

Patrick County Board of Supervisors

March Work Session

Monday, April 4, 2005

2:00 p.m. Third Floor – County Administration Building Stuart, Virginia

PRESENT: H. Danny Foley, Sr., Chairman; Roger L. Martin, Vice Chairman; Darrell Cockerham, Crystal P. Harris, and David G. Young, Board Members; Regena H. Handy, County Administrator; Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator; Eric Helms Monday, County Attorney; and Mary Beth Roberson, Assistant to County Administrator.

Call to Order: Chairman H. Danny Foley, Sr.

Items for Consideration:

I. 2003-2004 Fiscal Year County Audit Presentation: This day came Deanna Cox, Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates, to give the Board a brief overview of the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year County Audit. She presented a comparative analysis with similar counties and stated that overall, the County is doing pretty well. The County Administrator advised that the County has been working with Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates for a number of years, that they audit the majority of counties in Virginia, and are a very good firm.

II. Report from Recreation Department Director: Clyde Crissman, Recreation Director, gave a report to the Board concerning the activities of the Recreation Department.

a. Sports / Activities for Patrick County Citizens: Mr. Crissman presented the Board with a tally sheet of all of the sports and activities that are sponsored by the department and reported that “since the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, the Patrick County Recreation Department has sponsored elementary sports in which a total of 810 students have participated. Adult classes in Ballroom Dancing, Yoga and Cardio-Kickboxing have been offered at Patrick County Community Center. Attendance is increasing in the fitness room. At the end of 2005, a total of 4,795 signed in to use the fitness room. January thru March of this year, a total of 1,642 have used the fitness room.” He noted that the fitness room is free to Patrick County residents.

b. Funds for the Stuart Park: The Board discussed the expenses and revenues of the park in Stuart. Board members were given a packet containing the Recreation Department’s expenses and revenues for the last several years, which was requested by some Board members. Mr. Martin asked if the park pays for itself. Mr. Crissman advised that he did not think that it is self-supported. Mr. Martin inquired about the disparity in the finances. Mr. Crissman advised that a fee of approximately \$25 - \$30 per player might help to bridge that gap. He gave the Board a copy of a press release dated October 6, 1997, regarding funding and maintenance of other recreational facilities in the County and the general responsibility of volunteer recreation associations to same. Mr. Cockerham

inquired why the County paid for plumbing repairs for the pool at DeHart Park. Mr. Crissman advised that the line that runs to the swimming pool was broke and the Stuart Parks Association did not have the funds at that time to pay for the repairs; therefore, the County paid for the needed repairs. Mr. Young asked if the Association has reimbursed the County for that expense. Mr. Crissman advised that the County should submit a bill to the Association. Mr. Cockerham stated that if a park cannot “break even”, the rates should be increased. He noted that the parks are for the enjoyment of Patrick County citizens and advised that the pool opens early every year for elementary schools to use and that non-profit organizations are not charged for use of the facility. Mr. Foley questioned the lack of revenue from the drink machines at the Stuart Park. Mr. Crissman advised that the drink machines were vandalized earlier this year, which caused a loss in revenue and he noted that drink machines do not bring in a lot of money. He stated that the nab machine is rented from Lance and does not generate a great deal of money. Mr. Young advised that it is best to let another company take care of the machines. Mr. Foley inquired about the pool fees. Mr. Crissman advised that the fees are kept as low as possible so that citizens can afford to use the facility; the current fees are: Adult \$3.50; Children 6 and under \$2.50; Family passes \$85.00 – \$95.00. He stated that the park’s biggest fundraiser is the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Foley asked if any of the fees could be increased. Mr. Crissman advised that the pool fees increased \$1.00 last year. Mr. Cockerham stated that the Stuart Parks Association should be addressing these issues, not the County. Mr. Crissman advised that the County pays the salaries of part-time employees and is reimbursed by the Association on a regular basis. The County Administrator stated that the County would submit a bill to the Association for the repairs that were made to the damaged line at the pool. She noted that the funds for DeHart Park are ran through the Stuart Parks Association and are not included in the General County Fund, as is also the case that other park associations are responsible for any funds generated by the parties.

c. Proposed Ball Field: Mr. Crissman advised that the excess dirt that is being hauled off of the new Food Lion site is being used to fill in a gully in the Patrick County Business Park and advised that he would like to see that area turned into a ball field. Mr. Young advised that the land could be sold to a business if the opportunity arose. The County Administrator stated that Mr. Crissman would like to solicit donations from local citizens and businesses to help with construction costs for a ball field, but if the Board has other plans, will need direction from the Board before proceeding. She noted that filling in the gully would enhance the value of this county owned property.

On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the Board hereby directs the Chairman to arrange meetings with Board members and Mr. Crissman in the near future to view the site of the proposed ball field in the Patrick County Business Park.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris, and Young
Voting Nay: None

III. County Budget Preparation Status: Mrs. Handy advised that a draft of the county budget should be ready for the Budget Committee's review in the near future. She noted that the Patrick County School Board's proposed budget has not yet been submitted to the County, but is expected soon after the School Board's public hearing this week.

IV. Scrap Metal Quotes: The County Administrator advised that two companies had submitted quotations stating that they would pay the County \$35.00 per gross ton for scrap metal and white goods; however, it is not clear as to what condition the recyclables must be in before the firms will take possession of them. The Board directed the County Administrator to contact the firms to obtain a list of requirements in writing, which will be reviewed at the Board's next work session.

V. Transfer Station: Howard Belcher, staff, in attendance.

a. **Holiday Schedule:** Mrs. Handy noted that at the March 14th meeting, the Board had directed that the Transfer Station observe the holiday schedule outlined in the employee handbook. She advised that the Transfer Station was closed on Easter Monday and that no problems or complaints from the public were reported.

b. **Daylight Savings Time Schedule:** Mr. Belcher reported that on average, six citizens utilized the facility during the hours of 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. each Wednesday of last year. The Board discussed the number of residents who took advantage of the extended hours last year and the County's cost for providing this service. The Board directed that a trial period be set, which will run for three months. At the end of that period, the Board will determine if the extra hours on Wednesday evenings are warranted.

c. **Cell Phone:** Mrs. Handy recommended the inclusion of the cost of a cell phone in the 2005-2006 County Budget, which would be used by Transfer Station staff as a safety precaution. The Board directed that the cost of a cell phone to be used at the Transfer Station be included in the 2005-2006 budget.

d. **Traffic Issue:** Mr. Cockerham advised that the Transfer Station staff has difficulty stopping traffic at the facility when they need to operate the loader and other equipment. The Board asked Mr. Belcher to study the problem and then recommend a solution to the Board.

VI. Maintenance Shed Phase II: Teddy Doss, staff, in attendance.

Mr. Doss presented the Board with an estimate for Phase II of the Maintenance Shed renovations, which totaled \$7,750. He noted that the estimate pertained to materials only. The Board directed Mr. Doss to meet with Mrs. Handy and Mr. Cockerham to prepare a bid document for this phase and that Mr. Doss and Mrs. Handy meet with department heads concerning the amount of storage space that their department will require.

VII. Report and Discussion of Road Matters with VDOT Officials: This day came Lisa Price Hughes, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and Robbie Williams, Assistant Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), to discuss matters pertaining to the primary and secondary road systems in Patrick County.

a. **Intersection of Routes 103 and 644:** Mrs. Hughes reported that she had looked into Mrs. Harris' concern about the low visibility at the intersection of Routes 103 and 644 and found that the property owner would not allow VDOT to cut the bank back any further.

b. **Interstate Primary Six-Year Plan:** Mrs. Hughes noted that VDOT will hold a public hearing for the Six-Year Plan on April 19th commencing at 5:00p.m. in the Salem District Office. She stated that the draft plan became available last Friday and that Route 58 projects are listed but they have no allocations.

c. **Rich Creek Corporate Park:** Mrs. Hughes reminded the Board that Patrick County must locate a business in the Rich Creek Corporate Park with an investment of at least \$257,000 by April 2006; if the County fails to meet this requirement, it would have to reimburse VDOT for \$257,000.

d. **Revenue Sharing Program:** Mrs. Hughes stated that additional money may be added to the Revenue Sharing Program; therefore, localities will be required to resubmit applications for that program in the near future.

e. **Route 8:** Mr. Young advised that a citizen had inquired about previous plans to rebuild Route 8 up Floyd Mountain. Mrs. Hughes stated that VDOT has been addressing the slides that are occurring in that area. Mr. Williams noted that VDOT would be shifting the road over one lane and will add guardrails in that vicinity.

f. **Route 58 Truck Traffic:** The County Administrator discussed a recent newspaper article regarding the ticketing of over-length tractor-trailers on Route 58. She advised that Mrs. Harris had received some phone calls from citizens and business owners who were concerned about this issue and its effect. She stated that petitions had been forwarded to the State Police by Patrick, Floyd, and Carroll County residents requesting the enforcement of the law that prohibits over-length tractors and trailers in that area. Mrs. Hughes recommended that Patrick County officials attend the upcoming public hearing in Salem to express the need for funding to complete the Route 58 project.

On motion by Roger L. Martin, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board hereby directs Regena H. Handy to attend the Primary Six-Year Plan Public Hearing to be held on April 19th at 5:00p.m. in the Salem District Office to stress the need for funding to complete the Route 58 reconstruction project.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris, and Young

Voting Nay: None

g. **Church Hill Lane:** Mrs. Harris advised that the condition of the lane has worsened since VDOT made some repairs to the road. Mrs. Hughes stated that she would look into the problem.

h. Intersection of Routes 8 and 40: Mrs. Hughes stated that she would like to meet with Mrs. Harris at the Intersection of Routes 8 and 40 in Woolwine to discuss Mrs. Harris' safety concerns.

VIII. Proposed Library Budget Request: This day came Donny Prago, Member of the Blue Ridge Regional Library System Board, and Randy Glover, Librarian, to discuss the County's 2005-2006 contribution to the Blue Ridge Regional Library. Mr. Prago discussed the Library's finances and advised that a new bookmobile will be needed in the near future. Mr. Prago stated that the library critically needs additional funding. Mr. Young stated that the Budget Committee would be viewing a draft budget soon and advised that they would see what could be done to assist the library.

IX. Report from Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator:

a. Enterprise Zone: Mr. Burnette advised that per the Board's request, the County had made application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for an extension of the Enterprise Zone to the area west of Stuart and for a Sub-Zone in Woolwine, which has been approved. He reported that his office has received four Enterprise Zone Job Grant Applications at this point. Mr. Burnette advised that the new legislation now allows localities to designate two Enterprise Sub-Zones.

b. Patrick County Public Service Authority: Mr. Burnette reported that the newly appointed PSA Board will hold its first meeting tomorrow night, April 5, 2005.

c. Request for Address Changes: Mr. Burnette advised that he and Mr. Young had a conversation with Bob Pendleton, Patrick Springs Ruritan, and were informed that some residents and businesses in Patrick Springs have Stuart addresses and are concerned that having a Stuart address may cause confusion for visitors. The Chairman and Mrs. Harris noted that the same kind of confusion exists in their districts also. Mr. Burnette stated that he would look into this issue to determine if the County has the ability to correct those addresses.

X. Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance: Charles Vernon, staff, in attendance.

The County Administrator advised that revisions would need to be made to the County's current Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance to add the new Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector position, as well as miscellaneous revisions. She noted that the Board had previously discussed a possible fee schedule that would help to cover the costs of the new position. The Board directed Mrs. Handy to meet with Mr. Vernon and Mr. Monday to discuss the needed revisions. Mr. Vernon discussed the County's current Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance at length. Mr. Young advised that this department must be self-supported. Mrs. Harris stated that Mr. Vernon is looking out for the best interest of the County and its citizens.

XI. Building Permit Fee Ordinance: Mrs. Handy provided the Board with a packet of information concerning the current Building Permit Fee Ordinance, local permit fees and expenses, and comparative data from other localities, all of which was provided by the Building Official's office. The Board held a discussion concerning the County's current building permit fees for stick-built and modular homes and mobile homes as well as expenses that the building inspection department incurs. Mrs. Handy recommended appointing a committee to study this issue. The Chairman appointed Board Members Young and Cockerham; Jason Brown, Building Official; and the County Attorney to a committee, which will discuss revising the current building permit fee schedule and other issues that need to be addressed. The committee will bring a recommendation back to the full Board.

The Board recessed for twenty minutes.

The Board reconvened into regular session.

XII. Sons of Confederate Veterans: This day came Chris Washburn, Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, to advised the Board that the organization has rescheduled its Memorial Day in Patrick County for April 16th. Mrs. Handy noted that the Board had previously given permission to the Sons of Confederate Veterans to fly the National Flag at the Stuart Courthouse on April 23rd. Mr. Washburn requested the Board's permission to fly the Confederate's National Flag on April 16th instead of April 23rd. Mr. Martin reiterated his respect for the soldiers who fought on both sides of the war and that he had nothing against the flag but that he voted against the perception that people have about the flag this day in time when he voted nay at the March 14th Board Meeting. Mrs. Harris stated that she had made a promise when she began her service on the Board that she would not vote for or against something that she did not understand and that is why she abstained from the vote in March.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board hereby authorizes the Sons of the Confederate Veterans to fly the Confederate National Flag at the Stuart Courthouse on April 16, 2005 from 8:00a.m. until 5:00p.m. instead of April 23rd.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris, and Young

Voting Nay: None

XIII. Floodplain Ordinance: The County Administrator presented the Board with the County's current Floodplain Ordinance; a letter from Mark Slauter, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Floodplain Management Program Planner, concerning a recent meeting in which he had reviewed the County's floodplain management program with Mrs. Handy and Mr. Brown, Patrick County Building Official; and a flood guide for elected officials. Because the current ordinance needs to be revised, Mrs. Handy recommended that the Board refer this issue to a committee.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried, the Board hereby authorizes the County Administrator, County Attorney, and Jason Brown, Building Official, to study the current Floodplain Ordinance and to submit their recommendations for the Board's review.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris, and Young

Voting Nay: None

XIV. Solicitation of Health Insurance Coverage for County Employees: Mrs. Handy noted that the Board had previously requested that she obtain health insurance coverage quotes from several firms for County employees only. She advised that request for proposals have been sent out.

XV. Ambulance Service for Local Hospital: The County Administrator advised that she had taken a poll vote from the Board members who could be reached regarding an ambulance service for the local hospital on March 18th. She noted that Board Members Foley, Harris, and Young were reached and voted in favor of the resolution; Board Members Cockerham and Martin were unable to be contacted. Mrs. Handy advised that the resolution was forwarded to the hospital. The Board referred this item to the Consent Agenda for the April 11th meeting for formal approval.

XVI. Corrective Action Request from Patrick County School Board: Mrs. Handy presented the Board with a letter that was addressed to Ms. Hughes, Resident Engineer, VDOT, from Judy Lacks, School Superintendent, and Kent Pendleton, Patrick County School Maintenance Director, regarding an erosion problem at the school's maintenance parking lot. Mrs. Handy advised that she had spoken with Mr. Pendleton and was informed that VDOT does not plan to make any further repairs to correct this problem and that the culvert might be too small to handle the excess water that flows down into the parking lot. The Board directed the Building Committee to look into the problem to determine the County's responsibility in this issue.

XVII. Appointment of Committee to Study Outdoor Drama/ Location Recommendation: Mrs. Handy recommended referring the discussion of committee appointments for the outdoor drama/location study to Executive Session due to the fact that those proposed appointees have not yet been contacted. The Board held its discussion of this issue in Executive Session.

XVIII. Progress of New Board Work Sessions, Goals, and Rules of Procedure: In response to information requested by the Chairman, Mrs. Handy advised that she had contacted the Virginia Institute of Government and asked for input on the following: (1) whether other counties similar to Patrick County had set rules and procedures for conducting meetings other than Roberts Rules of Order; (2) whether the Boards set annual goals and had specific standards for measuring its progress;

and (3) if Boards held retreats and the expectations that they had of same. The Board discussed various responses that were received.

On motion by Roger L. Martin, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board hereby directs that the discussion of the Board's progress of new board work sessions, goals, and rules of procedure be tabled until the Board's April 25th work session.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris, and Young

Voting Nay: None

XIX. Meeting Schedules: Mrs. Handy advised that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th beginning at 6:00p.m. and the next work session will be held on April 25th commencing at 2:00p.m.

XX. Surry County Tourism Proposal: The County Administrator reported that she had received a letter from Macon Sammons, Surry County Manager, regarding a proposed regional tourism marketing effort comprised of eight counties in North Carolina and Virginia. She advised that Mr. Sammons invited her to attend a meeting on April 6th in Dobson, North Carolina to gather additional information regarding the proposed tourism effort. She noted that a second meeting would be held near Elkin on April 26th and that Mr. Salmons requested the Board to appoint four Patrick County residents to participate in that meeting. Mrs. Handy stated that she would report back to the Board at the next regular board meeting with additional information and asked the Board to begin thinking about possible representatives to attend the meeting.

XXI. Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative, Inc. Presentation: This day came Tad Deriso, Interim General Manager, to give a presentation to the Board concerning a proposed broadband project. Mr. Deriso stated that he has been working with the Virginia Tobacco Commission for the past four years trying to bring a fiber optic backbone project to Southside Virginia; he noted that this project is also known as the E-58 Project. He advised that this project is a 700-mile fiber optic network that connects twenty counties, four cities, and various towns and that the section of the network that will run along Highway 58 will be going out to bid in the near future. Mr. Deriso advised that this entire project would be completed by March 2006. He stated that this project would provide Patrick County with competitive broadband service providers. Mr. Martin asked if this project could make Patrick County an "Electronic Village". Mr. Deriso advised that it would be possible. Mr. Martin noted the importance of this project for Patrick County.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss legal matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; prospective business matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(5), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; personnel matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended].

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Harris, Cockerham, and Young

Voting Nay: None

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board reconvened into regular session, based upon the following:

WHEREAS, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has convened an Executive Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies.

Voting Aye: Foley, Martin, Cockerham, Harris and Young

Voting Nay: None

Ordered that the Board be adjourned until April 11, 2005.

Work notes prepared and submitted by

Mary Beth Roberson, Assistant to County Administrator