

At a special meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room/Emergency Operations Center of the Information Technology Offices located in the Maple Shade Center, 89 Commerce Street, SW, 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.

Present from county staff were Peter Huber, County Administrator; Anthony Akers, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Diane Newby, Finance Director; Danny Wilson, Zoning Administrator; Tim Kirtner, County Attorney; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members and County staff. Mr. Sheffey advised the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session.

Mr. Sheffey advised of the passing of Lloyd Mathews and described Mr. Mathews' many years of work as the County's local "historian". Mr. Sheffey called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Mathews.

Mr. Sheffey distributed copies of the Capital Connections pamphlet, as well as information related to the state budget which had been provided at a recent VACo County Government Day.

Mr. McCready shared information from the VACo Finance Committee related to the state budget, specifically information indicating a potential pay raise for state employees of 2-3%, as well as information indicating a potential pay raise for teachers at 1½%. Mr. Huber advised the General Assembly cross-over day was Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

Mr. Huber and Mr. McCready advised that Emmett Hanger, Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, had indicated he would provide support in the County's efforts in seeking approval by the General Assembly of a cigarette tax in 2016. Mr. Huber also advised of receiving the invoice in the amount of \$2,550 for the lobbyist contracted by the County.

2. Review of Noise Control Ordinance

Mr. Kirtner highlighted the proposed change in the original version of the Noise Control Ordinance and the draft update version being presented.

Board members reviewed the draft ordinance in detail and discussed potential changes, focusing on permitting issues. The Board of Supervisors requested Mr. Kirtner update the ordinance to include language that addresses annual permitting approval by the Board, as well as allowing for day (temporary) permitting approval by County administration, and further specifying changes in times for Friday and

Saturday nights. In addition, the Board requested changes to include reference to specific events throughout the year, such as high school graduation, events at Randolph Park, New River Valley Fairgrounds, etc..

Mr. Huber reminded the Board of previous action by the Board to hold a public hearing at its March 23, 2015 Board meeting.

3. Budget Considerations

A. Review of Budget Calendar

The Board discussed the budget calendar and amended the calendar to add a tentative budget work session for Monday, March 16th.

The Board discussed the overall budget, including the potential for level funding for all County department, or a possible 2-3% decrease in funding. The Board also discussed the need to place emphasis on maintenance of County buildings and the reuse of Newbern Elementary School and moving forward with preparing requests for proposals for reuse of the old Newbern School, former School Board offices, and the former sheriff's office and jail facilities.

Board members discussed the Capital Improvements Plan (specifically review of vehicle needs).

Mr. Huber reported the state had revised its mileage reimbursement rate.

Staff was requested to update the budget calendar to reflect the changes discussed by the Board.

Mr. Huber reported repairs were needed to the ceiling in the Board of Supervisors meeting room, as well as discussed potential options for repairing the ceiling. Staff was requested to review options for the repairs to the Board Room ceiling and provide an update at a future meeting.

B. Board Salaries

The Board discussed the current pay for Board members and the state statute related to increasing pay for Board members.

The County Attorney was requested to research the State Code regarding increasing Board members salaries and provide update via weekly update, specifically of statute related to when a vote can be taken on a salary increase for Board members.

C. Revenue Projections

Mr. Huber provided an overview of recent reassessment results.

The Board requested staff to provide a figure that would allow for an "equalized rate" for County real estate taxes. The Board also discussed the potential for holding community meetings to allow citizens to be provided information related to taxes to be paid due to recent reassessment and real estate tax increase.

Ms. Newby distributed a revenue summary and described the report in detail. The Board requested changes in the overall spreadsheet to identify "property taxes" as "real estate".

Board members discussed the potential for there to be more funds to address maintenance needs, if an equalized real estate tax rate is approved.

Mr. McCready requested staff prepare a budget to include a debt payment, with a seven year term, for the Dublin Elementary School (noting the Renfro building debt payment will be paid off in 2016).

D. Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Requests

The Board discussed the CIP requests submitted by the various departments and also requested the School CIP requests be prioritized. The Board also discussed the need to address ongoing CIP needs at Randolph Park.

The Board requested staff provide an update via the weekly update on the state of the County sewer replacement.

E. Review of Insurance Coverages

Staff described a document that McNeary had prepared on approximate increases expected on the County's property/casualty/workers comp insurance policies. Mr. McCready requested staff inquire of McNeary regarding potential for self insurance and provide update at future budget work session.

F. Regional Human Service Requests

Mr. Huber described a spreadsheet which provided a regional comparison between human requests and services provided and advised the next step is for the requests to be submitted to the Commission on Children and Families for review and recommendation to the Board.

G. Medical and Dental Renewal

Ms. Newby reported that Wells Fargo had provided a renewal estimate of 7.6% increase in fees, noting some large claims which could also influence the renewal.

Mr. Sheffey referenced the information presented by VACo related to the option of joining the state health insurance plan.

Mr. McCready requested staff to provide figures on the overall costs to employees assuming premiums increase 8%.

H. Application for Rural Development Funding

Mr. Huber advised it would be helpful to consider whether the County would want to borrow the funds for the Snowville Volunteer Fire Department noting financing of this project would require the County to go through the Rural Development requirements but would allow funds previously budgeted for this project to be allocated for other purposes.

Board members requested staff to provide an update on how much of the \$700,000 allocated to Snowville Volunteer Fire Department had been spent. Mr. McCready recommended consideration to use of reserve funds for paying for the Snowville Fire Department, with the design and bidding for building done by the end of 2015.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Bopp, seconded by Mr. McCready and carried, the Board adjourned its special meeting. The next meeting of the Board is to be held on Monday, February 23, 2015 beginning with a Closed Session at 5:30 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.



Peter M. Huber, County Administrator



Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman