

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2010

At a special meeting of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors held jointly with the Pulaski Town Council on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Pulaski Town Council located in the Municipal Building in the Town of Pulaski, Virginia, the following Board of Supervisor members were present: Joseph L. Sheffey, Chairman; Charles Bopp, Vice-Chairman; Dean K. Pratt; Ranny L. Akers; and Frank R. Conner. Staff members present included: Peter M. Huber, County Administrator; Shawn Utt, Community Development Director; Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator; Anthony Akers, Community Activities Director; and Gena Hanks, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors. The following Pulaski Town Council members were present: Jeff Worrell, Mayor; Joel Burchett, Jr.; Robert Bopp; David Clark; Larry Clevinger; H. M. Kidd; and Morgan Welker. Present from Pulaski Town staff were: John Hawley, Town Manager; and Trish Cruise, Clerk of Council.

Mayor Worrell called the joint meeting to order and welcomed the Board of Supervisors to the meeting. Mr. Worrell advised the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of the local YMCA and its role in the community, as well as to receive an update on the proposed purchase of the TMD facility.

Mayor Worrell called on Chairman Sheffey for comments. Mr. Sheffey thanked the Pulaski Town Council for the invitation to participate in a joint meeting. Mr. Sheffey called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order. He also thanked the Town Council and staff for their assistance during the recent crisis related to the water issues faced by the Public Service Authority.

Mr. Sheffey advised action was needed by the Board of Supervisors to adopt an emergency declaration related to the recent weather event.

On the motion of Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Bopp and carried, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following resolution for the declaration of a local emergency:

PULASKI COUNTY - RESOLUTION FOR THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Pulaski does hereby find:

1. That due to the winter storm event, the County of Pulaski is facing dangerous road conditions and the possibility of widespread power outages throughout the county;
2. That due to the dangerous road conditions, the threat of significant snowfall up to 15" or plus, and the possibility of widespread power outages, a condition of extreme peril to life and property necessitates the proclamation of the continued existence of an emergency;

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that an emergency existed throughout said county; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Management and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski shall be those prescribed by State law and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of Pulaski in order to mitigate the effects of said emergency.

DATE: January 29, 2010

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

Mayor Worrell called on David Atkins, President of the YMCA Board of Directors, and Susan Wantland, Executive Director of the YMCA, to provide a status report on the YMCA. Mr. Atkins explained the shortfall in funds expected by the YMCA due to the YMCA no longer receiving funding from Pulaski Community Hospital. He advised that 30% of the YMCA's membership was as a result of the provision of scholarships. He also advised the funds from the current membership did not fully support the finances of the YMCA.

Ms. Wantland distributed information related to the pros and cons for the provision of shared services by the YMCA and the town and county. She indicated it was the YMCA Board and staffs desire to work together with the town and county in an effort to reach more of the citizenry in Pulaski County. She also advised more members were seeking financial assistance from the YMCA.

Mayor Worrell requested an update from the county on the proposed Wellness Center.

Mr. Huber advised the goal of the county in providing the proposed wellness center was not to do any harm financially to the YMCA, but rather was an effort by the Board of Supervisors to address the wellness needs of all citizens with a focus on addressing the financial burden placed on county as a result of mandated Comprehensive Services Act, the Juvenile Detention Home and the Regional Jail services. He advised the wellness center could provide a mentoring opportunity to the youth in the county.

Mr. Huber advised the Board of Supervisors had directed County staff to review the costs for a wellness center. He indicated the firm of Oliver, Webb, Pappas and Rudy (OWPR) had been asked to develop a preliminary estimate for the renovations to the TMD facility. He also advised the TMD representatives had provided the Board with additional time through the end of February 2010 to make a decision on the potential purchase of the TMD facility.

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Councilman Welker questioned the potential by the county for providing smaller community centers throughout the county, rather than a large wellness center. He also questioned if the county had seen a drop in costs of the Comprehensive Services Act, Juvenile Detention Home and the Regional Jail as a result of the services provided at Central Gym and Randolph Park.

Anthony Akers and Mr. Huber provided information related to the success of Central Gym, specifically noting the crime rate had dropped approximately 50% between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. due to the provision of youth services at Central Gym.

Mr. Sheffey advised the TMD facility was a central location in the county and could also be used as a marketing tool for tourist. Mr. Akers advised the focus of the proposed wellness center would be on the provision of programs for senior citizens.

Mayor Worrell inquired as to the timeframe for the opening of a wellness center, subject to the TMD facility being purchased, and what services would be provided in the beginning phase of the proposed wellness center. Mr. Huber advised the timeframe for opening would depend upon the involvement of the community through the provision of volunteered construction services, etc. He also advised the wellness center would be developed in phases.

Councilman Burchett posed several questions to the Board of Supervisors including the potential for expanding the YMCA, including providing funding to the YMCA, whether the proposed indoor wellness facility would be fully utilized due to its size, whether the proposed facility is centrally located, and what the projected revenues would be from providing soccer tournaments.

Mr. Huber advised the Board of Supervisors was charged with looking at the entire county when providing services to the citizens and that the proposed facility is centrally located in the county. He explained the proposed operating budget had been estimated to be \$700,000 per year. Mr. Huber also described plans related to membership fees for the proposed wellness center, along with the benefits from holding soccer tournaments in the county. He advised the local restaurants, hotels, etc. would benefit from the positive impact as was currently the case with recent basketball tournaments held locally.

Councilman Clark indicated his desire to see services provided that are financially viable for all citizens.

Councilman Kidd advised he looked forward to the Town Council working with the Board of Supervisors in a common goal of meeting the needs of the citizens.

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Mayor Worrell indicated he was not opposed to the provision of a wellness center, as long as the citizens are not burdened financially and the operations of the YMCA are maintained.

Mr. Huber advised the goal of county staff is to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for meeting the needs of the community and provide the best services possible.

Mr. Sheffey advised the recent survey of citizens in the town and county relative to the proposed indoor wellness center indicated a majority of residents were in favor of a wellness center. He also advised staff had polled surrounding localities with recreation centers and results indicated membership in those facilities consisted of a number of Pulaski County citizens.

Supervisor Akers advised the fitness center located in the City of Radford had seen an increase in membership from surrounding localities, including Pulaski County.

Councilman Welker encouraged the Board to review how membership fees will be set up while considering the proposed wellness center.

Mayor Worrell suggested the Town Council and Board of Supervisors plan to meet in the future.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Akers and carried, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its special meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be a special meeting to be held on Monday, February 15, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a budget work session. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a Closed Session and 7:00 p.m. for the regular meeting 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