

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2001, IN THE BOARD
ROOM OF THE WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

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

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER - BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Chairman, Mr. Williams, called the special meeting to order at 3:00 P.M., for the purpose of conducting a budget work session. As this meeting had been called without prior written notice given, all Board members signed a waiver of notification. Mr. Crittenden was not present at the beginning of the budget work session, however, did arrive at approximately 3:45 P.M. The work session continued until 6:00, at which time the Chairman recessed the Board until its regular meeting time of 7:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING

The Chairman, Mr. Williams, called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The County Attorney, Michael Soberick, was present for the meeting.

**MAJOR SITE PLAN APPLICATION #SITE - 2000-17, MIDDLESEX COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD**

John Moore, School Board Chairman, stated that the School Board continued to favor the site plan as submitted with the understanding that the vacation of the bus loop right of way is required. Mr. Moore noted, however, that the School Board is open to any other alternatives, provided funding is provided. He stated that the School Board has tried to provide all information as requested by the Board and Planning Department.

Mr. Miller made a motion to deny the application as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Crittenden. Mr. Miller listed the following as his basis for denial:

- Proposed front addition would be too close to Route 17, and make it inconsistent and incompatible with development on adjoining properties; the application would then be contrary to the development recommendations of the County's Comprehensive Plan.
- Zoning setback requirements require improvements to be located a minimum distance from right-of-ways. The proposed front addition would be located within the right-of-way of State Road 9258, the existing bus loop for the school,

therefore, a violation of the requirement. The Board of Supervisors cannot approve a site plan that is in violation of ordinance regulations.

- While the School Board has requested abandonment and vacation of the right-of-way, an acceptable alternative bus loop proposal has not been presented that would function as efficiently and safely as the present one or would meet minimum VDOT standards and approval for inclusion in the State highway system for maintenance.

The motion for denial passed by a vote of 4-1, with Mr. Jessie voting in opposition. In further discussion, Mr. Williams made the following comments:

- The Board of Supervisors shares the School Board's desire to move ahead with the needed improvements at the high school, however, the proposed site plan was not good planning or true progress in terms of providing and realizing a better high school facility for tomorrow and years to come.
- The next site plan application should take into account the concerns and recommendations made by the Board and citizens during the public hearings and proceedings of the application, as well as the recommendations presented in the 1997 report by the capital improvements steering committee.
- Requested a cooperative effort with the School Board and requested the School Board work closely with the Board and County Administration in the development of a new site plan to avoid problems being created by a lack of communication.
- Encouraged the School Board to immediately move forward on the construction of the elementary school facility. There are no restrictions contained in the bond documents that would either delay or prohibit moving ahead with the new elementary school facility because of the delay with the high school improvements.

Mr. Williams noted that the renovations should be a one-time project that should be done right the first time.

Mrs. Weber announced her agreement with Mr. Miller and Mr. Williams, adding that none of the Board members were pleased with the latest proposal. Mrs. Weber then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jessie, to borrow an additional 2.3 million dollars for the completion of the high school in the proper manner and that the School Board has to complete the school within these guidelines. In discussion that followed, Board members questioned the procedures for incurring additional debt. The Board reviewed information provided by Mr. Williams, titled, "Middlesex County High School - West Side Option", dated 13 February 2001, which listed costs totaling \$2,230,525, including design fees, inflation costs if the project is delayed, demolition of east and west wings, construction of new dining and kitchen space, improvements to existing front façade, parking lots, outdoor lighting, cafeteria equipment and 10% contingency. The information also included \$231,415 in architectural and engineering fees, survey work and soil borings that was spent for the front addition proposal.

Mr. Soberick noted that there were statutes that regulated methods and procedures for incurring debt. Typical options for obtaining school construction funds were from bond sales or State Literary Loans. These methods would require public hearings by the School Board and Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Crittenden noted his objection to incurring additional debt, or funding a project without a plan. Mr. Miller also noted he was not prepared to vote on the motion.

James Goforth, School Board member, noted the School Board was aware of the Board's intent for improvements to be made on the west side. Mr. Goforth suggested that the School Board work with the project architect and come back with a plan. Mr. Crittenden approved of the suggestion and added that there was no reason to delay the elementary school construction. Mr. Moore disagreed and stated that his conversations with bond counsel have confirmed that the bond proceeds documentation required that the high school renovations and construction of elementary school be bid as one project. Mr. Moore requested the Board to show the School Board some confidence to get the project done without holding it up more.

Mrs. Weber agreed to withdraw the original motion and Mr. Jessie withdrew his second. Mrs. Weber then made a motion that improvements be moved to the west side and incorporate the Boxley report (steering committee) recommendations, with a limit of an additional 2.3 million dollars. If the project can be done for less, that would be wonderful; Mr. Moore stated that they would do it for less. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Mr. Soberick clarified that new site plans would need to be submitted.

Mr. Williams requested that all parties communicate and cooperate, having special meetings if necessary, to avoid any further stumbling blocks.

AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN

Scott Kauffman, Chairman of the Airport Committee, commented that the Airport Committee had held a special meeting on February 19 to discuss proposed improvements for Hummel Field that could be included in a revised or new Airport Layout Plan. Mr. Kauffman noted that the improvements included the promotion of safety, public use of the airport property and improvements to benefit general aviation. Committee member, Pete Kucera, presented the items proposed for inclusion in the Plan: new entrance from Route 3 on the east side of the runway; a pond and wayside park; 4,000 square foot terminal building; parallel taxi-way; and, loop access to new hangers. Mr. Kucera presented pictures of Accomack Airport which had similar improvements.

Thyra Harris questioned if other planes would be able to use the facilities. Mr. Kauffman stated that Hummel Field would never be a jet or regional airport because of the limited landing area.

The motion to adopt the concepts as presented was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

REQUEST TO WAIVE FEES

The motion to approve waiving the \$25.00 zoning fee for temporary directional signs associated with the job fair to be held on April 3, 2001, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

JACKSON CREEK DREDGING

The Board of Supervisors agreed that Staff should proceed with working with citizens in obtaining easements for spoils from the Army Corps dredging of Jackson Creek.

INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Mr. Soberick noted that the Treasurer is more involved in the tracking of bond proceeds, however, Mrs. Bray has requested a listing of actions taken prior to her receiving the accounts. Dan Siegel of Sands Anderson Marks and Miller, counsel for the Industrial Development Authority, has agreed to investigate and summarize actions for a fee of \$2,000. The summary will show previous actions and make sure all procedures prior to Mrs. Bray becoming involved have been followed. The motion to obtain the services of Mr. Siegel for a fee not to exceed \$2,000 to be appropriated from the General Fund, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

CLOSED MEETING

The motion to conduct a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the status of the Courthouse suit, pursuant to §2.1-344.a7, of the Code of Virginia, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously. Upon reconvening in open session, the following motion was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Crittenden 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.a7 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. The next regular meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2001, beginning at 9:00 A.M., in the Board Room of the Woodward Building.

Kenneth W. Williams, Chairman
Board of Supervisors