

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1997, 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

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Crittenden, and opened with a prayer.

MINUTES

The draft minutes of the Board meetings of October 21, November 5 and November 18 were considered for approval. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously carried.

DISBURSEMENTS

The County Administrator noted that he had negotiated a five percent discount for purchased services from Leasure's. A report on fuel purchases would be available for the evening meeting. It may be possible to negotiate a discount for fuel purchases from other vendors.

The motion to approve disbursements for November was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 28105 through 28268 totaling \$57,660.77 were disbursed as approved.

PAYROLL

The motion to approve payroll for November was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 28018 through 28104 totaling \$113,043.88 were disbursed as approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Williams:

- VACo Meeting – Mr. Bennett (Accomack County) was elected as Regional Director. Transportation Meeting – Projected budget shortfalls were discussed, along with the probability of borrowing from construction accounts for maintenance. Livestock Farming is a major planning issue.
- Planning District Commission – Priorities for legislative agenda: #1 - Personal property taxes; #2 - Secondary highways; #3 - Education
- IDA – Meeting held with representatives of local businesses

Mrs. Weber:

- Library – December 8th benefit concert scheduled.
- Anniversary Committee – rough draft of minutes was presented.

Mr. Jessie:

- Jail – no report was given, however, Mrs. Weber questioned the use of out of county travel services

Mr. Miller: no reports given

Mr. Crittenden: No reports given

COMPUTER SOFTWARE – SOCIAL SERVICES PACKAGE

Board members were asked to consider purchase of the social services software package from Bright and Associates. As the Treasurer explained, this software would generate reports that the State would be requiring and if used by the social services department would allow for data entry to “hit” the county’s accounting system. The local social services office uses three accounting systems, a personal computer system, a State system and the County’s system. Calculations are transferred by hand onto report forms that the Treasurer uses for data entry into the County’s accounting system. The new software proposed would eliminate the paperwork transfer and the data entry by the Treasurer.

Mr. Culley was directed to meet with Mrs. Fitchett, Director, to discuss use of this software by her department. The motion to proceed with purchasing the software, if approved by Mrs. Fitchett, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. It was noted that the current price of \$4,500 will increase to \$7,000 after December 15th.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Treasurer

Auditor of Public Accounts:

Mr. Crittenden questioned a letter received from the State Auditor of Public Accounts regarding the Treasurer’s non-compliance with reporting of sheriff’s department fees. According to Mrs. Wilson, the full amount of sheriff’s fees collected was remitted to the state, without withholding the local portion. The local portion is now being withheld as per state requirements

Sheriff

Magistrate:

The Sheriff reported that magistrates had been realigned and Middlesex now shared a magistrate with King and Queen County. There have been rumors that the King and Queen County magistrate will only see “customers” in her home and will not come to the office established in the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Dandridge commented on the hardship the additional travel time out of the County will put on his department and questioned where liability lay should there be any incidents with persons in his custody at the magistrate’s home.

Mr. Soberick was requested to contact the judge to confirm the realignment and then contact the magistrate to explain the County’s situation.

Base Station:

The Back-up base station should be in by this week.

Decals:

Mr. Crittenden requested increased monitoring and road checks for decal violations. According to Mr. Crittenden the County has sold approximately 1500 fewer decals than last year.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Hartfield Intersection:

The Board requested continued study of the Hartfield intersection for possible warning signs or lights.

Route 33 Widening:

Mr. Williams requested assistance with the Harmony Village intersection. According to Mr. Williams, this intersection is extremely confusing and dangerous. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Woodward for his assistance in trying to have the speed limit lowered in the area of the Locust Hill road construction. Mr. Miller had been in contact with Department of Transportation officials in Richmond, who responded to his questions with documentation in support of not lowering the speed limit.

River Run Road:

The motion to adopt the following resolution accepting the right-of-way for Scoggins Creek Trail, a highway constructed to the State's specifications, and transferring the same to the Department of Transportation was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the street described on the attached Additions Form SR-5(A), fully incorporated herein by reference, is shown on plats recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Middlesex County, Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation has advised this Board that the street meets the requirements established by the Subdivision Street Requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Middlesex County does hereby request the Virginia Department of Transportation to add the street described on the attached Additions Form SR-5(A) to the secondary system of state highways, pursuant to §33.1-229, Code of Virginia, and the Department's Subdivision Street Requirements, and

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

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

SCHOOL MATTERS

Mr. Lackey presented each Board member with information on the teacher - pupil ratio. Information received from the State estimates the cost of new construction increasing 10-11% per year. The composite index for Middlesex County has increased from .5684 to .5756. According to Mr. Lackey, the School Board is working with the budget now and hopes to have preliminary figures ready to meet the Administrator's due date of January 16.

Mr. Lackey extended an invitation to the Board members to attend the school Christmas programs and the December 15th steering committee meeting with the architect. Board members were also invited to participate in the Central Office vs. Rappahannock Central Elementary staff games on December 5th.

MIDDLE PENINSULA REGIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Dick Brake, Chairman of the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport Task Force, and Michele DeWitt, Regional Planner, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, presented the draft Middle Peninsula Regional Airport Study – Phase II Implementation Study. This study focuses on improvements to the existing West Point Airport, versus building a new site, costing 10-12 million dollars and taking 10-12 years to complete, if land is available. Virginia Department of Aviation and Federal Aviation Administration funding is available at varying rates, 50%, 98% and 100%, for capital improvements.

A decision on whether or not to participate in the Airport Authority is requested from each county by January 31st. Resolutions already adopted by King William and Mathews counties agree to participation in the Authority based on the condition that King and Queen County share their revenue. King and Queen County has been asked to vote on this issue at their December 18th meeting.

It was suggested that no action be taken until after a decision has been made by King and Queen. It was the consensus of the Board that several public meetings/hearings should be held to receive public input.

SPORTS COMPLEX COMMISSION

Mr. Johnny Fleet, Commission member, presented recommendations for the Board's consideration for the operation and direction of the Sports Complex upon completion. The proposal from the Commission recommended the continuation of the present 501C3 corporate structure to allow for tax deductible fund raising. In addition, it was further suggested that an operating and supervising committee be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, to serve as officers of the 501C3 corporation. This committee could include a member of the Board of Supervisors, the Parks and Recreation director and three (3) citizen members. Routine field work and care would be the responsibility of the committee and user organizations, with the Parks and Recreation Director an active participant in the maintenance supervision.

Alternative suggestions for operation were given: (i) the County Parks and Recreation Department and Board of Supervisors taking over the entire operation; (ii) no Board of Supervisors involvement; the present complex committee would appoint initial board and officers for the 501C3 corporation with annual reports to the Board to report fiscal condition and make budget requests.

The County Administrator will contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation to verify the ability of a 501C3 corporation operating the complex under the federal grant. No further action was taken at this time.

CHESAPEAKE BAY LOCAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

The Planning Director was authorized to schedule a public hearing to receive comments regarding revisions to the County's comprehensive plan as suggested by the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department. It was noted that the Local Assistance Department is requiring the County to conduct this hearing in order to receive current grant funding.

VIRGINIA AIRPORT DIRECTORY

The motion to direct the Virginia Department of Aviation to change the location listing for Hummel Field from Saluda to Topping was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Mrs. Weber noted errors in the airport's listing in another publication. Corrections will be sent to the publishers.

APPOINTMENTS

Department of Social Services:

The motion to appoint Mrs. Joan Harris to fill the term on the Social Services Board previously held by Mrs. Robert White was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously. Mrs. Harris will represent the Pinetop District in a term that expires June 30, 2000.

Parks and Recreation Committee:

The motion to appoint Mr. Robert Henkel, Saluda District, to serve on the Recreation Committee, replacing the resigning John Gillie, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The County's representatives to the General Assembly were not able to attend the Board meeting. Board members suggested comprehensive services and personal property taxes as priority items of concern for Mr. Williams to discuss with them.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mr. Culley presented a request that County government offices be closed additional days according to the same schedule authorized for State offices. Following a lengthy discussion, the motion to observe the following holiday schedule was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Miller:

Wednesday, December 24	Offices close at Noon
Friday, December 26	Office closed all day
Friday, January 2	Offices closed all day

The motion carried by a vote of 3-2, with Mr. Williams and Mrs. Weber opposing.

NEXT MEETING DATE

It was the consensus of the Board that the January organization meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 6, 1998, beginning at 9:00 A.M.

DELTAVILLE WATER STUDY

Mr. Culley was requested to obtain estimates for the cost of drilling a test well in the area of the well location which would serve the proposed Deltaville water system.

RABIES CLINIC

The annual rabies clinic will be scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 1998, at the old Sheriff's Office. Vaccines will be given to cats and dogs for a fee of \$3.00 per shot.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to convene in executive session for consultation with legal counsel to discuss pending litigation, per Section 2.1-344.a7, was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Upon reconvening in open session, the following motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams 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:

- As a result of the Executive Session, there was no action to report.

RECESS

There being no further business, the Chairman noted that this meeting would recess until Tuesday, December 16, 1997, 7:30 P.M..

Fred S. Crittenden, Chairman
Board of Supervisors