

VIRGINIA:

At a joint recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and Town Council of Abingdon, VA held Wednesday, July 12, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia the following were present:

PRESENT:

Board of Supervisors:

- Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman
- Jack R. McCrady, Jr., Vice Chairman
- Phillip B. McCall
- Dulcie M. Mumpower
- Odell Owens
- Paul O. Price
- Anthony S. Rector

- Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
- Lucy E. Phillips, County Attorney
- Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

Abingdon Town Council:

- Lois Humphreys, Mayor
- Dr. F. H. "French" Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor
- Robert M. Howard
- Cathy Castle Lowe
- Edward B. Morgan

1. Call to Order

Board of Supervisors:

Mr. Kenneth Reynolds, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order. Mr. Reynolds welcomed the Town Council members.

Abingdon Town Council

Ms. Lois Humphreys, Mayor, called the Town Council to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion of Mr. Rector, second by Mr. Owens of the Board of Supervisors, and upon motion of Mrs. Lowe, second by Mr. Howard of the Abingdon Town Council, it was jointly resolved to adopt the Agenda with the following amendment:

Addition of Item 5.d. - Discussion Pertaining to the Southwest Virginia Artisan Center***The vote on this motion by the Board of Supervisors was as follows: (7-0)***

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCrady</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The vote on this motion by the Abingdon Town Council was as follows: (5-0)

<i>Ms. Humphreys</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Howard</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Lowe</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Moore</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Morgan</i>	<i>Aye</i>

3. Topics of Interest – Board of Supervisors:**a. County Wastewater Treatment Capacity within Abingdon Sewer System**

Chairman Kenneth Reynolds began discussions regarding the County's interest in wastewater treatment capacity within the Abingdon. Mr. Reynolds explained that the Board of Supervisors is interested in exploring options to expand sewer service to customers within the perimeters of Abingdon that do not currently have public sewer service. He further explained that correspondence has been initiated between the Town of Abingdon and the Washington County Service Authority concerning a joint sewer project, and the communications have been positive. Mr. Reynolds expressed the Boards appreciation for the interest shown by the Town of Abingdon.

County Administrator Mark Reeter reviewed a map created by the County's Geographic Information Systems Department with the Town's cooperation that details the Abingdon 201 Sewer Service area. Mr. Reeter pointed to areas on the map that were potential areas for sewer expansion.

Mr. Reynolds explained that the immediate interest of the County was to facilitate sewer through the Town of Abingdon to Oak Park. He reviewed the followings points that should be considered:

- The County is interested in discharging a million and one half gallons per day of waster water outside the Town limits during the next 20 years.
- It is anticipated that within the next 30 years there will be approximately 3 million gallons per day of wastewater discharged.
- Consideration of the needs for a sewer system to serve Oak Park.

Supervisor Dulcie Mumpower explained that the County has experienced difficulties in working with the City of Bristol to provide sewer service to Oak Park. Mrs. Mumpower stated that she is optimistic that

since there is a new City Council that some of the issues can be resolved. She explained that if the wastewater discharge from Oak Park could be routed toward Abingdon it could accommodate further development in the Oak Park area. Mrs. Mumpower further explained that sewer issues within the Wilson District need to be addressed as soon as possible in order to accommodate future development.

Discussion ensued concerning wastewater issues in Westwood Subdivision and the sewer survey conducted among residents of Westwood Subdivision. The majority of residents responding were not interested in connecting to public sewer primarily because of the rate structure that was proposed. It was suggested that a new survey be conducted. Further discussions ensued concerning wastewater needs for Foxfire and Whisperwood Subdivisions.

Town Councilman Edward Morgan inquired if the County Subdivision Ordinance required a developer of a new subdivision to install water and sewer. County Administrator Mark Reeter explained that if water and sewer were available most likely the developers would connect to the system. Mr. Reeter further explained that most developers prefer access to town sewer, but that some would install septic systems if the land perks.

Discussions ensued concerning the impact the proposed sewer expansion would have on County residents that are currently sewer customers of the Town of Abingdon. Town Public Works Director Monte Vernon explained that the Town would expect the current County residents to remain as town customers, and that those customers do not affect the million gallon per day treatment capacity.

Mr. Reynolds recommended that a joint committee be established to review and discuss all of the issues involved with the proposed sewer expansion project and to draft an agreement that the Town of Abingdon and the County would be comfortable with and that would serve the citizens. Negotiations could then begin between the Town and County to extend Town sewer service out into the County.

Further discussions ensued. Subsequently the following actions were taken:

On motion of Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Morgan, it was resolved that the Town of Abingdon would work out the details for an advisory board to include two members each from Town Council, Board of Supervisor and Washington County Service Authority and appropriate staff members from each. It was further resolved that the Town of Abingdon is agreeing in principal to work with the County to accept wastewater from the proposed new system once it is completed and a joint agreement is established.

The vote on this motion by the Abingdon Town Council was as follows: (5-0)

<i>Ms. Humphreys</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Howard</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Lowe</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Moore</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Morgan</i>	<i>Aye</i>

On motion of Mr. Rector, second by Mr. Price the Board acted to officially express the County's wish to discharge wastewater to the Town of Abingdon. It was further resolved to establish an advisory board with the Town of Abingdon and to make appointments to the advisory board at the July 25 regular meeting.

The vote on this motion by the Board of Supervisors was as follows: (7-0)

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCrady</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

b. Joint Development of Recreational Facilities

Mr. Reynolds began the discussions concerning a joint development of recreational facilities. He explained that a lot of interest has been shown regarding the County and Town of Abingdon jointly developing a multi-sports complex. Mr. Reynolds explained that a group of individuals recently made a presentation to the Board and to the County Parks and Recreation Committee concerning the development of 40-acre multi-sports complex in the Abingdon area. The primary goal of this group was the development of additional fields for practice and play, especially for soccer. The group also has an interest in seeing at least one or two fields constructed that would meet the state or national requirements so that tournaments could be held in the County.

Discussion ensued. Board of Supervisor members expressed their interest in seeing at least three sports complexes constructed throughout the County that would accommodate all of the citizens. It is proposed that sports complexes be developed in the Meadowview/Glade Spring area, Wallace area and a joint venture with the Town of Abingdon to construct a large facility.

Supervisor Jack McCrady noted that the Town of Damascus has agreed to donate property for a sports complex.

Supervisor Phillip McCall noted that approximately 20 acres of property has been identified for lease near Abingdon Elementary School. Mr. McCall stated that this property could produce about 20 soccer fields.

Discussion ensued among the Town Council. Council members inquired about what the primary needs were for recreation. Board members explained that the biggest needs were for fields for soccer and girls little league.

Mr. Morgan noted that the Town of Abingdon spends approximately \$1 million dollars a year on recreation. He stated that many of the County residents utilize the Coomes Center. Mr. Morgan further stated that the Town would be interested in working with the County to construct a multisports complex.

Discussion ensued concerning corporate involvement in the sports complex project. The benefits that a multisports complex would have on economic development efforts and tourism were also discussed.

It was proposed that the Town Parks and Recreation Committee and the County Parks and Recreation Committee along with County Recreation Manager Keith Owens and Town Recreation Manager Chris Johnson meet to discuss the issues relating to a multisports complex project.

The following actions were taken:

On motion of Mr. Morgan, second by Mr. Moore, Town Council acted to direct the staff of the Abingdon Parks and Recreation Department along with the Chairman of the Town Parks and Recreation Committee to meet with the appropriate staff of the Washington County Recreation Department for the purpose of exploring potential arrangements for a multisports complex.

The vote on this motion by the Abingdon Town Council was as follows: (5-0)

<i>Ms. Humphreys</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Howard</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Lowe</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Moore</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Morgan</i>	<i>Aye</i>

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Mr. McCrady, the Board acted to direct the County Recreation Department Manager to meet with appropriate town representatives to explore a joint multisports complex project.

The vote on this motion by the Board of Supervisors was as follows: (7-0)

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCrady</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

c. County Assistance in Marketing Stonemill Business & Technology Park

Assistant County Administrator Christy Parker explained that the County has interest in working with the Town of Abingdon to market the Stonemill Business and Technology Park. Ms. Parker spoke of the success the County and Town had with Alpha Natural Resources. She stated that the County feels that Stonemill Business and Technology Park is a well-designed and attractive park, and the County Economic Development Office could assist with marketing efforts. Ms. Parker further stated that contacts come to her office through the State and that it would be beneficial for her office to have information on the Park. She suggested establishing a small group comprised of her, a member of the Washington County Industrial Development Authority and members of the Abingdon Town Council to meet once a month to discuss strategies for marketing the Park.

4. Topics of Interest – Town Council

a. Cigarette Tax

Town Council explained that they are considering the enactment of a Cigarette Tax and asked if the County would consider doing the same.

Discussions ensued. The Board of Supervisors expressed mixed interest concerning the proposed Cigarette Tax. It was recommended that all revenues generated from the proposed tax be earmarked for

fire and rescue services. It was consensus of the Board to further research the Cigarette Tax issue and discuss at a future Board meeting.

b. Virginia Highlands Airport Expansion

Mr. Morgan requested information on the proposed Virginia Highlands Airport Expansion Project. He stated that the Town has not taken a formal position on the project and that a number of Town residents have attended Council Meetings voicing their opposition to the expansion of the airport. Mr. Morgan inquired if the County has taken an official position.

Mr. Reynolds explained that the Board of Supervisors has not taken an official position on the proposed airport expansion project. He further explained that the Board held a public hearing to receive comments from the citizens.

Discussions ensued.

Mr. Morgan noted that the County has more control over the expansion of the airport than the Town because of the fact the County appoints the Virginia Highlands Airport Commission members.

Other issues concerning the Virginia Highlands Airport such as security were discussed.

Mr. Reeter provided remarks concerning the regulatory changes that the Virginia Highlands Airport is facing. He explained that the Airport almost has to expand its facilities if it is to remain a viable facility. He further explained that the Airport General Manager has a very in depth summary of facts that the Town could request to review.

c. Emergency Services

Town Councilman Robert Howard inquired about the County's plan to establish a paid fire and rescue personnel system.

Supervisor Tony Rector explained that the Board has discussed this issue for many years, and the County is in the process of funding paid personnel on a small scale at this time, but realize in the future it is most likely that all fire and rescue personnel would be full-time paid employees.

Discussion ensued about the establishment of a County Public Safety Director.

Mr. Morgan inquired if goals had been established concerning response times for fire and rescue departments.

Mr. Rector explained that it was difficult to develop goals and place restrictions on volunteers. This is one reason the County is forced to look into a paid personnel system.

Mr. Reynolds explained that the County has held substantial discussions concerning fire and rescue services.

Mr. Howard expressed appreciation for the County's financial support toward the purchase of the ladder truck.

Discussion was devoted to the coordination efforts for potential disasters.

Mr. Reeter explained that statutory code requires that the County have an emergency services coordinator. He further explained that the County and Town of Abingdon should work on developing an emergency shelter within the town that has a generator.

d. Artisan Center

Dr. Moore provided an update on the Southwest Virginia Artisan Center Project.

In another matter, Dr. Moore reported that a federal grant in the amount of \$800,000 was received for improvements to the Virginia Creeper Trail from Abingdon to Alvarado.

Discussions ensued concerning the Virginia Creeper Trail.

e. Quarterly Joint Meetings

Discussion ensued regarding quarterly joint meetings between the Abingdon Town Council and the Board of Supervisors. It was consensus of both boards to schedule quarterly joint meetings.

5. Final Questions, Comments and Closing Remarks

Supervisor Jack McCrady explained that Southwest Virginia is pretty much left out of the state budget process primarily because Southwest Virginia has not organized a legislative agenda and depend on the legislators. Mr. McCrady proposed that the counties and towns in Southwest Virginia form a group and take its agenda to Richmond.

After further discussions it was consensus of both Boards to tentatively schedule the next joint meeting for Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

6. Adjourn – Board of Supervisors

On motion of Mr. Price, second by Mr. Rector, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. McCrady</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mrs. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Rector</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

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Prepared by:

Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman