

VIRGINIA: AT A RECESSED MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MAY 16, 2012 @ 6:00 P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 108 EAST MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL, VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: D. MICHAEL HYMES, CHAIRMAN
JOHN M. ABSHER, VICE-CHAIRMAN
SETH R. WHITE, MEMBER
DR. THOMAS M. BREWSTER, MEMBER
CHARLES A. STACY, MEMBER – PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING
PURSUANT TO VA CODE SECTION 2.2-3708.1 – FROM LOCATION JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING
JAMES H. SPENCER, III – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ATTORNEY
RUTH GROSECLOSE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ARLENE MATNEY, DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & FINANCE

OTHERS

PRESENT: MEMBERS OF THE PRESS:
JIM TALBERT CVN/RNP; KATIE COLE, BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

ABSENT: PATRICIA GREEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Chairman, D. Michael Hymes, called the recessed meeting to order and presided. Supervisor White gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Now, the Chairman, D. Michael Hymes read a statement received this date from Member Charles A. Stacy, who requested attendance in the recessed meeting, by electronic communication, via telephone/conference call from a remote area in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Member Stacy informed the County Administrator, County Attorney as well as the Chairman of

the Board of Supervisors that he would be unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency situation and indentified the specifics of the nature of the emergency, as follows:

From: "Charles Stacy [mailto:casesq@4seasonswireless.net]

Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 1:00 PM

To: 'Eric Young'

Cc: Jim Spencer; Mike Hymes

*Subject: RE: **POSSIBLE SPAM** Voting by BOS*

Mr. Young, As you know the Taz Co BOS has scheduled a recess meeting for Wednesday May 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. to take up matters pertaining to the School board budget. I was previously scheduled to be in Jackson Hole, Wyoming at a continuing legal education seminar and will not be available, in person, for this meeting. I am asking permission to attend via telephone if possible. I will be physically located at 868 East Fork Road, Dubois, Wyoming 82513. I will call and get a phone number where I can be reached. Thanks Charlie"

Now, upon motion of Supervisor Absher, seconded by Supervisor White and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Member Stacy waiting on a vote from the Board, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves Member Stacy's attendance in the recessed meeting this date pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.1. A quorum of this public body is physically assembled at the primary meeting location of the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Supervisors have made arrangements for the voice of Member Stacy to be heard by all persons in attendance at this meeting.

AGENDA AS AMENDED

Upon motion of Supervisor Absher, seconded by Supervisor Brewster and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the agenda for the May 16, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The Chairman called for citizen comments from the floor.

Mr. Steve Wingo, 1837 Whitley Branch Road, North Tazewell, Virginia 24630 spoke to the Board regarding the dangers of grass clippings blown on county roadways. Mr. Wingo is the owner of Wingo Automotive and said motorcycle owners who visit his business have complained about large amounts of grass left on highways by persons mowing lawns. He said the grass is a danger and a public hazard, especially to motorists.

The County Attorney, Eric Young said there might be provisions in the county's nuisance ordinance to enforce obstruction of county roadways. The County Administrator as well as Supervisor Hymes and White suggested concerned residents contact the Coordinator of Emergency Services, Dave White and report the public nuisance giving specific locations of the incidents. The County Administrator said the Sheriff's office should be notified as well because the grass obstruction on roadways was a public safety concern. The County Attorney also suggested that a draft Press Release be written that could be used to notify citizens about the nuisance as well as the implications.

Supervisor Stacy questioned the nature of the violation. He wanted to know if the violation was discharging the grass or not cleaning it up. The County Attorney will review the public nuisance ordinance and give a report to the Board accordingly.

Mr. Junior Crockett, 617 Robin Street, Bluefield, Virginia 24605 – and a Jeffersonville Tea Party Patriot, requested the Board's participation and review of a DVD – Agenda 21 – Zoning. He also invited those present to the Tea Party's May 17, 2012 meeting. He said a very important project was being planned for the Sheriff's office and he said he especially invited Sheriff Hieatt and Chief Deputy Heatley to the Tea Party meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET FY2012-13

LOCAL FUNDING APPROVED

Upon motion of Supervisor Brewster, seconded by Supervisor Absher and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves local funding for the Tazewell County School Board for FY2012-13, in the amount of \$13,532,812. This is an increase over current year local funding of \$1,150,000. This increase includes \$450,000 in one-time funding

to help offset state/federal funding deficits in FY13. Further, that any remaining funds from those appropriations to the School Board for FY2011-12 as of June 30, 2012 shall be re-appropriated (carried over) to the Tazewell County School Board in addition to the funds mentioned above.

PRESS RELEASE – REGARDING SCHOOL BOARD FUNDING

Now, Chairman Hymes, for the record, read the following PRESS RELEASE regarding the foregoing:

“This evening, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the budget for the Tazewell County School System in the amount of \$13,532,812. This amount includes \$700,000 in new funding for the operating budget, and a one-time additional amount of \$450,000 in local funding. In addition, the remaining funds from the appropriations to the School Board for FY2011-12 as of June 30, 2012 will be re-appropriated back to the Tazewell County School Board.

In spite of the new funding, the school system has indicated that some tough decisions will have to be made over the next month. This task is compounded by the significant cuts and added mandates handed down by both the state and federal governments, and the expiration of federal stimulus funds. These losses total in excess of \$3.5 million.

We hope that the School Board will continue to focus on the recruitment and retention of quality school leaders, classroom teachers, support staff, and programming so vital to building the County’s economic, education, and workforce capacity. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors stands willing to suspend the categorical funding requirement to provide the School Board with additional flexibility when working with their budget.”

Supervisor White stated the additional funds allocated to the school system this date could have the potential to impact the county’s over-all budget and agreed that the County needed to support the School System but requested that the Board of Supervisors look closely at the budget because the Board made a commitment and gave their intent to County citizens to be a neutral tax reassessment. He said the Board really needed to look hard to make sure the commitment was honored. He said he did want to see teaches let go, that would be horrible for Tazewell County.

Supervisor Absher agreed, and said he was originally with Supervisor White being revenue neutral, but before he found out the facts about the school systems shortfall. He said a wise man changes his mind and a fool does not and said if tax rates are lowered approximately 50 teachers will lose their jobs and then, shame on us. He further said he would like to drop the tax rate as much as possible, but it won't be revenue neutral, stating hindsight is always 20-20 and the County has to make tough decisions – and he was further entitled to change his mind, and with this being said, he said he was sorry.

Supervisor Hymes said the Board of Supervisors are in a quandary and he would like to see residential property taxes to be revenue neutral for County citizens if the Board could do it without sacrificing other critical county services.

Supervisor Stacy reiterated that if taxes are lowered too much the County will not be able to provide county citizens with needed services. He said the County would have to either increase funding to maintain services or eliminate those services further stating that the County can't continue to provide the same services to its citizens with reduced funding.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE SET TO ADOPT COUNTY BUDGET

**AND TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO SET COUNTY TAX LEVIES ACCORDINGLY –
FURTHER CANCELLING THE JULY 3, 2012 REGULAR MEETING**

Now, upon motion of Supervisor White, seconded by Supervisor Absher and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby set a date of June 28, 2012 as the date to consider the adoption of the County Budget Ordinance and to hold a public hearing to set County tax levies accordingly and hereby further cancels the July 3, 2012 regular meeting.

RDA MEETING – JUNE 4, 2012

Supervisor Brewster invited those present to the June 4, 2012- 4:30 p.m. RDA meeting in Boissevain. He said the Spearhead Trail would be a topic of discussion and the Spearhead Trail Director would be in attendance providing valuable information on this subject.

RICHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL DECA PROGRAM

\$1,000.00 APPROVED (\$500 Northwestern & \$500 Western)

Upon motion of Supervisor White, seconded by Supervisor Absher and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves \$1,000.00 (\$500.00 Northwestern & \$500 Western) payable to the Richlands High School DECA Program – National Competition. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue said warrant in accordance with this action and which said warrant will be converted to negotiable check by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia 24651.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Supervisor Brewster, seconded by Supervisor White and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns this meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

D. Michael Hymes, Chairman

By: rg

6:32 p.m.