

VIRGINIA: At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse, Bland, Virginia, on the twenty-fourth day of May, 2016 at 5:00 p.m., the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Adam Kidd, Randy Johnson, Karen Hodock, Nick Asbury

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Eric Workman, County Administrator; Paul Cassell, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Karen Hodock called the May 24, 2016 Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting to order.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The invocation was offered by Eric Workman. Karen Hodock, Chairperson led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

MAY 24, 2016 MEETING AGENDA AS PRESENTED

****MOTION to approve the agenda as presented was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

MAY 24, 2016 CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the May 24, 2016 Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes of the April 26, 2016 regular meeting; continued May 4, 2016 meeting; continued May 11, 2016 meeting; payroll issued 04-29-2016 in the amount of \$82,238.62; payroll issued 05-16-2016 in the amount of \$80,403.37; bills for the month of April 2016 in the amount of \$62,086.31; bills for the month of May 2016 in the amount of \$264,002.17 reports from the Treasurer, E911, Sheriff, Project Manager, Animal Control, Building Official, Public Works Director, and Meals & Lodging was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES MARCH 2016 REPORT APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the March 2016 Social Services' report in the amount of \$76,690.45 with the local allotment of \$14,459.60 was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

SCHOOL'S MAY 2016 REQUISITION

*****MOTION to approve and appropriate the Bland County School Board's May 2016 requisition in the amount of \$608,351.38; minutes of special meetings April 5, April 20 and regular meeting March 24, 2016; check registers/vendor payments submitted for April 27, 2016 was made by Adam Kidd and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REPORTS

County Attorney

Paul Cassell stated to the Board of Supervisors that he had been working closely with the Treasurer's office on the delinquent real estate tax sales. He will be doing a title search on all of the properties to identify the owners and make certain of liens, then he will have to certify the title and notice letter as certified by statute, those are the next steps and he will be proceeding forward.

Karen Hodock asked how many parcels of land were included in this group to sell?

Paul Cassell stated that if the parcels were under \$100,000 in value then he could aggregate the sale of those parcel. He believes roughly 10 parcels will be sold in the first sale.

Randy Johnson asked what is the time line for the sale to be completed?

Paul Cassell stated he hopes to have the title searches done in the next two to three weeks, then the real estate owner receives a thirty-day notice, then we will be able to proceed. Then we will be waiting for the judge to sign off.

Registrar

Stacy Grady updated the Board of Supervisors as follows: Joel Cagle, Building Official and I visited the polling places last week. At the Little Creek polling place we can use the existing parking area and then there will need to be a handicapped accessible pathway from the handicapped parking space. At Hollybrook there needs to be a handicapped parking space sign installed.

Eric Workman asked about the total cost for these upgrades.

Stacy Grady stated that she was unsure of who would be responsible for the cost.

Eric Workman recommended, if the Board of Supervisors were in agreement, that the county pay for the upgrades. He stated that the cost was approximately \$1000. He also stated that the county would be using trusty labor, that the \$1000 was just to buy the supplies.

Eric Workman asked the Board of Supervisors for direction for a public hearing to change polling places in Hollybrook and Little Creek.

*****MOTION to conduct a public hearing in July to change polling places in Hollybrook and Little Creek was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

RC&D Council

Steve Hermanson gave an update as follows: The monthly meeting was well attended. The council has had a turnover in the director of the Fire Wise Program. The council has an interim executive director; Grace, the current director, is staying on until someone can be found to fill her place. The RC&D Council bookkeeping is no longer being done in house, the bookkeeping is being done by a firm in Wytheville.

Treasurer

John Goins, Treasurer updated the Board of Supervisors as follows: John stated that he didn't have a lot more than what Paul Cassell had already updated the Board of Supervisors. Still working on getting the DMV Stop set up in the treasurer's office.

APPOINTMENTS

*****MOTION to appoint Randy Johnson to the Service Authority for a four-year term to expire 05-31-2020 was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

VDOT SIX YEAR PLAN

Jeff Russell gave an update of the Bland County six-year plan.

Jeff Russell stated that the Raleigh Grayson Turnpike is on the schedule to be started in the next three years, if the funding remains the same.

Karen Hodock opened the public hearing.

Gerhard Schoenthal stated that they are glad to hear that Raleigh Grayson Turnpike was on the schedule. He wants VDOT to address the removal of the weeds along the road such as autumn olive and multi floral rose.

Rose Mary Schoenthal was pleased that Raleigh Grayson Turnpike was on the schedule after 35 years. She was also concerned about the way the trees have been trimmed. All the fronts of the trees were chopped and were not even. She would like for VDOT to repair and be more aware of who they hire to trim trees.

Karen Hodock closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION VDOT SECONDARY SIX-YEAR PLAN

*****MOTION to approve VDOT secondary six-year plan for fiscal years 2016/17 through 2021/22 and the secondary system construction budget for fiscal year 2016/17 was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

FAIR ASSOCIATION LEASE RENEWED

*****MOTION to renew the Fair Association Lease for two years was made by Nick Asbury and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

Randy Johnson asked about the vandalism on the Fairgrounds and speaking to the Sheriff about more patrol at the Fair Grounds.

Eric Workman stated that there had been discussion of increasing security on the Fair Grounds as well as at the Rocky Gap Greenway and other places throughout the county.

ENTERTAINMENT PERMITS

*****MOTION to approve the following entertainment permits and to waive the fees associated: Rockin 4A Cure – Relay for Life with a Tour de Bland 5th Annual bike ride and Bland Ministry Center for Bear Jam was made by Adam Kidd and seconded by Nick Asbury.

Vote passed unanimously.

WYTHE-BLAND SPRING 2016 GRANT

*****MOTION to accept the following: Bland County Farmers Market grant for \$4,500 funding will be used for employment cost for the market manager, advertisement and supplies for the Farmer's Market was made by Randy Johnson and seconded by Adam Kidd.

Vote passed unanimously.

COUNTY ADMINSTRATORS ITEMS

Eric Workman updated the Board of Supervisors as follows: the telecommunication building should be finalized in the next couple weeks; The grant process will open up the first of July, Kristi Blevins will attend a grant writing training June 8 to help finalize some grants; DHCD has the money from the general assembly and we will be going after some of that money; Greenway project still needs two easements once they are signed then the project will be under way; Library Project has run into some snags with real estate; LOVE'S court date is June 27, 2016 and we will know more after that; June 15, 2016, 3:30 pm public meeting on Bland Water Project.

Randy Johnson asked about the time table for the Greenway Project?

Eric Workman stated that he was hopeful to have all the easement in this week, no one was in opposition, then Paul Cassell will complete the right-of-way certifications, then he will have to complete a title search and certification that the easements are in the right place. Then VDOT has two weeks to approve, then the project will go out to bid.

SUPERVISORS TIME

Randy Johnson thanked everyone for coming.

Karen Hodock would like to invite everyone to the Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day at 4:00 pm.

FIVE YEAR PLAN Eric Workman stated that he has been the County Administrator five and one half years. When he started the county was operating in the red and the grocery store had just closed, Commerce Park was in the works, but had not been built and we had no industry sites available, we had no water or sewer at our interstate exits, and schools were talking about consolidation. We then began working with auditors and financial advisors, who advised that the county either raise taxes or make cuts to make this work. We began to trim operations as well as refinanced the courthouse to save money. Now, let's take a look by district for improvements over the last five years:

- Ceres/Bastian District – Ceres Gym renovated: Playground Equipment Installed
- Rocky Gap – Greenway Project; WB Fabricators; new water line through East River Mountain Tunnel
- Hollybrook still looking to expand a water source for this area
- Mechanicsburg District – Closed the Learning Center; every fire department got new turn out gear and breathing apparatus equipment through a grant
- Bland District – Sewer Project; water pumps at Fairview subdivisions and High Chaparral

As we grow as a county we need to look at a second water source to supply areas like Hollybrook and Grapefield, look at expanding our broad band, school facilities, build up the exits to improve the tax base, develop the Commerce Park.

Nick Asbury asked was it in the plan to build a new school?

Eric Workman stated that yes we do need a new school, we need to be able to find a way to fund the schools.

Adam Kidd asked can we start looking for property?

Eric Workman recommends putting money into the capital improvement fund and put a restriction on the fund that can only be used for school projects. As we increase businesses at the interstate exits, the money should be set aside for school project. We do need to start the project somewhere.

Nick Asbury stated he would like to see the projects for the future itemized in a list.

Eric Workman stated that work was being done on the comprehensive plan with Mt. Rogers and when it is completed, at that time, that they would sit down together and look at a plan for the County and schools.

Nick Asbury stated that he would like to see a list before that time.

Eric Workman stated that he would get that put together.

Nick Asbury stated that he would also like to sit down with the school board and start with a plan for finding a site. He stated that we have to start somewhere.

Randy Johnson stated that he had been having meetings in his community to explain how much tax increase we would have to have to build a new school and once the citizens hear this they understood that this is not possible at this time.

Eric Workman stated that he would like to work with the new superintendent on a plan. He would like some direction from the Board of Supervisors. Maybe we should do an information session to discuss with the citizens. Eric stated that he would put some figures together for the projects and financial information.

Adam Kidd stated that he wants the Board of Supervisors to be on the same page and work together on this long term plan.

ADJOURN

*****MOTION to adjourn was made by Adam Kidd and seconded by Randy Johnson.

Vote passed unanimously.

Karen Hodock, Chairman

Eric Workman, Clerk of the Board