

JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2014

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At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Information Technology Training Room located on Commerce Street in the Town of Pulaski, the following Board of Supervisors members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Andy McCready; Ranny O'Dell; and Dean Pratt.

County staff present included; Peter Huber, County Administrator; Anthony Akers, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Diane Newby, County Finance Director; Jared Linkous, County Engineer; Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors; and Tammy Safewright, HR Specialist.

School Board members present included Mike Barbour, Chairman; Jeff Bain; Joseph Guthrie; Frances Viars; and Linda Hill.

School Board staff present included: Thomas Brewster, Superintendent of Schools; Heather Freeman, School Board Clerk; Tim Barnes, Director, Information Technology; Chris Stafford, Finance Director; Greg Brown, Deputy Superintendent; and Ron Nichols, Director of Operations, Transportation and Maintenance.

1. Welcome & Meal

Mr. Sheffey welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Sheffey and Mr. Barbour expressed appreciation for the opportunity for the two boards to meet jointly.

Mr. Sheffey recognized Ms. Laura Norris of the Pulaski County High School Culinary Arts Department, along with the students also of the Culinary Arts Department. Mr. Sheffey expressed appreciation for the meal prepared and served by Ms. Norris and the students.

2. Joint Services Agreement

Dr. Brewster and Mr. Huber presented information describing the joint services agreement, specifically providing a history of the joint services initiative which has been in place since 2005. Dr. Brewster advised the new agreement includes data collecting and accountability systems allowing for an overall more efficient working agreement between the School Board and County.

Discussions were held by both boards members regarding the draft agreement including: employees of the joint services board; the need for a clear definition of the work order tracking system for both the IT and maintenance of the schools and county; and joint compensation.

By consensus, the Boards deferred action on approving the joint agreement until a future joint boards meeting.

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3. Information Items

A. Pulaski County Board of Supervisors/Pulaski County School Board Shared Garage, Fueling, Vehicle and Radio Equipment Maintenance Agreement

Mr. Nichols reviewed the agreement in detail and specifically described various sections of the agreement, responding to questions by the two boards.

Discussions were held by both boards related to the following: transfer of equipment and reimbursement of such; annual charges; percentage of costs related to labor, repairs, etc.; defining of vehicles to be serviced; savings by the schools and county; and insurance policies.

B. School Board Office Relocation

Mr. Nichols described a meeting held with Thompson and Litton Architects, which meeting included Jared Linkous, County Engineer. Mr. Linkous advised a "space survey" had been sent to the architects. Mr. Linkous also advised it was anticipated a preliminary cost estimate and layout could be provided in early 2015.

Board members discussed the following: the timetable for moving forward; the rent being paid for the current School Board offices; and the anticipated overall cost savings for moving the School Board offices.

C. Update on Proposed Consolidation of Middle Schools and Renovation/Enlargement of Dublin Elementary School

Mr. Barbour introduced Bill Cram and Glen Mathison from M. B. Kahn who provided detailed information related to the pre-construction planning of the proposed consolidation of the two middle schools, as well as the renovation/enlargement of the Dublin Elementary School.

Following the presentation by the architect, Board members and staff discussed the presentation in detail.

Board members also discussed current uses of old school buildings, including maximizing the use of the two middle schools, specific concerns over the present conditions of the high school and middle schools, costs associated with new construction and the need to provide the best value for the community.

D. Discussion of Proposed County Tobacco Tax

Mr. Huber described the resolution previously adopted by the School Board in support of a tobacco tax.

Mr. Huber also advised that the Board of Supervisors had concurred with the resolution adopted by the School Board, with some minor changes recommended in the wording of the resolution. Further, that the Board of Supervisors recommended that a request be sent to the Town of Pulaski, Town of Dublin, the Chamber, and the Pulaski Encouraging Progress Steering Committee requesting the resolution be adopted and co-signed by all groups.

Board members discussed the difficulties anticipated in having the tobacco tax approved by the General Assembly. Further discussion was held regarding the revenue that would be generated from a tobacco tax and the lessening of the burden on taxpayers with the adoption of a tobacco tax.

Dr. Brewster emphasized that the "spirit" of the resolution adopted by the School would not be changed by having co-signatures.

By consensus, the School Board concurred with the resolution being presented to the General Assembly with the additional "co-signatures" described by Mr. Huber.

4. Other Items for Future Discussion

Mr. Barbour opened the floor for additional discussions.

Board members discussed the need to move forward with the joint garage agreement as expeditiously as possible. Mr. McCreedy suggested the two boards meet in early January 2015 to review the garage agreement, as well as to review other matters in need of attention by the two boards.

5. Next Meeting

By consensus, the two boards set the next meeting for Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the IT Training Room.

6. Public Comment

Nick Glenn expressed appreciation for the presentation provided on the school consolidation/renovation issues and complimented the firm making the presentation. Mr. Glenn spoke to the need for the two boards to be mindful of

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the debt service that comes with new building projects. Mr. Glenn also commended Pulaski Town Manager Shawn Utt and Mr. Huber for the recent economic development efforts, expressing concern that higher taxes as a result of new school debt could have dire affects on the future of economic development in the county.

E. W. Harless spoke in opposition to the joint service efforts by the County and School Board. Mr. Harless expressed concern over the present conditions of the schools and further that the children in the county are being neglected. Mr. Harless also expressed concern over the "excess" spending by the County and School Board.

Erica Tolbert, representing the Dublin Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization, commended the Board of Supervisors and School Board for the joint efforts in addressing the current school buildings conditions. Ms. Tolbert spoke to having two children who were attending Dublin Elementary School and requested the Boards take immediate steps to address the poor conditions of the Dublin Elementary School. Ms. Tolbert also expressed appreciation to the firm providing the presentation on the middle schools and Dublin Elementary School renovation/enlargement.

Addis Ainsley advised of choosing Pulaski County as a home for his family as a result of the school system. Mr. Ainsley advised of having three children who had attended Dublin Elementary and expressed concern over the poor condition of the Dublin Elementary School, as well as the Pulaski Middle School. Mr. Ainsley expressed concern over the lack of ventilation, lack of security and the overall safety of the students in the schools.

Shannon Ainsley expressed concern that the relocation of the School Board offices was taking precedence over the renovation/improvements to the schools. Ms. Ainsley spoke to a lack of enthusiasm by the boards in the school improvement issue. Ms. Ainsley suggested the boards consider renovating one of the existing vacant schools as a potential School Board office.

Mr. McCready spoke to the need to have more information presented at the January 12, 2015 Board meeting. Mr. Barbour responded that he anticipated further studies prior to the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting should allow for more firm cost estimates to be provided at that meeting.

Mr. Barbour advised of his son having attended the schools in the county, as well as his wife having taught in the school system, and recognized the need for improvements.

Mr. Sheffey thanked the citizens for attending the joint meeting. Mr. Sheffey also described the history of schools having been renovated over his tenure as a Board member, including the Snowville Elementary School

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renovation, Critzer renovation, new Pulaski Elementary and Riverlawn Elementary Schools, etc.

Mr. O'Dell spoke to having attended in 1955 what is now Pulaski Middle School, noting the lack of air conditioning and comfortable conditions.

The School Board adjourned its meeting.

7. Closed Session

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

A closed session is requested pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss land acquisition/disposition and legal matters.

On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. McCready 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:

- Loving Field Property
- Old Riverlawn Elementary Ball Fields and Walking Track

Legal Matters – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)7 consultation with legal counsels and briefing by staff for discussion of specific legal matters and matters subject to probable litigation regarding:

- Shae Dawn Grading

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

Return to Regular Session

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

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

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Certification of Conformance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act

On a motion by Mr. McCready, seconded by Mr. O'Dell and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution certifying conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

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. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp,  
Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: None.

Action Following Closed Session

Old Riverlawn Elementary Ball Fields and Walking Track

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. McCready and carried, the Board authorized the application of VDOT funds for development of a trail system in the vicinity of Old Riverlawn Elementary School.

Voting yes: Mr. McCready, Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp,  
Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: None.