

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Mrs. Weber called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Mr. Crittenden opened with a prayer; Mr. Culley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes for the meetings of September 2 and September 16, 2003, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS

It was noted that representatives from R. Stuart Royer, the engineering firm working on the wastewater treatment system would be at the Board's November 5, 2003, meeting. The motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 46418 through 46563 totaling \$293,924.62 were disbursed as approved.

PAYROLL

The motion to approve payroll for the month of September was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 46306 through 46417 totaling \$192,235.93 were disbursed as approved.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff

Sheriff Abbott requested that the Board of Supervisors consider endorsing the movement of Halloween events to Wednesday, October 29th, as the Town of Urbanna has done. The Sheriff noted that the High School Homecoming activities would be held on Thursday, October 30th and the Oyster Festival on the 31st. The motion to endorse the proposal was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Regarding the sheriff's vehicle that could be provided in exchange for using it to display advertisements, the Board agreed that using advertisements would take away from the dignity of the department. Board members also were concerned about not having any choice in the advertisements that would appear. Two towns within the State of Virginia have made application for a vehicle using this process. One made their application in April 2002, but has not received a vehicle. The motion to deny application at this time was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Treasurer

Mrs. Bray reported that tax bills would be going out October 17, 2003.

Commissioner of Revenue:

Mrs. Ebinger had completed a report regarding tax relief for the elderly that had been sent to the Board of Supervisors for their review. The motion to proceed with the public hearing to change the values for basing tax relief was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Miller:

- No Report

Mr. Williams:

- No Report

Mr. Jessie:

- Social Services – Evelyn Sibley and Kathryn Fitchett will be retiring in December. Regarding shelter operations during the hurricane, the Social Services Department believed that the shelter should have remained open for a longer time. Long term planning for special needs citizens needs to be

made. Mrs. Weber noted that this will be discussed at a critique meeting to be held at a later date.

Mr. Crittenden:

- No reports

Mr. Culley:

- Social Services – Regarding applications for the Director’s position, the applications go to the State office for “weeding out” then come back to the local board to make a final decision.

Mrs. Weber:

- Jail – working on resolution to get inmates for county projects and fire/rescue use.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Resident Engineer, Marcie Parker, presented the budget proposed for 2004/05 along with the proposed Six-Year Secondary Highway Improvements. Mrs. Parker recommended making Route 629 at the pond the number two project rather than Route 637, Flats Road, due to the traffic volume.

Mrs. Parker also presented the unpaved roads. Route 686, Millers Road, is a good candidate for the rural rustic road program which would allow paving in place, but would require the County to adopt a resolution to limit development so as not to exceed the 500 vehicles per day requirement. Mrs. Parker noted that she would discuss this process with the County’s Planning Director. According to Mrs. Parker, Routes 650 and 615 would also be good candidates for this program.

The public hearing on the budget and projects would be conducted at the Board of Supervisors regular meeting on October 21st.

Board members thanked the Department of Transportation for their work during and following the hurricane.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The motion to appoint Kenneth Williams as the voting representative at the annual Virginia Association of Counties meeting and naming Mrs. Weber as the alternate, was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

OPERATION THANKSGIVING

William Bagby was present representing Bethlehem Star Lodge 249 and requesting the Board's endorsement of the Operation Thanksgiving project. With assistance from the Kiwanis group and Boy Scouts, 160 families were provided with food last year. The motion to endorse the project, now in its 13th year, was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

BIOSOLIDS APPLICATION

The Board reviewed a request from RecycSystems to add fields for land application of biosolids. Members noted that the applications are moving closer to populated areas. The State Department of Health does not consider the application complete without comments from the Board of Supervisors or until a 30-day time limit has elapsed. Board members expressed their opposition to any applications for land application of biosolids.

SCHOOL MATTERS

Mr. Myers was present for the meeting and reported that school population was at 1333 students. Mr. Myers reported regarding the construction projects - the High School was in good shape, however, there are still some minor leaks at the Elementary School.

Hurricane:

Mr. Myers commented that some good lessons were learned during the hurricane. He added that it was nice to see a team effort and it was a pleasure to work with everyone. Mr. Culley added that it was good to be able to work with upper management, who could make decisions on the spot.

Roof Plan:

Concerns at St. Clare Walker involve more than just the metal roof, but also the guttering. The problem is still under investigation.

Air Conditioning in Gym:

The contractor has started moving equipment into the gym and will start next week. A deadline of November 15th has been set for work to be complete.

Well at St. Clare Walker:

Mr. Myers has talked to the head of the State's Division of Water Programs regarding replacing the well at St. Clare Walker.

Leaks:

Mr. Culley noted that leaks had been pointed out at the school in Northumberland that is of the same design as the Middlesex Elementary School.

APPROPRIATIONS

The motion to approve the following appropriation requests was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Crittenden and carried unanimously:

FROM: 3-1-41060-0001, \$28,558.00 TO: 4-1-060010-6210. Appropriation of remaining balance of the \$128,000.00 VPSA School Equipment Grant (state technology money)

FROM: 3-1-41060-0001, \$91,440.00 TO: 4-1-63000-62108. Appropriation of carryover balance for Textbook Fund.

BAYSIDE ACADEMY

Ray Pardue, the CEO of St. Joseph's Villa and Craig Hedley from St. Joseph's were in attendance to thank the Board for agreeing to lease a portion of Rappahannock Central for the operation of Bayside Academy. There are nine students enrolled at present, with another 3 expected. It is hoped that approximately 20 will enroll and the other portion of the building can be used.

REASSESSMENT

Mr. William Coalson, Tri-County Appraisal, was present to discuss the current status of the reassessment process. According to Mr. Coalson, his firm had completed approximately 98% of the inspections in the County and was preparing to mail out notices of values when the hurricane struck. Knowing that there are thousands of properties that have been damaged, the firm has held back sending the notices and is prepared to re-inspect the damaged property. Mr. Coalson requested that the County petition the circuit court for a three-month extension of the deadline. Mr. Coalson presented a quote of \$62,100.00 for the re-inspection process: 4,000 waterfront properties at \$13/parcel; 1,500 manufactured homes at \$5/parcel and 200 damaged non-waterfront properties at \$13/parcel.

Mr. Crittenden commented that people need a chance to re-build before inspections are made and suggested having the State Code changed to extend the process for at least a year. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for the County Administrator, County Attorney, Commissioner of Revenue and Mr. Coalson to meet with the County's legislators to see if they would be willing to promote a change in the legislation.

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX TRIM

Prices were submitted from two contractors for covering the wood trim of the buildings within the Courthouse Complex – Peninsula Aluminum Contractors - \$17,700.00 to cover the trim with aluminum and Palmer Brothers - \$51,695.00 to cover it with vinyl. No action was taken on the bids and it was suggested that maybe the trim could be covered with a vinyl coating.

HURRICANE ISABEL UPDATE

Burning Ban:

It was agreed by the Board that the burning ban in place since the hurricane would be lifted at 11:00 A.M. on this date (October 7, 2003).

Thank You Letter:

Mr. Culley presented the Board with a thank-you letter that he had drafted for inclusion in the Southside Sentinel. Mr. Crittenden requested that the Deltaville Community Association and citizens of the Pinetop District be added for their assistance with water and ice distribution; Mary Lou Ebinger's name would be added as a volunteer assisting with answering phones; Big John's Store and Sandy Powell would be added for assistance with water and ice distribution in the Jamaica District.

Mrs. Weber requested that a letter be written to Mr. Harmon at the Regional Jail recognizing the use of the facility as a special needs shelter.

Cablevision:

The Board commented on the complaints being received because of Cablevision still being out. Mr. Culley noted that in most cases Cablevision workers could not begin re-establishing service until after the utility workers were finished and also added that there were much smaller crews able to work.

Underground Utilities:

Mr. Crittenden recommended that the Board require all new subdivisions to have underground utilities. The Planning Director is reviewing this requirement.

Mrs. Weber commented that the County could have collected a lot in fees if a business license tax ordinance had been in place.

Damages:

Mr. Culley commented that at a meeting on October 6th, of Mr. Miller, Mrs. Weber, Planning Director Matt Higgins, Building Official David Selph, and Chairman of the Building Code Appeals Board Don Caskie, it was determined that sending out

notices of unsafe structures and notices of minimal flooding letters was a proper way to get more information to those citizens whose structures had sustained damage from the hurricane. At this time, 20 notices of unsafe structure will be going out to homeowners of flooded structures, five of which had been knocked off their pier foundations. Properties receiving more than 50% of damage within the floodplain will be required to elevate their structures. Some of these owners have already obtained demolition permits. Notices of minimal flooding letters include information with corrective measures to make the structure safe. These letters are only for those structures with flooding damage; there are many others that have had wind damage. Mr. Culley reported that he is hoping to get some emergency approval procedures enacted by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting was scheduled for October 21, 2003.

Lee O. Weber, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors