

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 6:30 PM in the Giles County General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, the following were present:

Barbara Hobbs	Chairman (Central District)
Eric Gentry	Vice Chairman (Eastern District)
Howard Spencer	Western District
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Susan Kidd	Board Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order. Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Mr. McCoy moved to approve the minutes of the budget meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> and the recess meeting of February 18, 2010. Seconded by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. Baker, Mr. McCoy, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Spencer.***

## REZONING REQUEST – D. DIRICO

Mr. Whittaker reported that this rezoning request and associated special exception request was tabled at the last meeting in order for supervisors to have time to visit the area. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Mr. McCoy asked if the request is approved, how long would Mr. Dirico have to get any conditions and the business in place. Mr. Whittaker said if nothing is done within one year of the time it is granted, then the special exception would be null. Mr. McCoy asked if the screening would have to be in place before he could use the special exception. Mr. Whittaker said his understanding was the screening was part of the special exception. It has to be done in order for it to be valid. He asked Mr. Dirico if he understood it to be that way. Mr. Dirico said he did.

***Mr. Gentry moved to approve the rezoning for Mr. Dirico as recommended by the Planning Commission. Second by Mr. McCoy.***

**Discussion:** Mr. Spencer said he had a chance to visit this property three times since the last meeting and talk with Mr. Dirico. In his time on the board, he has only disagreed with a Planning Commission recommendation one other time. Mr. Spencer appreciated Mr. Dirico's time and liked the entrepreneurship he exhibits. The points he made were well taken about some of the conditions of property over there. However, at this point based on what he had seen and heard, he could not support the special exception. There were no other comments or questions.

***The motion failed 2-3. Voting YES: Mr. Gentry, Mr. McCoy. Voting NO: Mr. Spencer, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. Baker.***

Mr. Chidester commented that without the approval of the rezoning there is no special exception use available, so no vote was necessary on that. Mr. Gentry stated that he owns property on Sinking Creek and that was commented on during this process, but Mr. Gentry was not personally involved with Mr. Dirico's property and has voted how he believes is best for the business and what he thought would be a good use for the property. He said he will honor the board's decision and appreciated Mr. Spencer going down and taking a look at the property. This is the way things are supposed to work.

## **FLOODING – MARCH 12-13, 2010**

Mr. McKlarney reported that Friday night (March 12<sup>th</sup>) and into early Saturday morning, the western portion of the county received a torrential rainfall that combined with already wet conditions and melting snowpack to create a tremendous amount of flooding. He commended the emergency services personnel in the county – many of whom worked straight through to Sunday with stopping. Their response was wonderful.

Mr. McKlarney said, to date, the county has received damage assessments of \$1,143,000. There are reports of damage to 240 different structures and property. Some of these were just driveways or pavement and a couple houses were completely destroyed. This figure doesn't include the number for Town of Narrows or any public facilities, staff time, stone or other materials. All of this will be put together by Friday and forwarded to the state. It will be up to the governor to make the disaster declaration. From there it will go to the president for a federal declaration. Mr. McKlarney shared pictures of damage with board members and gave them a list of the damage assessments. The Code RED system was used to make the calls about flooding and to request people call in with damage reports. That really helped get more information than in the past.

Mr. Spencer asked when the cut off would be to take claims. Mr. McKlarney said he really didn't know. The county may not see anything from the state or federal government. VDOT also has to put in their report of damages and there have been extensive roadway damage in the county. The building department has made visits to structures where there was damage and concern about foundations or electrical connections. Many of these damage estimates were primarily received from homeowners. If a federal disaster is declared, then they will come in and visit each site. The damage was bad and a local emergency was declared. They are tracking all costs incurred with public works crew and equipment. They did work around the clock on Friday and Saturday.

Ms. Hobbs asked if most of the roads were open at this point. Mr. McKlarney said most were. There was a slide on Rt. 61 Saturday night that took until late Sunday to clean up. Penvir and Burton Roads were pretty much destroyed. They have been worked and can now be traveled. Mr. Gentry reported that Mr. Clarke at VDOT said most of the roads are open now and they are also checking about fencing to prevent rocks from a slide area near Newport from falling into Route 460. Mr. McKlarney said he also wanted to offer a special note of thanks to Charles Henderson. He works through a VDOT contract in this county and was able to get the work done to open Route 460 near Rich Creek. His crew did an excellent job. Mr. Spencer agreed the response to the damage at Route 460 in Glen Lyn was quick and efficient. It was amazing there was no more damage than there was. He said he received a call about a structure damaged in Narrows. Mr. McKlarney told him to let Mr. Mills know and they could visit the house and make a recommendation.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES – PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. McKlarney has been in contact with the procurement committee to establish a request for proposals for emergency medical services in the county. This is for 24/7 coverage. The RFP is out this week and there is a mandatory pre-bid on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The due date for the proposals is April 26<sup>th</sup>. A recommendation will be brought to the board after that and they will try to make that change by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

***Mr. Gentry moved to reappoint Mr. Bill Browning to the Planning Commission from the Eastern District for a four-year term. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy.***

***Ms. Hobbs moved to reappoint Mr. Tom Pitzer to the Planning Commission from the Central District for a four-year term. Second by Mr. Gentry. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy.***

## PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

**Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$432,455.83 for payment of warrants as presented. Second by Mr. Spencer.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Gentry asked if \$370 seemed high for the electric bill on "Curve Road". Mr. McKlarney said that was the pump station and was about average for that one. Mr. Gentry asked about a charge for Eastern District Sewer to A&A. Mr. Belcher said he did get copies of some plans they had done. However, he thought that may have just been coded wrong. Ms. Hobbs asked about a Carilion Lab charge for Castle Rock. Mr. McKlarney said that would be drug testing, but he would check on it.

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

## SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION

**Mr. Gentry moved to appropriate \$2,557,886.95 for April, 2010 expenses. This amount includes \$257,482.80 for construction. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy.**

## SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION

**Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$175,000 for Social Services for April, \$132,000 for CSA for April, and \$18,825 for VIEW and Child Day Care block grant. Second by Mr. Spencer. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gentry, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Gloria Hurt:** Ms. Hurt spoke on behalf of the Giles Education Association. She thanked the board for the continuing service they provide. Ms. Hurt offered to share information from a report entitled, "Left Behind in America: A Nation's Drop-Out Crisis." She offered statistics on lower employment rates and earning capacity of high school drop-outs. They are also more likely to be incarcerated and to have families living below the poverty line.

Ms. Hurt said laying off teachers, increasing class size and minimizing needed services would hurt students now and in the future. Students need to be highly skilled to participate in a global economy. They also deserve a decent life, a job, and a family with a chance to own a home. This study also looked at the daily challenges of classroom teachers. A positive working environment was a key to keeping good teachers. However, working overtime, lack of staff or materials and equipment, and a lack of funding resources creates stress, low morale, and less effectiveness in the classroom. There is a significant relationship between these things and an increase in the drop-out rate and a decrease in student attendance and achievement.

Ms. Hurt said teachers have been doing more and more with less and less. In the past decade, many new programs have been imposed on schools without any additional funding. She stated a teacher in Giles County with 14 years of service and paying for family insurance plans would only take home about \$1,400 monthly. Health and Human Services poverty guidelines have a family of four with a monthly income less than \$1,800 eligible. Ms. Hurt urged the board to maintain previous funding levels for the schools. School employees are unable to pay higher insurance premiums, retirement contributions and definitely cannot suffer a salary cut. The cuts from the General Assembly that are passed to localities are staggering. The GEA is well aware of that. There is still a huge responsibility on the School Board to adequately fund our children's education. Now, more than ever, it is important to supplement educational funding to provide the financial security needed at this time.

**Gail Williams:** Ms. Williams said she was unable to attend the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, but she did realize the minutes were a matter of public record and obtained a copy. She wanted to set the record straight referring to

some comments Mr. Dirico made and named Ms. Williams personally. Ms. Williams said Mr. Dirico's statements regarding the petitions concerning the rezoning and special exception request were untrue. She said the opposing petition clearly states the purpose of the petition along with Mr. Dirico's name, address and that the special exception was for a car lot. This was submitted to the secretary for the board's use. Mr. Dirico mentioned an individual by name. That individual did not sign this petition nor was he asked to sign it on either the rezoning or the special exception request. Ms. Williams said she hoped this set the record straight and she thanked the board members for their time.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Board members set a budget workshop for Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 PM at the County Administration Building.

**STOCK PEN WATER PROJECT**

Mr. Spencer asked if there was any progress on the Stock Pen water project. Mr. Belcher said he spoke with Mr. Tuggle of T&L this week and left a message for a Mr. Lucas about putting a small pump station on his property. Mr. Spencer asked about a tank site. Mr. Belcher said they hope not to have one.

Ms. Hobbs asked about the status of repainting the roof on the Law Building. Mr. McKlarney said the building department had been busy dealing with flood issues, but he would follow up on it.

Mr. Gentry said he spoke to Ms. Gillespie about the overcrowding at the Wellness Center. She had some good ideas on dealing with that and the board will probably see some recommendations out of those.

No further business was introduced. Ms. Hobbs recessed the meeting the budget meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 10 AM in the General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, Virginia.

APPROVED:

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Clerk