

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2000, 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

Absent: Michael T. Soberick, County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman, Mr. Miller, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and opened with a prayer.

**MINUTES**

The motion to approve the minutes with corrections for the meetings of [March](#) 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

No action was taken at this time regarding disbursements to allow discussion of several bills with the Sheriff. It was requested that the Chairman of the IDA be invited to Board meetings every quarter. Planning Director, Tim Wilson, outlined the activities of Frazier Milner, who has prepared several articles about the IDA, marketing/tourism articles and information for public speaking.

**PAYROLL**

The motion to approve payroll for the month of March was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 34956 through 35047 totaling \$150,946.11 were disbursed as approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Williams:

- [Planning District Commission](#) - Presentation on regional airport

Mrs. Weber:

- Rappahannock River Basin Commission - Federal funds have been approved to removed Embrey Dam near Fredericksburg. Army Corps of Engineers is looking into a location for depositing the silt.
- Communications Committee - Application for state grant funding has been submitted; priorities for federal funding are being given to high speed internet connections. Mr. Soberick is working on the lease agreement with American Tower.

Mr. Jessie:

- Social Services - Job assistance is looking at sending people out of the state for training. The Department has requested that a credit card be issued to Mrs. Fitchett along with a policy for its use.

Mr. Crittenden: No reports

Mr. Miller: No report

Mr. Culley:

- [Airport](#) - A letter has been sent to the contractor to schedule the work at the airport on the fuel approach area, but not authorizing construction to begin. The Aviation Board will consider funding for this project at their meeting on April 19, 2000.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

### **Treasurer:**

Mrs. Bray, Treasurer, presented the Board with a monthly report. The Board received Mrs. Bray's report on decals sold with their packets. Mrs. Bray reported that letters to delinquent property owners had been sent; Mr. Elliott, the collection agent for the County, will also be sending letters to delinquent property owners.

### **Commissioner:**

Mrs. Ebinger, Commissioner, reported that the Exxon suit had been dropped. Mrs. Ebinger also reported that she was continuing to hear the appeals on manufactured homes. She noted, however, that she could only make changes in values if there are errors indicated, such as size, condition, or year.

**Sheriff:**

The Sheriff reported that York County was joining the Drug Task Force for a six-month period.

The Sheriff requested the Board look into adopting a local ordinance to regulate fences. According to Sheriff Abbott, nothing can be done about recent cases regarding farm animals being in the road until there is a County ordinance in place to regulate fences.

Regarding radar units, the sheriff's department has several, some which were recently repaired and one recently purchased. Sheriff Abbott explained that under his administration, he would not allow stationary radar to be used, unless there is a problem area, such as school zones. According to the Sheriff, 80% of radar stops result in other violations being sited. The Board considered the appropriation of funds received from a grant, which will be used to pay for the one (1) new radar unit. The motion to approve the appropriation was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried by motion of 4-0-1 (Crittenden opposed). Mr. Crittenden noted his objection to County deputies using radar.

Sheriff Abbott commented that he would be meeting with the Rappahannock Criminal Justice Academy to request withdrawal from the Fredericksburg Academy.

**DISBURSEMENTS con't**

After clarification of several invoices, the motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 35048 through 35227, totaling \$412,784.93 will be disbursed as approved.

**VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

David Moore presented the quarterly report of the Extension Office. An award was presented to the Board for the County having the most campers from a rural unit at the 4-H Camp. Mr. Moore advised the Board that 4-H Agent, Kendra Kyle, has transferred to Patrick County. This position will be advertised as soon as possible. Mr. Moore requested that at least one Board member serve on the interview committee.

## **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**West Point Bridges** - Mr. Sullivan announced that a public hearing on the West Point bridge situation would be held on Wednesday, May 3, from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the West Point High School Gym. Five alternatives are being studied.

**My Lady's Swamp** - Mr. Sullivan reported that this project would be advertised this month, with bids to be received in May. If a bid is approved in June, construction should start in July, with estimated completion eight months to one year later.

**Rt. 636** - Mr. Sullivan was requested to check again on the drainage problems still occurring on Rt. 636.

## **SCHOOL MATTERS**

Mr. Lackey reported that the average daily membership was reported to be 1366; a figure of 1390 was used for budget purposes for next year.

**Appropriations:** The motion to approve the following grant requests (all 100% grants), was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously:

- TO: 023-060010-6210, \$23,670.83 FROM: 023-33020-2801, \$23,670.83, Safe and Drug Free Schools funds to pay for the School Resource Officer.
- TO: 023-060010-6210, \$15,174.00 FROM: 023-33020-2500, \$15,174.00, Virginia Local Partnership Grant to be used for the After School Program and for remediation.
- TO: 023-060010-6210, \$50,000.00 FROM: 023-33020-5010. \$50,000.00, VPSA School Equipment Grant (state technology money)
- TO: 023-060010-6210, \$53,300.00 FROM: 023-33020-5010, \$53,300.00, Technology Literacy Challenge Grant from the state.

The motion to approve the reimbursement of \$1,500, one-half of the portion of funds used to compete in regional/state competitions, was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously.

### **2000-2001 Budget:**

Randy Hester, School Board member, requested that the Board of Supervisors include enough funds in the School's budget to fund a 4% salary increase for teachers.

Mr. Crittenden expressed his disapproval with comments made by a School Board member at the budget public hearing. Mr. Crittenden requested that issues be addressed in a positive manner and that the two boards should work to solve problems, not create them.

John Moore, School Board Chairman, stated that Mr. Shore's comments were expressed as his first response at a School Board meeting, but were not a permanent reaction, nor were they advocated. Mr. Moore commented that the Board's message at the public hearing was negative and to take a vote to include money for a 3% increase before hearing public comment was wrong. Mr. Moore noted that the School Board was trying to operate as a business, and as a business, could not afford to have a feeling among employees that nobody cares. Mr. Moore requested the Supervisor's assistance to work together, not as two adversarial boards.

Mr. Miller expressed his apology for any mistake if one was made, at the budget hearing.

School Board member, Richard Shores, clarified his comments, stating that all the teachers are professionals, however, there is still a mental perception that women are supplementing their husband's salaries. Mr. Shores noted that his initial reaction to level funding by the Board of Supervisors was to suggest a strike if the Supervisors did not believe that teachers and administrators were worthy of an increase, however, this was no more than a comment made.

Mr. Jessie presented his support for increasing the School budget by \$65,000, enough to fund a 4% increase. Mr. Crittenden noted that in the past 10 year period, School employees have averaged at least 1% more of an increase than County employees.

No further action was taken on the budget at this time.

## **REASSESSMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOMES**

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Adkins expressed their disapproval of the methods for appeal of manufactured home appraisals. According to the Adkins, and confirmed by Mrs. Ebinger earlier, the Commissioner is hearing the manufactured home appeals and can only make changes if there is an error in the information. The Board advised the Adkins that the Board of Equalization was not hearing appeals and no changes would be made in the current arrangement until a response was received from the Attorney General. Mrs. Ebinger has requested an opinion regarding the appeal process for manufactured homes.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Jessie advised the Board that Mrs. Amy would continue to serve on the Social Services Board. Mrs. Callis, Secretary, was requested to check the status of other terms about to expire. No appointments were made at the time to the Rescue Squad Task Force. Mrs. Weber requested that the Chairman consider appointing Cynthia Barlowe.

### **URBANNA CREEK DREDGING**

The Board considered a request to have Urbanna Creek dredged. It was noted that if Urbanna is a designated port, then the Army Corps of Engineers should maintain the channel for free. If not, then the Town could request Army Corps to do a feasibility study. Bob Henkel, representing the Town of Urbanna, stated that he would research the issue.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND RESOLUTION**

The motion to endorse a resolution of the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors, requesting amendment of House Bill 667, to include a time limit for the granting of a pier permit by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously.

### **WAIVE FEES**

The motion to waive building and zoning fees in association with a sign permit for the Middlesex Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary and the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex, for the Roberts Brothers Circus, was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Mr. Henkel noted that the Town of Urbanna has also waived the fees required for the circus.

### **BUDGET**

Mr. Crittenden made the following motion: I move to adopt the 2000-2001 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,300,242.00, which includes the School Operations Fund in the amount of \$4,890,119.00, the School's Capital Project Fund in the amount of \$102,934.00, and in the School's Textbook Fund of \$32,900.00, and further, the \$102,934.00 shall be used for the purchase of two (2) new buses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. Mr. Culley noted that the proposed budget included a 4% increase for County employees. Mrs. Weber requested separate actions be taken on items heard at the budget hearing. Mr. Crittenden and Mr. Williams withdrew their motion and second.

#### ***River County Funding:***

Mrs. Weber motioned to restore \$6,000 for a period of one (1) year to the River Country budget, and suggested the Board meet with the Director to give him guidance and the Board's goals. It was suggested that the Board meet with the Director first, and possibly appropriate funds later. Mrs. Weber withdrew her motion.

#### ***Library:***

Mr. Culley noted that the Board had recommended only a 4% increase in operation for the Library; the original request from the Library was for a 5% increase

and \$12,000 for automation. Following the public hearing, \$6,000 was restored for the automation project. The Board agreed to leave the proposal at \$6,000, plus a 4% increase for operations.

***Increase in School Budget Funding:***

Mrs. Weber made the motion to add an additional \$65,000 to the School budget. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jessie. There was a 2-3 vote, with Mr. Crittenden, Mr. Miller and Mr. Williams voting in opposition; the motion did not carry.

***Budget:***

Mr. Crittenden repeated the motion made earlier "to adopt the 2000-2001 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,300,242.00, which includes the School Operations Fund in the amount of \$4,890,119.00, the School's Capital Project Fund in the amount of \$102,934.00, and in the School's Textbook Fund of \$32,900.00, and further, the \$102,934.00 shall be used for the purchase of two (2) new buses. This motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion was carried by a vote of 3-2, with Mr. Jessie and Mrs. Weber voting in opposition.

**E-911 Budget:**

The motion to adopt the E911 Fund Budget in the amount of \$97,538.00, was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

**Tax Rates:**

The motion to set the following tax rates for 2000-2001, was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously:

Real Estate	\$0.52
Personal Property	\$3.50
Mobile Home	\$0.52
Machinery & Tools	\$3.50
Merchants Capital	\$1.25

***Appropriation Resolution:***

Action on the Appropriation Resolution will be taken at the Board's meeting on April 18, 2000.

**DEBRIS LANDFILLS**

The motion to have a letter written to the County's legislators and the Department of Environmental Quality to see if there is legislation that can be adopted to permit the disposal of land-clearing debris, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

## **CLOSED MEETING**

The motion to conduct a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel, pursuant to §2.1-344.a1, of the Code of Virginia, was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously. Upon reconvening in open session, the following motion was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously:

- To the best of the members' knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Code of Virginia §2.1-344.a1 and identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by the public body.

Action:

As a result of the Closed Meeting, there was no action taken.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the regular evening meeting scheduled for April 18, 2000, at 7:30 P.M.

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John D. Miller, Jr., Chairman  
Board of Supervisors