

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Bland County Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County School Board Office, Bastian, Virginia on the twenty-fifth day of February 2003, the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Wade Blankenship, Robert O. Munsey and Danny Kinder

ABSENT: Frank W. Chandler

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Hachey - County Administrator, Carol Hall – Secretary and John Rife -
Assistant County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Phipps and Marty Holloway – VDOT and several citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Wade Blankenship called the regular meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Supervisor Danny Kinder offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

Supervisor Robert Munsey led the pledge of alliance to the flag.

RON HACHEY APPRECIATION PLAQUE PRESENTED

Vice-Chairman Wade Blankenship presented a plaque to Ron Hachey in appreciation for his service as Bland County Administrator. Mr. Hachey has accepted new employment with King and Queen County as their County Administrator.

BOARD APPROVED AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the February 25, 2003 agenda as presented was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting. Items within the Consent Agenda included: 1) minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2003; 2) bills for the month of February 2003 in the amount of \$304,659.41; 3) payroll for January 31, 2003 and February 14, 2003 in the amount of \$114,090.20 and 4) reports of the Treasurer, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, Recycling Program, Building Official, Public Works, Animal Control and E-911 Coordinator.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Frank Phipps advised the Board that the work on the Rt. 52 Bridge in Bland would commence when weather permits. He reminded the Board of the Preallocation Hearing to be held March 4, 2003 at the Virginia Highland Learning Center. He also briefed the Board about the new

Dashboard Program that shows you the status of VDOT construction projects on the Internet. He noted that there would be a training session on this new program scheduled for March 24 – 25, 2003 in Bristol and recommended that someone from the County attend.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HIGHWAY SIGNS

Assistant Resident Engineer Marty Holloway appeared before the Board with a revised estimate of \$2,500.00 for the fabrication of the Veterans Memorial Highway signs and advised that VDOT would be donating the labor and the equipment for their installation.

***** Motion to table this matter until next month and have the County Administrator determine if monies within the current budget can be found to pay for these signs was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT ANN ALEXANDER

President Ann Alexander of Wytheville Community College appeared before the Board with a status report on college programs and budget issues.

SOCIAL SERVICES

*****MOTION to approve the December 2003 Social Services financial report in the amount of \$38,224.11 with the local share being \$5,581.86 was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

SCHOOLS

*****MOTION to approve the school's March 2003 requisition in the amount of \$600,000.00 was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Joann Shewey informed the Board that the County decal information would soon be mailed to citizens. She also briefed the Board about additional sites in the County where they will sell decals as well as the proposals received from attorneys for the next delinquent tax sale of properties where the taxes have not been paid for five years or longer. The Board concurred with the Treasurer to move forward with the tax sale, but advised her that it was her job to do everything she could to collect taxes in order to keep legal fees down.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT

Assistant County Attorney John Rife updated the Board about the increased revenue from the recent trash delinquent judgments. He also noted that there was one minor change that needed to be sent to Municipal Code on the recently completed Supplement #4 update to the Bland County Code.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Bland County resident Dare Stuart appeared before the Board and stated her opposition to the tax information being posted on the Internet. She also expressed her opposition to the tearing down of the old jail building.

Resident Nancy Tate expressed her personal opposition to the tax information being posted on the County's website.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REQUEST HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF JAIL BUILDING

*****MOTION to submit an application to the VDHR to determine if the former jail building qualifies for the Virginia Historical Register as requested by the Bland County Historical Society as long as this does not bind the County in any way and asked the County Attorney to look into any legal issues was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

TIRE COLLECTION

*****MOTION that the Public Works Department spearhead the tire collection project with costs not to exceed the FY 2002-2003 budgeted amount was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

FY99 VDEM GRANT RESOLUTION PASSED

*****MOTION to apply for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Domestic Preparedness Program 1999 Grant with no local monies required and to authorize the Chairman to sign was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

LOCAL EMERGENCY RESOLUTION PASSES

*****MOTION to adopt the Local Emergency Resolution as a result of the severe flooding in Bland County and authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign it was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FEE FOR THE CERES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*****MOTION to waive the building permit fee in the amount of \$64.48 as requested by the Ceres United Methodist Church was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

INTERSTATE CONTRACTORS

Bobby Eaton of Interstate Contractors appeared before the Board to discuss their garbage trucks not leaving state maintained roads to pick up trash in the future. It was noted that the contract does not require Interstate to collect trash along private roads.

*****MOTION that the Director of Public Works and Interstate Contractors work out a plan for garbage collection for Green Acres, Paradise Haven and across from the Bland High School and report back to the Board at the next regular meeting was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH STAGGERED TERMS FOR BOS MEMBERS

*****MOTION to schedule a public hearing on March 25, 2003 on an ordinance that would stagger the terms for the Board of Supervisors starting with the 2004 terms of office was made by Danny Kinder, seconded by Robert Munsey with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

UMBARGER VEHICLE DAMAGE CLAIM

The County Administrator advised the Board that a section of gutter had fallen from the side of the County Administration Building and hit a vehicle owned by Francis Umbarger. The County's insurance carrier, VACo, had denied the claim advising that the County was not negligent. It was the consensus of the Board members that Mrs. Umbarger should contact her personal insurance company.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT

The County Administrator was asked to check into a grant that the Bland Fire Department reportedly received recently from the State.

CLOSED SESSION

"Move to go into a closed session to discuss a real estate, economic, personnel and legal matter was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

"Move to return to Regular Session and adopt the certification of a closed session was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF A CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Bland County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative-recorded vote and pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.1-344A, subparagraph 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the Code of Virginia and in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344A of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Bland County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bland County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully

exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting in which this Certification Resolution applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Bland County Board of Supervisors.

CDBG PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Mr. Blankenship opened the public hearing announcing that the purpose of the hearing was to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

The County Administrator discussed the Dry Well Replacement Program that might benefit a few households in Bland County. This program would be offered to low to moderate-income families who might need a new well due to their well going dry due to last year's drought. A \$5,000.00 cap for digging a new well would be placed upon each LMI family.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Mr. Munsey closed the public hearing.

CDBG APPLICATION FOR DRY WELL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

*****MOTION to proceed with the CDBG application with the MRPDC as administrator of the grant funds was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship and Frank Chandler being absent from the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION RECONVENES

“Move to go into a closed session to discuss a real estate, economic, personnel and legal matter was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Danny Kinder with Wade Blankenship voting yes and Frank Chandler absent from the meeting.

MR. KINDER LEFT THE MEETING

Mr. Kinder was not able to stay for the remainder of the meeting and then excused himself from the room.

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PUBLIC HEARING TO SELL REAL ESTATE SCHEDULED

*****MOTION to schedule a public hearing on March 25, 2003 to sell real estate was made by Robert Munsey, seconded by Wade Blankenship voting yes and Danny Kinder and Frank Chandler absent from the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

This meeting was adjourned until 4:00 p.m. on March 25, 2003.

Frank Chandler, Chairman

Ron Hachey, Clerk