

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010, IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: John D. Miller, Jr., Saluda District  
Carlton Revere, Pinetop District  
Pete Mansfield, Saluda District  
Wayne Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District

Charles M. Culley, Jr., County Administrator  
Marcia Jones, Assistant Administrator

Absent: Fred S. Crittenden, Pinetop District  
Michael T. Soberick, County Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman, Mr. Miller, called the meeting to order. Mr. Jessie led the group in prayer; Mr. Culley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The motion to approve the following items on a consent agenda was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Mansfield and carried unanimously: February 2 and February 16, 2010 minutes and disbursements. Disbursements numbered 66984 through 67045 totaling \$354,739.10 were disbursed as approved.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

**[Sheriff:](#)**

The Sheriff noted that recent errors in the gas accounting were clerical, with the store clerk inputting the wrong information. Sheriff Abbott requested to be able to charge repairs on the Voyager Credit Card, because the charges would be charged to each car, making tracking the costs much easier. Mr. Culley noted that the Voyager cards had a low credit limit, and the company wanted to keep it low since it was a new account. The Sheriff also thanked VDOT for their assistance with traffic control at recent accident scenes. The Sheriff presented mileage information for all of his vehicles. Mr. Revere asked for the mileage turnover rate for State Police vehicles. The Sheriff was not sure, but believed it to be at 120,000; the Sheriff would find the answer.

**[Commissioner of Revenue](#)**

Mrs. Davenport reported that Personal Property forms were being collected.

### Treasurer

Mrs. Bray indicated she believed there were enough funds to make it through March and at least part of April. Mr. Revere asked Mrs. Bray to review the cash flow needs and bring an amount needed to the April Day meeting.

### HIGHWAY MATTERS

Resident Administrator, Marcie Parker, was present to represent the Highway Department.

**Stampers Bay:** Start on this project was delayed a week or so by recent weather events, however, work has started.

**Sheriff's Assistance:** Mrs. Parker thanked the Sheriff for his recent assistance with tree removal.

**Secondary Road Transportation Plan:** Mrs. Parker would present information to the Board at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting; a public hearing would be conducted at the Board's April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### SCHOOL MATTERS

Superintendent Rusty Fairheart was present to represent the School Board and give an updated report on enrollment, which was currently at 1213, and based on a budget for 1210. Mr. Fairheart noted that St. Clare Walker had been named as a "School to Watch"; one of 21 in the state, and the smallest in the state to win this award.

The School Board has conducted a public hearing on their budget and plans on adopting it at their March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following that, the School Board would like to present their budget to the Board of Supervisors.

### PIANKATANK RIVER FAMILY RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Mr. Culley requested clarification on a previous Board action regarding waiving fees for permits associated with the Piangkatank River Family Retreat and Conference Center. At their April 2008 meeting the Board voted to waive fees associated with some of the facilities of the Retreat Center, mainly new construction. Contractors have recently come to our Building Department for permits associated with renovation of one of the existing buildings. As a matter of clarification, the Department needed to know if it was intended that all permit fees associated with this site be waived. Mr. Culley noted that some of the recent renovations of existing buildings were not on the master plan of development submitted in 2008. The motion to waive the fees for permits

associated with the master site plan and renovations associated with this facility was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Revere and carried unanimously.

### **BROADBAND AUTHORITY**

Mr. Culley updated the Board regarding the proposed Broadband Authority. The counties of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula applied together for Round 1 funding of this project, but it was not granted. The group decided not to reapply for Round 2 funding because the entire grant would have to be re-written and the turn-around time was too short. The Northern Neck counties have formed an authority; the Middle Peninsula counties are still considering whether or not to form an authority. King and Queen County had their own study done and is applying for funding on its own. Mr. Culley asked the Board to consider whether they wanted to participate in a Middle Peninsula authority.

There was some discussion of the benefits of participating in an authority. The initial study did not show much of an impact for Middlesex, as funding would be for construction of the "backbone", which is already in place in Middlesex. The Middle Peninsula counties have not discussed matching funding formulas should they form an authority of their own. The ability to withdraw from an authority was discussed, it being noted that once debt is issued a locality cannot withdraw until the debt is paid, which could tie the county up for a long time. Mr. Culley noted that his office had not received many complaints from citizens who did not have internet access. The projects proposed would not improve access to remote areas of the county.

Mr. Revere believed that a long term approach was needed. While there may be no projects planned for the County now, if the other counties proceed, Middlesex may be left behind quickly. Mr. Revere noted that he wished to see additional information before making a decision regarding participation in an authority or submitting a funding application. Joining an authority would require a public hearing. No action was taken at this time.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board members presented their reports on committee activities. The Regional Reassessment project being coordinated the by PDC has been tabled at this time. The next PDC dinner meeting will have representatives discussing the impacts of conservation easements. The Friends of Middlesex County Public Schools is repopulating their committee and is expanding to work on the proposed Sid Thrift Athletic Complex. The group is hoping to have more information available for the Board of Supervisors during the budget process. They are hoping to be able to raise 30% of the funding from outside sources. Mr. Mansfield recommended that the County reconsider joining the Public Access Authority. It was suggested that Lewis Lawrence and an elected official from a participating county be invited to attend a future Board of

Supervisors meeting. Mr. Mansfield noted that since its formation there have been no costs to any of the participants and it has been a successful program.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dan Downs commented that affordable internet access is a problem in parts of the Hartfield area, including Piankatank Shores. Bob Calves commented that if you can get a cell phone signal, you can get air cards for internet services at a reasonable monthly charge. He added that this might be an available alternative for school children needing internet services.

Richard Shores commented on the support the Maritime Museum and Middlesex Museum have for each other and the successful Black History Month programs sponsored by the Museum. Dr. Shores also commented on the assets of the current school administration.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Airport Committee:***

James Snider, Chairman of the Airport Committee, invited Board members to come prior to the next Committee meeting to meet members of the Committee, view the airport property and operations, and terminal and hangar buildings. The Committee will have their next regular meeting on March 22 at 7:30 p.m.; the Board was invited to attend at 6:30 p.m.

### **BUDGET**

Mr. Culley reported that he did not have much to report since the last meeting as he was waiting for final revenue numbers from the State. The proposed budget is based on one-cent on the tax rate generating \$211,000. It was suggested that the County look at parks and recreational services provided by the YMCA in other localities. Board members also discussed solid waste disposal, including the container services provided by VPPSA. Currently the County subsidizes these services by paying the disposal costs of businesses renting containers from VPPSA. This service is provided only in Middlesex and was a practice started when the County discontinued its own waste pick up services. Disposal costs for private waste haulers are not paid by the County because they haul waste in multiple counties. Mr. Mansfield commented that he was working on a method of tracking the waste to insure that only garbage from Middlesex was being disposed of and therefore could be paid by the County. It was also suggested that the County should phase out the subsidizing.

Mr. Culley discussed the dates for a possible budget public hearing and advertising requirements based on adopting the budget at the Board's May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A date of Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> was given as a possible date for the School Board to present their budget to the Board of Supervisors.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn the meeting until March 16, 2010 was made by Mr. Jessie, seconded by Mr. Revere and carried unanimously.

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