

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Bland County Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse located in Bland, Virginia on the twenty-seventh day of April 2004, the following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent.

PRESENT: Jason R. Ramsey, Henry M. Blessing, John C. Thompson, Karen H. Hodock

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator; Carol Hall, Deputy Administrator;
Frank P. Slavin, County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Phipps and Marty Holloway – VDOT; Wayne Quesenberry, The Bland Messenger; several citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason R. Ramsey called the regular meeting to order.

INVOCATION County Administrator Jonathan Sweet offered the invocation.

PLEDGE TO FLAG Chairman Jason Ramsey led the pledge alliance to the flag.

APRIL 27, 2004 MEETING AGENDA APPROVED

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS of the Board to approve the April 27, 2004 meeting agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the minutes and reports listed within the Consent Agenda but table the bills/payroll was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Resident Engineer Frank Phipps updated the Board to include; 1) environmental permits for the Ridgeway Subdivision project to be forthcoming; 2) bids for the Ridgeway project is scheduled to be opened on July 22, 2004; and 3) inquired as to the relocation of all utilities for the Ridgeway project. The County Administrator advised that utilities had been relocated with the exception of Sprint but did assure that work would be completed by contractor's start date.

Angle parking in front of the courthouse was discussed with Mr. Ramsey requesting costs figures from VDOT on the suggested change.

Mr. Phipps added that work had commenced on the Bland Memorial Bridge noting that the bridge would be closed but the sidewalk would continue to be open to pedestrians. Mr. Phipps also added that the lights and the memorial plaques on the bridge would not be disturbed.

Shirley Cox, Kimberling resident inquired of the Rustic Road Program and requested help with the illegal dumping upon Rt. 612.

AEP 765k POWERLINE UPDATE

Ron Poff, Project Manager presented an update on the 765k power line proposed through Bland County. Mr. Poff advised that work has begun in Wyoming County and anticipates entry into Bland County the summer of 2004 with a completion date of June 2006. Tax revenue to the County was discussed briefly.

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

Corbin Stone, Auditor appeared before the Board with the summary of the County's 2002-2003 audit. Mr. Stone reported that the General Fund balance in 1996 was \$1.6 million and in 2003 that fund had declined to \$616,000. The declining of state revenue to the county, schools and social services, the \$250,000 paid for the county's upfront monies for the new courthouse were a few of the factors mentioned that brought about in the drop of the fund balance. Mr. Stone offered suggestions should the county have the need to borrow money in the fall of 2004.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the February 2004 report in the amount of \$47,463.51 with the local of \$5,190.64 was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

SCHOOLS REQUISTION APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the Schools May 2004 request was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE REPORTS

Commissioner Cindy Wright appeared before the Board with an update of the work and activities being carried out through the office. She also expressed concern of adequate secure storage at the new courthouse.

RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

*****MOTION to approve \$485.69 for the purchase of baseball equipment and \$1,032.15 to purchase soccer equipment as requested by the Recreational Committee but table the request for porta johns was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes. Mr. Moler requested that the Sheriff's department perform routine patrol at the Bland Park to deviate any inappropriate activities at the park. The status of the paving of the Hollybrook and the Mechanicsburg walking trails were discussed. The county administrator was directed to push or stimulate the contractors to expedite the work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James B. Muncy spoke on the preservation of the former Sheriff's building and presented a baker's dozen of ideas for community opportunities. Mr. Muncy requested the board's blessing on a 5-7 member steering committee to offer recommendations of goals and projections towards the county's growth and progress.

APPOINTMENT

Bland County Planning Commission

*****MOTION to reappoint Debbie Looney to the Bland County Planning Commission for a 4 year term to expire April 30, 2008 and reappoint Jerry Mercer to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term to expire April 30, 2008 was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by John Thompson with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

COUNTY 2004-2005 HEALTH INSURANCE EMPLOYEE PREMIUM

*****MOVE that the County pay the Employee's health insurance premiums for 2004-2005 at the same percent as in the past was made by John Thompson, seconded by Karen Hodock with Henry Blessing voting no and Jason Ramsey abstaining.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORD SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS GRANT APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

The County Administrator informed that the grant was to develop and implement a data sharing capacity using cutting edge hardware and software to be utilized for law enforcement and crime prevention in Bland, Pulaski and Wythe Counties. Bland County to be the host locality and the fiscal agent. Total grant amount to be \$148,173.00 with the local match of \$49,431.00 with no more than \$25,000 to be paid by Bland County. The Bland County share amount would be paid for through the Selective & Regular enforcement funds under the direction of the Sheriff.

*****MOTION to approve the submittal of the grant and authorize the county administrator to sign was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock voting yes and Jason Ramsey abstaining.

SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT & REGULAR ENFORCEMENT FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

*****MOTION that monies collected through Selective Enforcement & Regular Enforcement tickets be distributed as—55% to be used by the Sheriff and 45% to be deposited in the General

Fund, retroactive April 1, 2004 was made by Henry Blessing, seconded by Karen Hodock with John Thompson voting yes and Jason Ramsey abstaining.

LITTER CONTROL GRANT DISTRIBUTION TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

*****MOTION to approve one-half of the Litter Control Grant received by the County to be distributed to the Boy Scouts of America for the pick up of 235 bags of litter and the collection of 23 tires off roadways in Bland County was made by Karen Hodock, seconded by Henry Blessing with John Thompson and Jason Ramsey voting yes. The amount to be \$2,247.50.

JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY MEMBERS INCREASE IN PAY

*****MOTION to adopt the Resolution increasing the Joint Public Service Authority of Wythe and Bland County Board members pay \$75.00 per month to \$100.00 per month was made by Karen Hodock. The vote to be Karen Hodock-yes, John Thompson - no, Jason Ramsey –yes and Henry Blessing abstaining. The Resolution passed by a two to one vote.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NAME CHANGE APPROVED (IDA)

*****MOTION that the Bland County Industrial Development Authority's (IDA) name be changed to the Bland County Economic Development Authority, (EDA) effective July 1, 2004 pursuant to state legislation allowing so was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting.

RURAL ACCESS TO EMERGENCY DEVICES GRANT AWARDED

The County Administrator informed the Board of the award from the Virginia Department of Health through the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) a grant in the amount of \$5,180.00 for the purchase of 4-AED units to be placed at the Dept of Social Services, Rocky Gap High School, Bland High School and the Bland Medical Clinic. The grant was 100% funded with no required local match.

REQUEST FROM THE TIRE OUTLET TO UTILIZE COUNTY TONNAGE RATES FOR TIRE DISPOSAL PASSES

*****MOTION to approve the request of Henry Gelbman of the Tire Outlet to utilize the county's tonnage rates for tire disposal through an economic development incentive was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

VACANT/ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOMES CONCERN

Supervisor John Thompson expressed the desire to look into an ordinance concerning vacant/abandoned manufactured homes in the county.

DELINQUENT TRASH BILLS

Supervisor Henry Blessing urged citizens to pay trash fees on time which would be helpful with the 2003-2004 budget.

ORDERLY AND FASHIONABLY MEETING DESIRED

Chairman Jason Ramsey respectfully requested that in order to conduct an orderly and mannerly meeting that the audience wait until called upon before speaking.

FREEMAN PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Chairman Jason Ramsey opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the request of Jonathan Freeman for a rezone and conditional use permit upon property located in Green Acres.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Allan Freeman, Operator appeared with the desire that the Board approve the request to rezone the property in question to Industrial for the purpose of coil winding.

Robert Corder, adjoining landowner expressed opposition to the project adding that the area was indeed a residential area and not the place for the conduction of an industrial business.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

FREEMAN REZONE AND C.U.P. APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

*****MOTION to approve Jonathan Freeman's request to rezone from agricultural to industrial and be issued a conditional use permit for the manufacturing of coil winding to an existing establishment as referred to in Zoning Sec 62-262(1) upon property located in Green Acres Subdivision, Bastian, Virginia, tax map parcel #61A1-2-3,4 as recommended by the Planning Commission with the conditions that: 1) no additional lightning;2) no additional traffic; 3) no pollution to be generated; 4) no outside storage; 5) no noise hindrance; 6) if business ceases to operate, property will revert back to agricultural designation within three (3) months, i.e. 90 days; 7) no more than four (4), including Mr. Freeman, to be employed at said location; 8) will not operate but one (1) day shift of not more than twelve (12) consecutive hours; 9) not to have any off-site parking. All employees are to have sufficient parking located on Lot 4; and 10) not more than four (4) vehicles to be parked on-site (Lot 4), all contingent upon the health department's approval of septic was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Jason Ramsey voting yes and Karen Hodock voting no.

CLOSED SESSION

"Move to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter pursuant to 2.2-3711-A, subparagraph 1 and 13 of the Code of Virginia was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

"Move to return to Regular Session and waive the reading of the certification of a Closed Session but certify that only items announced by the Board were discussed in Closed Session was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

MAY 2004 BILLS AND PAYROLL APPROVED

*****MOTION to approve the May 2004 bills and payroll was made by John Thompson, seconded by Henry Blessing with Karen Hodock and Jason Ramsey voting yes.

DIRECTOR PUBLIC WORKS TO DRAW UP NEW TRASH COLLECTION CONTRACT

The Director of Public Works was directed to draw up the 2004-2005 Trash Collection/Recycling Contract as negotiated with John Melvin of Melvin Services, Inc. and bring back to the Board May 25th meeting for approval.

TREASURER'S MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FUNDING OF DEPUTY'S POSITION

The County Administrator was directed to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Treasurer regarding the funding of the vacant deputy's position over and above the compensation board amount.

CONTINUED This meeting was continued until 5:30 p.m. May 4, 2004.

Jason R. Ramsey, Chairman

Jonathan D. Sweet, County Administrator