

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 16, 2009, at 6:30 pm at the Giles County General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street Suite 4, Pearisburg, the following were present:

Richard McCoy	Chairman (At-Large Member)
Paul Baker	Vice Chair (At-Large Member)
Howard Spencer	Western District
Eric Gentry	Eastern District
Barbara Hobbs	Central District
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Kevin Belcher	Assistant County Administrator
Craig Whittaker	Planning/Zoning
Heather Snidow	Acting Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Mr. McCoy called the meeting to order. Mr. Gentry offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2009 with corrections as noted. Second by Mr. Spencer.

Discussion: Mr. Spencer noted page 1, last paragraph 4th sentence remove the first “cost” and insert “cover” Ms. Hobbs stated page 1, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, first sentence change “talking” to “talked”, page 2 under Commissioner, 5th line down change “if” to “is”

Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tina King, Executive Director New River Valley Agency on Aging: Ms. King addressed the Board regarding the Giles County Senior Center. NRVAOA is here to convey information on the agency, services they provide and answer any questions you may have. Ms. King stated the agency has been in existence since 1975, it consists of 8 local governments including Giles County. NRVAOA has been in Giles County providing services since 1975. The services they provide to county seniors have expanded over the years. They appreciate the mutual relationship with the county and the senior center.

RESOLUTION NARROWS BRIDGE PROJECT – Mr. McKlarney

Mr. McKlarney stated VDOT has requested the County comment on the proposed Narrows Route 61 Bridge Replacement project. It is our belief that we have expressed a number of times our concerns. In our discussions, the mayor would like us to offer a letter of support to a parallel bridge alternative as opposed to demolition of the existing bridge and constructing in the same footprint.

Mr. Baker made a motion to approve a resolution of support of construction of the parallel bridge alternative on the route 61 bridge replacement project.

Ms. Hobbs clarified the board is going on record as approving a plan that will leave the current bridge as is while the second bridge is being constructed.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Spencer.

Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy.

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OLD BUSINESS

Senior Center: Mr. McKlarney stated this is continuing discussions from previous board meeting. Ms. Hobbs stated Giles County should hire a Senior Center Director and there should be a Giles County Senior Center Advisory Board. Ms. Hobbs stated she is willing to wait depending on what that director may need. Mr. McCoy said we do need to hire someone for the Senior Center, but not sure it needs to be a directive role as we have been combining responsibilities and downsizing county government as much as we can, but we need to do what it takes to keep the Senior Center working. With that said we need people there that know what they are doing and keep the reporting structure the same. Mr. Gentry stated we do not need a whole new level of management. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. King but we may have in house coverage. We have good people that can be used. Mr. McCoy thanked Ms. King for the proposal, stated his appreciation for the involvement they have with the seniors in Giles County and we look forward to future involvement. Mr. Spencer stated he would also like this to be kept in house. Mr. Gentry stated in the proposal an outreach program was outlined, that may be a program that we can take utilize.

NEW BUSINESS

Steel Interstate Resolution: This is a resolution petitioning Virginia's Federal representatives to sponsor legislation to fund a comprehensive study of the proposed "Steel Interstate" rail system pilot project between Knoxville TN and Harrisburg PA as a part of a National Steel Interstate System that would bring fast rail freight and passenger service to the nation. Mr. Gentry stated this is to put the whole tractor and trailers on the actual train with both dinner and sleep cars on the train with trucks. It is something that has worked for years in Europe. It's not foreseen if it will help Giles County, but with the overall transportation pollution it will be a good effort to study further.

Mr. Gentry made a motion that Giles County move forward with the resolution for Steel Interstate rail system. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker.

Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy.

Mr. Spencer asked if this would extend thru Giles County. Mr. Gentry stated by the maps provided it does not look like the proposed corridor will pass directly thru.

PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

Ms. Hobbs moved to approve Social Services appropriations for August 2009 in the amount of \$152,400 and CSA for August 2009 in the amount of \$83,200. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gentry. Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Ms. Hobbs thanked Ms. Tickle and staff for the work done over the past months.

Mr. Gentry moved to approve School Board August 2009 appropriations for Operating and Flow thru in the amount of \$2,300,403.15. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hobbs. Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Ms. Hobbs moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$432,566.82 for payment for bills paid June 30, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Ms. Hobbs moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$370,600.04 warrants for July 16, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Baker.

Ms. Hobbs questioned the SunTrust debt service, why is that not coming out of school board. Mr. McKlarney stated this is part of the \$900,000 interim financing, this was held.

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Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

Rt. 460 Narrows: Mr. Spencer stated there had been another fatality resulting from person driving the wrong way thru the curves. Mr. Alton Thompson there had been over 50 calls from accidents in the bluffs. Mr. Baker asked who the Board would need to talk to about getting a light put up. Mr. McKlarney stated the Board has made a request in the past.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to write a letter to the Transportation's Highway Safety Department director expressing the Board's concern over the accidents and fatalities.

Ms. Hobbs asked if there were signs. Mr. Baker said there are signs, but they need lights.

Mr. Gentry seconded the motion.

Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. McCoy opened the public hearing to consider amendments to the Flood Plain Ordinance.

Mr. Whittaker stated this is to consider amending the existing flood plain ordinance. This is related to the new flood plain maps that will become effective September 25, 2009. The base mapping has become much improved since the last set of maps were issued, therefore making it easier to locate structures. Along with this we have incorporated proposed amendments recommended by the State and FEMA. We are using their model ordinance. If we want to continue in the Flood Insurance Program, this is a have to. Mr. Whittaker stated there are suddenly folks who are being told they need flood insurance who have never had it before, but it is also working in reverse as well, some aren't having to get insurance who have had always had to purchase it. As always if it is questionable or close, we recommend individuals obtain flood elevation certificate.

Mr. McCoy closed the public hearing.

Mr. McCoy opened the public hearing to consider a proposed amendment to the Tax Relief Ordinance.

Mr. McKlarney stated this comes from a request from Ms. Chambers to increase the maximum fixed asset limit from \$35,000 to \$65,000 to qualify. Mr. Gentry asked what is considered. Ms. Hobbs stated it includes vehicles, money in the bank, IRA etc. She stated concern on placing more and more of the burden on the young people in the county. Mr. McCoy said when comparing with counties around us, we are on the low side with the exception on one that he reviewed. Ms. Hobbs stated she is not opposed but with the economy as it is. Mr. McCoy asked if we could change the amount. Mr. Baker asked if we could propose \$50,000. Mr. McCoy stated no action was required tonight. Mr. McKlarney stated he would like Ms. Chambers to be present. Ms. Hobbs asked that \$50,000 be looked at and bring it back to the board.

Mr. McCoy closed the public hearing.

Mr. McCoy opened the public hearing to consider a exempting real property owned by Giles County Shelter Inc.

Mr. McKlarney stated this is an ordinance to exempt the homeless shelter from taxation. The property is currently assessed at \$135,300, with the tax assessed at \$703.56. If exempted the revenue impact to the County would be \$703.56 annually. The application was filled out by the social services director; it contains all the information about the shelter. Ms. Hobbs asked if the shelter has any means for making money. Mr. McKlarney stated no. Mr. Spencer stated he drives by there and it seems like every day there seems to be someone in there. A comment came from the audience, in the past 13 months, the shelter has been occupied 441 nights, there are 2 units. Ms. Hobbs asked how long a family has access to the shelter. Generally there is 2 weeks, depending on the circumstances. Mr. Gentry asked if there have been any problems with destruction of property. They have not. Mr. Gentry stated he doesn't have a problem with it, but if it ceases to be used as a shelter or the owners change, exemption will cease.

Mr. McCoy closed the public hearing.

Mr. Baker made a motion to exempt real property owned by the Giles County Shelter Inc. in its stated location as it is now from taxation until it ceases to be used as a shelter or the owners of the property change. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spencer.

Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. Spencer, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Hobbs moved to go into Executive Session under Section 2.2-3711, for A1 Personnel and A7 Legal for Contracts. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved by the following vote: Mr. Baker, Yes; Mr. Gentry, Yes; Mr. McCoy, Yes; Mr. Spencer, Yes; Ms. Hobbs, Yes.

Ms. Hobbs moved to return to regular session and only personnel and contracts were discussed. Seconded by Mr. Baker. Approved by the following vote: Mr. Baker, Yes; Mr. Gentry, Yes; Mr. McCoy, Yes; Mr. Spencer, Absent; Ms. Hobbs, Yes.

HANDWRITTEN CHECK

Mr. McKlarney asked for a handwritten check to CR Henderson Company in the amount of \$63,013 for the work at the Ecopark.

Mr. Gentry made a motion to approve the request for a handwritten check to the CR Henderson Company in the amount of \$63,013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker.

Approved with one absent: Voting YES: Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker. – Absent: Mr. Spencer

No further business was introduced. Mr. McCoy adjourned the meeting until the regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 in the Giles County General District Courtroom.

APPROVED:

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Clerk

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