Minutes of January 3, 2013 Meeting

The annual reorganizational meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the General District Courtroom, Lunenburg Courts Building, Lunenburg, Virginia. The following members were present: Supervisors T. Wayne Hoover, Alvester Edmonds, Charles R. Slayton, Frank Bacon, Robert Zava, Edward Pennington, David Wingold, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee, Assistant to the Administrator Nicole Clark, and County Attorney Frank Rennie.

County Administrator Gee called the meeting to order.

Administrator Gee asked for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Supervisor Hoover nominated Edward Pennington; Supervisor Edmonds seconded the motion. Supervisor Bacon moved that nominations be closed with Supervisor Edmonds making the second. On a roll call vote, Supervisor Pennington was unanimously elected as Chairman. Chairman Pennington thanked the Board for their support.

Chairman Pennington asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Supervisor Bacon nominated Charles R. Slayton for Vice-Chairman; Supervisor Edmonds seconded the motion. Supervisor Bacon moved that nominations be closed with Supervisor Wingold making the second. On a roll call vote, Supervisor Slayton was unanimously elected to the position of Vice-Chairman.

Supervisor Wingold made motion, seconded by Supervisor Zava and unanimously approved to adopt the 2013 Invocation and Meeting Schedule and 2013 Holiday Calendar.

Chairman Pennington called the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order.

Chairman Pennington led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Supervisor Bacon thanked Supervisor Hoover for his service as Chairman over the past years.

Supervisor Hoover stated that he enjoyed serving as Chairman and appreciated the great team of Supervisors he served with.

Chairman Pennington requested additions to the agenda from the Board and the public.

Administrator Gee informed the Board of an update to the consent agenda. A revised warrant letter was given to each Board member to include a check run for bond payments that required reporting prior to the end of the mid-year mark.
The Automated Weather Observing Station (AWOS III) Construction Grant Agreement, Animal Friendly License Plates, and Piedmont Regional Jail were added as 8A, 8B and 8C respectively on request by Chairman Pennington.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to accept the Consent Agenda to include the minutes of the December 13, 2012 meeting, the Treasurer’s November 2012 reports and the following Warrants for Approval:

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| December 2012:     | Payroll: #17201-17208 | $7,814.93 |
|                   | Direct Deposit        | $103,839.30 |
|                   | Payroll Taxes Federal | $35,877.21  |
|                   | Payroll Taxes State   | $6,418.09   |
|                   | Accounts Payable: #46793-46942 | $780,992.94 |

Grand Total: $934,942.47
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VDOT’s monthly report was included in the Supervisors’ board packet.

Administrator Gee requested that the Board accept the 100% funded grant from the Department of Aviation to construct and install an Automated Weather Observing Station (AWOS III) at the Lunenburg County Airport. It was also requested that the Board authorize the signature of the County Attorney and County Administrator on the grant agreement.

Supervisor Zava inquired about the benefit of installing this weather station.

Administrator Gee replied that the weather at the airport may be viewed online. Pilots can use this tool when developing their flight plan.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to accept the grant funds from the Department of Aviation and authorize signatures of the County Attorney and County Administrator on the grant agreement.

Administrator Gee discussed Animal Friendly license plates. A portion of the fees for these license plates are returned to the locality in which the vehicle is registered. For fiscal year 2012, DMV’s records indicated that Lunenburg County is due $135.00. Virginia code requires that localities certify that these funds be used to support sterilization of dogs and cats. The Board previously indicated that proceeds from these plates should be sent to the Southside SPCA. Administrator Gee requested that the Board accept these funds and appropriate them to the Southside SPCA.

Supervisor Wingold made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and unanimously approved, to accept the funds of $135.00 and appropriate them to the Southside SPCA.

Administrator Gee reported that she has made several attempts, by phone and e-mail, to contact the Piedmont Regional Jail regarding the December payment. To date, she has not received a response and payment will be due on January 15, 2013. Administrator Gee requested that the Board allow her to authorize a payment up to $25,000 as it will be due before the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Zava made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and unanimously approved, to allow Administrator Gee to authorize a payment up to $25,000 to Piedmont Regional Jail for a December payment.
Supervisor Zava stated that budget review is fast approaching. He suggested that the schools begin considering categorical spending, how to deal with the shortfall and how to save on training expenses.

Administrator Gee reported that some complaints were expressed regarding an overflow of trash at numerous dumping sites. Earlier in the week Landfill Director, Sandy Cothran, explained that the two roll-off trucks broke down around the same time. One was repaired within 24 hours; however, one took several days to repair. During this time, landfill staff attempted to maintain trash pickup and removal using pickup trucks with trailers attached.

Supervisor Zava suggested that additional collection services be sought out from a private company in emergency situations such as this one.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to authorize Administrator Gee to seek assistance from private companies if needed in emergency situations.

County Attorney Rennie reported that he and the Landfill Committee continue negotiations with a private company on the possible sale of the county landfill. Discussions are going well and moving along smoothly.

Victoria Fire Chief Rodney Newton approached the Board with a request for use of Capital Outlay Funds to make a costly repair to one of their vehicles. He requested authorization to purchase a rebuilt pump replacement for the fire truck at a cost of $30,000-40,000 as is available in their appropriation.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and unanimously approved, to authorize Chief Newton to use Capital Outlay Funds for the purchase of a rebuilt pump replacement.

County Attorney Rennie stated that he is working with Southside Electric Cooperative on a communications project. Discussions involved placing an antenna on one of their towers that will extend communication coverage for emergency services. County Attorney Rennie plans to have additional information at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Beverley Hawthorne, Community Development Director, gave her monthly report. She stated the IRF Grant discussed at a previous meeting was supposed to be awarded in December, however she not heard from them yet. Ms. Hawthorne mailed letters to legislators regarding Meherrin River as a Scenic Designation and requesting their support. She commented that several legislators have called with questions. Ms. Hawthorne reported that VEDP will be partnering with Virginia’s Growth Alliance to develop an operational plan for Workforce Development using all the resources that exist in our region. Virginia’s Growth Alliance is waiting for a report that details the training that is needed in order to assist in bringing bigger businesses to the region.

Ms. Hawthorne shared a letter and spreadsheets from Town Manager, Kenneth Patterson, regarding tourism in the town of Victoria. The town tracked tourism of three events. Fourteen percent of people visiting The Small Town Christmas event were tourists, eighty-seven percent of people visiting the Trail Geo-Caching Tourism were tourists, and no tourists attended the Christmas Play.

Supervisor Zava inquired as to whether there were any updates on the Buggs Island Telephone project.
Ms. Hawthorne replied that they are still working to upgrade their equipment and technology. The federal grant requires a certain speed and coverage area be maintained before all the grant funds are dispersed.

Administrator Gee stated that a Southside Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 16th in Kenbridge. She plans to attend.

Administrator Gee explained that she had been notified by BAI, the county’s new software provider, of an upgrade option. BAI is developing a graphical user interface (GUI). A GUI uses pointers, buttons, and icons rather than a text-based command-line interface and is easier to use because there is no need to memorize commands. During the month of January, BAI is offering unlimited user licenses for a one-time fee of $1,200 (no annual maintenance) to their existing customers. Administrator Gee requested authorization to send $1,200 to BAI for the graphical user interface.

Supervisor Zava said he had heard numerous complaints from County Offices regarding problems with the software and reports of questions to BAI not being responded to timely.

Administrator Gee stated that BAI was a small family owned business. She has been told by BAI technical support that e-mail is the best method to communicate with them. She also expressed that county staff have not had the opportunity to attend training at their facility in Tennessee. She believes attending such training would be very beneficial, however, offices have not had time to send staff.

Supervisor Zava asked if BAI had staff that would perform on site training.

Administrator Gee commented that the cost is very high to have trainers on site and the training budget has been exhausted.

Supervisor Zava agreed that additional training would be helpful however questions should still be responded to quickly.

Administrator Gee stated that she will contact Tony Bright, BAI President, regarding the interface upgrade and the timeliness of technical support.

Supervisor Zava suggested that the county move forward with the one-time fee of $1200 for the graphical user interface.

Supervisor Hoover requested that Administrator Gee provide an update at the next meeting as to why the county offices are not receiving the customer satisfaction they were originally promised.

Administrator Gee agreed to provide an update and inquire as to whether the interface upgrade would ease the use of the software.

Administrator Gee informed the Board of upcoming meetings. VACo will be holding their annual County Legislative Day in Richmond on January 31, 2013. Administrator Gee will be attending and requested the Board provide her with any specific questions before the meeting. A meeting on the Kenbridge Commerce Center will be held on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Administrator’s Office. Administrator Gee requested that Chairman Pennington and Supervisor Wingold attend since the Center is located in his district.
County Attorney Rennie stated that the county had been notified by DEQ of an extension to continue operating the current landfill cell until December 31, 2014.

Supervisor Zava thanked County Attorney Rennie for his diligent work with obtaining the extension and the landfill project.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to enter Closed Session citing Virginia Code Section §2.2-3711A1 Personnel, §2.2-3711A3 Acquisition or Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, §2.2-3711A4: Protection of Privacy, and §2.2-3711A5 Prospective Business.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lunenburg County, Virginia (“Board”) convened a Closed Session Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

VOTING YES
Supervisor Hoover
Supervisor Edmonds
Supervisor Pennington
Supervisor Bacon
Supervisor Slayton
Supervisor Zava
Supervisor Wingold

VOTING NO

ABSENT

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Hoover and unanimously approved, to return to Open Session.

Supervisor Wingold informed the Board that a representative from the Commonwealth Regional Council will be visiting a board meeting in the near future to ask for support on a specific industrial resolution.

Chairman Pennington made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

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Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

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Edward W. Pennington, Chairman
Board of Supervisors