

VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia the following were present:

PRESENT:

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

Mark K. Reeter, County Administrator
Lucy E. Phillips, County Attorney
Mark W. Seamon, Accounting Manager
Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

ABSENT:

Anthony S. Rector

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kenneth Reynolds, Chairman of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Jack McCrady gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mr. Price, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Mr. McCall Aye
Mr. McCrady Aye
Mrs. Mumpower Aye
Mr. Owens Aye
Mr. Price Aye

Mr. Reynolds Aye

4. Approval of Minutes

On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. Price, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007, regular meeting as presented.

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

Mr. McCall	Aye
Mr. McCrady	Aye
Mrs. Mumpower	Aye
Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Price	Aye
Mr. Reynolds	Aye

5. Public Hearings:

a. Request for Rezoning:

(1). Robert S. and Debra H. Smith, Property Tax Map #142-A-24C, 24F: Request to rezone approximately 100' X 689' of property located at 14215 Lee Highway across from the Highlands Shopping Center from A-2 (Agricultural, General) to B-2 (Business, General), Wilson Magisterial District

County Zoning and Subdivision Official Cathie Freeman appeared before the Board to provide introductory remarks for the Rezoning application.

Ms. Freeman explained that Robert and Debra Smith are proposing to rezone 100' X 689' of their property from A-2 (Agricultural, General) to B-2 (Business, General) to allow for placement of signs on the property. She further explained that when Mrs. Smith came to the County Zoning Office to apply for the rezoning that she was advised by the planning staff not to rezone all of the property because the existing structures located on the property would become nonconforming. Mrs. Freeman advised the Board that the Planning Commission (on a 3-4 vote) did not approve the application.

Discussion ensued among the Board. Responding to an inquiry, Mrs. Freeman explained that the property in question was once zoned B-2 (Business, General). She further explained that if the Board took action to approve the rezoning request that it would not affect the existing structures on the property not included in the rezoning request.

At this time, Mr. Reynolds opened public hearing and invited comments both in support of and in opposition to the request for rezoning.

Mr. Robert Smith addressed the Board reiterating the comments made by Cathie Freeman. Responding to an inquiry from the Board, Mr. Smith explained that the rezoning if approved would take approximately 1/3 of the property.

Mr. McCall inquired if the property adjoining both sides of the Smith property were zoned B-2. Mrs. Freeman replied yes. Mr. McCall further inquired if signs could be placed on the property outright that was zoned B-2. Mrs. Freeman stated that they could.

Mrs. Mumpower explained that she talked with the Smith's sometime back and recommended that they not request rezoning for all of their property. She further explained that the Smith's were good taxpaying citizens who have lived in the County their entire lives. In the past, they worked with the Washington County Service Authority on right of way issues. Mrs. Mumpower that the Smith's property is commercial and believes someone will eventually offer to purchase the property for commercial development. All the property that adjoins the Smith's is currently zoned B-2. She further stated that she supports the Smith's rezoning request.

Mr. Price stated that County staff made a good recommendation to the Smith's by advising them not to rezone all of their property. He further stated that the property needs to be rezoned to B-2 to be consistent with adjoining property.

Mr. McCrady asked Mr. Reeter to explain the action that the Board is being requested to consider. Mr. Reeter explained that this rezoning request was brought before the Planning Commission at their last meeting. A motion was introduced to the Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request, however the motion failed. Therefore, there is not a recommendation from the Planning Commission because the motion did not pass. Mrs. Mumpower stated that she respects the Planning Commission to the fullest and most of the time goes along with their recommendations. She further stated that her district representative on the Planning Commission did not find a problem with the rezoning request.

Mr. McCrady inquired to Mrs. Freeman that had it not been for the billboard issues would the request to rezone the property to B-2 passed by the Planning Commission without problems. Mrs. Freeman explained that she could not answer the question as to what the Planning Commission would have done. She further explained that one Planning Commission member had a concern that all of the property was not requested to be rezoned. Another Planning Commission member had a concern that the property was going to be leased and not purchased. Mrs. Freeman stated that signs were also an issue among Planning Commission members.

There being no further comments, Mr. Reynolds declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. Price, it was resolved to approve the request of Robert S. and Debra H. Smith to rezone approximately 100' X 689' of property located at 14215 Lee Highway across from the Highlands Shopping Center from A-2 (Agricultural, General) to B-2 (Business, General), Wilson Magisterial District.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

b. Requests for Special Exception Permits:

(2). Washington County Fire Rescue #1 Inc., Property tax Map #143A3-A-16: Request for a Special Exception Permit to construct a 20' X 26' metal building to be used as a garage to house fire department vehicles on property located on the east side of State Route 11 near the intersection of State Route 11/State Route 1760 in both a B-2 (Business, General) and A-2 (Agricultural, General) zone, Wilson Magisterial District

Mrs. Mumpower explained that Washington County Fire Rescue needs an addition to their current facility and asked the Board to support the request. She further explained that there were concerns that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) would need to take the current property that the Washington County Fire Rescue is located on for the widening of US Highway 11. VDOT has now said they will not need the property.

Mrs. Freeman appeared before the Board to provide introductory remarks for the Special Exception Permit request from Washington County Fire Rescue #1. She explained that Michael Morenings addressed the Planning Commission explaining that the Special Exception Permit request was for an addition to the existing Washington County Fire Rescue building that would house their new crash truck. Mrs. Freeman stated that the comments from the Planning Commission were positive.

Mrs. Mumpower stated that Washington County Fire Rescue does an excellent job as do all of the fire and emergency services organizations in the County. They are always trying to improve the services they provide.

Mr. Price stated that the Washington County Fire Rescue is probably one of the most professional fire departments in Southwest Virginia. He explained that should VDOT change their mind and need to take the property of the Washington County Fire Rescue for the US Highway 11 widening project that some of the metal building being proposed could be taken down and relocated to a new site.

Mr. Reynolds opened the public hearing and invited comments both in support of and in opposition to the request from the Washington County Fire Rescue for a Special Exception Permit.

There being no comments, Mr. Reynolds declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. McCrady, the Board acted to follow the recommendation of the Washington County Planning Commission and approve request of the Washington County Fire Rescue #1 for a Special Exception Permit to construct a 20' X 26' metal building to be used as a garage to house fire department vehicles on property located on the east side of State Route 11 near the intersection of State Route 11/State Route 1760 in both a B-2 (Business, General) and A-2 (Agricultural, General) zone, Wilson Magisterial District.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

(3). Damascus Realty, LLC, Property Tax Map #172-A-16: Request for a Special Exception Permit to operate a small business in general, more specifically, to amend an existing Special Exception Permit granted June 13, 2006 to add recreational vehicle sales and service, motel and mini-storage warehouse facilities on property located on the south side of State Route 58 at the intersection of State Route 58/Soiux Street in an A-2 (Agricultural, General) zone, Taylor Magisterial District

Ms. Freeman provided the Board with introductory remarks concerning the Special Exception Permit application from Damascus Realty, LLC. She explained that the applicant appeared before the Planning Commission explaining that he would like to amend his application to include one recreational vehicle unit with electricity, a motel containing 13 units and would like to delete the mini-storage warehouse facility. Mrs. Freeman stated that two individuals appeared before the Planning Commission during their public hearing on this request. Mr. Kenneth Upchurch spoke in favor of the request and Teresa Richardson addressed concerns about the motel. Mrs. Freeman advised the Board that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the Special Exception Permit with stipulations that the motel be approved as requested (13 units), only one recreational vehicle be permitted for display with no water, sewer or electric service and no mini storage warehouse facilities be permitted.

Discussion ensued among the Board. Responding to an inquiry, Mrs. Freeman explained that the Planning Commission placed the stipulation that the recreational vehicle be permitted for display, but with no water, sewer or electrical service because the site is to be a sales location only. If water and sewer service was available then someone may live in the recreational vehicle and the Planning Commission is against this.

Mr. Reeter brought to the Board's attention a letter from Kelli Burgess placed at Board stations opposing the Special Exception Permit for Damascus Realty, LLC.

At this time, Mr. Reynolds opened the public hearing and invited comments both in support of and in opposition to the request of Damascus Realty, LLC for a Special Exception Permit.

Mr. Russell McBride, owner and broker of Damascus Realty, LLC addressed the Board providing an overview of his proposal. Mr. McBride explained that he purchased the old bowling alley building in Damascus which is about 7,000 square feet. The building borders the Town of Damascus, but is located in Washington County. The building was purchased with the intentions of renovating the building and to use a portion of the renovated space for real estate offices, which has been completed. He further explained that attempts to lease the remaining renovated space have been unsuccessful. In order to maximize his investment and provide needed services, Mr. McBride explained that his plans are to put a 13 unit motel in the back portion of the building with the size of each unit being in similar size to a modest budget hotel room. He spoke of the need that Damascus has for additional overnight accommodations. Mr. McBride stated that he believes this building is one of the premier buildings in Damascus.

Mr. McBride explained that the second part of his proposal is to place a recreational vehicle on the property to be used as a sales model. He further explained that the recreational vehicles would fill a need in the Damascus area because people are continuously coming into his real estate office trying to locate affordable second homes in the Damascus area.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. McBride explained that he has spoken with several owners of property adjacent to his property and would like the County to consider rezoning the property around his business to a commercially zoned use in order to open up other opportunities for landowners in the area.

Substantial discussion ensued among the Board. Responding to an inquiry from the Board about the request for a recreational vehicle to be located as a sales model on the property in question, Mr. McBride explained that he is not requesting water and sewer hookups, but only requesting an electrical hookup so that he can provide heating and cooling to the recreational vehicle. Other issues discussed were the proposed parking lot and the type of construction of the motel units.

At this time, Mr. Price stated that he supports the proposal, but has to leave for a funeral (7:45 PM).

Mr. McCrady stated that he is confident Mr. McBride would handle the proposed projects in a very professional manner.

There being no further comments, Mr. Reynolds declared the public hearing closed.

After further discussions, the Board took the following action:

On motion of Mr. McCrady, second by Mrs. Mumpower, the Board acted to follow the recommendation of the Washington County Planning Commission and approve the request of Damascus Realty, LLC for a Special Exception Permit to operate a small business in general, more specifically, to amend an existing Special Exception Permit granted June 13, 2006 to add recreational vehicle sales and service, and a 13 unit motel on property located on the south side of State Route 58 at the intersection of State Route 58/Soiux Street in an A-2 (Agricultural, General) zone, Taylor Magisterial District with the following stipulations:

- 1. The motel be approved as requested (13 units)*
- 2. Only one recreational vehicle be permitted for display sales (no sewer or water hook-up) and no service to recreational vehicles be permitted on site*
- 3. No mini-storage warehouse facilities to be approved at this location*

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

6. Presentation of Annual Report for Virginia Highlands Community College

Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) President Dr. David Wilkin provided the Board with the 2006-2007 Annual Report for VHCC. The following are highlights of the annual report:

- VHCC presented the 10,000th credential to a member of the Class of 2007.

- A professor that was so instrumental in the development of the VHCC greenhouse lost a spouse in the April tragedy at Virginia Tech. The VHCC community remembered those lost by planting a memorial tree in a developing community garden. The tree is marked with a granite stone that reads “In memory of those whose Hokie Spirit lives on – April 16, 2007.”
- VHCC students played a key role in generating public support for Transfer Grant legislation, a recently approved bill that soon will provide Virginia’s community college graduates with tuition assistance as they pursue bachelor’s degrees. Strong support from regional legislators also led to passage of a tuition reciprocity bill that will provide additional funding for VHCC and other Virginia community colleges that grant in-state tuition to students from neighboring states.
- VHCC has compiled the College’s first-ever comprehensive campus history “A Brief History of Virginia Highlands Community College: 1967-2006.” Copies are now available on campus.
- Horticulture students this year completed work on the Dr. Catherine Smith Labyrinth.
- Michael J. Quillen, President and CEO of Alpha Natural Resources, received the 2007 Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy.
- VHCC held their 1st Annual Appalachian Fall Festival.
- A joint program of VHCC, Mountain Empire and Southwest Virginia Community Colleges, the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program established a new evening and weekend program through funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.
- The VHCC 2006-2007 budget totaled \$13,049,890 and was balanced.

At this time, Dr. Wilkin asked the Board for any questions they may have. Mrs. Mumpower stated that it cannot be said enough how much VHCC means to Washington County. VHCC is a tremendous asset. Responding to an inquiry from the Board, Dr. Wilkin explained that the enrollment at VHCC is about 4,000 students. Mr. Reynolds asked for an update on the Southwest Virginia Artisan Center. Dr. Wilkin explained that it is anticipated that legislation will be introduced in the upcoming session of the General Assembly to establish a legal entity to manage the Artisan Center. Once this has been done, VHCC will transfer the property located on the College’s campus to that entity for the construction of the Artisan Center. Mr. McCrady inquired about the impact the 5% reduction in state funding would have on VHCC. Dr. Wilkin explained that VHCC was told to reduce their budget by 5% and that a reduced budget plan was revised and submitted to the Virginia Community College System and to the State. The new budget plan was approved and has been implemented at VHCC.

7. Consideration of Request for Appointments to Washington County Sesquicentennial Committee

Mr. Reeter addressed the Board explaining that the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission (VSACWC) is requesting formation of and appointments to a Washington County Sesquicentennial Committee for the purpose of planning for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, 2011 through 2015. He explained that VSACWC has requested that the County’s local Committee consist of representatives of the Office of County Administrator, a member of

the Board of Supervisors, County economic development, Chamber of Commerce and tourism organizations, any local battlefield, Civil War museums and facilities and other public or private organizations involved in commemorating historical events. Mr. Reeter advised the Board that Mr. Mike Shaffer, a representative from the Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia has offered to serve on the County’s local Committee. He suggested if the Board decides to appoint Mr. Shaffer that he be asked to bring forth names for Board consideration to fill the other appointments on the Committee.

On motion of Mr. McCrady, second by Mr. Owens, it was resolved to appoint Mike Shaffer to the Washington County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The Board asked that Mr. Shaffer be requested to recommend appointments to the County’s Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

8. Consideration of Alternative LEOS Proposal

Mr. Seamon presented the Board with an alternate proposal for LEOS retirement coverage for Sheriff Deputies. He reviewed the events that lead up to the development of the proposal. Mr. Seamon explained that at this time there are only four deputies who would be eligible for LEOS. Discussions have been held with Sheriff Fred Newman concerning the VRS LEOS Supplement Program and alternatives to provide additional benefits to any of the qualified deputies wishing to retire prior to July 1, 2008. Two of the four qualified deputies do not plan to retire prior to the July 1, 2008 LEOS automatic implementation. The remaining two deputies both have health issues and would probably consider retirement if LEOS was made available early. One of the eligible deputies with a health issue is in another position working full-time. The Sheriff is pleased with this situation. The other eligible deputy with health issues has been on sick leave since February and will not be able to return to work in his current position. This deputy has filed for Workman’s Compensation related to his disability, but there is a good chance the claim will not be approved. However, if this deputy took the disability he would not be eligible for the LEOS retirement benefit.

Mr. Seamon explained that the alternate proposal is for the Board to consider the creation of and local funding for a new full-time position within the Sheriff’s Office effective January 1, 2008. The new position would enable the deputy on medical leave to return to work. After the end of the fiscal year, the Board would determine if they wish to continue to locally fund this newly created position. The following is a summary of the local costs to fund the proposed position January 1 through June 30, 2008:

Annual Salary of new LEOS qualified Position	\$53,980.00
Annual Salary Cost from January 1 through June 30, 2008	\$26,990.00
Fringe Benefit Costs	<u>\$ 8,210.00</u>
Total Local Cost	<u>\$35,200.00</u>

Substantial discussion ensued among the Board. The Board felt the proposal was acceptable and would take care of the LEOS issues until July 1, 2008. There were discussions about whether or not the State would cast the entire financial burden of the mandated LEOS Retirement Program on the localities beginning July 1, 2008. After further discussions the following action was taken:

On motion of Mr. McCrady, second by Mr. McCall the Board acted to appropriate \$35,200.00 from Reserve for Contingencies to the Sheriff Office, Line-Item 31200-1405.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

9. Consideration of Requests for Donation of Surplus Vehicles

Mr. Reeter explained that the County Department of Social Services is requesting one of its vehicles be declared surplus. In addition, Washington County Fire Rescue #1 is requesting donation of a 2004 Dodge Intrepid and the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department is requesting donation of a 2002 Dodge Intrepid, both of which were previously declared surplus by the Board.

On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mrs. Mumpower, the Board acted to declare surplus a 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier returned from the County Department of Social Services.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Mr. Reeter explained that the Board would be presented with a general surplus list at their October 16 recessed joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued concerning the requests from Washington County Fire Rescue and the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department. Subsequently, the following action was taken:

On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. McCall, the Board acted to donate the 2004 Dodge Intrepid as requested to the Washington County Fire Rescue #1 and further to donate the 2002 Dodge Intrepid to the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

10. Recess

No recess was taken.

11. County Administrator Reports:

- a. Reminder: Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference, November 11-13, 2007, The Homestead

Mr. Reeter asked Supervisors wishing to attend the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Annual Conference to advise his office so that arrangements could be finalized.

Mrs. Mumpower and Mr. McCrady stated that they would attend the VACo Conference.

Discussion ensued at this time about the designation of a voting delegate to represent Washington County at the VACo Conference. The following action was taken by the Board.

On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mr. McCrady, the Board acted to designate Supervisor Dulcie Mumpower as the voting delegate to the VACo Annual Conference, November 11-13, 2007.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (4-0-1)

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

In other matters, the draft Agenda for the joint meeting with the Washington County Planning Commission was reviewed.

Mr. Reeter explained that at Board stations were materials pertaining to the Highlands Commercial Development. He stated that the most important of the materials is a letter from Newton Oldacre McDonald (NOM) stating as of the opening of Books a Million on October 18, 2007, NOM will have satisfied the obligation in the Memorandum of Agreement that 75% of the stores be opened before they would be eligible for the financing package. This means that the County has 90 days from October 18 to provide the financing. The County is working on the financial package and the Board will have a joint meeting with the Industrial Development Authority on November 8. This will be an important meeting because important actions will be taken by both bodies on bonding financing for the Highlands Commercial Development.

Mr. Reeter explained that at Board stations is an invitation to the official grand opening (invitation only event) for The Highlands on Thursday, October 18 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. On Saturday, October 20 there will be a grand opening to the public from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

12. County Attorney Reports:

No report

13. Board Information

Mr. Reeter reviewed the following Board information:

- Memo to all recipients of County funds dated September 28 concerning the accelerated budget calendar for FY 2008-2009.

Mr. Reeter stated that at the October 23 regular Board meeting, there will be discussion on whether or not the Supervisors would like to request additional information from departments/agencies that would be of help to the Supervisors in making budget decisions.

14. Consent Agenda

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Mrs. Mumpower, it was resolved to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Payment of Bills, September 2007*
- b. Revenue Refunds – Animal Sterilization Fees*
- c. Supplemental Appropriation – Washington County Sheriff’s Office*
- d. Canceled Check – General Fund*
- e. Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies – Smyth/Washington Regional Industrial Facilities Authority*

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

15. Board Member Reports

Mrs. Mumpower reported that the recent meeting with Bristol Virginia Utilities was very successful. She stated that Robbie Cornett needs to be commended for the excellent job with his presentation. The actions at the meeting were a positive move toward cooperation between Washington County and the City of Bristol. Mrs. Mumpower further stated that her district is in desperate need for a sewer system.

In another matter, Mrs. Mumpower discussed the office setup of the County Building Department. She explained that the current setup for the Building Department is not customer friendly. People have to stand in the hallway when applying for building permits. Mrs. Mumpower stated that though the County is looking for a new County office complex it may be sometime away before that happens and something needs to be done now to make the layout of the Building Department more customer friendly. She further stated that she would like to propose that the Board establish a committee to look at the situation in the Building Department and identify a solution that would be workable to make the Department more customer friendly. The Building Department does a good job with assisting the public and it is important to address the layout of the office.

Mr. Reeter explained that he has identified a solution for the Building Department, but that it would be disruptive to the Department and costly. He further explained that if the Board felt the need and is willing to spend the money then he could start wheels in motion to bring a renovation plan to the Board. The initial estimates for the renovation project are about \$12,000-\$15,000. Mr. Reeter stated that part of the expensive portion of the renovation is moving a wall in the Building Department. This cannot be done in house with the maintenance staff. When the renovation begins the Building staff would have to be temporarily relocated.

Discussions ensued among the Board. Mrs. Mumpower stated that she would like to see the plan because this issue has concerned her for a long time. Mr. Owens stated that the present situation with the Building Department makes visitors to the office uncomfortable because the layout is not user friendly. He further stated that the citizens of Washington County deserve better, and the County needs to give more consideration to the people visiting the office. Mr. McCrady stated that there is no privacy for the person applying for a building permit. Mr. Reeter stated that he could bring the plan to the Board at their October 23 regular meeting for consideration. After further discussions, it was consensus of the five Board members present to have the proposal for renovation of the Building Department brought before the Board on October 23.

Mr. Owens discussed the severe drought conditions in the County. The Weather Channel has said the drought could continue into next year. He stated that some jurisdictions are making contingency plans on how they will cope with extreme water shortages and suggested that maybe the County Emergency Services Department look at the situation in Washington County. The County may need to consider providing assistance to the farmers who are already in a destitute situation and are having to haul water. At this time, discussion ensued among the Board. Mr. Reynolds talked about how the drought conditions are causing more health problems among the livestock. Many of the livestock are dying while at the market. Mr. Owens stated that the wildlife will also suffer from the drought. Mr. McCall stated that if more rain does not come in the future, the County will be faced with a critical situation. He further stated that the Washington County Service Authority is at the mercy of the weather.

Mr. Reynolds provided comments concerning the water service agreement with Bristol Virginia Utilities. Mr. Reeter stated that he believes Robbie Cornett will appear before the Board on October 23 to discuss

the water/wastewater agreement. He further stated that he could ask Mr. Cornett to discuss the Service Authority's water contingency plan.

Mr. McCrady reported that the window at the Washington County Courthouse that depicts World War I Veterans is valued in excess of \$1,000,000.00. It is a Tiffany window. He explained that he has received requests from several groups about installing a back light to showcase the window, and would like the Board to ask Mr. Reeter to direct the General Services Manager to obtain cost estimates for this project.

Mr. McCrady inquired about a question he raised at the September 25 Board meeting about whether or not the Board of Supervisors has the ability to drastically reduce the installation of billboards in the County. Ms. Phillips explained that the County has the authority to zone where billboards are allowed, but that she has not been able to come up with a definitive answer on whether or not the County can prohibit billboards all together.

Mr. McCrady inquired if the Board has the right to request an audit or bank statements of a non-profit organization that receives 60% of its funding from public monies. Ms. Phillips explained that the County can request an audit of any agency that it provides funding to. She further explained that whether or not it can demand or take to court to demand the audit is a different question. Mr. McCrady asked that a certified letter be sent from the County Attorney to Backer Park Foundation requesting bank statements and other pertinent financial information beginning at the time when he took office on the Board of Supervisors to the time the Foundation was dissolved. Ms. Phillips asked if the letter would be a request on behalf of the Board or from an individual Supervisor. At this time substantial discussions ensued among the Board. Mr. Owens stated that since the Backer Park Foundation ceases to exist that the Board should be able to request financial statements so the Board could see what happened to the funds. Mr. Reynolds stated that the Board needs a policy to monitor more closely how public money is being spent after it is disbursed by the Board. Mr. McCall stated that any organization or department that is funded by the Board should have their books open for public review. Ms. Phillips suggested that the Board may need to consider linking their contributions to a certain project. Mr. Reynolds asked the County Administrator to find out how other localities handle budget appropriations. Mr. Reeter explained that the County may need to consider entering into contracts with agencies/organizations receiving money from the County that would outline the amount given and what the County expects the respective agency/organization to do with the funds. If the agency/organization breeches the terms of the contract then they could be taken to court. If the organization ceases to exist they would be required to return the funding to the County. Mr. McCrady stated that he did not have a problem with the letter to Backer Park Foundation being a request from him. After further discussions, it was consensus of the Board that the request to Backer Park Foundation would be made on behalf of the Board.

The Board discussed audits that the County requires from agencies/originations receiving County funds. Mr. Reeter explained that the Board's current policy requires that an agency/organization submit an audit only on the portion of funding received from the County. If the audits are not received from an agency/organization, the Board at their discretion can suspend further appropriations. Further discussions ensued. Mr. Reynolds suggested that the County may consider requiring that the person who handles the money for an organization or agency receiving County funding be required to be bonded. Further discussions ensued.

16. Recess to October 16, 2007 Joint Meeting with Washington County Planning Commission, 6:00 PM, Conference Room 1, County Administration Building

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Mrs. Mumpower, it was resolved to recess to October 16, 2007, for a joint meeting with the Washington County Planning Commission to begin at 6:00 PM in Conference Room #1 of the County Administration Building.

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

<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. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Prepared by:

Naoma A. Mullins, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman