

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

Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Bath County, Virginia, Richard B. Byrd, Vice Chairman; Edward T. Hicklin; and Mathew S. Ratcliffe; Supervisors; Michael M. Collins, County Attorney; and Ashton N. Harrison, County Administrator. Supervisor Stuart L. Hall was absent. Claire A. Collins, Chair joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Richard B. Byrd, Vice Chair called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Byrd called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and offered the invocation.

Vice Chair Byrd asked the Board if they wished to approve or amend the agenda and the minutes from the September 13, 2016, Board of Supervisors meeting.

Vice Chair Byrd asked that item 184-16 emergency procurement be deleted from the agenda, and added the following items to the agenda, item 194-16 (a) rescind decision to defund Chamber of Commerce and added consultation with legal counsel to closed meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended section 2.2-3711.A.7.

Supervisor Hicklin made the motion to approve the agenda with the aforementioned changes made by Vice Chair Byrd. The motion was adopted 3-0-2 absent.

Supervisor Hicklin made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2016, Board of Supervisors Meeting as submitted with one change, at the September meeting Supervisor Byrd made the motion that the Tourism Coordinator would report directly to the County Administrator the minutes did not reflect that, therefore a correction was necessary. The motion was adopted 3-0-2 absent.

**Public Comment**

Vice Chair Byrd reminded the public of the public comment guidelines and that the Board would not respond to questions at the meeting. Vice Chair Byrd said the County Administrator would answer any questions in a media blitz of some form.

Mr. Jonah Windham, Valley Springs District, said he had just one thing to say and that was in relation to at a previous meeting of the Board, the movement and the motion of the property purchased with tourism funds in Mitchelltown, I believe it said it was either to the EDA or the County, if that is correct and that ruling stands I would ask that the County either from the EDA or from the general fund reimburse the tourism capital outlay fund for those funds so they can be used appropriately according to state law.

Mrs. Wanda Bradley, Valley Springs District, reminded the Board they are elected officials, elected to serve the wants and needs of the County. She said I feel and I don't think I am alone, that the decisions made at the September meeting to cut funding for the Chamber of Commerce and fire our Director of Tourism did not truly represent the best interests of the County. Mrs. Bradley said whether people like it or not, Bath County survives on tourism. Everyone knows the Homestead is the largest employer in the county and this is due to tourism. Practically every citizen and or business in Bath County benefits directly or indirectly from tourism. I think this Board has done a disservice to Maggie Anderson and a disservice to small business in the county. She said County Cafe has been in business for over 22 years. She said extra business from tourists has allowed them funds to make improvements to their property and support their family. She said the last several years has shown a definite increase in business and profit. Mrs. Bradley attributed much of this increase in business to Tourism Director Maggie Anderson. She shared an article that referenced 17 restaurants in Virginia you must visit before you die. Mrs. Bradley said two local Bath County restaurants made the list, one of which was Country Cafe. Mrs. Bradley said this one article gave her business exposure and advertisement that they could never afford to do on their own. She said there are many people here tonight that want to know why the Board would make such a horrible decision. She said she didn't care why the Board made the decision, she just wanted it fixed. She said the only reasonable thing for the Board to do is to repeal the decision and reinstate Maggie Anderson as the tourism director and to restore funding to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Scott Miller, Williamsville District, agreed with Mrs. Bradley. Mr. Miller said he was baffled by the timing and questioned why the Board would make such a decision when the County is in negotiations with a major business and the tourism department is receiving awards.

Ms. Liz Knapp, Warm Springs District, expressed disappointment in the Board. She said she agreed with everything Mrs. Bradley said earlier. Ms. Knapp asked for an explanation from her representative Supervisor Ratcliff on why he voted to defund the Chamber and eliminate the Tourism Director. She also asked why Chair Collins had seemingly abdicated her duties to Vice Chair Byrd. She said all the comments seem to be coming from him and he represented the County in the media. Ms. Knapp asked for a legal opinion from the County Attorney regarding the September closed session. She wondered if any of the Board members knew the County recently held a County Fair. She said only one Supervisor, Mr. Hicklin attended, but the tourism department mainly Celine Pritt worked to promote the Fair. She questioned who the business was that Supervisor Hall said at a previous meeting was down \$5M this past year. Ms. Knapp asked if the Board was considering a reduction or elimination of the County's food and beverage tax or lodging tax and if so would the public get to comment and provide input before the decision is made.

Ms. Donna Campagna, Millboro District, asked for resignations from Supervisors Hall, Byrd, Ratcliffe, and Collins due to actions taken at the September 2016 meeting. She said it was clear that those actions resulted in the elimination of the tourism director, and the defunding of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Campagna said in her opinion the Board acted in an unprofessional and possibly illegal manner and that the Board was not representing the best interests of the County as a whole.

Mr. Jim English, Warm Springs District, spoke regarding plans to repurpose the Mitchelltown property for a veteran's memorial. He said by offering a veteran's memorial as opposed to a visitor's center the Board has put the public in a tough spot. Mr. English said it is worth mentioning the many first responders that also put their lives at risk for the public. He said this is not an issue of whether it is appropriate to use public funds to erect a memorial when the Board's had expressed concerns about lack of revenues. He said the veteran's memorial could be accomplished with private funding sources. Mr. English recognized the many outstanding veteran's memorials across the state. Mr. English said while he felt the County did not need an amphitheatre or theater he did agree with a visitor's center.

Ms. Pat Foutz, Millboro District, said the County needs to retain its young individuals and families. She said the County gained more from tourism than we lose. Ms. Foutz thanked Supervisor Hicklin for all he has done for the Millboro District. She said the Board needed to accept change and get on the same page. She said this is a wonderful change and she brought her family her years ago but her children had to move away because there is nothing her for them.

Mr. Jon Trees, Warm Springs District, said 12 years ago the County was going through one of the worst real estate reassessments in years. He said he had never seen so much turmoil and anger, but that in no way compares to what this County is going through today. He said actions taken at the September Board meeting were in his opinion nothing more than vindictive. He asked why the Board would remove the office of tourism when it has done so much for the County. Mr. Trees said he told the Board because of those actions and the reason he believed they took the actions, that he would do anything he could to have them removed from office. He said over the course of the last month petitions have been circulated through the community and over 400 signatures have been collected. He said he had a petition for each Board member with the exception of Supervisor Hicklin. Mr. Trees read the heading from one of the petitions requesting the immediate resignation of Supervisors Byrd, Collins, Hall and Ratcliffe. Mr. Trees said counsel had been retained and the recall process was underway should none of the Supervisors chose to resign. He said a true professional was hired as the Director of Tourism and she preformed her job well. He said he would like to see Mrs. Anderson return as Tourism Director and Mr. Collins return as County Attorney, but he doubted that would happen. Mr. Trees presented Supervisors Byrd, Collins, and Ratcliffe a petition asking for their resignation.

Chair Collins joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m., and assumed duties as Chair as Vice Chair Byrd handed over the gavel.

Mr. Jay Ford, Williamsville District, said he was speaking for a group of citizens who were scared to speak out for themselves. He said before he began his presentation he would like everyone to look around and take notice of the law enforcement that had to be present for this meeting to take place. He said owning a small business in the second smallest county in the state is hard, but the economy in Bath County is better than it's ever been in over 15 years. Mr. Ford recognized the young people and business owners who live and work in the County that have been supported by the Chamber of Commerce and Department of Tourism and Economic Development. He said the young professionals who came to Bath County are the future. Mr. Ford asked the Board to explain their recent actions to the citizens of the County.

Mr. Cliff Gilchrest, Millboro District, apologized for his behavior at the September meeting for stepping outside his comfort zone and ignoring the guidelines of public comment.

Mr. John Young, Valley Springs District, presented the Board with plans to erect a memorial honoring the citizens of Bath County who have served in the armed forces. Mr. Young said the memorial would be placed in front of the Sheriff's Office and had received the approval of the Sheriff and the Circuit Court Judge. He said the memorial had been donated and constructed by the former American Legion Post and McLaughlin and Young Funeral Home with help from Amanda's Redimix at no cost to the County. He said the style would match the existing bricks and three flag poles would be installed.

Mr. Kyle Krieger, Warm Springs District, said he and his wife Crystal own a restaurant in Hot Springs. He said one of the major reasons they opened their business in Bath County was because Maggie Anderson, former Director of Tourism and Economic Development, had a plan to help market their business. He said he did not know why she was let go.

Ms. Crystal Krieger, Warm Springs District, said this community is built on Tourism, not banking, government bodies or financial institutions. She said it is hard for a community to keep tradition while moving into the future. She said the County needs to grow and be competitive. She said the County is on the borderline of economic disaster that can be prevented by the Board. Ms. Krieger said their business and others depend on tourism. She said she understands the Homestead is the major source of employment in the area but every resort she has either stayed at or worked in has a lodging tax. She said there has been quite a show going on in the County recently and it is uncalled for and an embarrassment. She said the Board did not come and talk to individual businesses. She also touched on the lack of parking in Hot Springs.

Ms. Susan Plecker, Williamsville District, addressed Supervisor Byrd's comments to WSLs TV regarding the Chamber of Commerce and the amount of funds they have in CD's and bank accounts. She said she emailed Supervisor Byrd asking him to make sure in the future he checks for accuracy before giving information. She said she then read a letter to the editor claiming the office of tourism spent \$6M in six years when it was actually closer to \$2.5M. Ms. Plecker said the revenue collected from the lodging tax don't go directly back to the tourism office but they go to the pockets of citizens and businesses of the County. She said Supervisor Byrd emailed her that he would apologize to her and everyone else if he was wrong because that was what he had heard. She said she is still waiting of an apology.

Mr. John Lindsay, Warm Springs District, said the Board is doing the right thing and there was too much being spent on tourism. He said the first thing to go south and the last thing to come back is tourism. He said some people say we don't want change and they are right we don't. He said he has always heard about tourism but where are the real jobs. Mr. Lindsay said he had to go out of the County to make money to support his family. Mr. Lindsay said he is in favor of the Board taking care of his money and thanked the Board for doing so.

Mr. Jay Trinca, Warm Springs District, this current brouhaha in County for not renewing a contract with the Director of Tourism and Economic Development, not supporting a million plus dollar visitor's center and \$12,000 eliminated for Chamber of Commerce is setting off a

revolt of those whose special interests are being jeopardized and former Board members are playing Monday morning quarterback. He said he used to have respect for Mr. Trees but he lost it. He said elections have consequences and the liberal progressive lost the last County election. Mr. Trinca said the majority of the last Board was made up of liberal progressives unlike the current Board who are conservatives trying to clean up the fiscal mess left over from the last Board. He said in regards to renewing a contract he has lived in this county for 15 years and in Virginia for 36 years and he has seen senior employees not re-hired at all levels. He said they have moved on. He said he has faith that the current Board will enact a system for tourism that gives every business a place at the table. He said he hoped for a system of transparency that protects the best interests of the tax payers in general.

Mr. Kevin Fry, Valley Springs District, said a lot of people spoke tonight, some on both sides of the issues. Mr. Fry asked for a show of hands of the people in attendance who supported what the Board of Supervisors did to Maggie Anderson, approximately 10 people raised their hands. He then asked for a show of hands of those who did not support eliminating Mrs. Anderson's position as Director of Tourism and Economic Development, almost everyone else in the room raised their hands. Mr. Fry said "this is what put you in office, wake up, this is not an ego trip about what you did 20 years ago, this is what you did last month, this County is like a corporation, you are the Board, these are the stockholders, guess what guys, you are fired."

Chair Collins read a statement provided by Travis Kay, Warm Springs District. "I'm a little unhappy how things are going. These personal attacks on the Supervisors and on other people. And then signs about the Supervisors are childish games. You all need to grow up and act like adults. We need to worry about this County. We need to get along with one another and work together. Thanks, Travis."

### **Board Comment**

Supervisor Hicklin said the Board needs to work for the future of the County. He said it might sound absurd to some but when he decided to run for the Board he didn't do it for the people here tonight, but for the children of the community who will be affected by these decisions 20 years from now.

Supervisor Byrd said he wanted to apologize to Kevin Fry for telling him to shut up. He said the reason he did it was because several weeks ago the Board was having a meeting with the EDA and the very same words were said to him by Wayne Anderson. He said no one thought anything of it when he was told to shut up when he was Chairing the meeting between the Board and the EDA. Supervisor Byrd said in regards for the money that was spent for tourism the total spent was \$6M. He said the Board of Supervisors for the last four years spent \$3M of it. The amount received was \$6M the amount spent by Maggie Anderson was \$2,550,000. He said he couldn't help it if the previous Board did not appropriate it into tourism and use it where it should have been. The revenue for those years was \$6M with 3M spent by the Board of Supervisors for other purposes other than tourism. Supervisor Byrd said if we took it wrong Susan I apologize.

### **General Agenda**

#### **Public Hearing Chapter 16 Solid Waste**

Chair Collins said the Board would hear and consider input on repealing the amendments to County Code Chapter 16 Solid Waste adopted October 13, 2015, therefore restoring the previous Chapter 16 in effect prior to said amendments. Chair Collins said the Board wanted to hear from the public.

Mrs. Sherry Ryder, County Planner, presented comments provided by Supervisor Hall who was absent from the meeting. Mrs. Ryder said Supervisor Hall wanted her to make the following comments regarding solid waste fees and building permits, new construction it was suggested the County charge \$10 per singlewide placement and \$20 per double wide placement as there is very little debris and 0.5% of the estimated cost for other new construction. Mrs. Ryder said the County under the previous ordinance charged 0.25% of the estimated costs of renovations and remodeling which creates considerably more waste than new construction. She said their recommendation was to increase the amount charged for renovations and remodeling to 0.5% the same as new construction. She said regarding demolition the contractor would be responsible for the cost of the actual tonnage at the prevailing rate.

Chair Collins opened the public hearing.

Mr. Bruce McWilliams, Williamsville District, said as he recalled the solid waste contract was renegotiated a few years ago and resulted in considerable savings to County. He said blighted structures have been a problem in the County and felt property owners would be reluctant to take down the structures if the fees were reinstated. Mr. McWilliams also questioned how much this would affect the Homestead's bottom-line if they were saddled with an extra \$30,000 or more per year in solid waste fees. Mr. McWilliams said this appears to be another example of this Board's desire to go where we started as opposed to moving forward.

Ms. Trudy Woodzell, Cedar Creek District and co-owner of Jack's Trash Service asked the Board to table action until the Board had an opportunity to meet with Republic Services and Jack's Trash Service.

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

Supervisor Ratcliffe confirmed that citizens could take debris to Peter's Mountain Landfill at no charge.

County Administrator Harrison read comments from Republic Services asking the Board to table action until the Board could meet with them and Jack's Trash Service.

Supervisor Hicklin said he agreed to table until further discussion.

Supervisor Ratcliffe agreed to table until the Board could meet with Jack's Trash Service and Republic Services. He said the Board could be going backwards if they reinstate the former ordinance without further discussion.

Supervisor Byrd said if the Board doesn't want to make any changes there's no need for further discussion.

Supervisor Hicklin suggested meeting with Jack's Trash and Republic Services before deciding if changes are needed or not.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to table action on repealing the amendments to County Code Chapter 16 Solid Waste adopted October 13, 2015. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Omni Homestead Request for Fireworks Permit Extension**

County Administrator Harrison said the Omni Homestead is requesting an extension of its permit to display fireworks. The current permit expired October 1, 2016, they would like an extension until December 31, 2018.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to approve the extension of Omni Homestead's permit to display fireworks until December 31, 2018. The motion was adopted 3-0, Supervisor Ratcliffe abstained, and 1 absent.

#### **Millboro Volunteer Fire Association Request for Waiver of Building Permit Fees**

Mrs. Sherry Ryder, County Planner, said Millboro Volunteer Fire Association made application for a building permit for an addition to the existing structure and requested a waiver of permit fees. Mrs. Ryder said in the past the Board has approved similar requests for other volunteer fire and rescue departments.

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve Millboro Volunteer Fire Association's request for waiver of building permit fees. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **School Security Grant Additional Appropriation**

County Administrator Harrison said Bath County Schools has received a third security grant in the amount of \$11,377, a required match of \$2,844.25 will come from the schools existing budget. County Administrator Harrison asked the Board to appropriate \$11,377 to the schools budget from the security grant.

Supervisor Hicklin made the motion to approve the schools request for the appropriation of \$11,377 for the security grant. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Millboro Volunteer Fire Association Additional Appropriation for Generator Purchase**

County Administrator Harrison said Millboro Volunteer Fire Association is constructing a major addition to the fire station and have been able to raise a considerable amount of funds through private donors. Millboro Fire Association has requested \$25,000 in funding to install a generator. County Administrator Harrison recommended appropriating the funds from the County's reserve account if approved.

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve an appropriation to Millboro Volunteer Fire Association in the amount of \$25,000 from the County's reserve account to purchase a generator. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Accept Generator Grant**

County Administrator Harrison said FY 2017 budget contains \$25,000 for generators which can be used for the matching funds required by this grant. County Administrator Harrison said Andy applied for and was awarded the grant through Virginia Department of Emergency Management. County Administrator Harrison said the grant would be used to purchase a 60KW generator on a mobile trailer, connections would be installed at selected community centers. County Administrator Harrison asked the Board to approve executing grant documents.

Supervisor Hicklin made the motion to authorize staff to execute the grant. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

Supervisor Ratcliffe thanked Andy Sebolt and County Administrator Harrison for their work on acquiring the grant.

County Administrator Harrison recognized Supervisor Ratcliffe and Ms. Rebecca Joyce, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission for their assistance.

#### **Duncan's Knob Tower Lease Agreement Between Bath County and Lingo Networks**

County Administrator Harrison said the proposed lease agreement for Duncan's Knob is similar to the current lease agreement the County has with Lingo Networks for a site on Warm Springs Mountain with one exception, the County owns the tower on Duncan's Knob but the property is owned by the US Forest Service (USFS). Lingo Networks will need approval from USFS to erect equipment at the site. County Administrator Harrison said the agreement will allow for expanded broadband capabilities in that area and in return the County will receive internet service to the Courthouse, Library, and to the towers. County Administrator Harrison recommended approval of the lease agreement between the County and Lingo Networks and execution of the agreement once approval is obtained from USFS.

Supervisor Ratcliffe said this is the first step to provide cellular service to Mountain Grove, Coles Mountain, and Duncan's Knob. He said the next step should happen in January 2017.

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve the lease agreement between the County and Lingo Networks to add equipment at Duncan's Knob Tower site. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

Chair Collins recognized Supervisor Ratcliffe, County Administrator Harrison, and Andy Sebolt for their work in getting this agreement to the Board.

#### **FY 2017-18 Budget Calendar**

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to approve the FY 2017-18 Budget Calendar for the Board of Supervisors as presented by County Administration. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Set Public Hearing to Consider Rezoning Millboro Industrial Park Tax Map 87-135**

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to set a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing for October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider and receive public input on rezoning Millboro Industrial Park Tax Map 87-135, portions that are currently zoned A-2 Agricultural General, R-2 Residential, and B-2 General Business to M-1 Industrial. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Schedule Joint Meeting with Planning Commission to Hold Public Hearing For Land Use Regulation Amendment**

Mrs. Sherry Ryder, County Planner, recommended amending Land Use Code 302.02.1 to add stove mill as a permitted use.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to schedule a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission for October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider and receive public input on amending Land Use Code 302.02.1 to add stove mill as a permitted use. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Designate 2016 VACo Annual Conference Voting Delegate**

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to designate Chair Collins to act as the County's voting delegate at the 2016 VACo Annual Conference. The motion was adopted 3-0, 1 abstention (Collins) and 1 absent.

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

Board of Equalization Alternate - Supervisor Byrd made the motion to appoint Michael Grist as an alternate on the Board of Equalization. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to approve the payment of invoices, additional invoices, requests for transfers and appropriations, accept correspondence and monthly reports as submitted, and to approve surplus of miscellaneous IT items. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Additional Items**

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to rescind previous Board action taken on September 13, 2016, to remove County and Tourism funding from the Chamber of Commerce and return funding to the Chamber as listed in the FY 16-17 budget.

Ms. Emily Plecker, Executive Director, Bath Chamber of Commerce addressed the Board. Ms. Plecker said at the September 13, 2016, Board meeting funding for the Chamber of Commerce was removed without prior knowledge or explanation. Ms. Plecker said the Chamber made its request for funding during the FY16-17 budget process and submitted the required financial information. Ms. Plecker said at the March 2016 Board meeting she presented a program explaining how the Chamber supports local businesses and operates the visitors center with the County and Department of Tourism funding. She said she received a letter approving her budget requests from County Administration. Ms. Plecker said the Chamber is grateful the Board reconsidered their actions and requested return of the \$12,000 from the County's general fund. Ms. Plecker said when the agreement between the Chamber and Tourism was dissolved it forced the Chamber to close the visitor's center in order for the Chamber to survive. She said it also put a long time employee out of work. She said the Chamber Board will not request return of the \$53,000 in tourism funding because it feels it is in the best interest of the Chamber to revert back to being its own entity. She said the Chamber regrets it was not able to better prepare but it will not close but will relocate to Warm Springs.

Supervisor Hicklin said while we are righting a wrong why don't you amend your motion to reinstate Maggie Anderson as Director of Tourism and Economic Development.

Supervisor Byrd declined to amend his motion. Supervisor Byrd said he would leave the funding from tourism as part of his motion as an option if the Chamber decided to draw the funds even though they declined. He said the money would be made available and he did not want to see Channel 10 news or get emails saying the Board closed the Chamber.

Chair Collins called for the question of Supervisor Byrd's motion to rescind previous Board action taken on September 13, 2016, to remove County and Tourism funding from the Chamber of Commerce and return funding to the Chamber as listed in the FY 16-17 budget. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

Upon a motion made by Supervisor Byrd which was adopted 4 in favor, 0 against, 1 absent, the Board went into closed meeting in the Circuit Court Jury Room Pursuant to Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended Section 2.2-3711.A.1 Personnel and Section 2.2-3711.A.7 Consultation with Legal Counsel.

Supervisor Hicklin made a motion which was adopted 4-0, 1 absent 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, Edward T. Hicklin, and Matthew S. Ratcliffe

Nays: None

Absent: Stuart L. Hall

#### **Actions from Closed Session**

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to accept the resignation County Attorney Michael Collins.

#### **Consider RFP for Legal Services**

County Administrator Harrison reviewed the RFP with the Board. He said he did not insert a deadline date but recommended 20 working days and suggested adding the statement open until filled so that the RFP could remain open if 20 days was not enough time.

Supervisor Byrd made the motion to approve the RFP for legal services as recommended by County Administrator Harrison. The motion was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

#### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Claudia Trinca, Warm Springs District, asked if the cell company looking at locating in the County would improve service to West Warm Springs.

Supervisor Ratcliffe said the agreement with Lingo networks would provide internet service this will be a second source of internet service for the County. He said before the cellular providers can come into the County they need fiber for data which this will help provide.

Ms. Debra Small, Cedar Creek District, said she would like to see the County form a committee made up of members of the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Tourism, and the Board of Supervisors to form a plan for everyone involved. She said her mother Joyce Hevener always said we are a County of one. Ms. Small said today we are very split up.

Sheriff Plecker spoke regarding the small aircraft crash in that took place in the County. Sheriff Plecker thanked the following agencies for their assistance, Virginia State Police, Douthat State Park Police, Highland County Sheriff's Office, US Forest Service, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department

of Game and Inland Fisheries, Alleghany County Public Safety, Bath County Emergency Services, Hot Springs and Millboro Fire and EMS. Sheriff Plecker also reported the passenger and pilot were received minor injuries, and a member of Omni Homestead staff Calvin Robertson, hurt during the rescue and was recovering. Sheriff Plecker thanked the Omni Homestead for allowing staff to assist during the recovery efforts.

County Administrator Harrison said he received a call from Alleghany County Public Safety who complemented Bath County for being so well organized during the event. .

### **Board Member Comment**

Supervisor Ratcliffe agreed with Sheriff Plecker and said everyone came together during the incident. He said the community needs to come together and hopefully that will happen over the course of the next couple of weeks. He said he would request to add to the November agenda public input on the property in Mitchelltown.

Chair Collins said she wanted to talk about the young people in the community. She said if you haven't been to the high school to attend a football or volleyball game, or see the band perform, and basketball is coming up. She said we have award winning programs at the high school and she has been fortunate to watch them perform. She said for the first time in the history of the high school the band color guard, drum corps, the whole nine yards took first place at The Blast in the Draft. She said not only were the parents cheering but people from all over the region were applauding our young people. Chair Collins said we all need to get to know these young folks and listen to their ideas for what they want to see for the future. She said remember they are the future and we need to show support for them. She said she wonders why the community does not attend the games and functions and support the young people. Chair Collins challenged everyone to get to know the young people because they will make you Bath County proud. Chair Collins thanked everyone for coming out to the Board meeting and expressing your opinions. She said there were many good ideas and comments. She said the community needs to move in a positive direction and that direction is based on all the people not just some of the people. It means you agree to disagree and move on from it, if you can't do that and you hold grudges then we have a problem. She said remember when you go home at night everyone of us respect you for your ideas and thoughts and also your prayers because this community is a community of prayer and I hope everyone ends working for the good of the common cause for not only today but for the future.

Supervisor Ratcliffe made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion which was adopted 4-0, 1 absent.

Chair Collins adjourned the meeting.

Ordered that this Board do now stand adjourned until 6:30 p.m., October 24, 2016, for a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors.

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Ashton N. Harrison, Clerk

APPROVED:

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Claire A. Collins, Chairperson