

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Bland County Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse located in Bland, Virginia, on the nineteenth day of December 2008, at 5:00 p.m., the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator, Carol Hall, Deputy Administrator,  
Paul Cassell, County Attorney

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mr. Ramsey called the December 2008 regular meeting to order.

#### INVOCATION

#### PLEDGE TO FLAG

The invocation was offered and pledge to the flag was led by Supervisor Mr. Blessing.

#### DECEMBER 19, 2008 MEETING AGENDA APPROVED WITH MOVING PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE VDOT SECTION

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the December 19, 2008 meeting agenda as amended was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

#### CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the minutes of Nov.25, 2008, bills for the month of December 2008, in the amount of \$224,445.91, payrolls of December 1, 2008 and December 16, 2008 totaling \$170,878.40, reports from the Treasurer, Building Official, Public Works Director, Meals & Lodging and Recycling were made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

#### VDOT

Marty Halloway, Residency Administrator updated the board regarding activities.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Pruet, resident expressed concern of tractor trailers and large length truck traffic upon Grapefield Road and because of safety reasons requested the road be restricted to such traffic.

The County Administrator and the County Attorney were directed to draft a resolution and bring back to the board for review.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES OCTOBER 2008 REPORT APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to accept the October 2008, Social Services report in the amount of \$74,031.01, with the local allotment of \$10,159.198, was made by John Thompson and seconded by Henry Blessing.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

#### SCHOOLS JANUARY 2009 REQUISITION APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve and appropriate the Bland County School Boards' January 2009 requisition in the amount of \$800,000.00, to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2008 and to approve all check registers submitted to the Board of Supervisors for the month of November 2008 was made by Henry Blessing with second made by John Thompson.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

#### 4-H CLUB PRESENTATION

The Bland County 4-H Club presented an update of club activities.

#### TREASURER REPORT

John Goins, Treasurer appeared with an update on the percentage of 2008 real estate and personal property taxes collected.

#### COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

Cindy Wright, Commissioner inquired as to the status of the request to pick up new construction during the tax year.

#### ANIMAL/LITTER CONTROL REPORT

Remona Jackson, Animal Control/Litter Control Officer advised of the success of the dog rescue program being practiced in the county.

#### HOLLYBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER RAMSEY LETTER

The County Administrator read a letter received from William O. Ramsey, Chairman of the Hollybrook Community Center's group, expressing appreciation to the Parks and Recreation Committee and the County Supervisors for the Hollybrook Community Center's shelter and tract.

Supervisor Ramsey advised of the residents' request for guttering and ditch work because of the problem with water run-off of the shelter.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Chandler, resident appeared before the board stating his concern of the effectiveness of the current board and the lack of new business moving into the county. Mr. Chandler questioned the salary increase and job description of the Sheriff's Department Executive Director of Administration and Public Relations. A position held by Sonya Ramsey wife of Chairman Mr. Ramsey. Other items of concern mentioned were the county's finances, the appointment of Mr. Ramsey's wife to the Social Services Board and the lack of Supervisor Ramsey's filing of a Statement of Economic Interest as required by state law. By not filing, Mr. Chandler stated that Mr. Ramsey had lost his ability to sit on the board and ask for his resignation and anyone else on the board who cannot act in a responsible manner.

Supervisor Ramsey assured the audience that there had not been or is no misconduct on the board and if there were, it would be addressed.

Mr. Ramsey requested that the county attorney look at the issues raised by Mr. Chandler and report back to the board.

Supervisor Thompson encouraged anyone interested to review or check meeting minutes and the county's finances since they are of public record.

#### APPOINTMENTS

##### District III Governmental Cooperative

\*\*\*\*\* MOTION to reappoint Karen Hodock to the District III Governmental Cooperative, a 1 yr term to expire 12-31-2009 and reappoint John Thompson as the alternate, for a 1 yr. term to expire 12-31-2009 was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Jason Ramsey.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, abstain; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, abstain. The motion passed.

##### Mt. Rogers mental Health & Mental Retardation Services Board

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to reappoint Sue Ellen Tate to the Mt. Rogers Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services Board, a 3 yr. term to expire 12-31-2011 was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to reappoint Debbie Looney to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, a 3 yr term to expire 12-31-2011 was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Karen Hodock.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

Bland County Recreation Committee

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to reappoint Julie Pauley, Jason Lambert, Randy Moler and Jane Havens to the Bland County Recreation Committee, 4 yr terms to expire 12-31-2012, regardless of confirmation to serve was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Karen Hodock.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Board

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to reappoint Lonny Gay to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Board, a 1 yr. term to expire 12-31-2009 was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

Bland County Equalization Board

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to recommend the reappointment of Keith Myers, Linda Miller and Luther Harless to the Bland County Equalization Board was made by Jason Ramsey and seconded by Karen Hodock. Actual appointment to this board would be made by the circuit court judge.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

SIGNATURE TRAIL HEAD SITE 2008-2009 APPROPRIATION APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the transfer of \$170.00 from the BOS Department to the Community Dev. Dept. for the clean-up of the Signature Trail Head site was made by John Thompson and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

MECHANICSBURG SHELTER 2008-2009 APPROPRIATION APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to appropriate \$100.00 from the BOS Dept. to the Parks & Recreation Dept. for the Mechanicsburg Park Shelter concrete and up to \$300.00 for guttering to the shelter was made by Jason Ramsey and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

LAW LIBRARY 2008-2009 APPROPRIATION APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to appropriate to the Clerk of Circuit Court 2008-2009 Budget a grant of \$2,797.00 received from the Library of VA was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by John Thompson.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

IRS EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE SET

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to set the 2009 employee mileage reimbursement rate at \$.55 per mile as determined by the Internal Revenue Service, effective January 1, 2009 was made by John Thompson and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

ROCKY GAP METHODIST CHURCH WAIVER OF PERMIT FEE APPROVED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the waiver of the \$15.26 plumbing permit fee as requested by the Rocky Gap Methodist Church was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to declare county equipment as listed surplused, with the first option going to nonprofits was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

The vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

PROJECT MANAGER – AUDRA REPASS INTRODUCED

The County Administrator announced the recent hire of Miss Audra Repass, as Project Manager who would assist in the identifying and writing of grants as well as administering such grants.

VERIZON C.U.P. SITE #132-A-4 PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive comment on the C.U.P. application of Verizon Wireless to construct and install a self-supporting telecommunication tower upon a site identified as Tax Map #132-A-4.

Nathan Holland, representative of Verizon Wireless spoke on the proposed cell tower site. Site to be one mile west of the intersection of State Routes 626 and 622.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey closed the public hearing.

VERIZON WIRELESS C.U.P. SITE #132-A-4 APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the C.U.P. application made by Verizon Wireless to install a 250 ft. self-supporting tower upon Tax Map #132-A-4, located one mile west of the intersection of State Routes 626 and 622, upon property owned by Lowell A. Hancock. The conditions imposed are as outlined within Chapter 62, of the Bland County Code, Section 62-134, was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by John Thompson.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

VERIZON C.U.P. SITE #91-A-37 PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive comment on the application of Verizon Wireless to install a self-supporting telecommunication tower upon Tax Map #91-A-37.

Nathan Holland, representative of Verizon Wireless spoke on the proposed cell tower site. Site to be in Bland near Water Plant Ln.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Supervisor Mr. Blessing closed the public hearing.

VERIZON WIRELESS C.U.P. SITE #91-A-37 APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the C.U.P. application made by Verizon Wireless to construct and install a 250 ft. self-supporting tower upon Tax Map #91-A-37, upon the property belonging to the Bland County Water Authority, located on Water Plant Ln. The 20 conditions imposed are as outlined within Chapter 62, Bland County Code, Section 62-134 was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed

VERIZON C.U.P. SITE #126-A-11 PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive comment on the application of Verizon Wireless to install a self-supporting telecommunication tower upon Tax Map #126-A-11.

Nathan Holland, representative of Verizon Wireless spoke on the proposed 250' cell tower to be erected upon the site located west of the intersection of State Routes 717 and 603.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Supervisor Mr. Blessing closed the public hearing.

VERIZON WIRELESS C.U.P. SITE #126-A-11 APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to approve the C.U.P. application made by Verizon Wireless to construct and install a 250' ft. self-supporting tower upon Tax Map #126-A-11, upon the property belonging to Joyce Lindamood, located west of intersection of State Routes 717 and 603. The 20 conditions imposed are as outlined within Chapter 62, Bland County Code, Section 62-134 was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by John Thompson.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; Jason Ramsey, yes; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed

AGE & DISABLED CREDIT LIMITS PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a proposed amendment to the Bland County Ordinance, Sec 50-76 increasing the limits for the Requirements for Age & Disabled Credit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cindy Wright, Commissioner of Revenue stated to the board that due to the recent tax assessment several people who had qualified in the past did not meet the eligibility requirements for the \$200.00 exemption in 2008.

AGE & DISABLED CREDIT LIMITS INCREASED

\*\*\*\*\*MOTION to amend the Bland County Ordinance, Sec 50-76 increasing the gross combined income from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and the total combined net financial worth from \$35,000.00 to \$75,000.00 as it relates to the 2009 and future tax years was made by John Thompson and seconded by Henry Blessing.

CONTINUED This meeting was continued until 5:30 p.m. January 5, 2009 to the Bastian School Board Office meeting room.

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Jason R. Ramsey, Chairman

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Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator