

JOINT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2008

At a joint meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and the Pulaski County School Board held on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pulaski Elementary School, in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following Board of Supervisor members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Frank R. Conner, Vice Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Charles Bopp; and Dean K. Pratt. School Board members present included Paul Phillips, Chairman; John Wenrich, Vice-Chairman; Jeff Bain; and Pam Chitwood. School Board member Rodell Cruise was unable to attend the meeting. Staff members present included: Dr. Donald Stowers, Superintendent of Schools; Jean Cox, Clerk to the School Board; Bridgett Parsons, Assistant Superintendent; Tom Brewster, Assistant Superintendent; Ron Nichols, Director, Operations; Dr. Jim Sandidge, Director, Technology; Chris Stafford, School Finance Director; Pete Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Diane Newby, County Finance Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors. Also present from the public were Bill Benson, Joe Hocker, Angela Clevinger and Jena Hardy, Reporter for The Southwest Times.

1. Welcome and Dinner

Following a 6:00 p.m. dinner, Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Huber introduced the county's new Finance Director, Diane Newby, as well as provided some background information including that Ms. Newby grew up in Pulaski County, graduated from Pulaski County High School and Radford University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in business, with a concentration in accounting.

Mr. Huber advised County Attorney, Tom McCarthy, was unable to attend the meeting due to Mrs. McCarthy's recent back surgery.

Dr. Stowers advised Joe Makolandra, Director of Human Services for the schools, was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous commitment to a college class.

2. Update on Current Initiatives:

a. Facilities and Transportation

1. Mowing Operations - Mr. Nichols advised the joint mowing operations was progressing well and that the department was almost to a full staff.
2. County and School Board Garages - Mr. Nichols advised the County and School Board garages have open communications, resulting in a good working relationship between the two departments.

3. Surplus Vehicles – Mr. Nichols advised there are several vehicles which he would like to sell for salvage. He indicated the vehicles are disabled or wrecked and it would be difficult to dispose of them through public sale.

Mr. Nichols advised Goodwill Industries has expressed interest in all of the computers and related equipment which are also considered surplus. He indicated Goodwill will remove all of the equipment from county property and ship the equipment to Fairfax to their recycling center for reuse and/or recycling. Mr. Nichols requested the two Boards take action declaring the vehicles and computers surplus, allowing for sale and/or proper disposal. He advised a small amount of funds will be generated with the sale of the vehicles for scrap.

Mr. Phillips opened the floor for comments.

Mr. Bain inquired if Goodwill Industries allows citizens to dispose of computer hardware at the sites. Mr. Nichols advised staff is working towards a partnership with Goodwill on efforts to recycle hardware from the schools. Mr. Huber advised there was a definite interest by Goodwill Industries; however, staff would like to confirm that understanding. He advised county staff would be interested in disposal of surplus computers currently stored in the basement of the old courthouse. Mr. Akers advised of a recent situation involving the donation of two vehicles to the local Goodwill store which were in turn donated to another locality with the proceeds going to the Goodwill in that locality. Mr. Huber suggested stipulations be placed on disposal of large items which would require those items to be sold locally. Mr. Conner indicated he did not believe there should be any stipulations attached to any type of agreement with Goodwill. Mr. Huber offered to obtain clarification from Goodwill regarding the local utilization of revenue from local donations.

Declaration of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board authorized county staff to dispose of county vehicles and computers that have been declared surplus, through auction or competitive sale for scrap value.

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

4. Maple Shade

Mr. Huber provided an update on the Maple Shade building, noting that the county had purchased the facility. He advised MTM is reviewing options as it relates to the future location of the company at the facility.

Mr. Huber advised county staff continues to proceed with the renovations to the former Dawn's Florist building with plans to house the Commonwealth Attorney's office. He shared that the Commonwealth Attorney is also using a portion of the former Third Street School Board building for office space. He noted that the Third Street School Board building was being used as a transition center for supervised exchange of parental custody. Mr. Huber offered to provide a tour to Board members or staff of any of the facilities under renovation.

Mr. Huber suggested Board members and staff visit a facility in Albemarle County, which is similar to the Maple Shade building, and which has been renovated. He advised the building's renovation was a success and indicated a visit to the building would be worthwhile to anyone visiting in the Albemarle County area.

Mr. Akers advised the City of Radford had purchased the former box factory located in Radford. He noted the building was currently under renovations.

b. Telecommunications

Dr. Sandidge distributed a copy of the Communications Tower and Facilities Assessment report prepared by Chris Akers. He advised the County now owns the facility on Peaks Knob. He noted a microwave network had been installed at the site; however, there were some improvements needed, including air conditioning and security. He advised the overall operation was a success.

Mr. Sheffey inquired if there was any difference in having cell towers as opposed to using water tanks. He noted a slow down in requests by groups desiring to build cell towers. Dr. Sandidge advised the equipment is usually located on the highest point of a structure and he expected to see an increase in the shared utilization of water towers for communications purposes.

Mr. Akers inquired if all county schools had line of sight communications from the tower. Dr. Sandidge advised all schools could be served in this way with the exception of the current Riverlawn Elementary School.

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c. Finance and Purchasing

Mr. Stafford presented a report detailing a comparison of the county and school systems current purchasing guidelines. He also presented a outline of a proposed joint purchasing policy and reviewed the report in detail. He advised many purchases are already being acquired through the state bidding process. He indicated there may be some exceptions if a joint policy is put in place. He advised that "piggy backing" is a common practice between localities. Mr. Sheffey requested a definition of "sole source" purchasing. Mr. Stafford advised a sole source is when there is only one vendor that can provide particular goods or services.

Dr. Stowers advised the proposed joint purchasing policy was being presented as a summary and recommendation by the Joint Services Committee; however, the policy would need to be reviewed by County Attorney Tom McCarthy, prior to any action by either boards.

Mr. Sheffey inquired if the recent announced state cuts would affect the current school budget. Dr. Stowers advised he expected an announcement regarding the specifics of the planned budget cuts by December, 2008. He indicated the current school budget should not be affected; however, there are variables based on the economy that will need to be considered and those would be reflected in the budget. He advised the proceeds from the lottery sales are also down.

3. Next Meeting:

By consensus, the Board scheduled its next joint meeting for Monday, March 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the new Riverlawn Elementary School. Chairman Sheffey offered for the Board of Supervisors to provide dinner at the meeting.

4. Closed Session - 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7w

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

It was moved by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, that the Board of Supervisors enter 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:

- Center for Excellence Training
- Bank Building

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

Return to Regular Session

It was moved by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, that the Board return to regular session.

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

Certification of Conformance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act

It was moved by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, that the Board of Supervisors adopt 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. Akers, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp,
Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: none.

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5. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned the joint meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building. The next joint meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the new Riverlawn Elementary School in Fairlawn, Virginia.

Voting yes: Mr. Akers, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp, Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator