

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors with the Town Council of Abingdon held Monday, September 14, 1998, at 6:00 p.m., at the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 133 West Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

Board of Supervisors**PRESENT:**

Bobby D. Ingle, Chairman
 Dulcie M. Mumpower, Vice Chairman
 Kenneth G. Mathews
 Joe W. Derting
 James T. Osborne
 John B. Roberts, Sr.

Christianne E. Parker, Assistant County Administrator

ABSENT:

Jackson Barker
 Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
 John A. Martin, County Attorney
 Mark W. Seamon, Accounting/Purchasing Manager
 Sandra M. Hatfield, CPS, Administrative Supervisor

Abingdon Town Council**PRESENT:**

Honorable Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor
 Councilman Joe T. Phipps
 Councilman Thomas C. Phillips, Jr.
 Councilman French H. Moore, Jr.
 Councilman Robert M. Howard

G. M. Newman, Town Manager
 C. M. Vernon, Jr., Director of Public Works
 Linda F. Wilson, Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

Town Council of Abingdon, Virginia:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Humphreys of the Abingdon Town Council.

Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ingle of the Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors.

2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Chairman Ingle gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

Chairman Ingle expressed his appreciation for the sympathy shown to he and his family during the recent passing of his father, Lloyd Ingle.

Mayor Humphreys welcomed the Board of Supervisors and turned the meeting over to Chairman Ingle.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Ingle asked for discussion. There was a vote in favor of the agenda 5-0. Mrs. Mumpower arrived later.

Town Council of Abingdon, Virginia:

Mayor Humphreys asked for approval of the agenda and the vote was unanimous in favor of it.

4. Discussion of Matters of Mutual Interest Between County and Town

a. Courthouse Parking

In opening comments, Mr. Ingle advised the Council the Board of Supervisors recently discussed the Courthouse parking problem explaining it is getting worse. He stated their discussion resulted in requesting a meeting with the Town Council to discuss possible solutions or options to addressing the issue, and determine if there would be support from Council to work with the Supervisors. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Ingle inquired if the Council would be willing to reconsider their offer of ten years ago emphasizing that there is an increasing need to again address the parking problem at the Courthouse. Additionally, Mr. Ingle proposed that a committee be formed to study and recommend solutions to the parking problem, and that the Town of Abingdon and the Board of Supervisors appoint members from their Boards as well as representation from the community.

Mr. Mathews presented a historical review of the parking issue. He addressed the joint efforts of both governing bodies to resolve the lack of adequate parking for citizens conducting business at the Courthouse. It was pointed out private offices and businesses adjacent to the Courthouse also required parking spaces. Discussion ensued relative to the various plans that were considered and worked on before the project was abandoned for lack of Supervisors support. In response to a question about the architectural plans for a parking garage to accommodate 144 parking spaces drawn up by Charles Day and project costs, Mr. Mathews advised the current costs would possibly increase by \$200,000. Dr. Moore requested a cost comparison from Johnson Memorial Hospital be obtained. A brief discussion ensued about using various materials to minimize costs.

Mr. Phillips proposed that both the Town and the County governing bodies conduct independent evaluations separate from the Committee work to determine the advantages and disadvantages of cost proposals.

Mr. Derting suggested that the hillside property located behind the Treasurer's Office be considered as an alternate site for a parking garage. Mr. Phipps stated that location was previously suggested but not considered in the final recommendation for a site location. Discussion ensued regarding various construction plans for building a parking facility at that location.

There was consensus agreement among the Supervisors and the Council to establish a study committee appointing six members from the Board of Supervisors and five members from the Town Council.

On motion of Mr. Osborne, second by Mr. Roberts, it was resolved that a joint committee is formed with representation by the Board of Supervisors and the Town of Abingdon to study the feasibility of resolving the parking problem at the Courthouse and the Courthouse hill area.

Discussion ensued relative to the motion, with Mr. Phillips suggesting it be amended. There was agreement of Mr. Osborne and Mr. Roberts to amend the motion to include the following:

- (1) need for supplemental parking at the Courthouse;***
- (2) alternatives that might be available to provide parking;***
- (3) alternatives that might be available for financing.***

The vote on the motion and amendment was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Ingles</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Mathews</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Osborne</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>

On motion of Mr. Phillips, second by Mr. Phipps, it was resolved that a committee be formed by the Abingdon Town Council and Washington County Board of Supervisors to study the feasibility of the parking situation at the Courthouse and Courthouse hill area to include: 1) the need for supplemental parking at the Courthouse, 2) alternatives that might be available to provide parking, and 3) alternatives that might be available for financing.

The vote on the motion was as follows: (5-0)

<i>Mrs. Humphreys</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Phipps</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Phillips</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Moore</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Howard</i>	<i>Aye</i>		

b. **Utilities**

1. **Joint Ventures for Sewer Projects in the 201 Area**

Joe Derting commented that the Town provided sewer to the County and 201 area. In recent years the Board gave consideration to providing sewer service to other areas of the County. He stated the WC Service Authority is currently in the process of providing sewer to Meadowview, Emory, Glade Spring, and High Point. Joint discussion ensued relative to sewerage the Jonesboro Road area and agreement was reached the two jurisdictions would work together on the sewer projects. If sewer service were provided along the corridor of the County, it was stated, it would be necessary to build new treatment plants to pump from one location to another unless a joint effort was coordinated with the Town to enlarge or expand their treatment plant.

Mr. Newman commented he did not know how much the plant could be expanded with the limited run off from Wolf Creek, adding that the Health Department and Water Control Board have been asked to review the situation.

Mr. Derting expressed his desire for the Town and County to consider joint ventures in an effort to provide quality services to the public.

c. Other Issues

1. Mr. Derting offered the County's assistance in any way to expedite activity at Exits 14 and 17 of Interstate 81.

Mr. Newman indicated his understanding that work on Exit 17 was moved to the No. 1 priority of VDOT projects, and that the preliminary engineering has begun.

2. Dr. Moore reported the following: He advised that he was Chairman of the EVA 91st Day Committee. At a recent meeting they had discussed extending the fiber optic cable, upgrading it from 10 million bits to 100 million, and extending it west on Main Street. He stated the current budget includes extending the fiber optic cable from Sprint's operation center to the Hospital and Library, commenting it would make sense if the County could assist in getting it extended down Main Street, to the County Administration Building and William King Regional Arts Center, thus allowing for the ability to exchange information with the Treasurer's Office, the Courthouse and other County Offices.

A joint discussion of the cost to extend the cable ensued. In response to Mr. Ingle's inquiry, Dr. Moore responded he anticipated the cost to run cable down Main Street would be approximately \$60,000. Mr. Ingle stated he felt the Board of Supervisors would be receptive to the plan provided a cost proposal and justification were submitted to them.

In his comments, Dr. Moore stated wireless technology was probably the way to the future but it limited speed. He stated the legislature has recognized Abingdon as the only community in the Commonwealth of Virginia to engage in telecommunications services. He expressed his hope that the fiber optic cable could eventually be extended to the Virginia Highlands Airport. Dr. Moore added that the railroad abandoned the use of poles on their right-of-way and suggested if the Town was given permission to use them, the cable could be extended to the Industrial Park which would save money.



5. Adjournment/Recess

- a. *On motion of Mr. Derting, second by Mr. Roberts, it was resolved to recess to Monday, September 21, 1998, at 5:30 p.m. to meet jointly with the Washington County Service Authority.*

The vote on the motion and amendment was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Ingles</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Mathews</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Osborne</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>

- b. *On motion of Dr. Moore, second by Mr. Phipps, it was resolved to recess until 7:30 p.m. to the regular business meeting.*

The vote on the motion was as follows: (5-0)

<i>Mrs. Humphreys</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Phipps</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Phillips</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Moore</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Howard</i>	<i>Aye</i>		



Bobby D. Ingle, Chairman