

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES APRIL 17, 2000

At a reconvened meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, April 17, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Board Room, 143 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Dr. Bruce L. Fariss, Vice-Chairman; Charles E. Cook; William E. "Eddie" Hale; and Frank R. Conner. Staff members present included: County Administrator, Joseph N. Morgan; Management Services Director, Nancy M. Burchett; and Social Services Director, James C. Wallis.

### 1. Budget Presentation

County Administrator, Joseph Morgan, presented to the Board of Supervisors the following information regarding the proposed FY 01 budget:

#### a. Budget Message Overview

Mr. Morgan reviewed the budget message outlining his recommendations pertaining to the proposed FY 01 budget. Highlights reviewed included an additional \$1,645,097 or an 18.34% increase in local funding for the operations of the county schools; a 6% increase in expenditures for the various human services agencies; a suggested study for a Business Professional Occupations License (BPOL) tax to replace the current merchants capital tax; advised the most significant increases in the general fund budget to be regional jail and recreational budgets; and the recommendation that a study be done for improvements to the county library, Sheriff's offices and the dog pound.

Mr. Morgan also reviewed concerns of additional school needs not met in the proposed budget of at least \$7 million. He emphasized the need for long-term financing for capital needs of the schools, as well as the general governmental capital needs over the next two decades. In addition, he noted that vacant industrial properties owned by the IDA, if not sold or leased, would require payment or refinancing of some \$6 million in debt for which the county has issued a moral obligation.

#### b. Revenue Estimate Review

Mr. Morgan reported that locally controlled revenues were projected to increase less than five percent or 4.74%, yielding \$877,833 more than the current fiscal year budget. He advised of several tax changes in the recommended budget including an increase to the personal property tax rate from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per \$100 of assessed value; an increase to the 911 tax to \$1.00 per month; and a consumer utility tax on natural gas use. He further noted that for future economic development and recreational needs, study of the merchant capital, business license and machinery and tools taxes was needed. For future school building needs, he recommended an adjustment to the real estate tax rate.

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Other revenue items discussed included a possible increase to the dog tag fees.

### c. Expenditure Proposal Explanation

Regarding expenditures proposed for FY 01, Mr. Morgan advised that with the exception of the regional jail and recreation departments, the majority of general fund operating expenditures were held to within current projected revenues. Again, he advised that at least \$7 million of school needs were unmet by the proposed FY 01 budget.

Mr. Morgan reported the proposed budget included a general employee compensation increase of five percent (5%) for employees at the top of the pay range. He noted that health insurance costs had been budgeted at the proposed rates developed by the NRV Health Care Consortium with the additional costs reported to be approximately \$50,616. In addition, it was noted that the Virginia Supplemental Retirement contributions had been budgeted at a lower percentage than last year resulting in some savings, while the VRS group life insurance premiums waiver would not be continued after June 30, 2000.

Mr. Morgan advised that staff would send each individual department a copy of the detailed budget recommendation for their review, as well as charts and tables.

### d. Employee Health Care Selection

The Board discussed with staff the employee health care selection for FY 01. It was noted that the School Board had approved renewal with Aetna recently for school employees. The Board emphasized the need for the county and schools to develop and implement a self-insurance health care plan for next fiscal year.

On the motion of Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, the Board of Supervisors approved the renewal of employee health care with Aetna for FY 01 with an increase in premiums of 13% above FY 00 premiums.

Voting yes: Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Hale and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

Abstaining: Dr. Fariss.

### e. Questions from Supervisors

The Board requested staff to send copies of the budget message, tables and charts to departments via a memo requesting that any appeals of the recommended amount be made to the Board of Supervisors at their May 1, 2000 meeting.

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Supervisor Conner suggested a higher dog tag amount for sexed dogs. Supervisor Cook suggested a possible rate of \$10.00 for sexed dogs.

Supervisor Sheffey requested staff to provide the Board with a tax comparison including real estate, personal property, 911, machinery & tools (BPOL) and merchant's capital for the New River Valley and comparable counties by the April 24, 2000 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

2. Other Matters

◆ Census 2000 Forms

The Board reviewed a letter from the National Association of Counties requesting counties to support the completion of the census "long form" by citizens.

The Board took no action on this matter.

◆ School Safety

Supervisor Cook expressed support for the school system in its good efforts to insure school safety and encouraged all citizens to be mindful of student safety.

The Board requested staff to prepare an appropriate resolution regarding school safety for the Board to consider at its April 24, 2000 regular meeting.

3. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Fariss, seconded by Mr. Cook and carried, to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 24, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Board Room, 143 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Pulaski, Virginia.

Voting yes: Dr. Fariss, Mr. Cook, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Hale and Mr. Conner.

Voting no: none.

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Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

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Joseph N. Morgan, Clerk