

**VIRGINIA:** At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Patrick, held at the Patrick County Administration Building thereof on Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Crystal P. Harris, Chairperson; Darrell Cockerham, Roger L. Martin, 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 the County Administrator.

**ABSENT:** H. Danny Foley, Sr., Vice Chairman

The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

Regena H. Handy, County Administrator, gave the invocation.

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

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Darrell Cockerham and carried, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Voting Aye: Harris, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Foley

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 [Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), 1950 Code of Virginia as amended]; and Personnel [Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), 1950 Code of Virginia as amended].

Voting Aye: Harris, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Foley

On motion by Roger L. Martin, seconded by Darrell Cockerham 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: Harris, Cockerham, Martin, and Young**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Absent: Foley**

**This day came Barry Dudley, STEP Housing Director, to discuss matters pertaining to the IPR Program. Mr. Dudley stated that his department is responsible for programs that improve the condition of homes, such as installing / repairing heating and cooling systems, insulating and weatherizing, and installing bathrooms. Mrs. Handy noted that Patrick County had received a letter from the Department of Housing and Community Development stating that no money was committed as of April 1, 2004 to the IPR Program and that the Board of Supervisors are concerned about where the program now stands. Mr. Dudley said that his executive director received a letter from the Department of Housing stating that the IRP Program was shut down in October 2003, which was supposed to run until April 2004. He noted that a deed of trust is needed in order to meet all of the requirements for the IPR Program, which can be a stumbling block when it comes to getting applicants for that program. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Dudley for his presentation and asked that he speak with the press, Nancy Lindsey, The Enterprise; and Jamie Clark, WHEO, who were in attendance, so that the press could inform the public of the services that are offered by STEP.**

The Board this day held a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2004 – 2005 county budget, as required by law for informative and fiscal planning purposes. The Chairperson opened the hearing and called for public comment. She reviewed the rules of protocol under which the hearing would be held.

Mrs. Patty Hazelwood appeared before the Board on behalf of the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce. She stated that it was of great concern to her that the proposed budget does not include any funding for the Chamber. She said that the Chamber is very important to the County and that they have 117 members at the present time. She noted that the public's support has been unbelievable and invited the Board to attend the next Chamber meeting, which is July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hazelwood advised that Roanoke would like to have Patrick County's Virginia sanctioned Peach Festival and that this would be the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Peach Festival held locally. She stated that within the first ten days of June, the Chamber had 13,000 hits on their website that were mainly due to interest in the Beach Music Festival, which attracts nearly 4,000 people. She invited the Board to visit the Blue Ridge Visitor Center and stated that she could not stress how badly the Chamber needs help from the County to hire a full-time executive director. She informed the Board that she currently has three volunteers who man the local office, that they are generating enough money to pay the light bill, and she is talking with two individuals about relocating the office. Mrs. Hazelwood said that she is trying to keep the Chamber as visible as possible and that she hopes that the County does not let the Chamber just fall down and die.

Mr. Martin asked Mrs. Hazelwood how much money the Chamber needs. She stated that the Chamber has requested \$15,000 for 2004 – 2005 but that anything that the County could give would be appreciated. Mr. Martin asked if the Chamber could get by on \$15,000. Mrs. Hazelwood said that \$15,000 would help them immensely to get back on their feet. Mr. Martin said that he had received a lot of calls from the business community and that they all support the Chamber and want it to be funded. He stated that the Chamber and Economic Development should work together and that the Chamber does a lot, especially in the area of tourism. He felt the Chamber was important in attracting new businesses and industries and also in helping existing businesses. Mr. Martin stated that it is his personal opinion that the County would be far better off putting the money in something like this than in other things that the Board intends to fund. He asked the Chairperson if he could make a motion concerning the amount of funding for the Chamber. The Chairperson advised that the

Board could not take any action during its public hearing. Mr. Martin stated that he would support the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Alpha Hiatt approached the Board and stated that she is one of the volunteers in the Chamber of Commerce's Office. She stated that she had been contacted by the organizers of the VA.org website, which is the official travel and tourism site for the State of Virginia, asking if Patrick County would like to host them to do some website training for the County. Ms. Hiatt noted that this training would include the County's attractions, events, and accommodations and would be open to the public and would begin in July. She stated that the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce is the "welcome mat" for the County.

Mr. Steve Swartz appeared before the Board and stated that had it not been for the information that he and his wife had received from the Chamber, they would not have known about Patrick County. He strongly urged the Board to support the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce.

Messrs. Stanley Fain and Wayne Craig approached the Board and stated that they organize the Beach Music Festival and rely heavily on the Chamber to promote the event. They stated that the Chamber is the "Tourism Board".

Mr. Alfred Brammer appeared before the Board and expressed his support for the Chamber. He stated that the organization began in 1977 and that its sponsored festivals are good for the County. He noted that the Chamber has stayed open under difficult times and it is not too late to keep it going. Mr. Brammer asked that the Board support the Chamber. Mr. Cockerham asked Mr. Brammer how the Chamber got where it is today in reference to its financial situation. Mr. Brammer said that he does not know and that he had first heard about it in March or April. He stated that it will require work on the Chamber's part and will need assistance from the County. As a businessman, Mr. Brammer said that people in business should support the chamber, that is should not fall to the County. He stated that the Chamber has improved over the last three months.

Mr. Cockerham stated that he supports the Chamber, but many individuals in his district do not and he would like some information that he can take back to his district to encourage them to support the Chamber. Mr. Cockerham and Mr. Brammer commended Mrs. Patty Hazelwood for the hard work that she has put forth for the betterment of Patrick County. Mrs. Hazelwood stated that the weather is partly responsible for the money that was lost and

that the Chamber's budget was projected too high and memberships have been lost. She emphasized that the Chamber is the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce and promotes the whole county.

Ms. Jo Pierce, Patrick Community Hospital Administrator, congratulated the Board of Supervisors and the School Board on their decision to work together. She stated that without the Chamber, no one will find out about Patrick County and suggested that the Chamber meet with the Board often.

Mr. John Wood, Chamber member from Woolwine, asked that the Board support the Chamber because it is something that the County needs.

Mrs. Pauline Williams, Chamber member, stated that the County needs the Chamber and that many things that the Chamber does is successful.

Mr. Jimmy Agee, Mountain Made Ice, told the Board that the Chamber is important to him and to many of his neighbors. He referred to the Chamber as the "welcome wagon for the county". He said that money is not always the answer and he knows that the County is strapped, but the Chamber needs the County's help.

Mr. Thomas Ayers, Chamber member, advised that the Chamber works for the County, not just for the citizens of Stuart.

Mr. Young asked for a schedule of how the Chamber used the prior year's contribution from the County. Mrs. Hazelwood stated that she would get that information to Mrs. Handy for the Board.

The Chairperson called for additional comments. There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

On motion by Darrell Cockerham, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board hereby approves the employment of Donna P. Shough as Bookkeeper for Patrick County, to begin full-time on July 1, 2004.

Voting Aye: Harris, Cockerham, Martin, and Young

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Foley

Ordered that the Board be adjourned until Monday, June 28, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

, Chairperson

