

VIRGINIA:

At a called joint meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and the Damascus Town Council, held Thursday, May 10, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., at the Rock School in Damascus, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

Joe W. Derting, Chairman
John B. Roberts, Sr., Vice Chairman
Phillip B. McCall
Anthony S. Rector
Dulcie M. Mumpower
Jack H. Barker
Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
Lucy E. Phillips Bright, County Attorney
Carol A. Dorton, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT:

Bobby D. Ingle
Mark W. Seamon, Accounting/Purchasing Manager
Sandra M. Hatfield, CPS, Administrative Supervisor

From the Town of Damascus, the following persons were present:

PRESENT:

Maurice H. Parris, Mayor
Lawrence E. Lewis, Vice Mayor
John Reece
Creed Jones
Nancy P. Lamb
Marianna L. Farmer
Toby L. Boian, Town Manager

ABSENT:

Tom D. Hayes
Thomas Dene, Town Attorney
Virginia Kimberling, Recording Secretary

Representing the firm of Barge, Wagoner, Sumner & Cannon:

Mike MacIndoe
Randy McQueen

1 **Call Joint Meeting to Order**

a. **Board of Supervisors**

The called joint meeting was called to order by Mr. Joe W. Derting, Chairman of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance.

b. **Town of Damascus**

The called joint meeting was called to order by Mayor Maurice H. Parris, who welcomed everyone in attendance.



2 **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Rector gave the Invocation and Mr. Lewis led in the Pledge of Allegiance.



3 **Approval of Agenda**

On motion of Ms. Farmer, second by Mr. Jones, it was resolved to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Farmer</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Jones</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reece</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Lamb</i>	<i>Aye</i>		



On motion of Mr. Roberts, second by Mrs. Mumpower, it was resolved to approve the Agenda as presented.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Barker</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>



4 **Discussion of Damascus Wastewater Treatment System Improvements**

Mr. Boian reported that this project has been ongoing for five years. They have met with Department of Environmental Quality and expect a letter of approval within the next two weeks. He introduced Mike MacIndoe and Randy McQueen of Barge, Wagoner, Sumner & Cannon. Mr. MacIndoe presented a project overview and status report to the board and council. Construction should begin this summer.

Town Council/Board Discussion

Mr. Jones asked if there would be a sewer rate adjustment to which Mr. Boian replied that the current base rate of \$8 will increase to approximately \$16-\$18. Mr. Derting asked what the present capacity is and what the future capacity will be upon completion. Mr. MacIndoe said it is now 250,000 gpd and will increase to approximately 400,000 gpd. Mr. Boian stated he feels comfortable that the capacity can be increased.

Mr. Reeter asked what the remaining debt is on this project. Mr. Boian stated that the remainder due on the loan for this project (approximately \$400,000 or 60% of balance) will be refinanced at a rate of 4 ½ %.

5 **Discussion of Bayer/Beaver Dam Creek Development**

Mr. Boian presented a copy of the Bayer Property Master Plan and conceptual sketches from the Damascus Planning Commission and the Bayer Beaver Dam Advisory Committee for the Board's & Council's review. He described the possible future sites of a trail, lodge, restaurant, open recreation space and shopping area on the 43 acre site. A local developer has taken the plans for the lodge and has already begun construction the lodge which will not be on the Bayer property. While preparing a needs assessment, a survey was conducted on all residents in the area and the results show that 92% were in favor of the project. He described the possibility for an incubator also. There have been three T-21 "Rails to Trails" grant applications made for this project. If the final grant is approved by VDOT, this would be enough funding to complete Phase 1 of the trail possibly next year. Mr. Jones asked if this area was in the flood plain, to which Mr. Boian replied "yes, approximately twelve miles of it." He stated that is was the consensus of the planning commission that this would not interfere with this type of open recreation trail project.

6 **Discussion of Mock Hollow Comprehensive Community Development Project**

Mr. Boian stated that this is a joint project with Washington County, Virginia and named the many agencies that are involved with funding. Mr. MacIndoe gave a status report stating this has been a very challenging project. If the roadway, which is the initial part of the project, meets VDOT's approval, then the next phase of sewer extension would begin. An 8" sewer line would be installed along the roadway and water lines will be located on the opposite side of the road. There are still some design issues to be resolved such as retaining walls, utilities and structures to be moved. Approximately fifteen homes are involved. A contract date has not been set.

7 **Discussion of Other Matters of Mutual Interest**

Mr. Roberts commended the Damascus Town Council on their many projects, growth, and tourism. He stated that some of the main issues facing the town at this time include the future of the Konnarock Clinic and improvements to Route 91, which he feels will be a very important roadway for Damascus and Washington County in the future.

Mr. Jones commented on the town's recent loss of two major industries, Triplett Lumber and McBee Systems.

Mr. Derting commended the town on its beauty and stated that Washington County will continue to assist Damascus with future projects.

Ms. Lamb asked if there would be an adjustment made to the tax rate, noting the recent property reassessments. Mr. Derting stated that the Board had not yet considered a proposed budget and related adjustment to the rate. He stated that he personally anticipated that the Board would lower the tax rate by at least 10%.

8

Adjournment

- a. *On motion of Mr. Reece, second by Mr. Jones, it was resolved to adjourn the called joint meeting.*

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

<i>Mr. Lewis</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Farmer</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Jones</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reece</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Ms. Lamb</i>	<i>Aye</i>		

- b. *On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. Roberts, it was resolved to recess the meeting to Tuesday, May 15, 2001, 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 205 Academy Drive, Abingdon, Virginia, for Presentation of FY 2001-02 County Budget.*

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-0)

<i>Mr. Derting</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Roberts</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Barker</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Joe W. Derting, Chairman