recycling Authority had provided a tub grinder for use by PSA staff and that the Giles County Hazmat team had been helping with debris removal at the Renfro.

Mr. Huber advised he had asked for assistance from Joe Levine of the New River Resource Authority (NRRRA) in determining the best method for disposing of chips. He also advised of receipt of a suggestion by Pulaski Town Councilman Joseph Goodman to contact Virginia Tech to determine their need for the chips.

Mr. Pratt inquired if the county had a generator for use at the County Administration Building. Mr. Huber advised that the Administration Building was not currently served by a generator.

Mr. Sheffey thanked county staff for work following the Tornado disaster.

Mr. Pratt inquired as to the costs to the county for damages related to the tornado. Mr. Huber advised the normal reimbursement to localities is 69%, after spending \$139,000 and advised the Governor would strongly look at seeing what more can be done for the locality. Mr. Huber advised it may be some time before a more formal estimate could be provided to the Board. Ms. Newby advised the total overtime costs had not been determined; however, overtime costs to date had been \$13,000 to \$14,000. Mr. Huber advised it was still too early to determine the total damage assessment; however, early estimates indicated damage to public buildings and equipment to be \$440,000, \$300,000 of which is for Draper Elementary School. Mr. Hiss advised the REMSI Station 5 had suffered some roof damage and the claim would be submitted this week.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

3. Work Session:

a. Review of Draft Revenues and Expenditures

Mr. Huber and Ms. Newby advised there were no specific changes to the draft budget presented to the Board at its April 11<sup>th</sup> budget work session.

b. Compensation Study Update

As a follow-up to the Board's request at its April 11<sup>th</sup> budget work session, Mr. Hiss provided and described a spreadsheet outlining the costs associated with implementing the compensation for county employees, as well as the costs for constitutional officers, should the constitutional officers opt to join the county's pay plan.

Mr. Hiss described those departments that are not funded by county tax dollars and the costs associated with bringing those agencies on the pay plan.

Mr. Hiss advised Montgomery County had implemented a pay plan with said plan to be spread out over a period of four years.

Mr. Huber recommended providing a 1½% cost of living increase for all employees, plus the implementation of the compensation study for county employees and asking constitutional officers of their preference to joining the county's pay plan vs. being paid by the Compensation Board. Further, Mr. Huber advised if the Constitutional officers do not join the county's pay plan, then implementation of the full compensation plan for county employees would be recommended. He also indicated if the constitutional officers agree to join the county's pay plan, the plan would likely need to be spread out over several years.

Staff was requested to contact Montgomery County to determine if the constitutional officers in Montgomery County who are on the county's pay plan are paid solely by the county and not the Compensation Board.

Mr. Akers expressed concern that providing a 1½ % cost of living (COLA) to employees, along with the implementation of the pay plan, would throw off the salaries in the study. Mr. Akers also suggested the Board approve only the compensation study and not a cost of living increase. Mr. Huber advised the compensation study could be redone; however, it would be costly and time consuming. Mr. Akers inquired if the School Board participated in the study. Mr. Hiss advised the county's study included School Board non-instructional employees.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

Mr. Sheffey inquired if the PSA Board would follow the county's plans regarding salaries. Mr. Huber advised the PSA historically had followed the county's pay plan when approving the budget; however, the matter would be brought to the PSA Board at its May meeting.

Mr. Huber advised Board approval was needed for advertising the budget for public hearing purposes with an emphasis on no proposed tax increases

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board approved the budget ad as presented for the purpose of advertising for a public hearing to be held at the May 23, 2011 Board meeting.

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

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

There was no additional information directed to county staff or requested by the Board.

5. Other Matters

Ms. Newby explained the donations process following the establishment of an account for donations to go towards the residents who sustained damage from the recent tornado. Ms. Newby advised collections to date were over \$40,000. Mr. Huber advised the focus for use of the money would likely be towards providing housing for residents displaced by the tornado.

Mr. Conner inquired if residents were being fed by organizations. Mr. Huber advises numerous churches are providing food and the Salvation Army is also assisting in that effort. Mr. Huber recommended a committee be established to oversee the disbursement of funds, with said committee to include a representative of the Board of Supervisors, county staff, Social Services, town officials, and a school representative.

Mr. Akers inquired if assistance was being provided for residents in preparing tax forms. Mr. Huber advised a representative of the Department of Taxation had been available to answer questions from those residents who lost documents in the tornado.

Mr. Bopp expressed appreciation for efforts by the community as a whole in assisting with the cleanup, as well as the town and county for working together to meet the needs of the town and county in responding to the disaster.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

Mr. Sheffey commended the Board and other local officials for taking time to tour the properties affected by the tornadoes.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2011

Mr. Huber provided an update by Tom McCarthy from the Attorney General in response to questions related to the ability of the state to provide contributions of public monies to non-profit organizations. Mr. Huber advised it was the opinion of the Attorney General that providing money to non-profit organizations by the state was not appropriate.

Mr. Sheffey advised the press in attendance of the potential for there to be more three or more Board members at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Business Expo.

6. Adjournment to April 25, 2011

On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its budget work session. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be a regular meeting to be held on Monday, April 25, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a Closed Session. The regular meeting will following beginning at 7:00 p.m. and will be held 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