

VIRGINIA: AT A RECESSED MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD DECEMBER 18, 2019
AT ONE O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL
VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: TRAVIS HACKWORTH, CHAIRMAN
CHARLES A. STACY, VICE CHAIRMAN (*entered the meeting at 1:16 p.m.*)
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER (*entered the meeting at 1:09 p.m.*)
D. MICHAEL HYMES, MEMBER
TOM A. LESTER, JR., MEMBER
WHITNEY PARSONS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY (*entered the meeting at 3:01 p.m.*)
KENNETH DUNFORD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, CLINCH VALLEY
NEWS/RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS; WARREN HINKLE, THE VOICE
NEWSPAPER;

ABSENT: NONE

Chairman, Travis Hackworth called the recessed meeting to order and presided with Supervisors Charles Stacy and Maggie Asbury not yet in attendance.

Supervisor Hymes gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag led by Supervisor Lester.

AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED

The County Administrator requested to add two items to Executive Session:

- A(29) Contract negotiations with the Wythe/Bland joint Public Service Authority regarding solid waste disposal
- A(7) Legal consultation regarding price holdings

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with Supervisor Stacy and Supervisor Asbury not yet in attendance, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the December 18, 2019 agenda as amended.

Chairman Hackworth mentioned that they would place Executive Session as item 8 on the amended agenda.

JANUARY BOS MEETING DATE CHANGED

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 3 to 0, with Supervisor Stacy and Supervisor Asbury not yet in attendance, the Tazewell

County Board of Supervisors hereby moves the January BOS meeting date to January 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and upon further motion allow Supervisor Hackworth to attend meeting via phone if necessary.

APPOINTMENTS

(1:09 p.m. - Supervisor Asbury entered the meeting.)

The Board discussed IDA appointment options and decided to talk to a few individuals to see if anyone would be interested in filling those vacancies.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EMERGENCY COUNCIL, INC.

Upon motion of Supervisor Asbury, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Supervisor Stacy not yet present, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Rhudy Keith, 5759 Baptist Valley Road, North Tazewell, VA 24630, to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Council, Inc. Board of Directors, with a term continuing January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.

TAZEWELL COUNTY ROAD VIEWERS

Supervisor Asbury tabled her appointment to find a replacement for Ray Howell who resigned.

(1:16 p.m. - Supervisor Stacy entered the meeting.)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PRESENTATION – 1:16 P.M. – 1:24 P.M.

The County Administrator used several historical examples (Andre Maginot, Billy Mitchell, Copernicus, and The Wizard of Oz) in his presentation to emphasize those who had a vision and looked ahead in their planning versus those who chose to do things the way they'd previously been done and ended up causing tremendous problems. He urged the Board to plan ahead for the next 20 years instead of planning for the last and to figure out how to move the County into the new world.

He provided the Board with a list of topics to open up conversation about planning for the future of the County.

BOARD CONCERNS

Chairman Hackworth opened up the planning session by commenting that the County wouldn't be able to succeed if it didn't get the connectivity and broadband to entice companies

and younger generations to come in. He emphasized the importance of good infrastructure and expressed excitement over the possibility of Project Jonah and extending some sewer lines in areas that were previously non feasible that could potentially lead to more areas for development. The Chairman also mentioned housing as a need in the County because there are a lot of older properties that would be costly to repair. He explained with efficient housing there would be more energy savings. Another change the Chairman would like to see is more outdoor recreation in the next decade.

(Approximately 30 minutes into the meeting)

Supervisor Hymes expressed concern for the aging water and sewer systems in the County that often have broken lines. He said that there are all kinds of money for new connections but no money for replacements. The County Administrator said that PSA has an aggressive plan to replace their entire infrastructure over a 10 year period. He mentioned that they were replacing pump stations at hundreds of thousands of dollars apiece, that they were essentially rebuilding 1950 technology and suggested looking into other alternatives. Supervisor Hymes pointed out that another issue in expanding the water and sewer system is that they do not know what the population will be in 2030. He suggested reviewing data from the 2020 and 2030 censuses because population impacts tax base, schools, enrollment, etc. Chairman Hackworth recommended putting together a PR campaign to inform the citizens of Tazewell County about how important it is to turn in accurate information to the Census Bureau to be able to help the County move forward in the following years.

Supervisor Asbury's concerns were for the veterans of Tazewell County. She said there had been some success in getting veterans care closer to home instead of them having to always travel to Salem or Beckley. Carilion Tazewell Community Hospital was mentioned as being one of those centers. Supervisor Asbury mentioned that housing was another thing needed for the veterans. Chairman Hackworth suggested using some of the closed down schools for veteran homes. Mr. Young said the elementary schools would be a great place because they have restrooms in each individual classroom already.

REGIONAL JAIL/ALTERNATIVES AND POST RELEASE PROGRAMS

Mr. Young brought up that the Regional Jail Authority agreement would be expiring within the next 10 years and that the Board needed to decide if it wanted to continue to participate or look at alternatives. He mentioned home electronic monitoring as an alternative to save money.

Mr. Young also discussed problems in workforce linked to the opioid epidemic and implementing programs to assist these people in getting skills they need to be able to get jobs. He mentioned that they have leased the upstairs of the Building Inspectors office to an organization that has a program to try and work on assistance. Supervisor Hymes mentioned that there were grants for post release programs available. Supervisor Lester said that he would like SVCC to partner with the jails and individuals who are on probation to assist them in using their time productively and being able to gain skills and certifications to assist them in getting jobs.

One of the County Administrator's concerns about the RJA organization is that there's debt on a new facility and declining population in all surrounding counties. He explained that if the general population is declining so is the inmate population and that service is going to have to be paid regardless. Supervisor Hymes mentioned that the tracking monitoring system was worth investigating to see how many people they would be able to keep out of the regional jail. He said it would be a better investment if they could be productive in the community.

PUBLIC HEALTH, HOSPITALS, PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT & RETENTION AND ADULT CARE FACILITIES

Chairman Hackworth, also a member of the Clinch Valley Medical Center Board, stated that they had a horrible time trying to recruit and retain specialists. He named several doctors who plan on retiring soon or in the next few years and how difficult it has been searching for replacements. On the positive side he said they didn't have a hard time recruiting family practice doctors. One issue he mentioned with healthcare was that people had to drive to Russell County for dialysis. Supervisor Hymes echoed the same issues with the Tazewell Carillion Board but stated they even have a hard time in recruiting family practice doctors.

(Approximately 1 hour into the meeting)

The Board discussed reasons why it was difficult to persuade doctors to move to the County. Supervisor Hymes recalled the Carillion Board missing out on a doctor who was planning to move here because of his current employers counter offer to pay off his student loan debt. Chairman Hackworth mentioned a few doctors who are finishing their residencies who have signed contracts to come back within the next 2-3 years. The Board commented that it was easier to retain the County's local people rather than entice outsiders to move here. Doctor's have commented to Chairman Hackworth that they want restaurants, lodging, and entertainment where they move and Tazewell County is lacking in these. Supervisor Lester stated that doctors are looking for areas with a more urban feel and to consider looking deeper into revitalizing the towns since most of the amenities are in them.

Chairman Hackworth mentioned the need for more adult daycare facilities and finding ways to make them more affordable. Supervisor Hymes mentioned that these types of facilities would also bring in steady jobs. He mentioned that one of the biggest concerns for County citizens were caring for older parents and not having enough options which overall puts a negative impact on employer productivity and retaining workforce. The Board plans to work with AASC to see what can be done.

Chairman Hackworth mentioned that the lack of childcare facilities are also an issue that needed to be looked into. Mr. Young mentioned the importance of care and upkeep to the schools. Supervisor Lester brought up the idea of charter and private schools to draw more families into the County. Supervisor Hymes suggested coordinating with TCPS to forecast what the projected school population will be like in upcoming years so that they as a team will be able to incorporate the statistics into any of their future planning. Mr. Young mentioned that the debt from the courthouse phases out in 2023 and so does the School Board debt for their air-conditioning units. He guesses that if any major school project were to happen it would be

around that time frame. Supervisor Hymes questioned what education would look like 20 years from now and if any of it would be remotely accessed, he mentioned that Latin classes in the County are already being remotely taught to some students. The County Administrator suggested having a joint meeting with the School Board later in the upcoming year.

TRANSPORTATION

(Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes into the meeting)

The County Administrator emphasized how important U.S. 460/19 is to the County, stating it was the life line of our County and that it would die without the road economically. He said they needed to be thinking about what traffic patterns will be like once the Coalfield Expressway finishes and how it may affect the County.

EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE, AND BUSINESS ATTRACTION/RETENTION

Supervisor Lester inquired about the welding equipment at the Bluestone Center of Excellence and the lack of use since implementation. Supervisor Hymes had reached out to Stephanie and James Dye who said they were working on recruitment of welders and also CRC. Mr. Young mentioned that under the grant SVAM is supposed to coordinate this and that he had reached out also but nothing has come to fruition.

The Board discussed incorporating local business and working with them to offer internships and training in the future. Then hopefully be able to turn around and recruit eligible workforce from these pools.

RECREATION

Mr. Young suggested the consideration of building biking, hiking, and horseback riding trails throughout the County. He referenced a recent trip to Knoxville where he was impressed by their biking trails that covered 13 miles with a relatively low cost. He mentioned the idea of using mining tracks throughout the county for the trails. Mr. Young recalled that the Board approved up to \$3,000.00 with the IDA and RDA matching funding for a total of \$10,000.00 to go towards biking trails at the Bluestone. Rick Barton with OAC is in the process of working with a business partner to map out routes and cost of the trail to build it. Mr. Young stated that they were about half way through the mapping process.

Supervisor Lester brought up the current popularity of Airbnb's (vacation home rentals) and how they may be incorporated into hospitality.

(Approximately 2 hours into the meeting)

Chairman Hackworth briefly mentioned that Jay Shott has showed interest in spending several million dollars in Tazewell County to try and further its growth.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

The County Administrator forewarned that he believes there will be a decline in coal severance money in the future. He explained that a lot of the coal severance money went towards fixing local roads and matching funds for VDOT projects and recommended that the Board keep this in mind for future planning. Another concern of his is that a large percentage of the property in the County is in land use and has a reduced tax rate.

Supervisor Lester suggested revitalization of our County by looking into the Community Block Grant Program. The program could assist with the blight in the communities which have a negative effect on economic development and neighborhood value.

(Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes into the meeting)

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING – 3:33 P.M.

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 enters into an Executive/Closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711:

- A(29) Contract negotiations with the Wythe/Bland joint Public Service Authority regarding solid waste disposal
- A(7) Legal consultation regarding price holdings
- A(1) Personnel matter regarding the 911 Director
- A(29) Contract negotiations regarding Pyott-Boone

RETURN/CERTIFICATION/REPORT OF ACTION – 5:09 P.M.

CERTIFICATION OF
EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING
TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors has convened an executive/closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative vote and in accordance with The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Supervisors that such executive/closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive/closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting

were heard, discussed or considered by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors. The Chairman called for a roll call vote with the following vote hereby recorded.

The Chair called for a roll call Vote on the Certification:

Ayes: All Five (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

Absent during vote: None (0)

Report of Action: One (1)

EMMA YATES LIBRARY – OPERATIONS FOR LIBRARY

\$4,500.00 NORTHERN DISTRICT

Upon motion of Supervisor Asbury, seconded by Supervisor Hymes 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 authorizes the amount of \$4,500.00 from the Northern District Fund, payable to the Emma Yates Library; attn: Jerry Gravely, Chair. Said warrants shall be issued by the County Administrator in accordance with this action and converted to negotiable checks by the Treasurer of Tazewell County, Virginia.

AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT APPROVED

Upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hymes 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 amendment to Solid Waste Disposal Agreement as presented to the Board.

ADJOURN

Now, there being no further business to be transacted and upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Asbury 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 adjourns this meeting to January 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Travis Hackworth, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 5:11 p.m.