

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2013

At a special meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Basement Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, the following members were present: Joseph Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Andy McCready; Ranny O'Dell; and Dean Pratt.

Also present were Peter Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; and Diane Newby, Finance Director.

Present from the School Board were Mike Barbour, Chairman, and Jeff Bain.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and county staff to the meeting. Mr. Sheffey advised the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session, as well as several other matters listed on the agenda.

2. Review of 2013-2014 Departmental Revenues and Expenditures

Mrs. Newby and Mr. Hiss reviewed and discussed with the Board the revenues and expenditures, which included: Department of Social Services and school system requests; pay raise options and state pay raises (no new positions being requested); review of over \$15 million in capital requests; and noting a one cent of real estate tax raises \$260,000. Staff was directed to place review of the capital requests on the March 11th budget work session agenda.

3. School Funding Request

Mr. Huber advised the proposed FY 14 school budget needed to be reduced by \$435,224 due to decreased revenues and in order to level school funding compared to the current year.

Mr. Huber reviewed the budget adjustments to compensate for the difference. Mr. Huber also reviewed the following budget priorities requests: health insurance adjustment (\$1,795,788); salary increases for longer tenured employees from 21-30 years (\$160,559); 2% salary increase, local share (\$311,242); school resource officer for two officers (\$138,000); high school public address system request as top capital priority (\$175,000); security cameras (\$325,000), with total requested \$2,905,589.

Mr. McCready indicated there is also a \$1,325,000 request for school buses to bring fleet up to correct replacement date.

Mr. Huber advised the cost for the repairs to the middle school walls to be \$340,000, with a recommendation from the School Board to make repairs, contingent upon Board of Supervisors funding. Board members discussed the options for repairs with the Board directing staff to seek additional information from the contractor reporting at the March 11th budget work session.

4. Long-term Budget Outlook & Budget Considerations

Mr. Huber reviewed the revenue options and how to balance the requests against setting a reasonable tax rate; distributed handouts describing five-year revenue and expenditure projections, based on five years audited numbers; discussed use of reserve funds for current year, noting the majority being CIP related projects; and presented a recommendation for a 10-cent tax rate increase, noting the increase is primarily based on capital and school requests.

Mr. Huber further explained the purpose for a tax rate increase included health insurance costs and building maintenance and improvements.

Mr. Huber advised the county's reassessment will occur in the FY 13-14 fiscal year and indicated assessments will most likely stay level.

Scheduling of Public Hearing to Consider Real Estate Tax Rate Increase

On a motion by Mr. McCready, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board approved advertising for a public hearing to consider a ten-cent increase in the real estate tax rate, with said hearing to be held on at the Monday, March 25, 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: Mr. Bopp.

Mr. McCready suggested the county and schools work to reduce funds, noting not all needs can be met. Mr. McCready also spoke to the strengthening of the county's tax base through industry development, jobs, machinery and tools, further noting these and future investments will continue to pay dividends for the community.

Mr. Sheffey requested costs for average home and comparison to other localities, with said information to be provided to the Board either via a weekly update or at an upcoming budget work session.

Mr. Pratt advised of the Board's history of taking all steps necessary to balance the budget, along with the funding reductions by the state.

Mr. Hiss advised anticipated experience numbers include a 10% margin. Mr. Hiss clarified that 10% reserve funding of health insurance premiums includes both employees and employer portions and needs to be kept separate from other county reserves, noting Aetna rates account for approximately \$300,000 increase to the general fund.

5. Resolution of Appreciation – Hollis Loyd

On a motion by Mr. McCready, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board adopted the following resolution recognizing former PSA Board member Hollis Loyd, with a special note that the resolution is a joint resolution with the PSA Board of Directors:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
Hollis Loyd**

WHEREAS, Hollis Loyd served the citizens of Pulaski County on its Public Service Authority from July 11, 2005 to January 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Hollis Loyd served with the best interest of the whole county at heart; and

WHEREAS, Hollis Loyd approached his role on the Public Service Authority with great diligence and sense of responsibility for the operations, budget, and usage fees; and

WHEREAS, Hollis Loyd was supportive of growing the water and sewer system, improving water plant operations, and always seeking more efficient methods of refuse collection while keeping customer service as a top priority; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and public service has benefited not only present and past citizens of Pulaski County, but will enhance the quality of Pulaski County's governmental services for its future citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors does hereby commend and express its sincere appreciation for the service of Hollis Loyd to the county and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors does extend to Hollis Loyd its best wishes for health and happiness in the future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the text of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Supervisors in permanent testimony of its appreciation to the service provided by Hollis Loyd.

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Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Pratt.
Voting no: None.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Sheffey advised of an Alliance Investors meeting to be held March 15th at 3:00 p.m. at which there was the potential to have three or more Board members in attendance.

On a motion by Mr. O'Dell, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board adjourned its special meeting. The next meeting of the Board is to be held on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at which time a budget work session will be held. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2013 beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., with said meeting to be held at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, NW, Board Room, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia.

Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.
Voting no: None.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator