

February 13, 2007

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Court House, on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman

Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

James C. Moore

Lacy B. Ward

Also Present: Sarah Puckett, Acting County Administrator; Jonathan L. Pickett, Director of Planning and Community Development; Sharon Carney, Director of Economic Development and Tourism; Mr. Alan Leatherwood, Resident Highway Engineer, VDOT; Keith Halbohn, Transportation Contract Administrator; and Mark McKissick, Assistant Resident Engineer.

Chairman William G. Fore, Jr., called the meeting to order.

In Re: Changes to Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Mr. Alan Leatherwood stated that the upcoming changes to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan are not good. Funds have been cut dramatically for Prince Edward, and in fact, are cut for everyone. He said that all county-wide incidental items such as fertilization and seed, pipes and pipe installation, subdivision plan review, rural additions, engineering and survey, traffic surveys, right of way engineering, plan review, and all future budget items have no funding. All state funds now have to go to Federal qualifying projects to allow the state to get the maximum match from the Federal government.

Mr. Leatherwood continued, stating that these are the best numbers that VDOT has today. VDOT will know more when the General Assembly adjourns. Mr. Leatherwood added that the estimate for driveway costs is between \$500.00 - \$600.00 in labor and material and that depends on how much ditching is necessary. The individual buys the pipe. VDOT will bond the property owner, and these changes will take effect on July 1, 2007. Property owners will need a formal permit, an application and a surety form, with either cash, an irrevocable letter of credit, or a \$1,000.00 bond. The homeowner would get the money back upon satisfactory completion. He added that he feels that VDOT has enough to go a few months,

maybe into December; the funds carry over. VDOT will use the funds until depleted, and they will remain in Prince Edward County. Some of it could be used for railroad crossings.

Mr. McKay asked if the Department of Conservation and Recreation could do some of the railroad crossings. Sarah Puckett said that DCR can, but they are trying to get funds to build the Trail, so any funding that the County can find from another source to do the crossings would be a savings for the Trail.

Mr. Leatherwood continued, stating that funds for roads have to be used on federally-qualifying roads. Route 643 is a qualifying road.

Sarah Puckett asked about a start-date for Route 643. Mr. Leatherwood told her that 70% of construction funds must be in place first.

Mr. Leatherwood stated that currently the cost is better than a million and one-half dollars per mile for road construction.

Discussion followed regarding the Secondary System Construction Program. Mr. Keith Halbohn discussed the current project and stated that he hopes to have the project advertised and underway this fall.

(Supervisor Sally Gilfillan arrived at this time.)

Supervisor Lacy Ward asked about the progress on the Hidden Lake Road project. Mr. Halbohn said that two of the three remaining deeds are signed; one was previously signed, but not correctly.

Discussion turned to the Aspen Hill Road project, and the use of Recreational Access Funds to upgrade that road because of High Bridge Trail State Park. The Millers Lake project will probably also be done for the amount stated in the Plan (\$875,341.00).

Mr. Lacy Ward said that there seems to be a major shift in funding, and if the state publicized what was going on, this wouldn't have had to be explained.

Sarah Puckett said that there will need to be some publicity about the driveway process, which will be a significant change in the way the construction process is done.

Chairman Fore asked about the Revenue Sharing Program possibility being expanded. He also asked if small rural counties have to put up a million dollars to be considered for funding. Supervisor McKay asked the Board to think about setting aside money per year in the budget to plan for the future use of Revenue Sharing.

Mr. McKay asked if there was any way to do parts of Route 658 as was done on Route 696. Mr. Halbohn said that the problem is funding. Mr. Leatherwood said that he feels that the method that the projects are addressed needs to be changed. Route 643 will have to be rebuilt.

Mr. Halbohn stated that there is no additional funding for rural additions, but that Slaydon Forest is "safe right now."

Supervisor Gilfillan asked if VACo has done anything in opposition to the funding changes, as it is not cost effective to have an engineer to do the roads if the funding isn't available.

A discussion followed on the Slaydon Forest project, regarding speculative interest and property boundaries. Sarah Puckett said that County Planner Jonathan Pickett could review the properties on the road and report back at the March meeting. As a follow up to Mr. Pickett's report, the Board of Supervisors could adopt a resolution stating that there is no speculative interest.

It was reported that there is federal bridge money in the Plan: \$49,540 the first year and \$67,000 in 2009 for qualifying bridge replacement. Further discussion on bridges followed; only qualifying bridges would be considered for funding. The double bridges for consideration are on Route 623 (Norfolk Southern), Route 624 (Bush River), Route 619 (Saylor's Creek) and Route 633 (Bush River). One needs to be designated. Sarah Puckett asked which would qualify. Alan Leatherwood stated that each bridge qualifies.

Chairman Fore asked if the Route 619 bridge should be put on the Six Year Plan for bridge repair knowing that it will take two years to fund. Keith Halbohn said that it would still qualify in the Designated Bridge Fund, and explained the rating system.

Chairman Fore queried the Board and all were in consensus for the Route 619 bridge. Sarah Puckett was authorized to advertise the County's Six-Year Plan for a public hearing at the March 13, 2007 Board Meeting.

#### In Re: County Administrator's Position

The Supervisors reviewed the draft job description for the County Administrator's position as well as the County Profile that will be made available to applicants. After a few minor revisions, the Board authorized the Acting Administrator to post the position on the web sites of the professional organizations cited during the January 30, 2007 meeting. These include: International City/County Management

Association, National Association of County Administrators, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Society for Public Administration, Virginia Association of Counties, and Virginia Municipal League.

Chairman Fore then stated that the table packet was light, and since the weather was inclement, the Board may swap, table or postpone agenda items as the meeting progresses.

On motion of Mr. McKay and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	None
	William G. Fore, Jr.		
	Sally W. Gilfillan		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	James C. Moore		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	Lacy B. Ward		

the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.