

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1996, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE  
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District  
Kenneth W. Williams, Pinetop District  
John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District  
Lenora O. Weber, Saluda District  
Frank Jessie, Jamaica District

Michael T. Soberick, County Attorney  
Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.. by the Chairman, Mr. Crittenden and opened with words of prayer.

**BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS**

David Selph, Building Official, presented the Board with an overview of the amendments proposed for the County's Building Code. Additions to the code include provisions for requiring building maintenance and removal of unsafe buildings. Two major areas proposed to be deleted included the requirements for bonding and certification, both of which are now handled through the State's Contractor's Board. The proposed amendments would bring the County's Code into conformity with the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Mr. Crittenden opened the public hearing for comments from the public. There being none, the public portion of the hearing was closed. Several questions from Board members were addressed. The motion to approve and adopt the amendments to the County's Building Code as presented was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION**

Friends of the Dragon Run:

Mr. Breck Montague, President of the Friends of the Dragon Run, requested the Board's endorsement of his request for annual property tax exemption for 209 acres owned by Friend's of the Dragon Run; the annual tax is \$364.00. Final consideration is made by the General Assembly, however, a public hearing before the local board is required. Mr. Crittenden opened the public hearing for comments.

James D. Pitts praised the efforts of the group to preserve the Dragon, however, questioned how the group could attend and bid at property auctions if it does not have enough money to pay its taxes. Mr. W. D. Edwards, Jr. and Mr. Walt Hurley also spoke in opposition to this request and noted this as setting a precedent for land owners to make similar requests in the future. In response, Mr. Montague commented that the group had obtained donations to purchase land in the past. In addition, the State Code is very specific as to what organizations can make this type of request. Mary Hyde Berg, a member of the organization, spoke in favor of the request. There being no further public comment, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Board members discussed the matter. There were comments expressed as to the limited public benefit that was being provided, in comparison to those provided by the landowners along the Dragon, who allowed public use of their lands to access the Dragon but did not receive the tax exemption benefit. The motion to not endorse the request for tax exemption was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Middlesex County Museum, Inc.

Tom Foley, Director and Treasurer of the Middlesex County Museum, Inc., requested the Board's consideration of tax exemption from real estate taxes for the Museum. Taxes for the group's two lots and buildings in the Village of Saluda total \$382 for acreage totaling 1.005 acres. Mr. Crittenden open the public hearing for comments from the public. Mr. Vaughan Nobel, Vice President of the Museum, spoke in favor of the request and explained the plans of the Museum Board to establish a country store museum in one of their buildings; final plans for the other building have not been determined.

There being no additional public comment, the public portion of the hearing was closed. Board members questioned the future use of the current museum. Charles Mangum, President, stated that the use of the old Clerk's office would be returned to the County upon opening of the country store museum. Board members noted their reluctance to grant exemption to the taxes when there was currently no public use being made of the property. The group was encouraged to submit a new request upon completion/operation of at least one of the buildings. The motion to recommend not support the request for tax exemption was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously.

### **RABIES CLINIC**

The motion to sponsor a rabies clinic to be held on Saturday, January 11, 1997, for a cost of \$3.00 per shot was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

### **FARMER'S MARKET**

Board members reviewed the drawings prepared for the farmer's market on Route 33. The motion to advertise for bids for the construction of this facility was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion to convene in Executive Session to discuss a matter relating to consultation with legal counsel, per Code of Virginia, Section 2.1-344.a7, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Upon reconvening in open session, the following motion was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously:

- To the best of the members' knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted and identified in the motion by which the executive meeting convened were discussed in executive session.

Action:

- There was no action as a result of the Executive Session.

### **ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Mr. Culley discussed the possibility of using off-duty deputies to help with junk car clean-up; these deputies would be paid at their regular rate, not overtime. Sheriff Dandridge believes that some deputies would be interested in participating. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board that one person performing this function would be better with regard to follow up and ultimate removal. The motion to advertise to fill this part time position, at two or three days per week with previous law enforcement experience preferable, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

### **APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Board members reviewed the request for an additional appropriation to cover the purchase of services for individuals requiring comprehensive services through June 1997. The services have been reviewed and approved by the County's Family Assessment and Planning Team and the Community Policy and Management Team. The motion to approve the appropriation of \$52,050.00 for the purchase of services for existing clients was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

### **MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION**

After review of the available dates, Board members decided to meet with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, January 7, 1997, at 7:30 P.M., in the Court Room, unless the Conference Room of the Planning District Commission becomes available.

### **PERSONNEL POLICY**

Board members reviewed the latest draft of the County's personnel policy, including the latest performance evaluation form used. Language would be added to the policy to conduct personnel evaluations on the anniversary date of the individual's hire. The motion to adopt the revised policy was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Mrs. Weber noted that while she was not in acceptance of the Job Classification List included in the policy.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

All Board members are to turn in any additional applications/resumes they have for applications to the Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Culley will assemble a list of candidates for Board members to rank their choices.

### **RENOVATIONS -- TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Mr. Culley presented an estimate of \$1,700.00 from Rappahannock Woodworks to renovate within the Treasurer's Office to move the location of a door and provide an additional teller's window. Inmate labor will be used to move furniture and paint. The Treasurer has indicated that this should help with the collection of taxes and payments for County decals. The motion to approve this work was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/RANDOLPH SEGAR**

Mr. Woodward, Resident Engineer, Department of Transportation, would be asked to attend the next regular meeting of the Board to explain the status of correspondence between that Department and J. Randolph Segar, relating to Route 629.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until January 7 1997, at 9:00 A.M., by motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

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Fred S. Crittenden, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors