

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the former circuit courtroom, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 18th day of December, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Jeff Walker, Chairman

H. Spencer Murray, Vice Chairman

Laurence J. Trala

Richard Tankard

Dave Burden

William A. Hughes, Sr.

The Chairman was called to order by the Chairman.

County Administrator's Report:

The County Administrator distributed a memorandum detailing an extension of the deadline to apply for allocations of Recovery Economic Zone and Recovery Facility Zone Bonds through the Stimulus Funds. At its meeting of October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Board chose not to take the allocation under the Recovery Economic Zone Bonds but to tentatively pursue the allocation under the Recovery Facility Zone Bonds. At the Board's December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board was notified that staff had not made sufficient progress in determining the parameters of a local loan program for local businesses nor had bond counsel been secured in regard to the issuance of the funds in order to meet the state deadline of December 15, 2009. Therefore, the Board voted to not pursue this allocation.

As of December 11<sup>th</sup>, an Executive Order issued by the Governor extended the time frame to act upon the allocations and the County Administrator requested Board guidance on whether to reconsider the December 8<sup>th</sup> vote in light of the new deadline.

Mr. Tankard arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Both Supervisor Tankard and Supervisor Murray expressed their concern that the County should not be in the loan business; there is private enterprise and conventional banking organizations in place to perform this function.

Motion was made by Mr. Trala that the Board reconsider its vote of December 8<sup>th</sup> and consider accepting the allocation of Recovery Facility Zone Bonds, noting that the Board would still need to find an entity to manage the issuance. Mr. Walker, Mr. Burden and Mr. Trala voted “yes”; Mr. Tankard, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Murray voted “no.” The motion failed.

Tabled Item:

(A) Consider scheduling for public hearing in January 2010 a request for a road name change (Wilsonia Pines Drive to Wilsonia Drive).

Motion was made by Mr. Murray that this meeting be brought to public hearing in January 2010 in order to solicit public input on the requested road name change. All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed. It was noted that the Director of Emergency Medical Services has provided her input, indicating that she was in support of the proposed road name change.

Action Item:

(B) Consider setting the mileage rate at fifty cents per mile for 2010 in accordance with IRS regulations.

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that the Board set the mileage rate for 2010 to be fifty cents (\$.50) per mile in accordance with IRS regulations. All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

In other matters, Mr. Tankard presented a draft letter he proposed to send to the County Treasurer with regard to the payment plan which she uses for delinquent tax payers. Following

some comments relative to the addition of language pertaining to the current interest rate and that some citizens are using the payment plan process as a bank and paying the County's lower penalty and interest rate rather than receiving a loan through conventional means, motion was made by Mr. Tankard that the County Administrator be directed to craft a letter as outlined in the draft and with the language additions as herein suggested as well as comments from the County Administrator, to be forwarded to the County Treasurer for her information. All members were present and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Tankard reminded the Board that a change in the State Code to become effective January 1, 2010 will allow tax sales under shorter time frames that are currently (two years' delinquency rather than three years). He suggested compiling a "top-10" list from 2007 and a "top-5" list from 2006 to be forwarded to James Elliott for collection. The County Administrator, however, suggested that all properties with assessed values in excess of \$100,000 be compiled and forwarded to Mr. Elliott rather than just the top ten. It was noted that even those participating in payment plans can be submitted under the new regulation. Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that the Board refer to Mr. Elliott a new listing as soon as possible of delinquent taxpayers in compliance with the new Code of Virginia regulations. All members were present and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Tankard read the following comments relative to the outgoing Board members:

"Mr. Chairman, may I take a few moments to recognize the outgoing members and offer a few words of gratitude to those three members of the Board of Supervisors?"

I have enjoyed serving with all three of you. I know that the County is better off because of your efforts.

Mr. Walker, I particularly appreciate your ability to forge consensus despite the diverse opinions and viewpoints of Board members. Our record of many unanimous votes on tough issues attests to this. You always look out for the "little guy" and how County actions may impact County citizens. You have always been a strong voice

against cronyism and favoritism, meanwhile helping to dismantle the good old boy network. Your efforts have avoided the political while espousing the practical. The work of the County progresses in an open and transparent manner because of your efforts.

Mr. Hughes, your kind and measured ways are much appreciated. You have a particular talent of remaining calm and collected, even during the heat of spirited debate. You often emerged from such debate with a conclusive and thought provoking opinion. An opinion, I might add, that made a lot of sense and added valuable perspective to an issue. I regret that your time on the Board has been short. I am glad that you will continue to serve in other capacities as a public servant.

Mr. Burden, your optimism and advocacy for the County was a constant reminder of how great we can be. Your strong sense of our County's fragile environment and its many values to our citizens, helped shape many policies. I also appreciated your ability to boil a problem down to its simplest elements. This ability helped greatly in the decision process, and also, helped inform the public. Your term has also been too short. I am consoled only by the fact that you will continue to be an effective ambassador for the County that we love and cherish.

I have often told fellow citizens that I enjoy serving on the Board of Supervisors and feel that one can make a positive difference. It is here, on the lowest rung of elected office, that government is the most effective, efficient and accountable. Far from Richmond and Washington, common sense and simple solutions can often be found. All three of you have made a positive difference. Thank you for your time and efforts. Also, please thank your families at home for giving of their time and support."

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Each of the outgoing Board members, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Walker and Mr. Burden commented on their past years of service and thanked the Board and staff for the outstanding work performed.

#### Closed Session

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

(A) Paragraph 1: Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body.

*Appointments to Boards/Commissions; County Administrator Contract*

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 1 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.

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that Mr. David Charlton be reappointed to the Board of Appeals for the Building Inspector. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that Mr. Gordon Campbell be appointed to the Agricultural-Forestal District Advisory Board. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that Ms. Christy Smith be reappointed to the Parks & Recreation Board (contingent upon her still residing in District 1). All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard that Ms. Janet Sturgis be appointed to the RC&D Council, replacing Mr. John Sundstrom. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray that Mr. Dave Kabler be appointed to the Northampton County Planning Commission, replacing Dr. James Lackie of District Four who has resigned. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray that Mr. John Wescoat, Jr. be appointed to the

Northampton County Planning Commission, as At-Large Representative, replacing Mr. Tom Shockley who has resigned. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Walker that Ms. Carmie Duer be appointed to the Purchase of Development Rights Board, replacing Jane Corson-Lassiter. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Trala who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Mr. Trala commented that it was Board policy to advertise vacancies and he could not understand why the Board was deviating from this policy [for the Planning Commission appointments], and that appointing replacements to the Planning Commission was not giving the incoming Board any consideration.

Mr. Burden stated that it is unethical not to do your service when your term is effective through December 31, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray that the contract with the County Administrator be amended as drafted by the County Attorney and dated December 17, 2009. All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Trala that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRMAN

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