

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Bland County Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County School Board Office, Bastian, Virginia on the twenty-fifth day of March 2003, the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Frank W. Chandler, Wade Blankenship, Robert O. Munsey and Danny Kinder

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Carol Hall – Secretary and James E. Cornwell – County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Phipps and Marty Holloway – VDOT; Wayne Quesenberry, The Bland County Messenger and several citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frank Chandler called the regular meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Supervisor Robert Munsey offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

Supervisor Wade Blankenship led the pledge of alliance to the flag.

BOARD APPROVED AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the March 25, 2003 agenda as presented was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

CONSENT AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes. Items within the Consent Agenda included: 1) minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2003; 2) bills for the month of March 2003 in the amount of \$185,325.39; 3) payroll for February 28, 2003 and March 17, 2003 in the amount of \$114,282.84 and 4) reports of the Treasurer, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, Recycling Program, Building Official, Public Works and E-911 Coordinator.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Frank Phipps advised the Board that: 1) the temporary bridge on Rt. 609 would be taken down shortly and a prefabricated one would be installed with the road paving to be done with state forces; 2) work on both tunnels would begin shortly; 3) work on the Rt. 52 bridge in Bland would commence in two weeks; 4) the Rt. 665 bridge damage would be corrected shortly; and 5) Rt. 608 would be shown to contractors April 1, 2003.

SOCIAL SERVICES

*****MOTION to authorize the Chairman to sign the Proclamation declaring April 2003 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Bland County as requested by Social Services was made by

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Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

*****MOTION to approve the January 2003 Social Services financial report in the amount of \$38,125.81 including the local share of \$5,688.91 was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

SCHOOLS

*****MOTION to approve the school's April 2003 requisition in the amount of \$600,000.00 was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE REQUEST ELIMINATION OF TAXES

Commissioner of Revenue Randolph Davis appeared before the Board with the request that the Board eliminate the household and farm/machinery tax being charged to Bland County residents. Mr. Davis noted that approximately \$74,000 would be lost in tax revenue if these tax categories were eliminate, but that amount could be replaced by increasing the real estate tax levy by \$.03 per \$100.

SMYTH/BLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT

Representative Harry Shupe reported on the library statistics and activities planned for the library.

*****MOTION to authorize the Friends of the Library to erect a flagpole upon the library grounds was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Wade Blankenship with Robert Munsey and Frank Chandler voting yes.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Committee Member Cindy Wright appeared before the Board with an update on the activities of the committee.

*****MOTION to authorize the recreational committee to accept the bid on playground equipment submitted by Montgomery Marketing Inc. (MMI) was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

*****MOTION to approve the purchase of sand for the two proposed volleyball courts, at approximately \$660.00 per site as requested, was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Wade Blankenship with Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler voting yes.

NEW RIVER HIGHLAND RC&D

Coordinator Gary Boring appeared before the Board with information on the Model Storm Water Management Ordinance Project developed for Southwest Virginia.

Bland County Resident Charles Parsons spoke to the Board expressing his personal dissatisfaction in the way personal property, farm equipment, cattle and sheep were being assessed by the local commissioner of revenue's office. He stated that the assessments were unfair.

REAL ESTATE TAX RECORDS ON INTERNET

The real estate tax records being displayed over the Internet was discussed.

ARC RESOLUTION ADOPTED

*****MOTION to adopt the FY 2004 Appalachian Regional Commission Budget Resolution supporting the restoration of funds was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

GARBAGE COLLECTION OFF STATE MAINTAINED ROADS

The collection of garbage by Interstate Contractors off state maintained roads was discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

“Move to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel and legal matter was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Wade Blankenship with Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler voting yes.

“Move to return to Regular Session and adopt the certification of a closed session was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Wade Blankenship with Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler voting yes.

CERTIFICATION OF A CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Bland County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative-recorded vote and pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.1-344A, subparagraph 1 and 7 of the Code of Virginia and in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344A of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Bland County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bland County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting in which this Certification Resolution applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Bland County Board of Supervisors.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Chandler opened the public hearing noting that the hearing was being held to consider the sale of certain parcels of real estate owned by the County of Bland and consisting of Lots 2, 3, 7, and 8 located along State Route 52 in Hicksville as shown on a plat entitled the I-77 Industrial Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

*****MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE PARCELS ON HOLD

The sale of the 4 parcels within the I-77 Industrial Park was tabled until the Board's continued meeting on April 8, 2003.

STAGGERED TERMS FOR BOS PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Chandler opened the public hearing by announcing that the purpose of the hearing was to solicit public input on the adoption of an Ordinance Establishing Staggered Terms for the Election of the Bland County Board of Supervisors starting with the next election.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bland Resident Bobby Eaton spoke in support of staggered terms for Board members.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

*****MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Wade Blankenship, seconded by Robert Munsey with Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler voting yes.

STAGGERED TERMS ORDINANCE ADOPTED

*****MOTION to adopt the Ordinance Establishing Staggered Terms for the Election of the Bland County Board of Supervisors was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

STREET SIGNS AND BUILDING NUMBERS ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Chandler opened the public hearing announcing that the hearing was being held to receive comments on the adoption of a Street Signs and Building Numbers Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

*****MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Wade Blankenship with Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler voting yes.

STREET SIGNS AND NUMBERS ORDINANCE ADOPTED

*****MOTION to adopt the Street Signs and Building Numbers Ordinance as presented was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

EMPLOYEE FY '03-'04 HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT APPROVED

*****MOVE that the County go with the KeyShare with Expanded Benefits Plan for the employees health insurance coverage for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 with the County funding premiums at the same percent as in FY '02-'03 was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

DEFINING CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

*****MOTION to define the categories of employees eligible to enroll under the County's selected health care plan as presented and to include the wording into the County's Personnel Policy was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

DEFINING CATEGORIES OF RETIREES ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

*****MOTION to define the categories of retirees eligible to enroll under the County's health care plan as presented and to include the wording as being a part of the County's Personnel Policy was made by Wade Blankenship, seconded by Danny Kinder with Robert Munsey and Frank Chandler voting yes.

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT TO BE ADVERTISED

*****MOTION to authorize the advertisement for an extension agent to be shared between Giles and Bland County was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler voting yes.

CONTINUANCE OF MEETING

This meeting was continued until 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2003.

Frank Chandler, Chairman

Ron Hachey, Clerk