

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009

At a regular meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, February 23, 2009 beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Pulaski Middle School located in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Dean K. Pratt, Vice-Chairman; Ranny L. Akers; Charles Bopp; and Frank R. Conner. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Shawn Utt, Community Development Director; and Thomas J. McCarthy, Jr., County Attorney. Joining the regular session at 7:00 p.m. was Gena T. Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors.

1. Closed Session – 2.2-3711.A.1.3.5.7

Mr. Sheffey called the meeting to order and advised a Closed Session would need to be held as follows:

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.

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, that the Board of Supervisors enter Closed Session for discussion of the following:

Personnel – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1 discussion for consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of public officers, appointees or employees, regarding:

- Appointments

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:

- Corporate Center Property
- ShaeDawn Park
- New River Trail Extension
- New River Valley Competitiveness Center Financing
- Hubbard Way Turnaround

Prospective Industry – Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)5 discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business and industry, where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

- None

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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:

- None

Return to Regular Session

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board returned 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

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Bopp 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. Akers, Mr. Conner, Mr. Sheffey, Mr. Bopp,
Mr. Pratt.

Voting no: none.

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Additional Closed Session

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.

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board of Supervisors entered Closed Session for discussion of the following:

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:

- Pulaski Furniture Assessment

Return to Regular Session

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried, the Board returned 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

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution certifying conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

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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.

Mr. Sheffey thanked the School Board and Pulaski Middle School staff for allowing the Board of Supervisors use of the Middle School auditorium. He also thanked those citizens attending the meeting.

Mr. Sheffey called for a moment of silence honoring Epsie Wilson, a resident of Wheatland Hills who passed away on February 7, 2009 and who had recently been honored as oldest living person in Virginia.

2. Invocation

Reverend Dwight Haynes of the Covenant Christian Academy provided the invocation.

3. Recognition - Featured Employees

The Board recognized Robert Brightwell of the PSA Water Service Department and Harry Hull of the PSA Water Treatment Plant as the featured employees to serve during the month of March. Mr. Sheffey read a description of the job duties and personal interests for Mr. Brightwell and a Fatz Cafe gift certificate was presented. Mr. Hull was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Additions to Agenda

Mr. Huber advised there were no additions to the agenda.

5. Public Hearings:

- a. Petition by **Gabor Egyed, III** to rezone **3765 Second Morehead Lane** from Residential (R1) to Agricultural (A1). (054-001-0000-0060). (Robinson District).

Mr. Utt presented staff comments and advised the Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Mr. Sheffey opened the public hearing. There were no citizen comments and the hearing was closed.

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On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board approved the rezoning request, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

Voting no: none.

b. Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

Mr. Sheffey opened the public hearing.

Mr. Huber recognized one of the county's Boy Scout troops there were in attendance at the meeting. He also advised that school staff were available to provide tours of the middle school, if desired.

Mr. Huber explained the purpose of the hearing was to hear comments regarding a new real estate tax rate for the county. He advised the equalized rate would be between \$0.46 and \$0.50 cents depending on the work being done by the Board of Equalization. The equalized rate being the rate required to generate the same revenue needed to continue supporting the schools, public safety, and other functions of the county. He advised the maximum advertized rate was \$0.50. He further advised that due to state law, the Board of Supervisors cannot set the rate at the February 23 meeting; however, the rate would be set by the Board at its March 23, 2009 meeting. Mr. Huber advised citizens could provide comments by sending an e-mail to bos@pulaskicounty.org, or by calling the county offices.

Mr. Andy McCready, Chairman of the Board of Equalization (BOE), summarized the work of the BOE, as well as provided information related to the application of the tax rate and the effects on property owners under the new assessed property values. Mr. McCready advised of a session to be held during the Board of Supervisors meeting to allow citizens an opportunity to pose questions regarding the new assessed property values.

Dr. Don Stowers, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Board of Supervisors for the funding towards the building of the new schools, specifically noting the opening of the Pulaski Elementary School in 2005, and the scheduled opening of the new Riverlawn Elementary School on March 23, 2009. He also thanked the Board for the ongoing renovations to the existing schools. Dr. Stowers advised of the need for a Pulaski Middle School due to its continued deterioration. He advised that several of the schools were not ADA compliant and renovations would need to be made to bring the schools into compliance. He indicated if the stimulus package does not meet the needs of the school system, cutbacks may need to be made to school employees. Dr. Stowers expressed appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for the continued joint

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collaboration between the two boards.

Craig Strain expressed appreciation and understanding to the Board for the issues facing the Board financially. He noted the nation is not in a growing trend at present. He suggested the Board set the tax rate at \$0.46.

Mr. Hiss advised there was additional information regarding the Board of Equalization which could be found by visiting www.pulaskicounty.org.

Bruce Fariss expressed concern over the increase in assessments of his property which averaged at 34%. He advised some property owners would be paying much more than other property owners. He requested the Board hold the rate as close to the current rate as possible. He asked that the county not bail out the state out each time budget cuts are made by the state. He further requested the Board set the tax rate at \$0.46 and not the maximum \$0.50.

Richard Labrie suggested most of the individuals attending the meeting were of retirement age and it was his opinion that those individuals represented the majority of citizens in the county. He recommended the Board hold the rate to a minimum, within a level of responsibility.

John Toothaker advised of four to five houses for sale within his neighborhood. He expressed concern over the ability of the assessors to assess the market value on property that is not selling. He questioned if the Board expected to receive any funds from the stimulus package.

Bob Thomas advised he had received seven tax tickets for property he owns and noted some property values had increased and others had not. He expressed concern over the increase in values and advised several of the property values had doubled. He asked the Board to consider the retirees when setting the real estate tax rate.

Sherrill VanDyke asked the Board to not increase the real estate tax, but to reduce the budget. He suggested the Board follow the state's lead and lay off some of the existing employees, if needed. He also advised there was no need for an indoor recreation center and recommended citizens use Claytor Lake for swimming.

Sherry McGuire requested the Board set the tax rate at \$0.46

Maurice Long questioned what the Board of Supervisors has done for the citizens of Snowville. He suggested the Board seek a new assessment. He also asked the Board to provide services that could be used by all county citizens.

Joe Ray expressed concern over the potential additional increase in tax rates next year, should the Board set the tax rate at \$0.46 for this year. He suggested

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the county may need to make sacrifices in funding, as is being done across the United States. He asked the Board to not reduce funding for schools and law enforcement. He indicated the county road system needs improvement and advised he was not satisfied with the recent assessments of properties.

Daron Weyers requested the Board keep the tax rate as low as possible. He pointed to citizens losing their jobs and the difficulty in citizens paying for needed services. He requested the Board keep the rate as low as possible. He suggested the Board remove funding for services not needed, but to keep funding for schools and law enforcement.

Patricia Hall expressed concern over possibly being unable to pay taxes on her property due to the increase in the assessment. She advised she had sold her house to her son and the assessment had increased.

Bob Hosp advised citizens should not be punished due to the assessment being done during the economic crisis. He recommended the Board return to the original property values, suggesting this would be fair to all citizens.

Colleen Oakley advised the entire United States is in an economic crisis, including Pulaski County. She suggested Board members and citizens review the listing of foreclosures located on the internet, noting there were many homes on the market. She asked the Board and citizens to put aside any differences and work together to resolve the funding issues. She noted citizens are looking to the Board of Supervisors to spend money as needed on health and education and to not spend unnecessarily. She requested the Board keep the tax rates and costs as low as possible.

Alex Rygas expressed concern over the numerous changes being made by the Board of Equalization to assessed property values, suggesting if there wasn't such an overwhelming sentiment by citizens over the incorrect values, then changes would not have to be made. Further, he expressed concern over the appraisers "arrogance" over the recent increase in assessments.

Mark Alley advised the recent crisis in the economy is touching citizens of Pulaski County and not just at the state and national levels. He asked the Board how a higher tax rate adjustment could be made in good conscience and recommended the Board make any cuts necessary to meet the needs of the county without a tax rate increase.

Betty Henley referenced businesses having closed in the county, specifically noting the closing of Jefferson Mills, Pulaski Furniture, New River Industries, and the recent announcement of layoffs by Volvo. She questioned how, with the lack of jobs, the county can increase taxes. She expressed concern over the recent bailout of the banks, noting local citizens will suffer, as will future generations.

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Mike Miller suggested the recent assessments were unrealistic. He advised he was appreciative of the services provided by the county. He asked the Board to keep the budget as tight as possible, considering the economic crisis.

Charles Smith advised he did not approve of the recent assessment. He asked the Board to maintain the current budget and not increase the tax rate, noting citizens cannot afford an increase in taxes. He suggested the Board make adjustments to the budget, if needed, to maintain level funding.

Malcolm Booth advised he made a living by farming and has to live within his means and asked the Board to do the same. He questioned the appraisers' qualifications and ability to accurately perform appraisals.

Elmer Mottesheard thanked the Board for an opportunity to speak and asked that the tax rate be kept as low as possible. He questioned the area used by the appraisers in determining the county's property values. He suggested the appraisers should not use Blacksburg, Radford and other surrounding areas in determining values.

Mr. Sheffey closed the public hearing and advised Pulaski County was not the only county affected by reassessments and that the majority of localities undergoing reassessments are concerned about property values. He advised only certain businesses were approved by the state to perform property assessments, noting that state law requires the reassessment to be done every six years. He indicated many localities are having the reassessments done every four years.

6. Citizen Comments

Bruce Fariss questioned if the Board declined to accept the reassessment results, what penalties would be imposed on the county. The County Attorney was requested to provide an opinion to the Board.

Mr. McCready advised that any county failing to reassess property in accordance with state law would see termination of certain state funding. The Board requested the County Attorney to provide the applicable Virginia State Code section to Dr. Fariss.

7. Highway Matters:

Mr. David Clarke, VDOT Resident Engineer, met with the Board and discussed the following matters:

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a. Follow-up from Previous Board meeting

1. Review of Highway Matters Section of KAT

Mr. Clarke reviewed and reported the following:

- a review of guardrail replacement requests indicated an approximate cost of \$55,000 to replace guardrail in the county;
- suggested the Board may want to look at a policy which takes into consideration accident histories/traffic counts before requesting guardrail and offered to provide additional information as it becomes available;
- advised of a meeting to be held by VDOT on March 10 at Northside High School to address recently announced funding cuts to VDOT noting a Power Point presentation by VDOT could be found at www.ctb.virginia.gov which explains the cuts (Staff was requested to provide Board members with copy of the presentation);
- advised the Dublin VDOT shop will remain open, but will be required to cover more area;
- that repairs to the Route 114 bridge are on schedule; and
- that the request for a 10-15 ft culvert extension in the turn approach at the Corporate Center near Bond Cote would be the responsibility of the property owner.

2. Route 114 Safety Concerns

Mr. Huber advised of concerns expressed by citizens attending a Fairlawn community meeting over the lack of markings on Route 114 resulting in a dangerous situation in the vicinity of the temporary lane changes along Route 114. Mr. Clarke offered to have the matter reviewed by VDOT.

b. Resolution – Atwoods Drive Secondary Road Addition

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board approved the following resolution, subject to County Attorney review of title due to guarantee right-of-way by the county:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the street(s) described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3, fully incorporated herein by reference, are shown on plats recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Pulaski County; and

WHEREAS, the representative for the Virginia Department of Transportation has advised this Board the street(s) meet the requirements established by the Virginia Department of Transportation's Subdivision Street Requirements; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this Board requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to add the street(s) described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3 to the secondary system of state highways, pursuant to 33.1-229, Code of Virginia, and the Department's Subdivision Street Requirements, after receiving a copy of this resolution and all outstanding fees and documents required of the developer, whichever occurs last in time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board guarantees a clear and unrestricted right-of-way, as described, and any necessary easements for cuts, fills and drainages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Resident Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

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

Voting no: none

c. Citizen Concerns

Mr. Daron Weyers advised of a loose Stop sign at the intersection of Graham and Kirby Road. Mr. Clarke advised he would review the matter and have the sign secured.

d. Board of Supervisors Concerns

Mr. Conner advised of a washout at the intersection of Alum Spring Road and the bridge at the graveyard. Mr. Clarke advised he would review the matter.

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Mr. Sheffey expressed concern regarding the recent announcement by VDOT of the closing of rest stops along I-81. Mr. Sheffey inquired of Mr. Clarke as how VDOT determined which rest stops to close. Mr. Clarke advised he did not know the process used by VDOT in determining the closing of rest stops; however, the matter would be a topic of discussion at the March 10 meeting to be held by VDOT.

8. Treasurer's Report

Melinda Worrell, Treasurer, presented the monthly report.

Mr. Sheffey inquired as to the response by the public on the recent delinquent tax publication. Treasurer Worrell advised the response had been good, with approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 being received by the County in delinquent tax payments.

9. Reports from the County Administrator & Staff:

a. Appointments

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Conner and carried, the Board approved the following appointments as presented:

1. Social Services Board

The Board appointed Bill Rowland to the Social Services Board for a term ending February 28, 2013.

2. Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The Board approved nominating Richard Jones to the Circuit Court for appointment to the BZA Board. The Board also approved nominating Lowell Bowman to the Circuit Court for appointment as an "alternate" to the BZA Board. Staff was directed to add to the March 23 Board agenda consideration of an appointee to fill a vacant "Alternate" position which exists on the BZA Board.

3. Wireless Authority

The Board directed staff to contact Southwest Times (SWT) Reporter Melinda Williams to request assistance with preparing an article to be placed in the SWT recruiting individuals to serve on the Wireless Authority.

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4. PEP Steering Committee

The Board designated the individual filling the position as Pulaski Community Hospital's administrator as a standing appointee on the PEP Steering Committee.

5. New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board

The Board nominated Lynn White for an additional three year term on the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Board.

6. Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee (RPAC-1)

The Board designated Chris Akers to serve as the county's representative on the RPAC.

7. Claytor Lake Festival Committee

The Board agreed to the appointment of a representative from each organization to a joint committee is so desired by those organizing the festival.

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

Voting no: none.

b. Key Activity Timetable

The Board reviewed the Key Activity Timetable in detail.

Mr. Sheffey questioned if the sewer projects had been put to bid. Mr. Huber advised the process included paperwork to be submitted to, and by, Rural Development, with an April 09 target date for starting the process.

Mr. Sheffey questioned the March 09 target date for the Maple Shade renovations. Mr. Huber advised the negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Sheffey questioned the February 09 target date on the updating of the payroll system with human resources Bright Software. Mr. Huber advised of plans to review the matter with staff and update the status on the KAT.

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10. Items of Consent

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board approved the following items of consent:

a. Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2009 Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Board meeting.

b. Accounts Payable

The Board approved accounts payable as presented on checks numbered 2006947 through 2007348, subject to audit.

c. Interoffice Transfers & Appropriations

The Board approved Interoffice Transfer #8 totaling \$36,272.60 and appropriations as follows:

GENERAL FUND #9

Account Number	Account Title	Amount Increase (Decrease)
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
100-41999-0000	Use of Fund Balance	\$ 8,851.00
100-41010-0100	Insurance Recoveries	274.00
100-23060-0200	Electoral Board/Primary Reimbursement	8,796.00
	TOTAL	\$ 17,921.00
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
100-22100-6017	Commonwealth Attorney Supplies/Equipment Seized Assets	\$ 6,915.00
100-71360-1382	Friends of Claytor Lake Part-time Salaries	1,936.00
100-35530-8201	Emergency Management Machinery & Equipment	122.00
100-35530-8101	Emergency Management Machinery & Equipment	152.00
100-13100-8101	Electoral Board Machinery & Equipment	8,796.00
	TOTAL	\$ 17,921.00

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GENERAL FUND #10

Account Number	Account Title	Amount Increase (Decrease)
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
	TOTAL	\$ -
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
100-31200-4601	Sheriff-Central Garage Labor	20,000.00
100-31200-4602	Sheriff-Central Garage Parts	57,750.00
100-31200-4603	Sheriff-Central Garage Fuel	197,850.00
100-31200-4604	Sheriff-Central Garage Mileage	(275,600.00)
100-35500-6001	Emergency Management Office Supplies	250.00
100-35550-8112	Emergency Management Building Repairs/Improvements	(250.00)
100-73100-8101	Library Machinery & Equipment	2,771.00
100-73100-6021	Library Computer Software	(2,771.00)
100-73100-5850	Library Children's Programs	312.00
100-73100-6025	Library Young Adult and Adult Programs	(312.00)
100-73100-2700	Library Worker's Compensation	2,633.00
100-73100-2300	Library Hospital/Medical Plans	(2,633.00)
	TOTAL	\$ -

School Fund

Account Number	Account Title	Amount Increase (Decrease)
<u>Revenues:</u>		
3-205-18030-0330	Reimb/School Activity	\$ 6,647.62
3-205-18030-0400	Title I/Indirect Costs	\$ 2,204.95
3-205-24020-2520	Vocational Equipment	\$ 100.00
	Total	\$ 8,952.57
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
4-205-61310-3160-200-100	In-Service	\$ 195.00
4-205-62120-5800-900	Miscellaneous (donation)	\$ 100.00
4-205-62131-2300-900	HMP	\$ 2,416.13
4-205-62240-3141-900	Other Professional Svcs.	\$ 1,347.00
4-205-64200-2230-900	Direct Payment of Leave	\$ 4,894.44

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	Total	\$ 8,952.57
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Account Number	Account Title	Amount Increase (Decrease)
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
4-205-64300-1160-900	Salaries – Maintenance	\$ 58,829.00
4-205-64300-2100-900	FICA	\$ 3,578.00
4-205-64300-2210-900	VRS Retirement	\$ 3,263.00
4-205-68100-1121-950-100	Salaries – Tech Resource	\$ (53,367.00)
4-205-68100-2100-950-100	FICA	\$ (4,071.00)
4-205-68100-2210-950-100	VRS Retirement	\$ (7,236.00)
4-205-68100-2220-950-100	VRS Health	\$ (566.00)
4-205-68100-2400-950-100	VRS GLI	\$ (430.00)
	TOTAL	\$ -0-

d. Ratification and/or Approval of Contract, Change Orders & Agreements, Etc.:

1. Springsted Proposal

The Board approved the proposal presented for financial advising services and a specific evaluation of reassessment alternatives, contingent on changes suggested by County Attorney Tom McCarthy to include the elimination of the indemnification clause, subjecting the contract to Virginia rather than Minnesota laws, and inclusion of the drug free and non-discriminatory clauses.

2. Award of Conceptual Study & Design for Indoor Recreation

The Board reviewed a recommendation from staff to the hiring of OWPR to conduct a conceptual study in order to develop a preliminary design, project cost, and annual operating budget for this type of project.

Supervisor Akers advised he did not feel now was the time to spend funds for a conceptual study and design for the indoor recreation center, but would prefer a conceptual design be done for

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a new Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Bopp agreed with Mr. Akers regarding the delay in spending of funds for the design of a recreation center, due to citizen comments at the tax rate hearing.

Mr. Sheffey expressed concern over the county's inability to fund the project without stimulus funding, which would require submittal of the project for Federal funding immediately as a "Ready to Go" status project.

Mr. Pratt advised county citizens would be required to pay for the facility and noted the committee had been asked to look at ways of funding an indoor recreation facility.

Mr. Conner advised now is not a good time to fund such a project.

The Board directed staff to place review of a conceptual study for the Sheriff's Office in the weekly update for possible inclusion on the March 23 Board agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Bopp, the Board deferred the award of a conceptual study and design for indoor recreation.

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

Voting no: Mr. Sheffey

3. Commonwealth Attorney's Office HVAC

As reported in the Board packet, bids are to be received on the afternoon of Friday, February 20 on the HVAC for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. However, no action was taken at this time.

4. Vending Services Request for Proposals

As reported in the Board packet, bids are to be received on the afternoon of Friday, February 20 on the HVAC for the vending services. Due to a lack of adequate response, the Board authorized the County Administrator to solicit additional proposals.

e. Personnel Changes

Board members reviewed recent personnel changes as prepared by Ms. Spence.

f. Amendment to Clean Community Council By-Laws

The Board approved the following amendment to the Clean Community Council By-Laws as it relates to inclement weather:

"Section 6: If Pulaski County Schools are closed due to inclement weather on meeting day, The Council will not meet and will instead meet at the next regularly scheduled meeting."

e. Regional Wireless Authority Grant

As reported in the Board packet, the Economic Development Administration anticipated the availability of 90% federal grant funding for the proposed regional wireless authority project. This significant change from the 50% funding previously envisioned for this project is the result of anticipated passage of the Federal Stimulus package. As a result, \$4.5 million of the \$5 million project would be federally funded leaving only \$500,000 in one-time costs to be paid by localities. To date, Giles County has committed to a 26% portion of this obligation. Assuming no other localities decide to participate, Pulaski's portion would be a one time cost of \$370,000.

The Board approved commitment to use \$370,000 in currently unobligated reserves for this purpose.

f. Conversion to Electronic Poll Books

The Board authorized utilizing \$8,795.58 in reimbursements from a primary election for the purpose of converting from paper poll books to electronic versions.

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g. Correction to March 24, 2008 Vacation of Mills Avenue

The Board approved correcting the March 24, 2008 Board minutes to reflect the portion of Mills Avenue approved to be vacated to be 30 feet wide, rather than 20 feet wide, as noted in the March 24, 2008 minutes.

h. Pretrial and Community Sentencing User Fees

As reported in the Board packet, the Pretrial and Community Sentencing advisory Board recommends implementation of a \$50 user fee to cover administrative costs for the first six months, with an additional \$25 thereafter for continued services if sentencing requirements are not met. These fees could be waived by the judge in hardship and pretrial cases where there is significant doubt regarding a case. The pretrial services program results in a significant savings to localities throughout the New River Valley. However, the program is undergoing its second year of cuts of approximately \$40,000. Without the establishment of a fee system, the program is likely to have to begin eliminating staff positions to pay for increasing employee health insurance and utility costs.

The Board approved implementing the fees in coordination with the County's Finance Director.

i. Drinking Age Issues

As reported in the Board packet, Lee Spiegel, Coordinator for the Pulaski Community Partners Coalition, has requested that a letter be sent to Virginia Tech President Steger opposing an effort to decrease the drinking age. This request has been reviewed and supported by Sheriff Davis.

The Board approved sending a letter to VT President Charles Steger opposing an effort to decrease the drinking age.

j. Extension of Deadline for Completion of Board of Equalization Decisions

As reported in the Board packet, as of Thursday, February 12, the Board of Equalization have considered appeals on approximately 500 properties. Assuming there is continued receipt of requests for hearings, amendment of the reassessment ordinance is recommended extending the deadline for completion of work by the Board of Equalization.

The Board approved advertising additional dates and adjusting the deadline to March 23, 2009.

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k. Adjustments to Tax Relief for the Elderly and Handicapped

As reported in the Board packet, the County currently has a program providing tax relief for the elderly. An increase in the threshold to qualify for tax relief is recommended based on inflationary increases in social security income as well as increasing property values.

For ease of administration, the guidelines for the County and both towns should be the same. This allows town residents to apply with the Commissioner's Office in qualifying for relief from both the County and town taxes. Thus, comments, concerns and suggestions from both Town Managers are being solicited with the goal of providing the Board with recommended changes in time for the advertisement of a public hearing regarding this matter at the March 23rd meeting.

The Board approved advertising for a March 23, 2009 public hearing.

n. Approval for a Public Hearing Related to the Establishment of a Central Absentee Voter Precinct

The Board approved advertising for a March 23, 2009 public hearing to consider the establishment of a Central Absentee Voter Precinct.

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

Voting no: none.

11. Citizen Comments

Mr. James McClanahan questioned the intended use of any additional funds to be generated when a new tax rate is set by the Board. Mr. Huber responded that the Board would take all factors into consideration when setting the new tax rate. Mr. McClanahan advised it was his desire to have something placed in the budget that would benefit all county citizens. Mr. McClanahan suggested asking citizens for input on how to spend tax dollars. Supervisor Akers advised he would like to also see funds towards the conceptual design for a new Sheriff's Office.

Mr. John Hocker referred Board members to a link on Governor Kaine's web site that provided details on bidding on projects as it relates to the stimulus package.

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12. Other Matters from Supervisors

There were no other matters discussed by supervisors.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Conner, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its regular meeting to a joint meeting to be held between the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and Pulaski County School Board on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the new Riverlawn Elementary School in Fairlawn Virginia. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2009 with a Closed Session to begin at 6:00 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 143 Third Street, N. W., in the Town of Pulaski.

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

Voting no: none.

Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman

Peter M. Huber, County Administrator