

VIRGINIA: A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER ON JANUARY 8, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR M. SHERLOCK HOLMES
SUPERVISOR JOHN M. SEWARD
SUPERVISOR ERNEST L. BLOUNT
SUPERVISOR REGINALD O. HARRISON
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE

**I. CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
BOARD REORGANIZATION**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Franklin. He asked for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence, he asked the citizens to stand and say the pledge of allegiance.

He announced that since this was the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2009, the seats of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were vacant.

Mr. Franklin opened the floor requesting nominations for the position of Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2009. He also stated that the Board of Supervisors needed to set the dates, time and place of the regular meetings for 2009.

Supervisor Harrison nominated Supervisor Holmes for the position of Chairman; Supervisor Blount seconded the motion.

There being no other nomination; Supervisor Harrison moved that the nominations be closed on the one name and that Supervisor Holmes be elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2009; Supervisor Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

Following the vote, Mr. Franklin declared Supervisor Holmes Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2009 and congratulated Supervisor Holmes and turned the meeting over to him.

Chairman Holmes thanked the Board for its vote of confidence in him. He opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2009.

Supervisor Harrison nominated Supervisor Seward for Vice-Chairman; Supervisor Blount seconded the motion.

There being no other nominations; Supervisor Blount moved that the nominations be closed on the one name and that Supervisor Seward be elected Vice-Chairman for 2009; Supervisor Harrison seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Holmes stated that the Board needed to set the date, time and place for the Board of Supervisors' meetings for 2009. He stated that during the past years, the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. have been scheduled as the regular meeting dates and time and the District Courtroom in the Surry Government Center has been the designated meeting place. Also, during the past, the Board eliminated the second meeting in July, August and December because of conflicts with the NACo Annual meeting, summer vacations and Christmas Holiday respectively.

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that they may wish to consider going to one meeting per month as many of the ongoing county projects are completed or near complete and due to light agendas.

Discussion ensued among the Board members. Mr. Hefty advised the Board that it could schedule the official meeting the first Thursday of each month and continue the meeting for work session as needed.

Supervisor Blount moved to designate the first Thursday of each month as the official meeting of the Board of Supervisors at 7:00 p.m. for 2009 and continue the meeting for work session as needed and to designate the General District Courtroom of the County Government Center as the meeting place; Supervisor Harrison seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

II. PROGRESS REPORTS

A. VDOT

Mr. William Richardson, Assistant Residency Administrator, appeared before the Board and provided the Board with a status report relating to installing guardrails in the county. He stated that the plan is to install guardrail on Route 626 (Beaverdam Road) this spring. The funding would come from the maintenance allocations. Mr. Richardson noted that this was a contract allocation and is subject to further cuts depending on if additional cuts have to be made. VDOT started this year with \$165,000 for all three counties and there has been \$25,000 in reduction already. He stated that the estimated cost for the guardrail on Route 626 is \$40,000. Secondly, regarding the guardrail on Route 617 near Mt. Mariah Church, that project probably will not be done this year. The cost for that project is the same as Route 626. He stated that VDOT was moving ahead to have Verizon locate their telephone cables and move them if

they are in the way at both locations. Supervisor Harrison suggested another location on Lebanon Road and asked about the county funding the cost. Mr. Richardson stated that the Revenue Sharing Program is available if the county wants to set up safety projects to get additional state funds.

In conclusion, Mr. Richardson stated that in regards to potholes, this is the pothole season. He stated that VDOT staff will be patching as they get to them and the weather is dry.

Supervisor Harrison inquired about high shoulders holding water on the road and not allowing the water to get in the ditch. Mr. Richardson stated that VDOT would work on those as they them.

Supervisor Lyttle noted that the ditches needed to be cleaned out on Moonlight Road from Route 10 to the stream. Mr. Richardson stated that he would investigate the matter.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

- Approval of December 4, 2008 Minutes'
- Approval of January 8, 2009 Accounts Payable

	Additional	Total
General Fund	\$ 6,780.22	\$322,514.73
Debt Service	\$ -0-	\$ 24,852.26
Capital	\$ 4,511.68	\$367,876.74
Water & Sewer	\$ -0-	\$ 6,107.66
Totals	\$ 11,291.90	\$721,351.39
- Appropriation Requests – January, 2009
 1. School System - **\$1,450,000.00**
 2. Social Services Department - **\$150,000.00**
 3. General Fund – 3rd Quarter

General Government	-	\$1,737,712.00
Special Funds & Debt Service	-	\$ 84,160.00
Capital Projects	-	\$3,558,825.00
Totals	-	\$5,380,697.00

Supervisor Lyttle moved to approve the consent items as enumerated; Supervisor Harrison seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

PROGRESS REPORTS CONTINUED

B. Treasurer

1. Investment Letter

Chairman Holmes stated that as of November 6, 2008, the county had \$4,150,856.38 in the LGIP Fund. He stated that as of October, 2008, interest had accrued in the amount of \$11,189.61 and on November, 2008, interest had accrued in the amount of \$8,353.99 increasing that balance to \$4,170,399.98. On November 20, 2008, \$500,000 was transferred from the LGIP Fund to the General Fund decreasing the balance to \$3,670,399.98. On December 15, 2008, \$12,000,000.00 was transferred from the General Fund to the LGIP Fund increasing that balance to \$15,670,399.98.

Chairman Holmes stated that as of January 8, 2009, the county had \$15,670,399.98 in total investments.

2. Refund Requests

- A. \$2,793.00 – Citimortgage, Inc.
- B. \$1,980.30 – Taylor, Bean & Whitaker
- C. \$1,371.96 – Countrywide Tax Service Corporation

Supervisor Blount moved to authorize the refunds as noted above by the Treasurer; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

C. County Administrator

1. Resolution/Age 90+ Senior Citizen

Mr. Franklin requested the Board to adopt a resolution acknowledging the senior citizen listed below who has obtained the age of 90 years old:

- o *Mrs. Irene Smith – 90 Years Old – Claremont Election District*

Supervisor Harrison moved to approve the resolution noted above; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

2. Invoice-Sussex County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that he had received correspondence from Sussex County Administrator, Mary Jones, requesting assistance from the County for the replacement of a compressor unit that services the Sussex Judicial Center Courthouse. He stated that the total amount for the unit is \$6,285.00. Mr. Franklin reminded the Board that Sussex County has allowed Surry County the use of its court facilities for approximately 4 ½ years when Judge O'Hara deemed our facilities unsatisfactory and suspended the use of the historic courthouse until its renovation.

Discussion ensued among the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Seward moved to approve payment in the amount of \$10,000 payable to Sussex County as a token of the Board of Supervisors' appreciation for the use of the Sussex County Courthouse facilities for the past 4½ years; Supervisor Harrison seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

3. CIP/Invoice for High School Renovation Work - Ballou, Justice Upton Architects - \$66,138.25

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that he had received correspondence from Mr. Hamlin, Superintendent of Schools, requesting payment in the amounts of \$52,000 and \$14,138.25 to Ballou, Justice Upton Architects for preliminary work relative to the high school renovation.

Supervisor Harrison moved to authorize payment to Ballou, Justice Upton Architects in the amounts as noted above; Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

4. CIP/2009 Real Estate Reassessment/Appointment of a Professional Assessor

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that pursuant to Section 58.1-3275 of the Code of Virginia, the County needs to appoint a professional assessor to conduct the reassessment and the professional assessor must be certified by the Virginia Department of Taxation. He stated that during recent reassessments, the Board has elected to appoint a professional assessor.

Mr. Franklin stated that he had received correspondence from Mr. Harold G. Wingate, of Wingate Appraisal Service, who has indicated that he will be serving as the county's professional assessor.

Vice-Chairman Seward moved to appoint Mr. Harold G. Wingate as the professional appraiser to conduct the 2009 General Reassessment; Supervisor Blount seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

5. General Reassessment Request - Extension of Time

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that he had received correspondence from Wingate Appraisal Service advising that the legal deadline for completing the General Reassessment effective for the 2009 tax year is December 31, 2008. He stated that the firm will need an extension of time to complete the reassessment in order for it to be effective on January 1, 2009. The county will need to request

the Circuit court to grant an extension of time to allow for completion of the work in the spring of 2009.

Supervisor Harrison moved to request the Circuit Court to grant an extension of time to complete the 2009 Reassessment; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

6. Broadband Planning Grant Contract Amendment

Mr. Franklin advised the Board that included in the Board's agenda packet was the proposed contract amendment for the Virginia Rural Broadband Planning Initiative Grant for phase two study. He stated that that revised budget for phase two of the project was in the amount of \$45,000.

Vice-Chairman Seward moved to authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract for the Broadband Planning Initiative Grant for phase two study in the amount of \$45,000; Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

7. Financial Update/Potential Revenue Shortfall

Mr. Franklin advised the Board about concerns dealing with the financial outlook of future budgets. He stated that the State was facing a \$2.9 billion shortfall. Several weeks ago, staff met with department heads regarding the shortfall for future and present budgets. Mr. Franklin stated that staff looked at the revenue and how the county will be faced going into the budget cycle. He asked Mrs. Rollins to come forward and give the Board an overview of the economic outlook of the county.

Mrs. Rollins appeared before the Board and stated that in light of recent bleak news on the state of economy and the projected shortfall in Virginia's revenue, county staff is in the process of reviewing and conducting a local revenue impact analysis to determine (1) the shortfall if any in local and state revenue based on the FY 09 adopted budget versus anticipated receipts, (2) how and where Surry County is specifically impacted by the state's budget actions and discussion recommendations to address any potential shortfall. She stated that Surry County was not alone, other localities are affected by the shortfall.

She showed a slide presentation regarding the Mid-Year Forecast of the FY 09 Budget vs. Anticipated Revenue (see attached). She stated that the reductions in public service corporation taxes, penalty and interest, use of money and other local taxes combined would bring the total variance from last year's local revenue to \$355,000 and a reduction of \$39,800 from last year's state revenue to the county.

Mrs. Rollins noted that:

- The county's investments will be down.
- Interest rates are at a record low.
- Revenue from vehicle license, sales tax, business licenses and other local collections will also decline
- Reductions in public service corporation taxes and penalty and interest revenue.
- Etc.

She also stated that this year the school system will not be impacted by the Governor's action on the budget in FY 09, however, reductions will occur in FY 10 that will impact revenue to the county from this source.

In conclusion, Mrs. Rollins stated that the county could consider to follow the same strategies implemented by the State (reduce FY 09 operating costs by 5%-10%) and deferring locally funded capital expenditures in FY 09 (reverting to General Operating Fund). Staff will do everything possible to save money this year to balance the FY 2010 budget.

8. Status Report – Circuit Courthouse Renovation

Mr. Franklin asked Mr. Edwards to come forward and give the Board a status report on the Circuit Courthouse Renovation project. Mr. Edwards appeared before the Board and stated that he was pleased to announce that the courthouse project was nearly completed. The majority of the paving of the parking lot was complete, about 98% of the interior of the building was complete and most of the furniture is in place. He stated that the telephone system was scheduled to be installed on next week. The move date is scheduled for January 30th. The office will be closed to the public on February 2nd & 3rd with anticipating of conducting court on February 4th. Mr. Edwards stated that the finished project is a beautiful facility. He stated that staff would like to have an open house for the citizens on Wednesday, January 28th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

9. Pineview Collection Center

Mr. Edwards reported that at 7:00 a.m. today, the gate at the Pineview Collection Center was opened to the public. He stated that the hours of operation would be the same as Goodson path (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday – Friday and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Weekends and Holidays). He stated that there will be a gate near Route 40 at the entrance. During the next couple of weeks, the site at Laurel Spring & Claremont will be closed and staff will give two week notice of the closing of the sites. In conclusion, Mr. Edwards stated that of all the other sites that have closed, only one site required staff to go back and clean up. He stated that there

were three unattended dump sites remaining in the county. Supervisor Harrison inquired about the cost for that site. Mr. Edwards responded about \$200,000.

Mr. Franklin presented the Board members with a copy of the final Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events booklet. He stated that it was a good document which outlines the activities that took place in the county during that period. Supervisor Harrison applauds the final product. Supervisor Lyttle thanked all the persons who worked diligently noting that they did a good job and worked within our budget. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

V. NEW BUSINESS - None.

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sheriff Brown appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for its contribution to Sussex County for use of its courthouse facilities.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Harrison moved that the Board convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-371(A-7), consultation about legal matters regarding water/sewerage; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

Supervisor Harrison moved that the Board of Supervisors return to open session and certify by roll vote, that the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act in the motion; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Harrison moved that the meeting be continued until January 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. for a field trip to Clover, Virginia to tour the Dominion Electric Power Plant Facility; Vice-Chairman Seward seconded the motion; Supervisors Holmes, Seward, Blount, Harrison and Lyttle voted in favor of the motion.