

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-seventh day of January 2004, the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Jason R. Ramsey, Henry M. Blessing, John C. Thompson, Karen H. Hodock

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator; Carol Hall, Secretary; Frank P. Slavin, County Attorney

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason R. Ramsey called the regular meeting to order, offered the invocation and led the pledge of alliance to the flag.

CONSENSUS OF BOARD APPROVES AGENDA

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS of the Board to approve the January 27, 2004 agenda as amended to move item 009 Schools to the first item being discussed.

CONSENT AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda with changes to the minutes was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes. Items within the Consent Agenda included: 1) minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2003 and Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2004 and the Continued Meeting of January 14, 2004; 2) bills for the month of January 2004 in the amount of \$354,413.92; 3) payroll for December 16, 2003 and December 30, 2003 at a total of \$126,356.11 and 4) reports of the Treasurer, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, Recycling Program, Building Official, Animal Control, Public Works and E-911 Coordinator.

SCHOOLS

*****MOTION to approve the schools February 2004 requisition in the amount of \$600,000.00 was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resident Engineer Frank Phipps appeared before the Board with an update on projects throughout the County to include: 1) Rt. 98 bridge deck repair project awarded to Ken Construction and to commence when weather permits; 2) Rt. 620 listed as a Rural Rustic Road would be completed by state forces this fiscal year; and 3) Rt. 644 bridge off Rt. 61 near the Giles County line is to be shown to contractors in August 04 if budget permits. Mr. Phipps advised that a letter of request from the county would be needed for the highway department to remove snow for emergency services' agencies to include the county's rescue squad and fire departments.

CERES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Betty Hubble, President of the Ceres Alumni Association informed the Board of the \$50,000 matching grant received from the Shott Foundation for restore to the Ceres Gymnasium and requested that the County grant to the association the needed \$25,000. Mrs. Hubble added that the match must be dollar per dollar, in-kind donations cannot count and no monies already spent can count toward the required match.

CROSSROADS SHELTER

Director, Lisa Meredith spoke to the Board on the history and purpose of the Crossroads Shelter in Wytheville which serves the Homeless from seven counties including Bland County. Ms. Meredith noted that the Shelter operates off of contributions and donations received and requested local support from Bland County in the amount of \$1000.

EAST RIVER MTN TUNNEL RENAMING

Bill Archer of the Bluefield Daily Telegraph appeared with the request that the Board consider adopting a Resolution of Support in renaming the East River Mountain Tunnel to the H. Edward Steele Memorial Tunnel in appreciation of Mr. Steele in his efforts in getting Interstate 77 through Bland County.

Nancy Tate, President of the Bland County Historical Society expressed the Society's opposition to the renaming of the tunnel.

*****MOTION that the Board come up with a suitable or a compromise for a memorial for Eddie Steele at the East River Mtn. Tunnel as agreed upon was made by Henry Blessing. No second was received. Motion did not pass.

*****MOTION to work on a proposal and bring back to the Board was made by Karen Hodock, seconded by John Thompson. No other votes were announced. Motion did not pass.

Discussion on alternative proposals and means to express Bland County's appreciation to Mr. Steele continued until *****MOTION not to go with the renaming the East River Mountain Tunnel and direct the County Administrator to notify our state representatives of this decision was made by Jason Ramsey, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock voting for and Henry Blessing against.

WYTHE-WYTHEVILLE-BLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTH DECLARED

*****MOTION to approve the proclamation declaring February 2004 Chamber of Commerce Month was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

SOCIAL SERVICES

*****MOTION to approve the Social Services, November 2004 report in the amount of \$81,850.87 with the local share being \$6,632.35 was made by Karen Hodock, seconded by John Thompson with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

GENERAL REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Registrar Stacy Grady appeared and presented duly elected certificates to the recently elected officials.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Joann Shewey advised the Board of the daily operations of her office, gave an update on the delinquent tax sale and presented information regarding the county's finances.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE REPORT

Commissioner of Revenue Cindy Wright outlined the duties and responsibilities of her office and presented informational handouts to the board members.

E911 REPORT

E911 Coordinator Katie Gamble updated the Board regarding status of the E911 system, Homeland Security grants and the progress of rewriting the county Emergency Operations Plan.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff Jerry Thompson spoke to the Board relating to the activities and events of the sheriff's department.

FRENCH CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Jason Ramsey opened the public hearing announcing that the purpose of the hearing was to receive public input on the application of Harvie L. French, Jr. for a conditional use permit to develop a 20' x 20' family cemetery in the agricultural zone, tax parcel #26-A-14.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Supervisor Henry Blessing closed the public hearing, seconded by John Thompson with John Thompson and Karen Hodock voting yes.

FRENCH C.U.P APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

*****MOTION to approve the Conditional Use Permit of Harvie L. French for a 20x20 family cemetery upon his property located upon tax map parcel #26-A-14 as recommended by the Planning Commission with the conditions that the cemetery be consistent with that of the state regulations and guidelines as outlined within Virginia State Code.

SMYTH-BLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT

Library representative Harry Shupe briefed the Board on the creation of the Library and the latest monthly statistics and activities.

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Julie Pauley, representative of Bland Community Park Committee appeared before the Board and presented a proposal for improvements to the Bland Park (formerly known as the Lions Park). Mrs. Reed requested that \$25,000 of the \$69,171 monies within the Recreational CD be utilized for the Bland Park. No action was taken but was tabled until the next regular meeting scheduled for March 2004.

*****MOTION to instruct the County Administrator to get proposals from all four districts on how to spend the Recreational CD monies was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes. Cindy Wright, Recreational Committee appointee advised she would supply to the Board members a breakdown of recreational monies spent and the proposal developed by the Recreational Committee which outlines the phases established with the short term and long term recreational plan for the County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY INTRODUCTION

Frank P. Slavin was introduced as the new County Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courthouse construction surplus items

Linda Bradshaw speaking for the Bland County Historical Society appeared before the Board with the request that the Society be given consideration of any courthouse renovation items not being reused or to be surplus.

APPOINTMENTS

Road Viewers

*****MOTION to appoint Marvin Carver to the Road Viewers Committee, term open ended was made by Karen Hodock, seconded by John Thompson with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Indoor Plumbing Program

*****MOTION to appoint Karen Hodock to the MRPDC Indoor Plumbing Program, term to expire December 31, 2007, was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Jason Ramsey voting yes and Mrs. Hodock abstaining.

Bland County Service Authority

*****MOTION to appoint John Thompson to complete the term to expire May 31, 2005 and Jason Ramsey to complete the term expiring May 31, 2004 on the Bland County Service Authority made by Karen Hodock seconded by Henry Blessing with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ramsey abstaining.

*****MOTION to appoint Karen Hodock to complete the term to expire May 31, 2006 to the Bland County Service Authority was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Jason Ramsey voting yes and Mrs. Hodock abstaining.

Bland County Planning Commission

*****MOTION to appoint Guy Boone to the Bland County Planning Commission, a 4 year term to expire December 31, 2007 was made by Karen Hodock, seconded by John Thompson with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

No action was taken on the Planning Commission appointment of James Moses, Rocky Gap District.

*****MOTION to reappoint Elmer Chewning to the Planning Commission a four term to expire January 31, 2008 was made by Jason Ramsey, seconded by John Thompson with Henry Blessing and Karen Hodock voting yes.

Smyth-Bland Regional Library Board of Directors

*****MOTION to reappoint Molly Thompson to the Smyth-Bland Regional Library Board of Directors a 4 year term to expire December 31, 2007 was made by Henry Blessing, seconded Karen Hodock with John Thompson and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

Southwest Development Financing, Inc.

*****MOTION to appoint Jonathan Sweet to the Southwest Development Financing, Inc. for a term to expire December 31, 2007, was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

Parks & Recreational Committee

*****MOTION to appoint Jason Lambert to the Parks & Recreational Committee to complete the term to expire December 31, 2004 was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

REQUEST TO WAIVE SIGN PERMIT FEE

Tabled.

AMENDMENT TO BLAND COUNTY TRASH ORDINANCE

In an attempt to better serve those who have a trash debt greater than \$1000 for delinquent trash bill and to provide Bland County a greater opportunity in the success in collecting these large debts make a *****MOTION to schedule a Public Hearing for February 24, 2004 on an

amendment to the Bland County Trash Ordinance was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

FY 2004-2005 BUDGET CALENDAR

The County Administrator was directed to revised and bring back to the Board members at next meeting.

RESOLUTION TO PURSUE WATER NEEDS ADOPTED

*****MOTION to adopt the Resolution allowing for efforts, singular or regional in addressing existing and future water needs for the western portion of the County was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

CLOSED SESSION

“Move to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter and a legal matter pursuant to 2.2-3711-A, subparagraph 1 and 7 of the Code of Virginia was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes. Chairman Jason Ramsey invited the Sheriff Thompson, Sonya Ramsey-Administrative Assistant, Mr. Sweet, County Administrator and Carol Hall, Personnel Director into Closed Session.

“Move to return to Regular Session and waive the reading of the certification of a Closed Session but certify that only items announced by the Board were discussed in Closed Session was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock with Henry Blessing and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

MOU SHERIFF/COUNTY REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

*****MOTION to direct the County Administrator to construct a memorandum of understanding that is mutually acceptable between the Sheriff and the County and authorize the county administrator to sign the agreement relating to the Communication Officer was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock with Jason Ramsey voting yes. Mr. Ramsey noted that the chairman would abstain from signing the said MOU because of his employment with the sheriff's department.

MOU SHERIFF/COUNTY REGARDIGN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

*****MOTION to direct the County Administrator to draw up a memorandum of understanding regarding the Animal Control Officer's position going to full-time under the direction of the Sheriff with salary/benefits as outlined in closed session and authorize the county administrator to sign was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes. Mr. Ramsey noted that the chairman would abstain from signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff because of his employment with the sheriff's department.

SCHOOLBOARD SPECIAL FUND

*****MOTION to be in consistent with the Bland County School Board's request that the Board draft an agreement whereby the School Board may establish a special fund that will not impact

the 2003-2004 budget or subsequent budgets was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Jason Ramsey voting yes and Karen Hodock abstaining.

CONTINUED/ADJOURNMENT This meeting was continued until February 12 or February 19th contingent upon the school board members being available otherwise the meeting would adjourn until 5::00 a.m. on February 24, 2004.

Jason R. Ramsey, Chairman

Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator