V I R G I N I A:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, March 23, 1995, at 7:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

James T. Osborne, Chairman
Dulcie M. Mumpower, Vice Chairman
Kenneth G. Mathews
Bobby D. Ingle
Joe W. Derting
Maurice H. Parris
Jackson Barker

Bruce E. Bentley, County Administrator
Joseph B. Lyle, County Attorney
Sandra M. Hatfield, CPS, Executive Secretary

Invited and in attendance from Bristol, Virginia City Council was:

Jerry A. Wolfe, Mayor
Paul W. Hurley, Vice Mayor
Dr. Douglas R. Weberling

Paul D. Spangler, City Manager
W. A. Dennison, Jr., Assistant City Manager
Daniel L. Johnson, City Clerk, Comptroller

ABSENT:

Anne E. Corley
C. Farnham Jarrard

Invited to speak to the Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors and the Bristol, Virginia City Council were:

Senator William Wampler, Jr.
Senator Jackson Reason, Jr.
Delegate Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.

****

1. Call Recess Meeting to Order

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mr. James T. Osborne, Chairman of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Osborne turned the meeting over to Mayor Jerry Wolfe.

Mayor Wolfe called the Bristol, Virginia City Council meeting to order stating the purpose to meet with Washington County, Virginia Board of

Supervisors to discuss matters of mutual concern and hear reports from legislators.

****

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance - James T. Osborne

Mayor Wolfe turned the meeting back to Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors Chairman, James T. Osborne, who gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

****

3. Purpose of Meeting

Joint Meeting With Bristol, Virginia City Council to hear legislative report on 1995 General Assembly Session from Senators William Wampler, Jr. and Jackson Reasor, and Delegate Joseph P. Johnson, Jr.

Delegate Johnson opened discussions by expressing appreciation to both governing bodies for the opportunity to review the 1995 General Assembly Session. He emphasized his efforts were directed toward supporting legislation that would benefit both localities. He stated he took a strong position on not supporting unfunded mandates or measures that would shift the tax burden back on the localities.

Mr. Johnson highlighted the 1995 legislation that will have a significant impact on Washington County, specifically funding for technology in education and added enterprise zones. He strongly challenged the governing bodies to develop a positive approach toward implementing programs the legislature has put into place by forming a partnership-like arrangement and applying for grant funding jointly. Mr. Johnson emphasized the importance of continuing to address water and sewer needs to improve the quality of life in the area. He stressed the importance of making the area economically competitive citing several recently completed building projects and developments as positive forces to attract businesses and people to the region.

Senator William Wampler, Jr. expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the governing bodies jointly relative to their common concerns, and to discuss ways in which the legislature can help bring more revenue to the localities. He challenged the two jurisdictions to do long range planning. Mr. Wampler emphasized his support for equal sharing of tax burden; enterprise zones and filing joint applications for grant funds; regional jail; sharing educational resources; transportation and economic development needs.

Senator Jack Reasor, Jr. joined in expressing his appreciation to the governing bodies relative to legislation affecting Washington County. He remarked on the restoration of funds to the state budget without a tax increase, and balancing the budget. Senator Reasor commented on: the Omnibus Education Act; returning Lottery profits directly to localities for local education, public safety, and/or local tax relief. He

encouraged the localities to form a joint partnership to take advantage of future grant opportunities.

The meeting was then opened to questions from Supervisors and Council Members.

Mr. Ingle raised discussion on: Half-cent state sales tax and how the revenue would benefit Washington County; the disadvantage to Virginia of other States who offer prospective businesses tax incentive opportunities as an incentive to relocate their operations. Legislators responded individually to Mr. Ingle's concerns emphasizing Governor Allen's firm position of not increasing the tax rate during his administration.

Mr. Hurley called attention to the major financial impact facing localities who participated in the early retirement program and who are obligated to repay interest money to the Virginia State Retirement System at the rate of 8%. He asked if the legislators foresee offering some relief on the interest rate in the next General Assembly Session. Senator Wampler responded the state may loan money to localities to make their payments, and lower the interest to 4%.

Mr. Bentley raised the subject of HB 1802 relative to waste haulers and the effect of this legislation on localities who are under contract with waste hauling companies. He stated he has written to Governor Allen requesting that he veto the bill. Discussion ensued. Legislators gave a brief overview of the bill and stated their view that the legislation should have no effect on contracts/agreements already in place. Mr. Johnson stated he would follow up on the County's concerns.

Other issues raised by Mr. Bentley were: educational funding; economic development; infrastructure; providing a higher level of job opportunities in the region; ARC grant funding.

Dulcie Mumpower inquired about the current status of the closing of the Neonatal Unit at the Johnston Memorial Clinic which has come about as a result of recent changes in regulations. Senator Wampler commented efforts are underway to set up meetings with the Health Department and the Johnston Memorial Hospital to discuss the matter. In her comments, Mrs. Mumpower emphasized how important it is to the region to keep the Neonatal Unit open.

Mr. Mathews asked legislators to confirm the funding allocation for the educational technology grant and the state/local contributions.

Mayor Wolfe thanked the legislators for attending the meeting, answering their questions, and addressing their concerns.

Chairman Osborne expressed appreciation to the legislators for meeting with both governmental jurisdictions. In his comments Mr. Osborne emphasized the need to work in a joint effort for the people of the area.

****

4. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Barker, second by Mr. Parris, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The vote on this motion was as follows (7-0):

Mr. Mathews	Aye	Mr. Ingle	Aye	Mr. Derting	Aye
Mr. Osborne	Aye	Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Barker	Aye
Mrs. Mumpower	Aye				

Mayor Jerry Wolfe declared the meeting of the Bristol, Virginia City Council adjourned.

_____

James T. Osborne, Chairman