

VIRGINIA: At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse, Bland, Virginia, on the twenty-ninth day of July, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Henry Blessing, Randy Johnson, Nick Asbury, Karen Hodock

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Workman, County Administrator, Sharon May, Deputy Clerk, Paul Cassell, County Attorney, Audra Repass, Project Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Randy Johnson called the July 29, 2014 Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting to order.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO FLAG

The invocation was offered by Phillip Buttery. Mr. Johnson, chairman led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

JULY 29, 2014 MEETING AGENDA PRESENTED

*****MOTION to approve the agenda as presented was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Henry Blessing.

Vote passed unanimously.

JULY 29, 2014 CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the July 29, 2014 Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes of the June 30, 2014 regular meeting; bills for the month of June, 2014 in the amount of \$623,412.78 & July, 2014 in the amount of \$675,238.29; payroll issued 07-16-2014 in the amount of \$113,699.72 reports from the Project Manager, Treasurer, Building Official, E-911 Fund, Public Works Director, Meals & Lodging and Recycling, EDA, Virginia Cooperative Extension, was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES MAY 2014 REPORT APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the May, 2014, Social Services' report in the amount of \$108,875.20 with the local allotment of \$49,291.18, was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Karen Hodock, yes; Nick Asbury, yes; Randy Johnson, yes; and, Henry Blessing, yes. The motion passed.

SCHOOL'S AUGUST 2014 REQUISITION

*****MOTION to approve and appropriate the Bland County School Board's August 2014 requisition in the amount of \$750,000; and Board Regular Meeting Minutes on June 27, 2014; check registers/vendor payments submitted for June 10, 2014, June 19, 2014 was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; and Henry Blessing, yes; Randy Johnson, yes. The motion passed.

BOARDS AND COMMISSION'S REPORTS

RC&D

Mr. Steve Hermansen updated the board as follows: the RC&D National Conference was June 1-4 where he received very good information concerning risk management.

Treasurer

Mr. Goins updated the board with 94% Real Estate and 92% Personal Property Tax Collected, 700 dog and kennel tags, 5,100 decals.

APPOINTMENT

*****MOTION to appoint Cathy Witt to the DSS Board, with an expiring term of June 30, 2018 was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Henry Blessing.

Vote passed unanimously.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S ITEMS

Commonwealth Attorney Additional appropriation

*****MOTION to approve an additional appropriation of \$200.00 to the Commonwealth's Attorney seized asset fund was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; Henry Blessing, yes; and Randy Johnson, yes. The motion passed.

Renaming Rocket Drive and Eagles Road

*****MOTION to approve the renaming of Rocket Drive and Eagles Road was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Henry Blessing, yes; Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; and Randy Johnson, yes. The motion passed.

Fair Association Lease

*****MOTION to approve the Fair Association lease was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Karen Hodock.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; and Henry Blessing, no; Randy Johnson, yes. The motion passed.

Wythe-Bland Foundation Grant Applications

*****MOTION to approve grant applications to the Wythe-Bland Foundation for 4-H and to construct a public tennis facility at the Bland County School Board Office was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Henry Blessing, yes; Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; and Randy Johnson, abstain. The motion passed.

Introduction of New Animal Control Officers

Dr. Workman introduced Rick Hull and Tabitha Jackson to the Board of Supervisors as the part time animal control officers.

SUPERVISORS TIME

Mr. Nick Asbury thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked the Bland County School Board for consolidation.

Mr. Henry Blessing thanked the first responders for their work during the fire in the East River Mountain Tunnel. He also announced that he would like there to be a proclamation for the Bastian area being 100 years old on August 15, 2014.

Mr. Randy Johnson thanks Dr. Workman and Lorin Hanshaw and all the first responders for an excellent job.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Supplement Appropriation and Real Estate Tax Levy Increase

Mr. Randy Johnson opened the public hearing.

Dr. Eric Workman gave a report showing the schools shortfall and proposing a levy increase to cover this shortfall.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Phillip BATTERY spoke against the raising of the tax levy to provide more money to the school system. He spoke of the schools living within their means just as his family had to do.

Mary Ann Davidson spoke against the raising of the tax levy to provide more money to the schools. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for their hard work. She said the citizens in her area were shocked that there was any consideration given to the raising of the levy for the second time within a thirty day span. She also asked for the Board of Supervisors to consider raising the land use tax. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for listening.

Debbie Looney asks the Board of Supervisors not to raise the tax levy and to consider eliminating the canneries. She also stated that her personal garage business had had a bad economical year and that her family had to adjust their own budget in accordance and that she believed the school system should do the same. She stated that the schools needed to cut the fat by renegotiating some of their contracts for services. She stated that she was aware that the school employee couldn't afford the health insurance for their families as it is right now.

Lonnie Keene said that he spoke with Dr. Workman earlier in the day and that Dr. Workman had explained the circumstances for the shortfall for the school system. He stated that he was living on a pension and asks the Board of Supervisors to look at every aspect of the budget to try and cut so that there would not be an increase in the tax levy.

Melinda Belcher made the Board of Supervisors aware that there was a cow still at large close to I-77 and the fences had not been repaired. She stated that if this was her cow someone would have already shot it. She also asks the Board of Supervisors to not raise the citizen's taxes, if necessary to cut some of the officials pay.

Rhonda King introduced herself to the Board of Supervisors as the retired Health Department nurse. These are the questions that Rhonda asks the Board of Supervisors: Why is the county Administrator and Superintendent not required to live in Bland County? Why is the County Administrator given a car to drive back and forth to work and not one penny of tax money is collected from these two individuals, who are making all the decision for our county?

Mr. Johnson spoke and stated that Dr. Workman was doing a great job.

Ms. King said she had no doubt that he was doing a fine job, but that it needs to be a requirement for these two people to live in our county.

Mr. Johnson stated that as this board is concerned that is not a requirement and that would need to be addressed when a new board entered office.

Gerhard Schoenthal stated that he thought that the Sheriff's office, State, and VDOT needed to coordinate and work on the traffic backups on I-77.

Mr. Randy Johnson, Chairman closed the public hearing.

BLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BUDGET INCREASED USING RESERVE FUNDS

*****MOTION to approve the amended Bland county School Board Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget of \$8,576,840.00 with an additional \$225,000.00 of local funds. The County reserve fund as the source of the additional funds was made by Henry Blessing and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote on this motion was as follows: Henry Blessing, yes; Nick Asbury, yes; Karen Hodock, yes; and Randy Johnson, yes. The motion passed.

ADJOURNED

*****MOTION to adjourn was made by Karen Hodock and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

Randy Johnson, Chairman

Eric Workman, Clerk of the Board