

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held at the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 23rd day of March, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Richard L. Hubbard, Chairman

Oliver H. Bennett, Vice Chairman

Larry LeMond

Laurence J. Trala

Granville F. Hogg, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Board & Agency Presentations:

(1) Senator Lynwood Lewis and Mr. Jody Hopkins, Delegate Bloxom's Legislative Aide, presented Senate Joint Resolution No. 5071 Commending Eastern Shore volunteer fire departments. Mr. Greg DeYoung, Chairman of the Northampton Fire & Rescue Commission, was present and accepted the Resolution on behalf of the Northampton County fire units.

County Administrator's Report:

(2) FY 2016 budget public hearing advertisement.

The FY 2016 budget public hearing advertisement was shared with the Board indicating a public hearing date of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Hogg said that he had requested explanations from Commissioner of the Revenue Anne Sayers relative to the assessed valuations of the various tax classifications as well as information about the elderly and handicapped exemption ordinance. With the Board's concurrence, the Chairman recognized Mrs. Sayers who explained the methodologies she

employed as well the application specifics for the elderly and handicapped ordinance. Mr. Hogg suggested that the Board consider increasing the cap from the current \$400 level to \$425.00.

The County Administrator reminded the Board of the need to provide this guidance quickly as the deadline was fast approaching and the proposed change would require an amendment to the enabling ordinance.

(3) General discussion regarding EMS project and former middle school building usage.

Given comments by several Board members, the seven options prepared by the County's Architectural/Engineering Consultant, DJG Architects, Inc., were reviewed once again.

Mr. LeMond indicated that he continued to believe that the Drummond property is the better location for the EMS operation and that the renovation options reflect too much money being spent on such an old building.

Mr. Bennett said that he would like to see some fabric of the original building remain if the Board proceeds with renovations to the former middle school building.

Mr. Trala said that as the owner of the building, the Board could not walk away from the issues therein and thought that there were some areas within the facility that could accommodate EMS without major expenditures; perhaps repairs could be phased in little-by-little.

Mr. Hogg questioned the amount of area owned by the County and that owned by the School Board. He also questioned whether the Extension Service can be relocated to the School Administration Building.

The Chairman said that he had no problem with moving forward on the Drummond property but wanted to get some kind of consensus from the Board. If the Board finalizes acquisition of the Drummond property, the Board will still have the problem of dealing with the

middle school.

The Chairman suggested another meeting with the architects and the County Administrator indicated that she would be happy to arrange this. Prior to such meeting, Mr. Hogg indicated that he would like to have information from the County's maintenance staff relative to HVAC issues and capabilities for the building and whether the commingled electric, water and sewer utilities could be separated. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Hogg and Mr. Bennett would meet with County Maintenance Staff on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to have their questions answered. A decision is anticipated at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting relative to final location for the EMS operation.

In response to question from Mr. Hogg and with the concurrence of the Board, the Chairman recognized Mrs. Hollye Carpenter, EMS Director. Mrs. Carpenter noted that summer response statistics merely equalize rather than increase the call volumes being experienced. An EMS office location in Machipongo will maximize travel in either direction as needed.

Action Items:

(4) Consider request from Bridgetown citizen for VDOT sign so designating that village.

Motion was made by Mr. Hogg, seconded by Mr. LeMond, that the Board provide a written request to the Virginia Department of Transportation for a sign designating the location of the village of Bridgetown, with the sign location to be as recommended by the applicant. All members were present and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

Matters by the Board:

Supervisor Hogg requested the Board to consider an amendment to its Charitable Donations Policy as outlined below:

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS POLICY

**Adopted: December 12, 2005**

**Amended: February 10, 2015**

It is the policy of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors that it:

- (1) refrains from making donations to any religious or charitable organization;
- (2) refrains from donating to trade organizations, labor unions, and political organizations;
- (3) reserves the right to make donations to the volunteer fire and rescue services organizations located in Northampton County;
- (4) reserves the right to donate money (equivalent to any county fees incurred) to organizations that incur county fees in the performance of a service or services that the ~~County Administrator~~ **Board of Supervisors** deems necessary or desirable. Without exception, the ~~County Administrator's~~ **Board of Supervisors'** written approval must be secured by an organization prior to the commencement of any service for which it expects to be reimbursed;
- (5) reserves the right to make a donation to the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence in the performance of services that the Sheriff has confirmed are applicable.

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Motion was made by Mr. Hogg, seconded by Mr. LeMond, that the amendment to the Charitable Donations Policy be approved as outlined above. All members were present and voted "yes," with the exception of Mr. Bennett who voted "no." The motion was passed. Mr. Bennett stated that he voted in opposition because he felt that there were other legitimate non-

profit agencies which were deserving of county contributions but which were not reflected in the above policy.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Mr. Trala, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board enter Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:

Paragraph 7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, consultants, or attorneys pertaining to actual or probable litigation, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board of Supervisors regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

*Eastville Boundary Adjustment*

All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

After Closed Session, the Chairman reconvened the meeting and said that the Board had entered the closed session for that purpose as set out in paragraph 7 of Section 2.1-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Upon being polled individually, each Board member confirmed that this was the only matter of discussion during the closed session.

Mr. Hogg said that he had issued a survey on biannual tax billing and many of the respondents supported annual billing.

Mr. Hogg then referenced the on-going work of the Ad-Hoc Emergency Care Committee and questioned if there were any thoughts for an allocation of revenues for EMS needs. The County Administrator indicated that there had been no guidance or direction from the Board on establishing any new tax structure for this purpose.

Mr. Hubbard questioned if the Board was agreeable to working out a cost-share agreement with the two rescue squads in which the County provides staffing. The County Administrator said that she hoped that this would be part of the recommendations that will be coming from the Ad-Hoc Emergency Care Committee.

Mr. Hogg and Mr. Trala indicated that they would like to see the County Administrator develop some strategies for balancing the FY 2016 budget without any tax increase, even including personnel cuts of the Board employees. As the FY 2016 budget process began with a \$242,000+ deficit in revenues, a balanced-budget with no tax increase was not a scenario which had been developed to date.

Recess

Motion was made by Mr. Trala, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be recessed until 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2015, in order to receive staff report relative to comments received at the two public information meetings. All members were present and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was recessed.

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR