

**AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003, 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
Wayne Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Weber called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and opened with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes of the January 7th and January 21st meetings was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS

The motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 44330 through 44447 totaling \$133,736.18 were disbursed as approved.

PAYROLL

The motion to approve payroll for the month of January was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 44130 through 44329 totaling \$170,675.74 were disbursed as approved.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that she had been trying since August to get assistance from the County's auditing firm to correct the problem that they noted with the Personal Property Tax Relief Act. The auditing firm had sent Mrs. Bray an apology for writing her department up in the management letter that accompanied the last audit.

Commissioner of Revenue:

Mrs. Ebinger reported that legislation had been proposed to collect a tax on manufactured homes that had previously been coming to the County. Mrs. Ebinger will be in touch with legislators to oppose this proposal.

Sheriff

There were no questions from the Board for the Sheriff.

Deputy Matthew Watson discussed the recent grant award received from the State in the amount of \$7,770.00 to be used for the purchase of five (5) defibrillators (AEDs). The AED's currently used by the sheriff's office can be purchased for \$1,637.00 each, for a total of \$8,185.00. The motion to approve appropriating \$415.00 to supplement the grant and purchase the AED's was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Miller:

- VACo/VML Legislative Day – Mr. Miller, Mr. Jessie, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Weber attended Legislative Day activities in Richmond.

Mr. Jessie:

- Social Services – Mr. Fackler has been appointed Chairman; Mrs. Anderson was appointed Vice Chairman. The Department will be asked to give the County Attorney more advance notice of upcoming cases that they need representation.
- Airport Committee – Volunteer Security Certification will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Hilliard's Mill Pond – The dam has been demolished with a completion date for some time in March; funding will not come through from the State until after July 1.

Mr. Crittenden:

- Airport – Trees obstructions have been taken care of.

Mrs. Weber:

- Regional Jail – Middlesex has the second highest number of prisoners in the population. Looking at possibility of selling timber off; Mrs. Weber expressed concern that any revenue from the sale would be spent now. Other Board

members commented that it would be better to let the timber stay and gain value rather than cutting it now and banking the money; owners of area saw mills could give information. Board members all agreed that disbursement reports should include a description of the expenditures. Mrs. Weber noted that that request had been made at a previous meeting, but was voted down.

- Emergency Services – Telephone company testing on the Enhanced 911 lines should begin on February 10.

Mr. Culley:

- Planning District Commission – Gloucester County is interested in developing a park site in Gloucester and is working on several sites; Mathews is interested, but does not have a site.
- House Bill 2215 – This bill failed by a vote of 50-45, but will be re-considered before midnight.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Resident Engineer, Marcie Parker was present for the meeting along with Sean Trapanni, Assistant Engineer.

Pre-Allocation Meeting: The Hearing is scheduled for February 25th, 10:00 a.m., at the Cooks Corner Office Complex.

Route 3/33 Intersection: The preliminary study has been done and will be complete by the March meeting. The study is looking at early warning devices.

Courthouse: District Administrator Ogle met with Board representatives. The VDOT requirements for the roads around the new courthouse will stand unless a new drainage plan can be designed to handle the runoff. VDOT has agreed to pave New Street and will work with the church and property owners at the corner of Bowden and Oakes Landing for right of way. It was agreed that a redesign could cost more money. Mr. Williams commented that the Board should have pursued closing Bowden Street to traffic to eliminate having to make the improvements required of a public road.

RAPPAHANNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Norman Scott, President of Rappahannock Community College, was present to discuss activities at the College. According to Dr. Scott, there are 269 students enrolled who are residents of Middlesex County. The college has been working with school systems on a certification program for teacher aides, is developing a workforce training center due to open in the fall of 2004, is working with Old Dominion University to develop a 4-1/2 year accelerated teacher masters degree program, and is working with hospital systems to develop ways to double the number of nursing graduates.

SCHOOL MATTERS

Jason Perry, Assistant Principal for the Elementary School, presented a video of the morning news program developed by the 5th graders.

Dr. Richard Shores, Chairman of the School Board, presented a resolution that declared a portion of the Rappahannock Central Elementary School property as surplus. Mr. Soberick will prepare a deed for recordation. Mrs. Weber indicated she would like to tour the school before it was accepted.

Cynthia Pitts, Assistant Superintendent, updated the Board on several issues. Average daily membership was reported at 1333. School personnel plan to move into the new wing on February 28 and start classes on March 1. There will be a dedication ceremony on April 6 at 2:00. The Middlesex School District is one of 14 of a total of 134 school districts in the state to be fully accredited.

Dr. Shores thanked the Supervisors for allowing them to use the interest money from the bond proceeds to complete work at the high school. With regard to recent vandalism, letters have been sent home and meetings conducted with the student body have stressed the zero tolerance policy. William Beverly, Assistant Principal from the High School commented that some problems, including the bathroom stall doors falling off were not the result of recent vandalism. Mr. Beverly reported that he was told in the summer that the doors were in a part of the school that would undergo renovation and would be repaired at a later date. It was also noted that there were too many keys out and security was not being maintained.

STATE PARK

Dan Kavanagh, Director of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, discussed the process for site selection and development of a park in a locality. The Virginia Outdoors Plan included development of three new parks in the state, and at least one for the Middle Peninsula/Chesapeake Bay area. The Rosegill property, off Route 602, has been suggested for possible consideration and is for sale by the owners. Sites are nominated from a local level and submitted to the State for review and consideration. Mr. Kavanagh suggested several questions that could be asked of other localities concerning local effects of a park, including impacts to public safety, sales tax, and other businesses.

Although not a public hearing, the Chair opened the meeting for comments from the audience. All the people that spoke: Ken Moore, Eric Johnson, Walt Hurley, Bob Crump, Lewis Filling, Keith Billings, Ed Ruark and Jimmy Walden, agreed that the Board should proceed with the first step of endorsing the site. The Board's endorsement could be withdrawn at any time. Keith Billings speaking from a public safety standpoint noted that there would be far less impact from a park development than year round development. It was noted that the Board of Supervisors did not have to make the actual nomination of the site; it could come from another group or

individual. The motion to offer endorsement of the Rosegill property as a state park however, retaining the option to withdraw this endorsement was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

Jimmy Walden was present to request additional funding for the gymnastics program. According to Mr. Walden, the program has been active for at least five (5) years, it currently has 55 children in the program and less than \$1500 has been spent by the County to support it. Mr. Walden requested funding from the County to purchase additional floor mats and equipment that would allow the kids to compete in more areas of the sport.

Mrs. Weber noted that this program was not established to allow the kids to compete and the request should be submitted with regular budget requests for the upcoming year. Currently 100% of the fees collected go to pay for the instructors. School systems have been contacted to see if they have surplus equipment.

The motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie to appropriate \$4,050.00 to allow the purchase of additional mats now and that the remaining items should be included as a budget request for FY 2004; the motion carried unanimously.

AIRPORT MATTERS

Security:

Committee Chairman, Bob Crump, was present to discuss voluntary security measures that all local airports were being asked to participate in. It was noted that most items could be implemented at little cost and would improve funding opportunities.

Funding:

The next meeting of the Virginia Department of Aviation will be held on February 19; there are several funding requests in for improvements at Hummel Field. Mr. Crump indicated that we should be able to receive more funding now that the tree obstructions were removed. Money is available to fund repairs and maintenance projects.

Hangars:

There are now eleven hangar spaces that are committed. Mr. Crump requested that the County apply for funding to do the site preparation for the hangars.

WISE COUNTY RESOLUTION

The motion to endorse a resolution from Wise County that established a moratorium against annexation by towns was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATIONS

County Administrator Salary: Salary increase for County Administrator effective 7/1/02 and approved in contract dated 7/2/02. FROM: 3-1-41060-0001 \$13,578.00, Fund Balance; TO: 4-1-12010-1001, \$12,000; 4-1-12010-2001, \$918.00; 4-1-12010-2002, \$660.00. Motion by Williams, seconded by Miller, carried unanimously.

Sheriff: Appropriation of balance from FY 02 budget and donations received for Christmas party: FROM: 3-1-41060-0001, \$645.00; and 3-1-23020-0040, \$598.00; TO: 4-1-31020-5401, \$1,243.00. Motion by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously.

BUDGET SCHEDULE

Mr. Culley presented a schedule for budget work sessions and public hearings. The joint work session with the school board was rescheduled to February 27th.

COX LANDING

The report on the title search for Cox Landing is due to be complete by the next meeting; a public hearing would be scheduled for that night to consider the disposition.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Weber announced changes to Board appointments. Mrs. Weber will replace Mr. Miller on the Planning Commission and Mr. Miller will replace Mr. Crittenden on the Planning District Commission.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Lenora O. Weber, Chairman
Board of Supervisors