

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE
WOODWARD BUILDING, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District
Wayne Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District
Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District
Robert A. Crump, Saluda District
Kenneth W. Williams, Pinetop District

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by the Chairman, Mr. Miller and a prayer led by Mr. Jessie. Mr. Culley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION – B. ULMAN MILLER

Mr. B. Ulman Miller was present to receive a framed copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors at their November 21st meeting.

MINUTES

The motion to approve the minutes of the November 7th and November 21st meetings as presented was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Crump and carried unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS

The motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Mr. Crump seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Checks numbered 56854 through 56971 totaling \$134,836.60 were disbursed as approved.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff

Sheriff Abbott was present. Mr. Culley presented a request to purchase a new metal detector, as the one in the old courthouse was no longer functioning. Prices were obtained for a portable unit and wands for \$4,693.00. This unit could be dismantled and used at other locations. A unit just like the one installed in the new

courthouse that could be purchased from the State contract is \$2,798.50 and did not include any wands. The motion to approve an appropriation of funds and the purchase of the portable unit was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Crump and carried unanimously

Treasurer

Mrs. Bray was present with nothing to report.

Commissioner of Revenue:

Mrs. Stephenson reported that the state had approved an additional deputy for her department.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Resident Administrator, Marcie Parker, was present representing VDOT.

Primary and Secondary Road Work Session:

Mrs. Parker presented projects that are currently on the primary and secondary plans. Primary projects are: signal at Route 620/33 and Route 33 bike and pedestrian path. Secondary projects are: Route 630, Route 629, Route 615, Route 669; there is \$21,000.00 left in rural addition funds that need allocation. A public hearing on all projects will be held in the spring. The preliminary budget last year was \$486,000, reduced to \$411,000; the budget for 07/08 is anticipated at \$423,000.00. Mrs. Parker informed the Board that it will become more difficult to fund projects, as they will also have to qualify for federal funds.

Harmony Grove Intersection, Rt. 3/33:

The signal is being designed; funding is available; waiting for contractor availability.

Guardrail:

Board members asked Mrs. Parker to take another look at the request to install a guardrail at the Elementary School.

Norris Bridge:

Work will be ongoing to repair the slopes at the abutments. This should not interfere with traffic, except during times when equipment is being moved.

Urbanna Bridge:

The bridge will be restricted to one (1) lane with a signal for work. This work is to be completed by July.

Route 33/628:

Paving of this intersection and one at Route 625 is dependent on the weather.

Route 631:

Mr. Crittenden reported problems at the dam; beavers are trying to stop up the drainage ways.

Stop Light in Saluda:

Traffic Engineering is reviewing the markings and the local office is waiting for their decision.

Route 629:

Mrs. Parker and the Board reviewed the report provided by the Department for repairs to the dam at Route 629. Temporary repair of the structure has been estimated to cost \$164,000.00, however this does not address the on-going water seepage through the embankment of the impounding structure. There is the potential for additional undermining due to the seepage and continued settlement of the existing culvert. The hydraulics of the existing outlet structure were not reviewed for adequacy. The existing overflow weir is obstructed and the wooden gate is difficult to operate; neither of these deficiencies is corrected. Alteration of the impounding structure would require approval by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Replacement of the existing structure is estimated at \$434,000.00, replacing approximately 40 feet on either side of the existing outlet structure. The new culvert would include an extended overflow weir on the upstream side and a drainage diaphragm. The hydraulics of this proposed outlet structure and overflow weir were not reviewed for conformance with Virginia Impounding Structures Regulation. Alteration of the impounding structure would require approval by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Mrs. Parker commented that the Attorney General's Office title search has determined that Mr. Ruark owns the property. If a Judge sides with the Department of Transportation, the Commissioner has approved a 50/50 cost share, with the State's funds coming from the secondary budget. If a Judge determines that ownership is the State's, then repairs would come from maintenance funds and work would begin as soon as there was a ruling. The project could begin July 2007.

Mr. Crittenden questioned when repairs would be made to the remainder of the roadway. Mrs. Parker stated that VDOT is waiting for resolution to the remainder of the dam problem. Mr. Crump questioned if anything could be done so that the problem does not become worse. According to Mrs. Parker, she does not see anything that could be done as a temporary fix.

SCHOOL MATTERS

Dr. Spencer informed the Board that enrollment was at 1312 with a budget based on 1279 students.

DISPATCHER SALARIES

Mr. William Thrift, Jr., of the County's Emergency Communication Committee, was present to request that the full time dispatchers be given an additional \$2,000.00 supplement (over the current \$1,500.00 they receive). According to Mr. Thrift, this would put them in line with Mathews County, but still behind Gloucester and Essex.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Miller suggested that this be looked at during budget time. Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jessie, that the issue be studied and brought back at the night meeting. This motion failed with a vote of two in favor (Crump, Jessie) to three opposed (Crittenden, Miller, Williams).

ELECTORAL BOARD

Mrs. Eileen Howard, Registrar, informed the Board that if the County's application for bailout is approved, then it does apply to redistricting applications.

Mr. Robert Tassone, Chairman of the Electoral Board, was present to talk about the need for more accessible polling places. In order to get away from the gravel parking lot, it was proposed to move the New Market Precinct polling site from the Lower Middlesex Fire Department to the Middlesex Rescue Squad Building. It was also proposed that space adjacent to the Registrar be designated as a Centralized Absentee Precinct allowing for counting with computerized equipment. The motion to schedule a public hearing on these issues was made by Mr. Crump, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT

The motion to appoint Mr. Tom Hawksworth as a replacement for Ulman Miller on the Wetlands Board was made by Mr. Crittenden, seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously. This term will expire June 30, 2009.

STREET NAME REQUEST

The motion to approve a new street name for Poynt Landng Road off of Remlik Drive was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Crump and carried unanimously.

BAYSIDE ACADEMY

Mr. Culley informed the Board that Bayside Academy would be closing on December 20th due to staffing issues. There have been some discussions about opening a regional technical school; Mr. Culley has told that party that they would need to come up with a proposal. It was the consensus of the Board that the building be advertised as being available.

JANUARY MEETING DATE

Because the first Tuesday in January has been declared a holiday, the Board agreed to hold the organizational meeting on Thursday, January 4th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Crittenden: There are several issues that the Airport Committee is working on regarding the hangar project. Mr. Crittenden informed the Board that Jail crews are used to clean ditches in Mathews County to keep drainage ways open. Mr. Crittenden suggested a similar program for Middlesex County and requested that Mr. Culley contact Mr. Harmon from the Jail and Mr. Whiteway from Mathews County to see how the program works.

Mr. Jessie: Attended the Virginia Association of Counties meeting; Theresa Altemus is the upcoming president.

Mr. Crump: Attended both VDOT sessions at the VACo meeting; the state is trying to entice the counties to take over secondary roads. Attended the Comprehensive Plan kick-off – 62 people were in attendance.

Mr. Williams: Attended the VACo meeting – other counties are having similar problems regarding revenue – either increase taxes or user fees. Attended the Planning District Commission meeting – River Country – studying water use conflicts and aquaculture restrictions on recreation and homeowners. Social Services – has had personnel issues.

Mr. Miller: Attended VACo meeting; Dragon Run Steering Committee is studying best crop options in the Dragon Run watershed to turn into bio-diesel.

OTHER BUSINESS

Amateur Radio:

Mr. Culley reported that the County has been in contact with the contractor who will be installing the antennas and lines for the HAM radio operators. This work should be scheduled for the first few weeks of January and only take a few days to complete.

Puller Center:

Mr. Culley has met with a representative of the Allen Group who is preparing an estimate for work in the flooded portion of the building. This work should be completed in January.

CLOSED MEETING

The motion to meet in Closed Session for discussion of personnel pursuant to §2.2-3711.A1, was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. Upon reconvening in open session, the following motion was made by Mr. Crump, seconded by Mr. Jessie 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.A1 as identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the public body.

There was no action as a result of the closed session discussion.

SCHOOL MATTERS

High School – East Wing:

Mr. Goforth informed the Board that John LaBrier is to update the School Board at each meeting regarding to his price findings for renovating or new construction of an east wing. Mr. LaBrier is to gather the facts which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for a final decision.

Regional School:

Mr. Goforth informed the Board that he had been appointed to the committee studying the possibility of opening a regional special education school. He advised that a new school is probably two to three years away.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Crump, seconded by Mr. Jessie and carried unanimously. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

John D. Miller, Jr., Chairman
Board of Supervisors