

COUNTY OF BATH, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
BATH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Circuit Court Room

Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Bath County, Virginia, Claire A. Collins, Chairperson; Richard B. Byrd, Vice Chairman; Stuart L. Hall; Edward T. Hicklin; Mathew S. Ratcliffe; Lady and Gentlemen Supervisors; Michael M. Collins, County Attorney; and Ashton N. Harrison, County Administrator.

Claire A. Collins, Chair called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion made by Supervisor Byrd which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, the Board went into closed meeting in the Upper Level Jury Room Pursuant to Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended section 2.2-3711.A.7 Consultation with Legal Counsel; Section 2.2-3711.A.1 Personnel; and Section 2.2-3711.A.5 Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry.

Supervisor Hall made a motion which was adopted 5-0, in favor of coming out of closed meeting and returning to the regular meeting and to certify as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Bath County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Bath County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bath County Board of Supervisors certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which the certification resolution applies and (2) Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed and considered by the Bath County Board of Supervisors.

Ayes: Claire A. Collins, Richard B. Byrd, Stuart L. Hall, Edward T. Hicklin, and Matthew S. Ratcliffe

Nays: None

Absent: None

Chair Collins called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Hall offered the invocation.

Chair Collins asked the Board if they wished to approve or amend the agenda and the minutes from the March 8, 2016, Board of Supervisors meeting and the March 31, 2016, Board work session.

County Administrator Harrison said additional invoices and an additional transfer request would need to be added to the agenda for consideration.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to approve the agenda with the following changes. Add additional invoices, additional transfer request, strike item 075-16 consider paving and health department renovation bids from the agenda, move item 078-16 MPCA request for tax exempt status to follow item 068-16 public comment, and move item 074-16 Public Hearing to consider probate tax fee of \$25 to follow 069-16 Public Hearing on County and Schools budget and County tax levies. The motion was adopted 5-0.

Supervisor Hall made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016, Board of Supervisors Meeting and March 31, 2016 Board work session as submitted. The motion was adopted 5-0.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Phil Deemer, Cedar Creek District, spoke on behalf of Preservation Bath. Mr. Deemer said the group plans to come back to the Board next year and seek permission to apply for the cost share grant. He said Preservation Bath will need the Board's full support. Mr. Deemer said Preservation Bath will spend the next year educating the public about importance of historic districts.

Mr. Dempsie Hevener, Williamsville District, spoke in opposition of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project. Mr. Hevener said until residents have lived in the County for at least 30 years they should not be allowed to serve on a committee or hold an office.

Ms. Erin Roberts, Millboro District, read a document encouraging the Board to approve Millboro Preservation and Cultural Association's (MPCA) request for tax exempt status. She cited that the MPCA is a charitable organization who has created a community center and is no different than any other community center that receives real property tax exemption.

Mr. Carl Chestnut, Cedar Creek District, he said people move here from the cities and want the county to change. He said he wants to see things go back to the old days.

Mrs. Mary Hodges and Mr. Ryan Hodges, Warm Springs District, spoke in opposition of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and encouraged the Board to pass a formal resolution and to register the Board's formal opposition.

Mr. Jay Trinca, Warm Springs District, said he has attended many Board meetings in the past 12 years and has never called anyone out by name. Mr. Trinca presented the Board with

what he called Mr. McWilliams "hit list". Mr. Trinca said Mr. McWilliams is trying to discredit his wife's business by having brochures removed from other local businesses. Mr. Trinca also spoke about the budget. He said he felt there is sufficient revenue to balance the budget but there does not seem to be any willingness to reduce spending in the schools and other departments. Mr. Trinca said it is true that he did not support the meals and lodging taxes, the Sheriff's office collecting local fines, and that he does not support any growth in government unless it is a safety or security issue. Mr. Trinca said he wanted to make it clear that he did not oppose Neil's Small Engine Repair business but when his wife opened her business on the same road she was told she had to provide adequate landscaping and that should also be required at Neil's.

Mr. John Loeffler, Warm Springs District, urged the Board to reappoint Wayne Anderson to the EDA. Mr. Loeffler said Mr. Anderson has led the effort in working with the prospective business that may locate in Bath County.

Mr. Roy Burns, Warm Springs District, said he decided to become involved with the EDA and the community because he has three children and wants to make sure there is an opportunity for them and other young people to stay in Bath County and be able to raise their families here. Mr. Burns said if the Board desires a change on the EDA Board he would caution them to wait until the project to bring a prospective business to the County is completed.

Mr. Cliff Gilchrest, Millboro District, encouraged the Board to increase the real estate tax rate 2 to 4 cents per one hundred of assessed value. Mr. Gilchrest said every cent on the tax rate would equal about \$235,000 in additional revenue. Mr. Gilchrest said the additional revenue could be used to improve and continue CTE programs at the high school and other projects.

Mr. Jonah Windham, Valley Springs District, spoke regarding the lodging tax imposed by the County in 2004. Mr. Windham said in the beginning a 2% lodging tax was imposed with the proceeds going to the general fund. The County funded a marketing program administered by the Chamber of Commerce, "Take the Back Roads to Bath," this funding used only a portion of the lodging tax collected. The funding did not continue at the same level in future years to support the marketing effort and the program suffered. Mr. Windham said soon after the Board and the Chamber Board began looking at the additional 2% in lodging funds that could be collected based on state code. The Chamber supported the additional 2% because those funds as the legislature instructs can only be used to promote tourism. In August of 2009 the additional 2% was collected. Mr. Windham said in the first year it was not clear that those funds were used exclusively to promote tourism, but in 2010 a Tourism Director was hired and since then the funds have been used to promote tourism. Mr. Windham reminded the Board that the proposed visitor's center will be funded totally by lodging tax dollars. In closing Mr. Windham said good things are happening in Bath and "if you are not willing to help pull the wagon then get out of the way."

Ms. Ellen Miller, Warm Springs District, spoke in favor of funding for the schools 2017 budget. Ms. Miller said there is no such thing as level funding. She said things beyond the schools control increase which cuts into the budget. Ms. Miller said the school system is working hard to promote CTE courses and improve the future of our young people. She urged

the Board to appropriate all unanticipated education revenue back to the schools budget. She said please do not look to the pipeline as a new source of revenue.

Ms. Lisa Hamilton, Williamsville District, questioned why the Board would consider a stipend in lieu of health insurance. She also urged the Board to increase funding for school operations. Ms. Hamilton said whether you have lived here two minutes or thirty years if you are a tax paying member of the community you have earned a vested interest in county government.

Ms. Jamie McArdle, Warm Springs District, said this is the first Board meeting she has attended since moving to Bath County in 2007. She said she has invested her life here and finds the pipeline troubling. Ms. McArdle said she cannot believe that karst and natural springs will not be affected. She urged the Board to register formal opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline coming through Bath County. She said the vote to deny Preservation Bath's application for the cost share program grant was a bad decision. Ms. McArdle urged the Board to reappoint Wayne Anderson to the EDA.

### **Board Comment**

Supervisor Byrd said he was glad to see so many attending Board meetings and sharing their comments. He said there are some very disturbing things going on in the community. Supervisor Byrd said he met with a citizen who gave him a copy of papers circulating in the community, and he had also received a call from Jay Trinca who found this same paper on the door at his business. He said a member of the Chamber of Commerce called the Board "Stupidvisors." He said he was smart enough to know there needs to be changes from the past four years. He said he was so mad when he got some of this information that he voted against Preservation Bath's request to apply for the cost share grant. Supervisor Byrd said the actions of one or two people can affect the whole group. He said everyone needs to learn to get along. He said the Board was elected to make decisions and look at the budget and do what's best for the County.

Supervisor Ratcliffe thanked Jack Lindsay for repairing the heat pump at the radio station. He said during public comment he heard about the proposed business that may come to the County. He said the public knows more than members of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Hall said he served with Jay Trinca on the Public Service Authority (PSA) and that he saved this county millions of dollars when he was on the PSA. He said he agreed with Mr. Trinca on many issues and he thanked him for his service to the County and Country.

Supervisor Byrd made a motion to have the County Administrator prepare a resolution which will be signed by the Chair opposing the pipeline. The motion was adopted 5-0.

Chair Collins said the next step for the visitors center property was to determine if the buildings could be saved or stabilized. Chair Collins said she has heard a lot of discussion about economic development she said the basis for economic development starts with how we treat each other. She shared an excerpt from Dissertation on First Principles of Government by Thomas Paine.

### **Millboro Preservation and Cultural Association (MPCA) Request for Tax Exempt Status**

County Attorney Collins updated the Board he said he checked on community centers within the County that are currently tax. He said some of them have been tax exempt for so long that the records did not exist or there was no clear indication of why they were granted exemption. Mr. Collins said the Commissioner of the Revenue can grant an exemption based on classification but the exemption is for the community center building and the property on which it sits. Mr. Collins explained the appeals process which is processed by the courts not the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Collins said the MPCA could apply to the Board of Supervisors for exemption based on their specific designation. Mr. Collins said no action can be taken by the Board to grant exemption based on designation until the Board receives a request from MPCA and the Board gives public notice of the request. He said in his opinion MPCA can either ask the Commissioner of the Revenue to grant exemption based on classification or apply to the Board of Supervisors for exemption based on specific designation.

Chair Collins asked the County Attorney to explain the reversion clause in MPCA's property deed.

Attorney Collins said if the MPCA ceases to own or maintain the property it would revert back to the County.

Supervisor Byrd said this item has been on the agenda several times and he would like to take care of it. Supervisor Byrd asked County Attorney Collins to assist MPCA with the application process and ask the Chair and County Administrator to run the necessary public notice.

Mrs. Angel Grimm, Commissioner of the Revenue, said the MPCA is not the only organization that might be interested in applying for tax exemption. She said the County could potentially lose \$63,000 in revenue.

County Attorney Collins said any organization has the right to apply for consideration.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to authorize the County Administrator to run an ad giving the public at least a five day notice pursuant to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3651 to consider application by MPCA for tax exemption. The motion was adopted 4 in favor, 0 against, and 1 exemption.

### **Public Hearing on FY 17 County Tax Levies and County and Schools Budget**

County Administrator Harrison said there is no proposed increase in real property or personal property taxes. Taxes will remain at \$0.48 per one hundred of assessed value for real property and \$0.35 per one hundred of assessed value for personal property. Mr. Harrison gave an overview of the proposed budget. The total proposed budget including the schools and all county funds is \$18,214,873. \$9,310,590 is requested for schools, \$538,949 is requested for the lodgers fund, \$1,137,200 is requested for Social Services, and \$7,228,134 is requested for the county's general fund expenditures. County Administrator Harrison requested a work session

be scheduled before the May Board of Supervisors meeting. He said revenues are not increasing and recommended flat funding for schools and cuts to the general fund.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Mr. Jay Trinca, Warm Springs District, asked how much is enough for the schools.

Mrs. Sue Hirsh, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Board for acknowledging the school systems capital needs. She said the school system understands the economic situation of the County but expenditures are going up. Mrs. Hirsh said Bath County Schools provide an education equivalent to private schools. Mrs. Hirsh invited the Board and public to visit the schools.

Ms. Lisa Hamilton, Williamsville District, said it costs \$26,000 to house a prisoner in the criminal justice system. She said it is vital to provide a good education to our children.

Mr. Roy Burns, Warm Springs District, said an increase of a couple of cents on the tax rate wouldn't hurt anyone. He said everything is getting more expensive including education. Mr. Burns urged the Board to raise the tax rate rather than cutting the schools budget.

Mr. Danny Cardwell, Cedar Creek District, said he proposed a tax increase of two cents during the budget process in 2015. He said we are debating how much our children are worth. Mr. Cardwell recommended a tax increase to fund the schools. He said our children's future is worth it.

Mr. Cliff Gilchrest, Millboro District, said he attended the joint meeting between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors held at Mertz Career and Technical Center. He said he was impressed by the interaction between the students and teachers. Mr. Gilchrest said two cents on the real estate tax would be worth approximately \$500,000 in revenue. Mr. Gilchrest said it is amazing what the school system could do with that amount of money. Mr. Gilchrest strongly encouraged a tax increase.

Mr. Wally Robertson, Cedar Creek District, said wants and needs are different. He stressed the importance of learning to spend the funds that are coming in and no more.

The Chair closed the public hearing and thanked the public for their comments. Chair Collins said no action would be taken on the budget until the May 10, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting.

#### **Public Hearing Probate Tax Fee**

County Administrator Harrison said Circuit Court Clerk Annette Loan asked him to bring a request to Board of Supervisors allowing her office to institute a \$25 fee to be charged for the recordation of list of heirs or an affidavit. County Administrator Harrison said the Board would need to amend County Code Section 15-15 and 15-16 adding the \$25 charge for the recordation of list of heirs or an affidavit in accordance with Code of Virginia 64.2-509, 64.2-510, and 58.1-1717.1.

Chair Collins opened the public hearing. Having no one who wished to comment the public hearing was closed.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to adopt ordinance number 2016-03 amending Bath County Code Chapter 15 imposing a \$25 charge on recordation of a list of heirs or an affidavit. The motion was adopted 5-0.

#### **Presentation Bath County Chamber of Commerce and Business Innovation Team**

Ms. Emily Plecker, Chamber Executive Director, provided a power point presentation outlining Chamber of Commerce activities. Ms. Plecker gave an overview of the proposed Business Innovation Team. Ms. Plecker said as mentioned in the Economic Development Strategic Plan the Business Innovation Team would be comprised of 10 to 12 local professionals. The Chamber Executive Director, Chamber President, and the County Administrator would serve as ex-officio members. Ms. Plecker said the Chamber of Commerce would develop the criteria and advertise for interested members, the list would be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for concurrence.

#### **Presentation Bath Community Hospital**

Ms. Pat Foutz addressed the Board regarding funding cuts that impact the mental health services available at Bath Community Hospital (BCH). Ms. Foutz said BCH is expanding services to ensure they are able to make proper assessments and evaluations. She said a Coalition Team was formed to address the lack of mental health services offered in the County, the lack of understanding regarding mental health, and the lack of available providers. Ms. Foutz said Rockbridge Area Community Services (RACS) Board no longer offers services for voluntary assessments. She said non-voluntary emergency committals are mandated and RACS will continue to provide non-voluntary committals. Ms. Foutz asked the Board of Supervisors to assist BCH with 50% of the needed funding to provide voluntary assessments. Ms. Foutz said BCH is only asking for a one year funding commitment. Ms. Foutz said they are working to staff the hospital with the needed professionals to provide mental health services that are currently lacking in the County.

Chair Collins said serving on the Coalition Team has been very rewarding and has opened her eyes to services that are lacking in the County. She said it will make an enormous impact on the community to be able to offer those services locally.

Supervisor Byrd asked BCH to provide complete financial statements before the Board considered the funding request.

#### **Consideration to set Public Hearings**

Mrs. Sherry Ryder, County Planner/Zoning Administrator, asked the Board to consider setting public hearings for May 10, 2016, at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible on the following items **1.** Addition of sections 604.02-8, 605.02-9, and 606.2-13 to the Bath County Land Use Regulations which would permit Bed and Breakfast establishments in zoning districts

R-1 Residential Limited, R-2 Residential, and R-3 Medium Density Residential. 2. Article 11 Schedule of Fees of the Bath County Land Use Regulations, changes are proposed for conditional use permits, telecommunications and wind energy conditional use permit, administrative permits, and comprehensive plan amendment requests. 3. DG Landholdings, LLC (Natural Assets) Tax Map 63-45A application to rezone and application to subdivide parcel comprising 16.558 acres in the Warm Springs District from A-2 Agricultural General to R-3 Medium Density Residential for the purpose of subdividing into 7 lots initially with possibility to have a total of 35 lots in the future. Mrs. Ryder said the Planning Commission recommended all of the above to the Board of Supervisors for public hearings.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to set the aforementioned public hearings for May 10, 2016, at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. The motion was adopted 5-0.

### **Employee Handbook Amendment Health Insurance Supplement**

County Administrator Harrison said the County currently covers 100% of the health insurance premium for employee only plans and 65% of all other plans. He said with increasing costs the Board continues to look for ways to reduce expenses. One method to reduce costs is to offer a stipend in lieu of health insurance. Mr. Harrison said there are currently six employees eligible for the stipend which will be \$200 for the coming fiscal year and determined annually thereafter. The total amount of the stipend will be \$14,400 per year which is \$30,420 less than the cost of providing health insurance to said employees. Mr. Harrison recommended adoption of the following amendment to the employee handbook.

#### Amendment Number 1, Health Insurance Program Opt-Out Provision

*Any regular employee who wishes to opt out of participating in the County's health insurance program may do so by signing a release. The County may provide employees who choose to opt out of the health insurance program with a monthly stipend in the amount of which will be determined in an annual basis during the budget process, and shall be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds.*

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to adopt amendment number 1 to the Bath County Employee Handbook allowing for a stipend in lieu of health insurance.

Supervisor Hicklin made a substitute motion to delay action on amendment number 1 to the Bath County Employee Handbook until the May meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The motion failed 2-3, with Supervisor Hicklin and Chair Collins voting in favor and Supervisors Hall, Ratcliffe, and Byrd voting against.

Chair Collins called for the vote on Supervisor Byrd's motion to adopt amendment number 1 to the Bath County Employee Handbook allowing for a stipend in lieu of health insurance. The motion was adopted 4-1, with Supervisors Hall, Byrd, Ratcliffe and Chair Collins voting in favor and Supervisor Hicklin voting against.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to fund the stipend in lieu of health insurance at \$200 per employee per month beginning April 2016. The motion was adopted 4-1, with Supervisor Hicklin dissenting.

### **MOU between Central Shenandoah Health District and Bath County**

County Administrator Harrison said a memorandum of understanding from the Central Shenandoah Health District (CSHD) regarding rabies is required by the state. Mr. Harrison said Animal Control has always worked closely with the local health department regarding rabies and has operated under the same guidelines spelled out in the MOU and will continue to do so regarding possible rabid animals and exposures to domestic animals and humans.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to adopt the MOU between Central Shenandoah Health District and Bath County and CSHD Rabies Exposure Authority and Responsibility Plan. The motion was adopted 5-0.

### **Solid Waste Site Agreements**

County Administrator Harrison said solid waste agreements for sites at Douthat State Park Road owned by James Reynolds and a new site on Dry Run Road owned by Christian Mangels are provided for review by the Board. Mr. Harrison said the Douthat site is an existing site. The Dry Run site will require an application to VDOT and solicitation of bids for construction. Mr. Harrison said both agreements include a 60 day termination clause and a fee of \$175 per month will be paid to the owners. Mr. Harrison thanked Jack's Trash Service for their help in acquiring the Dry Run site and the public for their patience while the site is developed.

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve the agreement for Douthat State Park Road solid waste site between the County and James Reynolds, and the agreement for Dry Run solid waste site between the County and Christian Mangels. The motion was adopted 5-0.

### **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

#### *Economic Development Authority At-large*

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to nominate John Fischer to fill the at-large seat on the Economic Development Authority effective April 15, 2016.

Supervisor Hicklin made a substitute motion to re-appoint Wayne Anderson to the at-large position on the EDA.

Supervisor Byrd said he personally had nothing against Mr. Anderson, nor his wife or his family and didn't want anyone to think that. He said he read John Fischer's resume and it was hard to imagine that a person with his resume a CFO with fortune 500 and 400 companies. Supervisor Byrd said Mr. Fischer is a very distinguished and qualified contractor. He said Mr. Fischer is admirable and was involved with the Concerned Citizens of the Hospitals. Supervisor Byrd said the Board has been made aware that a company might want to come to Bath County but no one can tell them when it might happen. Supervisor Byrd said his motion for John Fischer stands and he respects Supervisor Hicklin for his motion.

Chair Collins said there could be a compromise. She said there are two very qualified gentlemen that have been nominated for the at-large EDA seat. Chair Collins passed the gavel

to Supervisor Byrd. Chair Collins suggested the Board could extend Mr. Anderson's term for a period of one year and then consider appointing Mr. Fischer at that time.

Chair Collins made a substitute motion to leave Mr. Anderson on the EDA in the at-large seat for one year and then appoint John Fischer to serve beginning April 15, 2017.

County Administrator Harrison said to allow Mr. Anderson to continue serving would not require any action at this time.

County Attorney Collins said the motion should be to appoint Mr. Fischer to complete the balance of the four year term that would begin April 15, 2017. (Mr. Anderson would continue to serve until April 15, 2017) Chair Collins agreed to change her motion.

Supervisor Byrd called for the vote on Chair Collins substitute motion to Mr. Fischer to complete the balance of the four year term that would begin April 15, 2017. The motion failed 2-3, with Chair Collins and Supervisor Hicklin voting in favor and Supervisors Hall, Byrd, and Ratcliffe voting against.

Supervisor Byrd passed the gavel back to Chair Collins.

Chair Collins called for the vote on Supervisor Hicklin's substitute motion to re-appoint Wayne Anderson to the at-large position on the EDA. The motion failed 2-3, with Chair Collins and Supervisor Hicklin voting in favor and Supervisors Hall, Byrd, and Ratcliffe voting against.

Chair Collins called for the vote on Supervisor Byrd's motion to appoint John Fischer to the at-large position on the EDA effective April 15, 2016 for a four year term. The motion was adopted 4-1, with Chair Collins, Supervisors Hall, Byrd and Ratcliffe voting in favor and Supervisor Hicklin voting against.

*Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board*

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to reappoint Jonah Windham to the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board for a term to expire March 31, 2020. The motion was adopted 5-0.

**Proclamation Declaring April 2016 as National County Government Month**

Supervisor Hall made the motion to approve the following proclamation declaring April 2016 as National County Government Month and authorized the Chair and County Administrator to sign the proclamation. The motion was adopted 5-0.

**A Proclamation Declaring April 2016 as National County Government Month  
"Safe and Secure Counties"**

**WHEREAS**, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe, vibrant and economically resilient communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Bath and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, well-being and safety of our residents in efficient and cost effective ways; and

**WHEREAS**, through National Association of Counties (NACo) President Sallie Clark’s “Safe and Secure Counties” initiative, NACo is encouraging counties to focus on strengthening the safety and security of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America’s counties provide public health, justice, emergency management and economic services that play a key role in everything from residents’ daily health to disaster response; and

**WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote programs and services to the public we serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Bath County offers and/or funds a variety services including law enforcement, emergency services, judicial system, solid waste, public health and welfare, education, culture and recreation, tourism and economic development and other services; and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Bath County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as National County Government Month;

**AND FURTHERMORE**, encourages citizens and visitors alike to contact their district supervisor, Constitutional Officers, county staff, or visit the County’s website [www.bathcountyvva.org](http://www.bathcountyvva.org) to find out information on County services.

### **Actions from Closed Session – None**

### **Consent Agenda**

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve the payment of invoices, additional invoices, requests for transfers and appropriations, accept correspondence and monthly reports as submitted. The motion was adopted 5-0.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Jamie Gwin, Warm Springs District, expressed his frustration that the Board of Supervisors did not consider the EDA membership’s wishes when appointing the at-large position. Mr. Gwin publically resigned his seat on the Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Jonah Windham, Valley Springs District, said he would like the Board to keep in mind that the Board’s actions may cost the County a business and no matter the cause the Board will take the blame.

Supervisor Hall said if some members of the public continued to disrupt the meeting he would ask the Chair to have the Sheriff escort those making the commotion out of the meeting. Supervisor Hall said the Board is here to promote business, not have an entertainment show.

Mr. Carl Chestnut, Cedar Creek, said he would like to thank Jay and Claudia Trinca for opening their business in Warm Springs. He said he has known the Trinca’s since they have been in Bath and respects them.

Mr. Glen Criser, Warm Springs District, agreed. He said you can’t have five members on the Board and two or three former members in the audience trying to run the meeting.

Mr. Jay Trinca, Warm Springs District, said he heard some people comment that the Board should raise taxes to support the schools. He said before the Board considers a tax increase they should consult with their constituents because many cannot afford a tax increase.

Mr. Harold King, Williamsville District, thanked the Board for standing up for the rights of the citizens by going forward with a resolution to FERC opposing the pipeline. Mr. King said the true harm of a pipeline is not known but potentially the damage could be great to karst areas, drinking water, collapsing caverns and putting sediment in our drinking waters. Mr. King said Dominion is a runaway train that is picking up steam by limiting the comment period for the citizens of Bath when other localities have had over a year to comment.

Chair Collins closed the public comment and asked for Board member comments.

Supervisor Hall said he heard several requests to raise taxes. He said he would not vote to raise taxes this year because this Board is still paying for items the former Board obligated them to. He said some of his citizens choose between medicine and food every month. Supervisor Hall said the Treasurer would be happy to take any donations from those who would like to pay additional taxes.

Supervisor Ratcliffe thanked Jay Trinca for his service to the Country and apologized to the Trinca's for the recent childish actions that someone had taken against them and their business.

Supervisor Byrd thanked the citizens for their attendance. He said attending Board meetings is the only way to learn about local government. Supervisor Byrd said his votes were not always easy and he came back on the Board because his citizens wanted someone to speak for them. He said he always votes for what he thinks is right and his votes are not against anyone. He said he supports all County departments and does what he feels is right for the County and does the best he can to represent the people who elected him.

Supervisor Hicklin said he thought the Board possibly blew a good opportunity for a business to come to the County. He said there are only two ways to gain revenue new businesses or raise taxes, and if you don't want new businesses you might have to raise taxes.

Chair Collins said the art of compromise is what government is all about. She said she hoped the County did not lose the prospective business. She said the stranger you meet in the local store or on the street may be someone looking at the County as a possible place for a new business. Chair Collins said she would like the Board to send a nice thank you letter to Mr. Anderson for his leadership and service to the County and the EDA. Chair Collins said when she votes against a motion it not against her fellow Board Members but it is because she is listening to not only her constituents but citizens from all districts. She said anytime the County has an opportunity to attract a new business the County and the Board better go after it for the good of the people and county as a whole. Chair Collins said the community needs to stand together and celebrate the positive things around us.

Supervisor Hall made the motion to send thank you letters to all members Board and Commissions whether they are reappointed or not to show the Board of Supervisors appreciation for their service. The motion was adopted 5-0.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion which was adopted 5-0.

Chairperson Collins adjourned the meeting.

Ordered that this Board do now stand adjourned until 7:00 p.m., May 10, 2016, for the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

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Ashton N. Harrison, Clerk

APPROVED:

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Claire A. Collins, Chairperson