

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

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

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator

Absent: Michael T. Soberick, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL EXCEPTION 2005-01, THREE RIVERS HEALTH DISTRICT

Planning Director, Matthew Higgins, presented the application, a request for a public communications facility – a tower, on County property that is leased by the Three Rivers Health District for the Middlesex County Health Department. The tower, when erect can be raised from a height of 22 feet to 55 feet, and will be used to communicate with other health departments in times of emergency.

Mr. Crittenden opened the public portion of the hearing for comments. Mel Anderson, Manager of the Health District, was present. There being no comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed. Mr. Crittenden asked about damage during a wind event. Mr. Anderson stated that the antenna stays in a lowered position of 22' when not in use, but can also be lowered flat to the ground. The motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

TREE CUTTING CONTRACT

Mr. Culley presented the timber purchase contract that would be between the County, as seller, and Potomac Supply Corporation, buyer. The contract is in the amount of \$5,400.00, with 10% to go to John Magruder, Three Rivers Forestry, at time of contract signing and the remaining \$48,600.00 to come to the County. The Board expressed concern with the lack of buffer areas, which at this time is limited to 25 feet. Mrs. Weber agreed to meet with Mr. Magruder to discuss the best arrangement for buffer.

DISBURSEMENTS

The motion to approve disbursements was made by Mrs. Weber, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 51505 through 51538 totaling \$46,238.68 were disbursed as approved.

PAYROLL

The motion to approve payroll for February 16 – March 15 was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Weber and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 51440 through 51504 totaling \$187,769.77 were disbursed as approved.

AUTHORITY FOR PAY REQUESTS – SCHOOL ROOF PROJECT

The motion to authorize the County Administrator to be the approving authority for pay requests for the school roof project was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously. Pay requests are to be submitted to Mr. Culley in the proper format for submission to the bond agent.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Representative:

Mrs. Weber questioned whether the position on the Planning Commission representing the Board of Supervisors could be an advisory position only and not a voting position. Mr. Culley suggested that the by-laws of the Commission be read along with the State Code to see if this can be made an advisory position. Mr. Culley also noted that the Board may need to look at having an odd number of Commissioners.

Court Fees:

Mr. Culley was asked to look into court fees to make sure the County is accessing all that can possibly be collected.

SCHOOL BUDGET WORK SESSION

James Goforth, Chairman, called the other School Board members to order for a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. All School Board members were present. Dr. Spencer made a brief presentation of the School Board budget that includes:

- A 5% increase in salaries, amounting to \$261,336
- Increase in professional VRS rate from 11.04% to 11.62%.

- Increase in health insurance contribution from \$2400 to \$2600 (totals \$31,400)
- Increase in positions – part time math at the High School (\$17,520); increase student information database administration to a 11.5 month position (\$1,240); increase athletic director at High School to 11 month (\$4,079); part time mechanic (\$21,530); school resource officer (\$16,686 (other half funded by the Sheriff's Office)
- Capital outlay requests - \$133,164.00

Board of Supervisors made the following inquiries with the responses following:

- Is the amount given for salary increases for all school employees? The amount given was for just the teachers.
- Why are the salaries for nursing staff so much more (\$113,213.00) in Middlesex than they are in Mathews (\$60,000). Nurses are not on a salary scale in Mathews County.
- Other funding for Resource Officer? Several years ago, the County had discussed hiring a County deputy to work as a resource officer during the school year and then the rest of the time would be a county-wide deputy. The Sheriff is applying for a grant to fund the position of Resource Officer.
- Census – budgeted \$8,500; Northumberland only budgeted \$3,500.
- Administrative/School Board Staffing increasing, but losing students – a decrease in student size does not necessarily change the scheduling or the needs; administrative costs may not decrease.
- How are teachers that are not needed gotten rid of? Each teacher signs a RIF policy; the last hired would be the first fired. The schools' 20% turnover rate usually takes care of this problem.
- What was included in capital outlay request? Furniture in new wing at high school and technology areas.
- Was told by a parent that there was no money to send kids to a state competition. Money is there; it was not frozen.
- Pay for unused sick leave. This has increased from \$10.00 to \$25.00

Mr. Culley commented that last year's technology money (\$61/pupil) went into Basic Aid and was used for salary increases; could have been used to hire the technology teacher. Now the County has to make the higher salaries and still hire a technology teacher.

Mr. Crittenden commented that the School Board has overloaded school board administration and that has kept money away from teachers. Dr. Spencer commented that the school system cannot maintain the level of services at the same costs as last year – everything has gone up. Dr. Spencer commented that many lost students have been because of relocation and seasonal workers.

Mr. Crittenden suggested the School Board take another look at their budget and plan to cut back; he could not imagine that the budget would be approved as it was and suggested cutting administrative costs to help teachers. Mr. Crittenden also welcomed an explanation of the 32% increase in administrative costs. Mr. Crittenden also commented on teachers giving grades for students to attend and speak at the public hearing last year. Dr. Shores requested information about the teachers that did that.

Regarding the clerk of works, the position would be advertised this week.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn until April 5, 2005, was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

Fred S. Crittenden, Chair
Board of Supervisors