

November 26, 2007

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held jointly with the School Board of Prince Edward County, in the Prince Edward County School Board Conference Room, Eagle Drive, Farmville, Virginia, on Tuesday, November 26, 2007, at 5:40 p.m., there were present:

Board of Supervisors

William G. Fore, Jr., Chairman
Howard F. Simpson, Vice Chairman
Sally W. Gilfillan
Pattie Cooper-Jones
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Lacy B. Ward

School Board

Russel L. Dove, Chairman
Herbert Doswell
Linda L. Leatherwood
Patsy G. Pelland
Ellery Sedgwick

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Mattie Wiley; and Dr. Patricia Watkins, Division Superintendent.

Chairman Fore called the Board of Supervisors to order at 5:40 p.m., as a reconvened meeting from November 14, 2007, for preliminary budget discussion with the Prince Edward County School Board.

In Re: Sandy River Reservoir Water System

Mr. Bartlett stated the first order of business was to review the project scope of work for the Sandy River Reservoir Water System. He said the project consisted of the intake with the capacity of six million gallons, the pump station with an initial capacity of two million gallons and ultimate capacity of eight million gallons, the water treatment facility with initial capacity of two million gallons with the planned upgrade to three [million gallons] with an ultimate capacity of six million [gallons]. He said all are adjustable if the Town decides not to join with the County, it can be scaled back to a one million gallon plant. Mr. Bartlett said the distribution system which consists of approximately 38,000 linear feet of water main, will include a storage tank of up to one million gallons, with a location yet to be determined. He said the project is based upon the assumption the Town would join with the County, and was sized appropriately.

Mr. Bartlett said the first step was to authorize award of the annual engineering contract. He said six proposals were received in response to the RFP. Mrs. Puckett said the proposals had been reviewed at

the staff level, and the staff is prepared to recommend the award of one of the contracts to Draper Aden. Further discussion would then be brought to the December Board meeting on the other awards. Mr. Bartlett said there would probably be three awarded, so there would be a choice of engineering firms in the future. One would be recommended exclusively for the landfill, and a second one for overall engineering services. He added that would allow a choice for the best suited for a particular project involved. He added the water system would necessitate an RFP for that project because of its size.

Mr. Ward said he would like to see the paperwork prior to voting on an engineering firm.

Mr. Moore asked about the criteria used to justify the choice of Draper Aden. Mr. Bartlett said the main factors were that Draper Aden had past history of the county's water and sewer plans; they were the engineering firm for the Industrial Park and have all the plans and full understanding of the site; they also have worked with some surrounding areas and have extensive knowledge of the County's operations in the water and sewer areas, and have been under annual contract for three years. Mrs. Puckett added Draper Aden did all the work on the Sandy River Reservoir, the permit from DEQ, the work on the water supply plan, and their depth of knowledge on the County's water situation could not be surmounted by anyone.

Mr. Bartlett said there would be at least two more annual contracts awarded, and that any project over \$100,000 would be issued an RFP, and that project's responses would be evaluated on their own merits.

Chairman Fore recommended to the Board that Draper Aden was awarded an annual contract.

Supervisor Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to authorize the award of the annual engineering contract to Draper Aden. Mr. Ward stated that he wasn't concerned about the annual contract but there were a number of other things involved, such as constructing a water supply system, and "authorize the County Administrator to execute the engineering proposals with Draper Aden for a number of things down there." He said he would like to know which firms responded to the RFP, adding that a firm that has more knowledge than anyone else is not necessarily a reason to award a contract.

The motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson

Nay: Lacy B. Ward

Mr. Bartlett stated the next step would be to authorize the County Administrator to execute the engineering proposals with Draper Aden for: 1) interim water supply, 2) preliminary engineering for raw water intake and pump station at Sandy River Reservoir, 3) Sandy River Reservoir treatability analysis, and 4) preliminary engineering for the Sandy River Water Treatment Plant. He said these items would move the County forward since the Joint Meeting with the Town when they decided to go on their own and not join with the County, and would set the preliminary engineering studies in motion and may be amended at any time in the future if so needed.

Mr. Ward asked what effect this would have if the Town agrees to accept the proposal from the County. Mr. Bartlett said it would not affect these four items, because it had been determined the best solution is a plant at Sandy River, and the only question was whether the Town would join with the County on that issue and the distribution system. He added the plant needs to be sized to serve the Town residents and the County residents, and it could be downsized later in the process. Mr. Ward then asked who would be financing this project, as it seemed to be moving quickly. Mr. Bartlett said these things take years to build and engineer and the engineering will go on for over a year to design a water plant and distribution system. He estimated it will be a three-year project if expedited.

Mr. Jones said it wasn't moving hurriedly because a proposal was given to the Town in 2003 that was rejected, and this has been discussed for years and it needs to progress. He added "Someone's got to get this thing going." Mr. Simpson added that the Town has cut off discussion about the water, and the County must do something.

Mr. Bartlett said regarding the customer base, the County was looking at legal options and may be able to reclaim customers that are within the County proper. He asked the Board to recall that most of the system outside of the Town was paid for by the County or through grants. Mr. Bartlett reminded the Board that any other developments throughout the county are in jeopardy if there is no interim water supply because the Town issued a moratorium. He stated the steps mentioned are preliminary and would need to be done in order to build a plant with or without the Town's participation.

After further discussion, Mr. Simpson made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to execute the engineering proposals with Draper Aden as listed. The motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson

Nay: Lacy B. Ward

Mr. Moore made a motion to appropriate \$99,000 to Account #4-100-42610-3160 for the preliminary engineering report for the Sandy River Reservoir Water Treatment Plant; \$82,500 to Account #4-100-42610-3160 for the preliminary engineering for the raw water intake, and \$75,000 to Account #4-100-42610-3160 for the Sandy River Reservoir treatability analysis for a total of \$256,500 and \$99,000 to cover the cost of the design of an interim water supply to Account #4-100-42610-3170. The motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson

Nay: Lacy B. Ward

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Simpson, to authorize issuance of the RFP for engineering services. After some discussion, the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson

Nay: Lacy B. Ward

Mrs. Puckett spoke with Mr. Paul Freed with the Virginia Health Department, who had requested a letter from the County to enable The Manor to continue its pump-and-haul contract for its wastewater. She said The Manor questions the ability of the existing system to serve its needs for water and wastewater, and until an interim solution or final agreement on infrastructure in the County and Town is worked out, they wish to continue the pump-and-haul of their wastewater, which is about 2,000 gallons a week. Mr. Bartlett explained temporary permits cover a time period of a year or less, and the Health Department would feel more comfortable with a letter from the County. He added that the County would assume any liability if there is a sewage spill at The Manor, while it would be in the collection process only.

Mr. Simpson made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to execute a letter to the Health Department to enable the Manor to continue its pump-and-haul contract for its wastewater.

After some discussion, Mr. Moore asked that the letter be brought before the County Attorney and then brought before the Board. Chairman Fore asked the County Administrator to work on the letter with the County Attorney, send the letter to the Health Department and copy each member of the Board. The motion carried:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr.	Nay:	Lacy B. Ward
	Sally W. Gilfillan		Pattie Cooper-Jones
	Robert M. Jones		
	James C. Moore		
	Howard F. Simpson		

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Simpson, to grant a temporary construction easement to The Manor for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant with the assistance of the County Attorney, and to authorize easement to Virginia Power for wastewater treatment plant, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator execute all of the necessary paperwork.

A substitute motion was made by Mr. Ward that the Board delay the vote on these easements until the Board can review it fully in writing.

Chairman Fore indicated that the Board needed to determine which of the motions would become the main motion. He then called for a vote in favor of the substitute motion becoming the main motion; the motion failed:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay:	William G. Fore, Jr.
	Sally W. Gilfillan		Robert M. Jones
	Lacy B. Ward		Charles W. McKay
			James C. Moore
			Howard F. Simpson

The Board then returned to the original motion, to grant the construction easement and to authorize easement for Virginia Power on the wastewater plant. The motion carried:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr.	Nay:	Lacy B. Ward
	Sally W. Gilfillan.		Pattie Cooper-Jones
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	James C. Moore		
	Howard F. Simpson		

In Re: 100th Birthday Celebration of Hazel Benton Carter

On motion of Mrs. Gilfillian and carried:

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

the Board approved a Letter of Recognition of Hazel Benton Carter's 100th birthday.

To Mrs. Hazel Benton Carter:

The *Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia*, is very pleased to have this opportunity to extend to you its best wishes on the grand occasion of your 100th birthday on December 9, 2007.

Through your lifelong commitment to education: first as a student and graduate of I.C. Norcum High School in Portsmouth, Virginia and Virginia State College (now University) in Petersburg, Virginia; then as a teacher in the one-, two- and three-room schools of Prince Edward County from 1924 until 1959, and as a teacher in the Cumberland County Public Schools from 1959 until your retirement in 1972; you have contributed indelibly to the lives of so many young people.

Through your leadership as an active member of Calvary Baptist Church, the Martha E. Forrester Council of Women, and the Retired Teachers of Buckingham, Cumberland and Prince Edward you have rendered honorable and invaluable service to your community.

Through your devotion to family; wife of George Andrew Carter, mother of André Carter Pearce, grandmother of two and great-grandmother of two; you have nurtured and encouraged and set a high standard for those who follow.

On the occasion of this celebration honoring you, we the undersigned members of the *Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia*, do hereby convey our high regard to you as a community leader and as an inspiration to your former students and all who know you.

In Re: Special Construction Project

Mr. Simpson made a motion to request VDOT issue a permit to the County for temporary closure of Route 603 to non-resident traffic from 6:00 a.m., December 3, 2007 until 7:00 p.m., December 11, 2007.

The motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
William G. Fore, Jr.
Sally W. Gilfillan
Robert M. Jones
James C. Moore
Howard F. Simpson
Lacy B. Ward

Nay: None

After a recess for dinner, Mr. Dove called the School Board to order at 6:55 p.m.

Chairman Fore thanked the School Board for allowing the Board of Supervisors to disrupt the planned agenda and for providing dinner.

In Re: Accreditation

Dr. Watkins gave a report on the progress with accreditation, and said the Middle School is now conditionally accredited by the Board of Education, which is granted to schools that have shown improvement. She said there is one area of concern, in Mathematics, and there was a significant improvement in the schools over the past year.

Sally Gilfillian left the meeting at this time.

In Re: Efficiency Study

Dr. Watkins gave a presentation on the Efficiency Study. She said a savings of \$487,521 was identified, and over a period of five years, there was a savings of \$1.9 million. She said there are over 100 recommendations, some of which have a dollar amount attached. She added that as efficiency is improved, in the long run, revenues and spending will also improve. She added the long term items would require studies, infrastructure, training, and other processes that cannot be done “overnight.”

- Short term: Reduce number of assistant principals
Eliminate one bus maintenance supervisor
Reduce custodial staff
- Long term: Implement an energy awareness program (\$57,607)
Provide bus routing and establish bus stops (161,010)
- To Be Studied: Increase meal prices charged by the cafeteria to include prices associated with the free and reduced program Index. (\$78,203)

Dr. Watkins then said the Board identified the Future Capital Improvement Needs of the school division:

- § Improve the quality of the high school athletic complex
- § Expand the career and technical center
- § Install security systems at the middle and elementary schools
- § Improve the location of the 4th and 5th grade students

In Re: Rebenchmarking

Dr. Watkins reviewed the issue of Rebenchmarking, which is a process which increases funding to school districts every two years according to their past and projected input costs. She said the purpose is to get the budget in line with the requirements set by the Standards of Quality. Dr. Watkins reminded the Board that the demands of education are increasing with less funding.

Mr. Bartlett said he had presented the Board of Supervisors a 10-year history of the funding for the County, including the schools, to show when the state did a rebenchmark in 2004, state funding increased almost \$15 million. He added that two years later, in the current fiscal year, it went from \$15.2 million to \$17.1 million, and that the state has become fully engaged in funding local education. He added rebenchmarking is partly based on the Composite Index which has decreased over time for Prince Edward County which meant the state paid a larger portion of the cost of education.

Dr. Watkins said the rebenchmarking will only affect the basic aid. Further discussion followed on federal and state aid. Mr. Bartlett said Governor Kaine's budget would be released December 17th, which will give an indication of the Governor's recommendation for the overall increase in rebenchmarking. He said the Governor typically funds education well; Dr. Watkins added the Governor made a commitment that he would.

Mr. Bartlett said he had proposed a financial policy to the Board of Supervisors, which includes a budget policy which requests the School Board submit to the Board of Supervisors a proposed budget by March 1 and a budget approved by the School Board by April 1. This proposed schedule would allow the Board of Supervisors a month to hold the required public hearing and to have discussion between the two bodies.

Discussion followed regarding the budget, further plans for projects such as the athletic field, and other projects that would need attention with the increase in economic development within the County.

In Re: GASB 45 Study

Dr. Watkins said that the study had been conducted in October 2007, and the costs of post retirement benefits were identified.

Mr. Bartlett said there is a new financial requirement by the Government Accounting Standards Board, beginning in the Fiscal Year 2008 audit, to show liability. He said an actuarial company was being sought to look at the benefits and the actuarial data on the County and school employees to develop a cost of the projected liability.

Chairman Fore asked about a mandated percentage that would be put back against the liability. Mr. Bartlett said the Board of Supervisors would have to make that decision but there was no mandate to place funds in a reserve account to fund the future liabilities. He said the County could continue on the “pay as you go” plan.

Dr. Watkins asked how this would tie into the new mandate that would go into effect January 1, 2008, regarding the school district managing its own retirement system. Mr. Bartlett said they may hire someone to manage that. Further discussion on management companies followed.

Dr. Watkins said that on behalf of the School Board, she wished to express appreciation for the spirit of cooperation and efforts to respond to the needs of the school and the children. Dr. Watkins said the School Board was “working very hard to not just provide a good school system, but a great school system, and with your help, we’re sure we can get there.”

In Re: Adjournment

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

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

the meeting was adjourned until December 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.