

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Bland County Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse located in Bland, Virginia, on the twenty- sixth day of February, 2008, 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 H. Hodock

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator, Carol Hall, Deputy Administrator,
Frank Slavin, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was offered by Supervisor Mr. Blessing.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

Vice-Chair Mr. Blessing led the pledge alliance to the flag.

FEBRUARY 26, 2008 MEETING AGENDA APPROVED WITH NO CHANGES

*****MOTION to approve the February 26, 2008 meeting agenda to include Phase II of the broadband project 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.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED

*****MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the minutes of January 22, 2008, February 2008 bills in the amount of \$287,448.31, February 1st and February 15, 2008 payrolls totaling \$158,106.76, reports from the Treasurer, Building Official, Public Works Director, Meals & Lodging and Recycling were made by Karen Hodock, 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.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marty Halloway, VDOT Residency Administrator offered a status of projects throughout the County to include the Rt. 52 bridge construction, June 30th completion date for the tunnel project, and the Six Year Plan public hearing needed.

Supervisor Mr. Thompson inquired as to Rt. 645 for Rural Rustic concept program. Mr. Halloway advised of the resolution needed and the polling of the residents along the 1.1 mile stretch.

*****MOTION to approve the Rural Rustic Concept Resolution for Rt. 645 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.

SOCIAL SERVICES DECEMBER 2007 REPORT APPROVED

*****MOTION to accept the December 2007, Social Services report in the amount of \$57,957.63, with the local allotment of \$6,627.94, was made by Karen Hodock 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 MARCH 2008 REQUISITION APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve and appropriate the March 2008 school board's request in the amount of \$750,000.00, approved the meeting minutes of January 3rd, and January 28, 2008, and approve all check registers and vendor payments submitted for the months of December 2007 and January 2008 provided within the monthly packet 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.

TREASURER REPORT

John Goins, advised of the new designed county stickers to be for sale on March 3, 2008 and reported on the workload within the Treasurer's office.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

*****MOTION to approve the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) bylaws as submitted was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

Willie Howlett, Emergency Coordinator presented the monthly report of plans and activities. Bill Lawrence was introduced as an employee of Howlett and Associates who would be helping cover the emergency services for the county 24-7.

SMYTH-BLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY STATISTICS

Harry Shupe, representative reported the latest statistics and activities of library.

BLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Steve Hermansen announced his resignation as president of the Historical Society.

Mr. Hermansen updated the board regarding the plans and benefits of the Blue Ridge Travel and Round the Mountain.

BUILDING OFFICIAL

Joel Cagle, Building/Zoning Official advised of his monthly workload and the educational courses being pursued.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Frank Slavin, County Attorney reported on work activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Luther "Bo" Lester, resident spoke in opposition to the recent reassessment of his property.

Peggy Sprat, resident spoke on the ATV problems upon Wild Wool Lane, in the Bastian area and requested help from the board. The county attorney was directed to discuss with the commonwealth attorney.

APPOINTMENTS

Smyth-Bland Regional Library

*****MOTION to appoint Timothy Havens to the Smyth-Bland Regional Library board to a 4-year term expiring 12-31-2011, was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by John Thompson.

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

2008 Board of Equalization

*****MOTION to appoint Linda Gross Miller to the 2008 Board of Equalization was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

2008 BLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE CONTRACT BID OPENING

Bland County Solid Waste contract bids received from Melvin Enterprises and Waste Industries were opened by Rodney Ratliff, Director of Public Works.

*****MOTION to accept the Solid Waste contract bid presented by Melvin Enterprises subject to review and approval by Rodney Ratliff, Director, Public Works and Jonathan Sweet, County Administrator was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on the motion was as follows: Jason Ramsey, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, no; John Thompson, yes. The motion passed.

BLAND COUNTY FLOOD ZONE ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

****MOTION to schedule the Flood Zone Ordinance Public Hearing for March 25, 2008 was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

BLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEMOLITION PERMIT FEE WAIVED

*****MOTION to approve the waiver of the demolition permit fee requested by the Public Schools was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

BREWSTER FIREWORKS PERMIT APPLICATION AND FEE WAIVED

*****MOTION to approve the Fireworks Permit application of Roger Brewster and waive the permit fee was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

CELL PHONE SURPLUS

*****MOTION to surplus the county's analog cell phones, donating them to District III, was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

2008 MILEAGE RATE INCREASED

*****MOTION that the County follow the 2008 IRS mileage rate of \$.505, effective immediately was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

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

WIRELESS BROADBAND PHASE II PROGRESS

The County Administrator updated the Board regarding the \$99,000.00 grant received toward the \$197,000.00 broadband project. \$36,000 to be received from the private sector, approx. \$30,000 from EDA and *****MOTION to approve \$30,000.00 from within the county's 07-08 budget or use reserve funding for the broadband project was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

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

GENERAL REGISTRAR REQUESTS PUBLIC HEARING

*****MOTION to hold a public hearing on March 25, 2008 to establish a central absentee precinct was made by John Thompson and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

PERSONNEL POLICY GRIEVANCE POLICY SECTION UPDATED

*****MOTION to approve the update to the County's Grievance Policy keeping it consistent with state code was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

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

ABANDON MOBILE VEHICLES REMOVAL PROGRAM UPDATE

The County Administrator advised the board of the number of mobile vehicles removed from within the county under the Abandon Mobile Vehicles Removal Program.

CLOSED SESSION

*****"Move to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 2.2-3711-A, subparagraph 1 of the Code of Virginia was made by John Thompson and seconded by Henry Blessing.

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

"Move to return to Regular Session, adopt the certification and waive the reading of the certification of a Closed Session but certify that only items announced by the Board were discussed was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

MCKEE PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Ramsey opened the Public Hearing to receive comment on the application of Mark R. McKee for a conditional use permit to operate an Auto Sales Service and Public Garage in the building, formerly known as Skyway Outdoor, Inc. in the Bastian area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Mr. Ramsey closed the public hearing.

MCKEE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the Conditional Use Permit application of Mark R. McKee to operate an Auto Sales Service and Public Garage at 7063 North Scenic Hwy, in Bastian, with the condition of 1) The business is to comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations; 2) Legal and proper disposal of all materials considered hazardous; 3) All overnight small engine repair, parking/storage to take place on the side of facility; 4) no outside storage to be housed in the front of the building. Any outside storage is to be placed in an approved outside storage facility in the rear of the facility; 5) No car, truck, or large vehicle repair to take place on site; and 6) No disruptive noise associated with operation of business beyond ten (10) PM, was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Karen Hodock.

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

TRACTOR-TRAILER TRUCKS RESTRICTED UPON RT. 738

Mr. Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive public comment on restricting tractor-trailer trucks and vehicles over 35 feet in length from crossing Little and Big Walker Mountains on State Route 738.

COMMENTS

Willie Howlett, Emergency Services Coordinator spoke to the board regarding the conjunction with Pulaski County, regarding the need to restrict tractor-trailer trucks and vehicles over 35 feet in length to travel on State Route 738, for the purpose of increasing the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens and travelers.

James Bogle, resident spoke supporting the effort to restrict the large truck traffic and noted that signs should be erected upon Rt. 42 advising drivers prior to the crossing of the Rt. 670 bridge.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Chairman Mr. Ramsey closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION RESTRICTING TRAFFIC UPON STATE RT. 738 PASSES

*****MOTION to approve the amended Resolution prohibiting tractor trailers and vehicles over 35 feet in length to use State Route 738, between Cox Hollow Road (State Route 641) and Mount Zion Road (State Route 670) with an alternate routing provided by I-77, Route 42 and Route 100 was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

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

ADJOURNMENT This meeting was continued until 5:00 p.m., March 25, 2008.

Jason R. Ramsey, Chairman

Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator