

VIRGINIA: AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM OF THE PAMPLIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2009 AT 4:00 P.M.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PRESENT:

DONALD L. HARAWAY – CHAIR	ELECTION DISTRICT #2
HARRISON A. MOODY – VICE CHAIR	ELECTION DISTRICT #1
JOHN V. TALMAGE	ELECTION DISTRICT #3
MICHAEL W. STONE	ELECTION DISTRICT #5
DORETHA E. MOODY	ELECTION DISTRICT #4

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: W. KEVIN MASSENGILL, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ANNE HOWERTON, DIVISION CHIEF OF FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICES
JOHN C. BLAIR II, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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1. ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., followed by the roll call.

PRESENT: Mr. Stone
Ms. Moody
Mr. Talmage
Mr. Moody
Mr. Haraway

W. Kevin Massengill, County Administrator, stated that there was a need to add an item that would be handled at the end of the meeting regarding a proposed resolution supporting Mr. Moody for his candidacy as secretary/treasurer of VACo.

2.A. CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION: FORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The final plans for the Ford Volunteer Fire Department will be in this week, and the bid prep work has been completed. Mr. Massengill, County Administrator, stated that in the last workshop he had discussed holding off of some of the projects. He said, however, that this project is a public safety project that has been in process for some time. From the original engineer's estimate there has been a \$650,000 to \$700,000 reduction in the total cost of the project. Administration would like to move forward by putting the bid out to see exactly where it comes – the budget is \$1.3 million through the C.I.P. The additional funds would come from reserves.

The existing Ford Volunteer Fire Department building has been completely gutted so to not move forward would mean investing at least a minimal amount of money to fix that facility. The bid package has also already been paid for in order to be developed (as was approved at an earlier meeting of the Board of Supervisors).

Mr. Moody stated he felt the project should be bid out.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Ford Volunteer Fire Department project be put out to bid.

2.B. CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION: SPORTS COMPLEX

Mr. Massengill stated that he, Brian Mancini, Director of Recreation, and Gene Jones, Director of Public Works, had met in discussion regarding the Sports Complex. He stated that he thought there were some things they could still continue to do. They met a couple of weeks prior at the site with Southside Community College class. The college class has been instructed to now take their time on the project. They were fine with that as they felt if they were under a slower timeframe they could make some improvements to the plans, and do some things that would be beneficial to the project long term. Due to that, the excavation work can continue to move forward (the County is only responsible for fuel – students are used on the project). Mr. Massengill said the opening of the Sports Complex can be postponed until allocation of additional funds. He stated that he talked with the holders of the grant (for the match), and they understand

that no one could have anticipated the revenue shortfalls in the economy nationwide. They plan to submit something in writing to the County stating that their commitment is still firm and secure.

Brian Mancini, Recreation Director, stated that the excavation work is going to take longer than had been thought anyway.

2.C. CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION: SCHOOL DEMOLITION PROJECTS

Mr. Massengill discussed Northside Elementary, McKenney Elementary and Glebe Road. He said the County has been "band-aiding" these projects, and sending County staff by to check on these facilities. Back in the October/November timeframe, it was assumed the County would move forward on these projects and get estimates for demolition. No funds have been associated with these in the past, now there will be an on-going maintenance cost. He stated however, staff has received preliminary \$300,000 - \$500,000 demolition estimates. The Glebe Road site can be taken down without much cost, however, there may be a cemetery located on the site. They are trying to identify where those graves may be before moving forward. He stated that the cost of these projects had been anticipated to be taken from the Undesignated General Fund Balance; and he would like feedback from the Board regarding these projects. He said the Board could decide to do any of the following: to move forward recognizing the funds would come from the Undesignated General Fund Balance; to prioritize and say which one they wanted to work on first; or they could say hold on these projects.

Mr. Haraway stated that given the time those buildings had been there, and given the economic crisis at this time, that he did not think the County should spend those funds at this time.

Mr. Moody stated that he agreed, but was concerned about liability. He said he did not realize the cost would be that high.

Mr. Massengill stated that Northside and McKenney have asbestos in them.

He said if the Board still wants staff to spend time on it, they could develop a balance sheet on the actual General Fund Balance and see what amounts will be coming out of it. He said another potential in this fiscal year could be securing sewer capacity from the City of Petersburg.

3. RECREATION – FY 08/09 BUDGET IMPACTS

Mr. Massengill stated that feedback was needed from the Board as to the recreation programs that were deemed most important, and that they wished to be protected from cuts if at all possible. Mr. Massengill stated that in looking at the total governmental services – essential and nonessential – the core function of Recreation has to be assessed. He said that a couple of years ago the Board of Supervisors had indicated that Recreation was something that needed to be reinvented, and more services had to be offered. The Recreation Department has accomplished the desires the Board had expressed. Now in the budgetary times in which the County finds itself, there will be impacts. Direction is sought as to the significance of those impacts to the Recreation Department, and that will also impact the citizens through loss of programs. He stated that the reason for looking at this department now instead of in March when it would normally occur is because the department's Spring programs are being filled today (some on waiting lists), but they have not yet started. If there is to be a reduction in the program or the service, he would prefer that happen before these programs actually start.

Brian Mancini, Director of Recreation, stated some of the main goals when he came on board with the Department were to improve relationships with the Schools, to improve the athletics and to improve the overall shape and scope of the Recreation Department. They now offer many services to the citizens and have waiting lists for senior classes, middle age adults and youth athletics. He distributed information regarding the different groups and events that are represented as users of the Enhancement Center. He stated that budget cuts would potentially affect all of these groups. The information listed the increase of numbers of citizens who currently use the Enhancement Center, as opposed to the numbers representative of 2006. Currently 16,215 citizens use the Enhancement Center (not including all the athletic practices, Fall Festival, etc.). He discussed the private rentals and the rules that apply to rentals; the sports programs and the success in football, basketball and soccer. These programs are all growing. He said they now have a good relationship with the Schools and work together well. They also work well with the Dinwiddie Youth League. Mr. Mancini also showed the Department of Recreation website that is maintained within the department

(and was put together by the Program Director). He said they now have residents from other counties coming to Dinwiddie to take advantage of the programs; and they plan to put a non-resident surcharge on the programs. Individuals are able to go to the new website to get all information on the department, information regarding rental of the facility and the shelter with pictures and forms that can be filled out on line. Schedules, rosters, videos and the program guideline are online. The website is www.playdinwiddie.com.

Mr. Mancini stated that he was looking for guidance as to how the Department could help the County, and what would be prudent cuts. He discussed the following options:

1. The Board could tell him to stop programs right now today, and they could try to reinvent themselves, figure how they survive in the new budget year and go forward from there. Most other departments provide certain basic services throughout the year. The recreation department basically reinvents themselves every season as they come up with new programs. He asked for prioritization from the Board as to cuts from the programs. He said that as the next set of classes start around March 1, the problem is that they are already taking registrations. Some of the classes are already filled for March, and others are filling up now. Therefore, action will be required soon if anything is to take place with these programs. Soccer and Blastball are also coming up. Cutting the Parks and Recreation budget will impact someone; the decision just has to be made as to where that impact will be.
2. Everything can be put on the table. *The Diamonds* and *The Glory Bound Singers* are groups that have been at the Center for quite some time and are grandfathered in – they have events on Fridays nights that are rent free for that reason. Any impact on closing the Center on certain nights, or cutting staff also impacts those groups.

Mr. Stone asked if he had understood it correctly that if everything was cut that was scheduled to begin March 1st, the maximum savings would be \$75,000.

Mr. Mancini stated that was correct, or perhaps only a little more than that. Most of their budget had been used at the beginning of this fiscal year to get ready for the grand reopening of Eastside Enhance Center. He added that most of the programs are profitable and cover everything except full time staff.

Mr. Talmage asked about running some of the programs on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Mancini answered that it would be a struggle to find people who would be willing to come the distance to volunteer. It is also a public relations problem if people show up for a class, and the instructor (who would be volunteer) does not show up. He said that some of the people who teach currently come from as far away as Richmond. He said that currently all of the coaches are volunteers. Mr. Mancini stated that he had not yet run the department like a business; they have tried to keep costs down for the citizens.

Mr. Massengill stated that he would need feedback from the Board of Supervisors at the February 17th meeting as to how significantly the Board wants to make cuts to the Recreation Department projects.

4. GENERAL REASSESSMENT

W. Kevin Massengill, County Administrator, stated that Wingate and Associates filed the land book on December 23, 2008; and with that, the County has a valid reassessment. The Board of Equalization hearings are underway, and there are a significant number of citizens who are putting forth their appeal. Mr. Massengill stated that he had asked the County Attorney some legal questions which he will respond to today. Mr. Massengill stated that after reviewing citizen concerns that if the Board so desires, he would recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize him and staff to perform another assessment for Dinwiddie County at the beginning of FY09/10. He stressed that reassessment would not take the place of the reassessment that has just been done. He said the County staunchly stands behind the legal advice that had been given that once the Board of Supervisors had hired Wingate and Associates and the land book had been filed, that the Board's legal responsibility was resolved. He said the Board of Equalization now has their role. He added that, however, nothing limits the Board from authorizing a new reassessment to be done. Some of the comments he has received regarding the recent reassessment were concerns about accuracy, the stop date (June/July of 2008) and the fact that a lot of factors have affected the outcome (the recession, the stock market, the quantity of home sales has diminished). He said the

land and home sales have been followed by the Commissioner of the Revenue, and to date four out of five sales have been at or above the reassessed rate. However, there is still the impression that it wasn't done fairly; and the concern that the factors mentioned will have an immediate effect. He said the four-year cycle has been the topic of a lot of concern from citizens. He said that citizens have stated that a shorter reassessment cycle would be more helpful.

Mr. Massengill stated that there would be a cost associated with doing a new reassessment - \$350,000 - \$400,000 and would be supplied out of the Undesignated General Fund Balance. Regarding the timeline, Mr. Massengill stated that if he was given approval to do this after the beginning of the fiscal year in July of 2009, he and staff would begin the procurement process to get a mass appraisal service. Once that would occur, a firm would be selected in September of 2009 and the applicable firm would have September / October 2009 through September / October of 2010 to complete their work. The land book would be filed by December of 2010, and the Board of Supervisors would have the ability to affect the rate in 2011. He said it would not require a public hearing and would be an Aye/Nay vote. He said the Board could act at this meeting, or hold it as an item at the February 17th regular meeting.

Mr. Massengill clarified that this would not replace the reassessment that has been done. This reassessment would look at 2008, 2009 and a portion of 2010 sales.

Mr. Haraway stated that he supported the recommendation, and he thought it had been the consensus of the Board to change to a two-year reassessment cycle. This would basically cause it to be two years before the next reassessment.

Mr. Talmage stated that he fully supported the recommendation.

John C. Blair II, County Attorney, spoke to the reassessment issue. He stated that there is a provision in the Code that says that any governing body can at any time authorize a new reassessment. That is separate and apart from cycles. As it stands, the County is on a four-year cycle for reassessment. If the Board votes to change it to a two-year cycle, the County will be required to hire a full time Assessment Office; or if the Commissioner of the Revenue consents, she can be designated as the agent to perform the bi-annual reassessment. In the case of the latter, funds would have to be appropriated for her to complete that project. She could either perform those duties among her existing office staff, or she could hire an outside firm.

Mr. Moody asked about doing a reassessment every year.

Mr. Massengill stated that he thought it would be advisable to do as had been suggested for FY09/10; and to investigate what enacting a yearly assessment would require. He stated that he had talked to Prince George County and they have 5-6 employees in their assessment office. They do land evaluation one year and home evaluation the next – back and forth each year. It would be a continued cost each year. It would still cost the County to have the Commissioner of the Revenue do the reassessment as her office is not presently set up to take that on along with her other constitutional requirements.

Mr. Blair stated that legally the County could go to an annual process, but the County would have to hire a full time assessor or the Commissioner of the Revenue would have to agree and funding would have to be provided for that process.

Mr. Massengill stated that he had asked the County Attorney if there was any other way legally allowable that this could be done any faster than the timeline he has suggested. Mr. Blair had indicated that this would be the only route at this time.

Ms. Moody stated that she supported the recommendation to do another reassessment. She also supported doing the reassessment every two years as opposed to every four.

Mr. Stone stated that when the Board met last August for the Board Advance that was held at the Dinwiddie County Airport, it was his understanding that there were four Board members who wished to do this every two years. He said he was glad to see that now there were five who were supporting it.

Mr. Moody said he would like to weigh the decision against having a full time assessor; and would want to do it the most economical way.

Mr. Haraway asked whether Mr. Moody would feel more comfortable if the Board waited until some research could be done before the February 17th meeting.

Mr. Moody replied that he would be ready to vote on February 17th.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the general reassessment options on the agenda for the regular meeting on February 17, 2009.

5. RESOLUTION OF ENDORSEMENT OF HARRISON A. MOODY FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER OF VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (VACo)

W. Kevin Massengill, County Administrator, stated that the agenda had been amended in order to bring this item before the Board at this meeting so that it could go before VACo as Legislative Day will be the next day. He stated that Mr. Moody was asking for the Board's endorsement for the position of secretary/treasurer of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo).

Upon motion of Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Talmage,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia that the resolution for the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors to endorse Harrison A. Moody for the position of secretary/treasurer of the Virginia Association of Counties is approved as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Moody, Mr. Talmage, Mr. Stone, Mr. Haraway

Nays: None

Abstain: Mr. Moody

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE
HARRISON A. MOODY
FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY/TREASURER
OF THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, Harrison A. Moody, has established a long record of leadership and commitment to his community by serving on the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors for 21 years, since 1987; and

WHEREAS, as Supervisor, Mr. Moody has represented the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors with concerned leadership on many committees, including the Dinwiddie County Planning Commission; the Extension Leadership Council; the Dinwiddie County Youth Advisory Board; and the Virginia Gateway Region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moody has also served with distinction on the Virginia Association of Counties as Region 4 Director; as member of the Environment and Agriculture Committee; and Chairman of the Rural Caucus Committee, as well as past member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors; and is currently serving on the Rural Caucus Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moody's tireless dedication, excellent leadership, and long record of diligent representation on the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors have proven his commitment and dedication to public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia formally endorses the candidacy of Harrison A. Moody for the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia Association of Counties.

7. CLOSED SESSION

At 5:35 p.m. upon motion of Mr. Stone, seconded by Ms. Moody,

The Board of Supervisors of Dinwiddie County, Virginia convened in a closed meeting under:

- a. §2.2-3711 (A) (7) Legal Matters
 - Consultation with Legal Counsel
 - Jail Contract
- b. §2.2-3711 (A) (3) Real Estate
 - Acquisition of Property

Ayes: Mr. Talmage, Ms. Moody, Mr. Stone, Mr. Moody, Mr. Haraway

Nays: None

At 6:58 p.m. upon motion of Mr. Moody, seconded by Mr. Talmage, the Board reconvened into open session.

Ayes: Ms. Moody, Mr. Stone, Mr. Talmage, Mr. Moody, Mr. Haraway
Nays: None

CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting under:

- a. §2.2-3711 (A) (7) Legal Matters
 - Consultation with Legal Counsel
 - Jail Contract
- b. §2.2-3711 (A) (3) Real Estate
 - Acquisition of Property

AND WHEREAS, no member has made a statement that there was a departure from the lawful purpose of such closed meeting or the matters identified in the motion were discussed,

NOW BE IT CERTIFIED, that only those matters as were identified in the motion were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Talmage, this Certification Resolution was adopted.

Ayes: Ms. Moody, Mr. Talmage, Mr. Stone, Mr. Moody, Mr. Haraway
Nays: None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Stone to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Moody,

Ayes: Mr. Talmage, Ms. Moody, Mr. Stone, Mr. Moody, Mr. Haraway
Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Donald L. Haraway, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
W. Kevin Massengill
County Administrator
Clerk to the Board

/wjn