

**VIRGINIA:** At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Patrick, held at the Patrick County High School on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Jonathan Large, Chairman, Ron Knight, Vice Chairman,  
Crystal P. Harris, Lock Boyce, and Karl Weiss, Board Members

**ABSENT:** N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jay Scudder, County Administrator; Tom Rose, Assistant County Administrator; Alan Black, County Attorney; and Geri Hazelwood Assistant to the County Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Vernon Harris gave the invocation.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a Moment of Silence in honor of past and present U. S. military personnel serving domestically and abroad.

On motion by Crystal P. Harris seconded by Lock Boyce and carried unanimously, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Voting Aye: Knight, Harris, Weiss, Boyce, and Large

Voting Nay: None

On motion by Ron Knight seconded by Karl Weiss and carried unanimously, the minutes for the November 24, 2008 meeting were approved.

Voting Aye: Knight, Harris, Weiss, Boyce, and Large

Voting Nay: None

**Public Comment Period:**

The Chairman opened the public comment period.

James Marion presented the board with the following letter:

COMMENTS TO THE PATRICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS by the  
PATRICK COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Dec. 8, 2008

The recent notices of property reassessment received by property owners of the county have prompted an unprecedented response to the Supervisors and the media. The local Farm Bureau Directors want to go on record to oppose the new assessment rates for the following reasons:

1. The reassessment rates are much too high for county property in total, and disproportionately high for farmed land and forested areas. There is no data base to support these new rates except for a few property sales within the past 5 years that were primarily sales to individuals who want a view and a few acres on which to build mostly retirement homes.
2. The very high tax increase to farmed and forested lands will adversely affect agricultural and forestland returns, which has been a major economic driver for the county economy and related processing/manufacturing industries.
3. The belated discovery that we are now in a recession and experiencing increasing unemployment in the county will make it impossible for many property owners to pay taxes at current levels, much less what they will become within 2 years. Any increased tax burden will speed up our economic depression in the county.
4. The reassessment process, or at least the final result, is such a flawed product that it has no feasible use for our county.

This P.C. Farm Bureau Directors have not polled our 1,000 members to determine their exact response to this issue, but feel that our membership would be supportive of the following actions:

1. Support the moratorium on new taxes that is being proposed by petition across the county, and allow for a due process that is needed to develop a feasible plan for the county.
2. Discard the current reassessment results that have little or no support in the county. That process and result are simply not acceptable and are of little or no value to Patrick County.
3. By whatever means, obtain a reassessment of property that has some basis in reality and that will balance property values closer to their real value and usage.
4. Determine the feasibility of land use assessment that is already in place and working in a majority of the counties in Virginia. Land use allows fairer taxation of land based on current use and for tax adjustment if property use, such as land development, occurs in the future.

Some landowners in the county feel that the excessive percentage increases in land assessment values will force them to sell part or all of their property, with such sales having to occur in a depressed market with limited buyers available.

The Directors of Patrick County Farm Bureau request on behalf of their members due consideration of the above actions. We respectfully ask members of the Board of Supervisors to proceed with caution and with the utmost consideration for landowners who in their farm and forestry pursuits are the backbone of the Patrick County economy. Members of the Farm Bureau Board are: Dave Hubbard- Chm., James Walker, George Stovall, James Marion, Louis Clement, Marion Cobbler, Alvis Joyce, Barry Shelor, Ronnie Pilson and Lee Bryant.

**Ron Weiss stated that he had received a fair assessment. He**

thanked the Board.

Danny Foley, Alpha Hiatt, Matt Hubbard, John Burge, Fred Hiatt, Jacob David, Mike Cinque, Tom Wallace, Harvey Spangler, Robin Hiatt, and Kenneth Harbour spoke in opposition of the reassessment. Ryan Willock presented the Board with a petition signed by 2,786 of people opposed to the reassessment.

The Board had discussion.

The Board thanked each person that spoke.

Mr. Chairman closed the public comment period.

### Public Hearing: Enterprise Zone

Mr. Danny Wood spoke in opposition of the Enterprise Zone. He stated that the properties looked hand picked.

Mr. Tom Rose addressed Mr. Wood's concerns stating that the Enterprise Zone was approved in April of this year. If you look at the properties surrounding they are semi private not commercial. When the zone was done there was very little acreage to work with. Mr. Rose stated that commercial properties were selected in Meadows of Dan due to limited acreage. In the future the Enterprise Zone can be changed once land acreage limits are lifted. (refer to handout)

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

### Reports

Mike Colavecchio, Reassessment Project Supervisor, presented the Board with a copy of monitored sales data, which reflected 200 sales from January thru October of 2007. He stated that he continued monitoring land transfers from the commissioner's office and the clerk's office throughout 2008 and those were reflected in the reassessment. Foreclosures and bankruptcies were not included in the reassessment. (refer to handout)

Steve Wampler, Wampler & Eames; stated that they evaluated the

real estate according to state law which requires 100% fair market value and sales that are of same or similar property here in the county. He stated that Patrick County was like other localities that had not been assessed in six years.

The Board members had discussion with Mr. Wampler and Mr. Colavecchio with their concerns about the current reassessment and things that need to be looked at closer.

**Report: CCDF Capital Funding**

Randy Burge with CCDF requested that the department be able to order their new fire truck. The Board stated that the new truck could be ordered now however; it would not be paid for until after July 1, 2009.

**Report: County Administrator**

Jay Scudder, County Administrator, stated that he along with Teresa McCormick and Mickie Martin had applied for a grant through the 911 Wireless Board in the amount of \$150,000.00 to do parcel data with a GIS system.

Lock Boyce made a motion to throw out the new reassessment and go back with the 2003 reassessment.

The motion did not receive a second.

Alan Black, County Attorney: stated that state law requires the County of Patrick to complete its reassessment by December 31, 2008. The Board does have the option to ask for a three- month extension. However, it would not be enough time to repeat the process again.

Lock Boyce made a motion to request the Virginia Commission of the Revenue review the reassessment.

The motion did not receive a second.

**Approval: Bills, Claims, Transfers, and Appropriations**

On motion by Karl Weiss seconded by Lock Boyce and carried unanimously the Board approved check #'s 91270-91364.

**Consent Agenda Items**

On motion by Ron Knight seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried unanimously the Board approved the following Board appointments.

Mr. Ron Knight would like to appoint Jocelyn Kazelka to serve on the Board of Equalization.

Mr. Jonathan Large would like to appoint Rodney Boyd to serve on the Board of Equalization.

Mrs. Crystal P. Harris would like to appoint Roger Tuggle to serve on the Board of Equalization.

Mr. Karl Weiss would like to appoint Brenda Quesenberry to serve on the Board of Equalization.

Mr. Lock Boyce would like to appoint Orlando "Acie" Martin to serve on the Board of Equalization.

**Enterprise Zone Resolution**

On motion by Karl Weiss seconded by Ron Knight and carried 4 to 1 the Board approved the following resolution:



COUNTY OF PATRICK  
*Office of the County Administrator*

RESOLUTION OF THE  
PATRICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion made by Karl Weiss and duly seconded by Ron Knight:

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia designates selected areas for economic growth and revitalization under the Enterprise Zone Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth allows communities to designate changes to their existing Enterprise Zone boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Patrick has experienced significant job loss over the past several years and continues to have unemployment well above the State average; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrick County intends to apply to the Department of Housing and Community Development for an amendment to its existing Enterprise Zone boundaries, and held a public hearing on December 8, 2008 as required by the Enterprise Zone program regulations; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Patrick County Board of Supervisors that on the 8th day of December 2008, it does hereby authorize the Assistant County Administrator to submit all information needed to apply for amendment of the County's Enterprise Zone boundaries and to carry out all program administrative and reporting requirements on its behalf.

Motion Carried.

Voting Aye: Knight, Harris, Weiss, and Large  
Voting Nay: Boyce

Tom Rose, Assistant County Administrator

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**Assistant County Administrator, Tom Rose requests that the Board**

**pass a resolution authorizing that all information needed to apply for amendment of the County's Enterprise Zone boundaries and to carry out all program administrative and reporting requirements.**

**Voting Aye: Knight, Harris, Weiss, and large**

**Voting Nay: Boyce**

**On motion by Lock Boyce, seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried unanimously the Chairman ordered that the Board be adjourned until January 12, 2009 commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

**,Chairman**