

June 4, 2007

At a called meeting of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors held in the Third Floor Conference Room of the Court House, on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007, at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman

Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Sally W. Gilfillan

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

James C. Moore

Lacy B. Ward

Also Present: Sarah Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; James R. Ennis, County Attorney; Lewis Barlow, Piedmont Regional Jail Superintendent; and Jimmy Garnett, Piedmont Regional Jail Board Member for Prince Edward County.

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

In Re: Piedmont Regional Jail – Land Purchase

Chairman Fore reviewed information from a letter from the Piedmont Regional Jail Board regarding the proposed purchase of the Fuqua property contiguous to the jail's property. Mr. Fore stated he spoke with Mr. Lewis Barlow, Superintendent of the Piedmont Regional Jail Board, to ascertain the Jail's ability to make the payments on its own. Mr. Fore said that Mr. Barlow assured him the Jail could make the payments but there is always a possibility the counties would need to come up with the annual payment. Mr. Fore also said he had understood the Jail Board was capable of making the decision to purchase property without a vote from the Board of Supervisors, but has since learned the actions of the Jail Board must be approved by the Boards of Supervisors. He then asked for comments.

Mr. Barlow presented and reviewed a site map and a report, stating that currently, the Jail is landlocked. He said expansion is inevitable, and expansion to the west will be challenging due to the topography of the land. He said on the south side of the jail, the land drops drastically to the river, and the

land to the east offers the best option for expansion. He said of the original 12 acres, 4.9 acres were deeded for a Juvenile Detention facility. The Jail gave \$2.1 million to help build the facility; the remaining costs were covered by grants from the State. He also said the Jail generates revenue by contracting with several counties for holding inmates. Mr. Barlow said the property now owned by Rural Education Foundation – Fuqua School is asking \$300,000 and said the Jail will be able to make the down payment of \$50,000 and four annual payments of \$62,500, plus interest at 7.5%. There will be no cost to the counties.

Mr. Barlow said when the Jail was originally built, its rated capacity was 105 inmates, and now, with better space utilization, it is rated at 181. Prince Edward County alone has 298 inmates for April 2007, and if all Federal inmates were pulled from the Jail, the Jail would still be 200% over capacity. Mr. Barlow said storerooms and other rooms were made into modified cells, adding “We have no more space to expand.” He said the cost to house the inmates from Prince Edward County for April 2007 was \$109,102.92, based on what the State says it would cost. Mr. Barlow said the Jail is leasing space to Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Powhatan, and Loudoun, adding the cost per day is \$40, with an additional \$8 for the first 90 days, and an additional \$6 after the 91<sup>st</sup> day. Mr. James Garnett said it takes one rented prisoner to offset the cost of a locality prisoner, just to break even. Mr. Barlow said there is no State assistance for the Jail’s operating costs, and the medical bills for Prince Edward County’s inmates alone from July 2006 through December 2006 were \$474,433. Mr. Barlow said the Jail pays for this, not the counties.

Mr. Barlow said the average daily population is 728, and currently there are approximately 300 INS detainees, the number of which will eventually decrease, but the Jail intends to continue housing them. Because of lack of space, he said he turned down 100 that day. He added that with the population growth projections, the need for space will increase. Mr. Barlow said the Piedmont Regional Jail continues to have one of the lowest operating costs. He added the Jail operates as a business, and 40 beds are rented to Brunswick County at \$2,000 per day whether they use them or not, which generates \$700,000 per year, but operating costs cannot be cut. He added they are currently advertising to hire four Licensed Practical Nurses.

Supervisor Simpson asked if all of the other counties support the land purchase.

Mr. James Garnett said Nottoway County does not support this land purchase as they want to build a satellite prison at Fort Pickett, and Lunenburg may or may not support it.

Mr. Simpson asked if Nottoway and Lunenburg Counties oppose the transaction, can the other four still approve it and allow the Jail to purchase the land.

Mr. James Ennis, County Attorney, said more research on the statutes is necessary, as it may not have to be unanimous. Mr. Garnett said the bylaws of the Jail Board state it must be unanimous.

Supervisor Jones asked if a satellite jail might be considered in the future.

Mr. Barlow said a satellite facility would require double all staffing and costs. Mr. Garnett said they want something permanent so they don't have to transport the prisoners this far; it would not just be a holding area. Mr. Barlow said it would defeat the purpose of regionalization.

Supervisor Ward made a motion for the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors to support the action of the Piedmont Regional Jail Board for the purchase of the Fuqua property for expansion of the Jail. Supervisor McKay seconded; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward	Nay: None
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Mr. Garnett asked if this action will give authorization to purchase the land with four supporting counties instead of the unanimous support. Chairman Fore said no, they would have to return for a vote on the different provisions.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Jones made a motion that the Board convene in Closed Session to discuss prospective candidates for employment for the position of County Administrator, as provided for in the personnel exemptions of Section 2.2-3711(A)1 of the *Code of Virginia*. The motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward	Nay: None
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The Board returned to regular session by motion of Mrs. Gilfillan and adopted as follows:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward	Nay: None
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On motion of Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Simpson, and carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward	Nay: None
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the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors 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 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors 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 Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

On motion of Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Moore and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones William G. Fore, Jr. Sally W. Gilfillan Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay James C. Moore Howard F. Simpson Lacy B. Ward	Nay: None
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the meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. and moved to the Board Room.