

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2003, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE  
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.. Mr. Miller offered a prayer and Mr. Culley led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET**

Mrs. Marcie Parker, Resident Engineer of the Saluda Residency, presented information for the public hearing: A total budget of \$491,511.00 is included in the budget, with \$388,513.00 to go to regular improvements (paved - numbered projects), \$39,393.00 to be used for unpaved road improvements (numbered projects) and \$63,605.00 for incidental items, with Rural Additions being allotted \$22,605.00 of the incidental fund.

Roads currently listed for improvements with funding are: paved roads, Route 631 and Route 630 and unpaved roads, Route 650 (Montgomery Cove Lane) and Route 615 (Braxton-Corr Road). It was noted that the next paved project in line is currently Route 637 at 560 vehicles per day. Mrs. Parker noted that this road order could be changed making Route 629 in the area of the bridge the next project; this road has a vehicle count of 1400 per day. The third project in line is not shown in the plan because there is no funding attached to it at present. Route 650 has been shown as the number one unpaved project because Route 686 has received full funding.

Mrs. Weber opened the hearing for comments from the public. Mr. Robert Mannell of 70 Montgomery Cove Lane commented that if the Route 650 project could be moved up in the schedule it would be appreciated. According to Mrs. Parker this project is scheduled for construction in 2006, however it could possibly move up to 2005 if Route 686 goes into the Rural Rustic Road Program. There were no further comments and the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Mrs. Parker was questioned as to the improvements that could be made on Route 629. She explained that the road would be widened and raised in the area around the dam and a problem tree would be removed. Mr. Crittenden, Mr. Williams,

and Mr. Miller all agreed that it would be a good idea to switch this project with the Route 637 projects. Mr. Jessie noted that he did not like moving the Route 637 project back any more, but could understand that the Route 629 project would serve more people. The motion to switch Route 629 with Route 637 on the project list was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried by a vote of 4-1 (Jessie opposed).

Mr. Williams questioned the status of the Route 630 plans. Mrs. Parker stated that the preliminary plans are available for review in her office now, but added that she would try and get a smaller set of drawings to Mr. Williams and Mr. Crittenden for review by their constituents.

The motion to approve the revised plan and budget was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

### **EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**

Dan Gore of Rutherford Insurance presented information to the Board concerning employee health insurance proposals. Southern Health, the current carrier, had presented a renewal package with a 25% increase in premium. After receiving that information, Mr. Gore solicited to several carriers and Anthem was the only one to submit a competitive plan, however the coverage was not as good. In renegotiating with Southern Health, the company agreed to reduce their increase to 19.1% with no change in benefits, or they would offer a change in the benefit plan with a 2.6% increase. The most significant change would be to do away with the HMO plan and to offer two different PPO plans were recommended.

Board members requested that Mr. Gore contact Southern Health to see if they would extend coverage past the expiration date of October 31<sup>st</sup> to allow time to explain the options to employees using the plan.

### **REASSESSMENT**

Mr. Culley informed that Board that he had met with the Commissioner, the Treasurer, Mr. Soberick and Mr. Coalson, from the assessment firm, to discuss extending the reassessment process; Delegate Morgan was unable to attend this meeting. After much discussion at the meeting it was agreed that the best approach was to ask the State for a 3-month extension in order to re-evaluate all of the damaged property. Values could be adjusted to reflect the current conditions of properties damaged by the hurricane and reassessment notices sent that would reflect the current conditions. As citizens pull permits to remodel, repair and replace damaged property, the Commission will adjust their assessments under the new construction program. The potential increase in values expected with this reassessment will be lower than anticipated due to the heavy damage, but the values will recover as those citizens repair their property. The reassessment cannot wait, as it may be several years before most of the property is repaired to its pre-Isabel state.

Another issue of waiting is that State law requires that the County's assessment ratio remain above 75%, which the County is in danger of falling below. In addition, there is a staffing issue involved with the contractor and his assessors and the County for data entry. The Committee believed this to be the fairest way to handle all those people affected by the storm and also presents the best opportunity for the County.

After some discussion, the motion to proceed with requesting the 3-month extension was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. The motion to issue a contract to Mr. Coalson for \$62,100.00 was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. No additional funds for the additional inspections will be approved without the Board voting; Mr. Coalson is to give monthly updates.

### **CITIZEN REQUEST**

Mr. Charles Krumbein, of 142 John E. Wright Lane, Deltaville, suggested that the Industrial Development Authority borrow money from the Small Business Association and then loan money to people to rebuild. According to Mr. Krumbein, as Middlesex County's "business" is in tourism and in second homes, the Board should do all it can to get property values back up.

Mr. Soberick commented that the IDA should be contacted to see if there is any interest in pursuing this and an opinion from the IDA council must be obtained to see if this is even possible. Mr. Soberick will pursue contacting Dan Siegel, the IDA council.

### **VIRGINIA COASTAL PROGRAM GRANT**

The motion to accept the Virginia Coastal Management Program Grant was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried by a vote of 4-1 (Mr. Miller opposed).

### **DISBURSEMENTS**

The motion to approve disbursements was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 46579 through 46596 totaling \$14,415.03 would be disbursed as approved.

### **PAYROLL**

Regarding payroll for work during the Hurricane, Mr. Williams stated that he was opposed to paying for site visits made by the Wetlands Board representative because this was going against an earlier policy set by the Board to not pay meeting stipends to Wetlands Board members if they made a site visit but did not attend the actual meeting. Mr. Culley explained that Miller Smither, who is Chairman of the Wetlands

Board, was used to assist the County staff in doing damage assessments and the work he did was not part of normal Wetland Board work. The motion to approve the issuance of special payroll checks was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 46564 through 46578 totaling \$16,225.13 would be issued to employees. Reimbursement to the County would be requested from FEMA.

### **SPORTS COMPLEX**

The motion to approve a contract with Hanover Electric to install pole lighting for two fields and additional access lighting at the Sports Complex was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously. The total contract is for \$91,300.00, with \$82,300 for the pole lighting and \$9,000 for the security lighting. An additional agreement between the County, GE Lighting and Hanover Electric would give approval for the County to make the first payment payable to GE for the equipment with the remaining going to Hanover Equipment.

### **HURRICANE DEBRIEFING**

Mrs. Weber advised the Board that there would be a de-briefing of Hurricane response held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M., at the Cooks Corner Office Complex.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The motion to convene in closed session with the Sheriff regarding consultation with legal counsel, pursuant to §2.1-3711.a7 was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

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

- To the best of the members' knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Code of Virginia §2.2-3711. A.7 as 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 Session, there was no action taken.

**ADJOURN**

The motion to adjourn until the Board's meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2003, at 9:00 A.M. was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

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Lenora O. Weber, Chair  
Board of Supervisors