

VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 6:30 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 (arrived at 8:07 PM)
Dulcie M. Mumpower
Odell Owens
Paul O. Price (left at 9:16 PM)
Thomas G. Taylor

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Kenneth Reynolds gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Mr. Brian Johns, 272 Henderson Court, Abingdon, VA (representing the Virginia Organizing Group)
Robert Dunham, Emory, VA
Jennifer Wagner, 14139 Glenbrook Avenue, Meadowview, VA
Rachael Denham, 11020 Mount Calm Drive, Glade Spring, VA
Celeste Gaia, Emory and Henry College employee
Jane Hill, 15424 Keswick Lane, Abingdon, VA
Laura Haysworth, 33475 Spring Hill Drive, Glade Spring, VA

Mr. Reynolds announced that the public comment period would be held at the second Board meeting of each month, which is the fourth Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Reynolds noted that Mr. McCall will be late for the meeting due to medical reasons.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

<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>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

5. Consent Agenda:

On motion of Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Owens, the Board acted to approve items a, and b of the Consent Agenda as set forth below.

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. March 10, 2009 Recessed Meeting**
- 2. March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting**

b. Approval of Routine Financial Matters:

- 1. Request for Revenue Refund – WC Commissioner of Revenue – Real Estate Taxes**
- 2. Request for Revenue Refund – WC Department of Building Inspection – Building Permit Fee**
- 3. Request for Supplemental Appropriations – WC Sheriff, Commonwealth Attorney and Fire Funding Program**
- 4. The Local Choice Health Insurance Program Renewal for FY 2009-2010**

c. Award of Bids and Approval of Contracts

d. Authorization of Routine Business Matters

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

<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>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

6. General Business:

a. Actionable Items:

1. Consideration of Request for Supplemental Appropriation by Washington County School Board – Construction Fund #316 for \$990,341.00

Washington County Schools Finance Director Melissa Caudill presented the School Board’s request for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$990,441.00 explaining that this money is bond funds for the Phase I School Construction Project. These funds are already in the bank, but need to be appropriated to the School Board. Ms. Caudill explained that these funds are not subsidy money. She further explained that all four construction projects included in Phase I should be completed by June 30 of this year. Ms. Caudill responded to questions from the Board.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. McCrady, the Board acted to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$990,341.00 in School Construction funds to the Washington County School Board.

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

<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>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

2. Consideration of Authorization to Bid Renovations to former AEP Building for Washington County Sheriff’s Office

Mr. Charles Day, Architect with Beeson & Beeson Architects, provided a review of the proposed floor plans for the renovation of the former American Electric Power Building for use by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Day explained that only a moderate amount of renovations will need to be made to the building; however, due to the size of the building there will be some expense with the renovation project. He proposed that the renovation plans be put out to bid. Mr. Day responded to questions from the Board.

Sheriff Fred Newman responded to questions from the Board. Sheriff Newman explained that it is not anticipated at this time that the Washington County Sheriff’s Office would conduct firearms training at this facility. He further explained that the renovation expenses would be paid from forfeited asset funds.

On motion of Mr. McCrady, second by Mr. Price, the Board acted to authorize the bidding of renovations to the former AEP Building for use by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office.

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

<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>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Sciivener's Note: The floor plans referenced above is included as Minutes Exhibits Item 2009-03-24-A.

At this time, Sheriff Newman made a presentation to the Board concerning correspondence from Congressman Rick Boucher concerning funding made available to the U. S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Board members were provided with a copy of this correspondence. Sheriff Newman discussed the details of the grant program explaining that the grant would fully fund additional sworn positions to the Sheriff's Office for three years. If the County were to receive the grant funds, then the County will be required to continue to employ the sworn officers for a period of 12 months after the initial three year period. The deadline to apply for the grant funds is April 14.

Discussions ensued among the Board, Sheriff Newman, Mr. Reeter and Mr. Seamon concerning the COPS grant funds and issues pertaining to funds the County has received from this program in the past. Sheriff Newman was asked to bring a recommendation to the Board during one of the budget related meetings (April 7 or April 9) scheduled prior to the April 14 deadline. Sheriff Newman asked to be placed on the Agenda for the April 7 budget related meeting.

Mrs. Mumpower commended the Sheriff's Department for the way in which the department handled and responded to the recent situation at High Point Elementary School.

3. Consideration of Request for Supplemental Appropriation by White's Mill Foundation for \$7,500.00

Mr. George Price, Executive Director, and Mr. Bobby Ingle, President of White's Mill Foundation, presented a request to the Board for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$7,500.00 to the White's Mill Foundation to provide for additional operating monies through the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Price explained that the Foundation is also asking for an additional \$7,500.00 from the Town of Abingdon. He further explained that the Foundation is seeing a decrease in donations, and the Town of Abingdon has decreased their contributions to the Foundation. Mr. Price talked about the milling operations and revenues received from sale of the products.

Mr. Ingle explained that White's Mill Foundation is in need of the funds being requested to cover operational expenses. The Foundation has received grant funds, but they are restricted to the renovation project. He thanked the Board for the significant funding provided to the Foundation over the years.

Mr. Price and Mr. Ingle responded to questions from the Board. Members of the Board expressed their support of White's Mill.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, second by Mrs. Mumpower, the Board acted to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$7,500.00 to the White’s Mill Foundation (Line-Item 72600-5983) from reserve for contingencies.

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

<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>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The Board took a ten minute recess at this time.

b. Informational Items:

1. Presentation by Bristol District Commonwealth Transportation Board Member James D. Bowie

Mr. Jim Bowie, member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), presented information to the Board concerning the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Blueprint Organization/Staffing Implementation proposal. Mr. Bowie provided a brief explanation as to the role of the CTB. He advised the Board that the VDOT-Abingdon Residency will not close.

Mr. Bowie explained that the proposed blueprint is a proposal from the VDOT Commissioner and is not final. The proposed blueprint will be approved at a later time and comments made during the 12 public hearings across the state will be taken into account. The public hearing for the Bristol District is scheduled for March 25 at 6:00 PM at Southwest Virginia Community College. The Board is encouraged to attend the public hearing and provide remarks. The proposed blueprint will not be pleasing to everyone, but VDOT must make cuts and are compelled to by Administration as is every department and agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The economic downturn has hit transportation in Virginia. However, the issues facing VDOT are not new. Since 2002, the money allocated for the Secondary Highways Six Year Plan has decreased each year. There has been no money or dedicated funds to VDOT for the Six Year Plan in a very long time. The biggest source of revenue to fund transportation in Virginia is the fuel tax. This tax has not been adjusted since 1986. The revenues have until this year been stable. Some primary sources of revenue coming to the State to fund transportation are the fuel tax, sales tax on automobiles and registration fees for vehicles. Because of the economic situation, the State is seeing a revenue decline in each of these revenue sources. VDOT also receives federal funds and is seeing a decrease in these funds. Because of the decrease VDOT is experiencing in all revenue sources, VDOT will only be maintaining roads with no new construction unless it relates to maintenance in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Bowie highlighted some key issues in VDOT’s proposed Blueprint Organization/Staffing Implementation. It is proposed that several residencies across the State be consolidated. He reiterated his earlier remark that the Abingdon Residency would not be closed. The Abingdon Residency will no longer be responsible for Smyth County, but the counties of Buchanan, Russell and Tazewell will be added to the Abingdon Residency. The Abingdon Equipment Shop and the Bristol Equipment Shop will remain open. VDOT will continue to operate equipment shops in Oakwood, Wise, Wytheville and either

in Jonesville or Tazewell. In regards to personnel reductions, the level of employment since 2002 has gone from 11,000 employees to 8,500. VDOT will reduce employment by an additional 1,000 employees. The majority of employee reductions will occur through attrition; however, there will be some layoffs in every district across the State. The employee reduction will be broken down by a reduction of 300 employees in the central offices and 700 employees from the nine districts across the State. The impact on employees in the Bristol District is not known at this time. It is anticipated to be in the range of 70-100 employees from the Bristol District, which encompasses 12 counties.

Mr. Bowie explained that also impacted in the proposed blueprint are road projects that are being cancelled or postponed including nine road projects in Washington County. Secondary roads are being hit hard in the proposed plan. Maintenance to roads in the future will be handled differently. The focus of maintenance on roads will begin to be from the center of the road to the edge of the payment. The primary goals for VDOT will be safe transportation and the preservation of roads. Among the noticeable differences will be the reduction in mowing both in frequency (mowings will occur twice a year) and in scope. Another reduction will be in the cutting of brush and trees along the side of the road. The closing of rest areas is one of the more controversial components of the proposed blueprint. There are two rest areas in the Bristol District proposed for closure, both in Rural Retreat at mile markers 51 and 63. The welcome center coming into Virginia from Tennessee and the truck stop at Exit 14 will remain open. There are 25 rest areas across the State proposed for closure. One proposal that will not impact Southwest Virginia is the stoppage of some ferry services. This will cause a significant impact to the Tidewater area of the State. There are people living in this area that depends on the ferry service to obtain medical care and getting to their jobs.

Mr. Bowie explained that two road projects cancelled for Washington County are the Exit 17 project and the Route 58 Project. VDOT has taken the State funds set aside for the segments of Route 58 closest to Damascus from Watauga Road to the waste water treatment plant. The State needed these funds to match federal grants. He further explained that he is trying to obtain money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to complete this section of Route 58. The Bristol District could receive \$40,000,000.00 in stimulus funds, and Mr. Bowie stated that he is trying to get \$22,000,000.00 of these funds for the Route 58 Project. If funds are received the construction would begin soon.

Mr. Bowie answered questions from the Board concerning bonded monies received for the Route 58 Project, the closure of rest areas, reduction of mowings to twice a year, safety issues associated the reduction in cutting of brush, VDOT's use of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the status of the Exit 10 project, maintenance of secondary roads and funding for unpaved roads. Mr. Bowie stated that if the Board would like to address any of these issues in a Resolution that the time to present such a Resolution would be at the March 25 VDOT public hearing.

Discussion ensued among the concerning issues to address in a Resolution to the CTB. Mr. Reeter was asked to draft a Resolution for Board consideration later in the meeting.

Mr. Steve Buston, Resident Administrator for the VDOT-Abingdon Residency, answered questions regarding funds for unpaved roads. Mr. Buston advised the Board that he will present the new Six Year Plan to the Board in May.

Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Buston and his staff for the assistance they provide to the Board and to the citizens of Washington County.

2. Presentation by Virginia aCorridor Program

Mr. Tom Elliott, Executive Director for the Virginia aCorridor Program, provided the Board with a presentation on the regional economic development marketing activities for the past year. Mr. Elliott reviewed the announcements in the region, the jobs created and private investment to the region since 2003, the current prospect activity, prospect activity in the region prior to October 2008, prospect activity that chose to look elsewhere, projects cancelled or postponed due to the economy and the economic development perspective for the region. Mr. Elliott thanked the Board for their commitment to Virginia's aCorridor.

Sciüuener's Note: The presentation referenced above is included as Minutes Exhibits Item 2009-03-24-B.

3. Presentation by Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

Mr. David Barrett, Executive Director, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC), made a presentation to the Board concerning their programs including the Regional Town Management Program, the Indoor Plumbing and Housing Rehabilitation Program, serving as the coordinator for the Smyth-Washington Industrial Facilities Authority and technical assistance that MRPDC offers to the localities within its service district. Mr. Barrett further reviewed primary funding agencies for MRPDC, a review of MRPDC's current projects, and the FY 2007 accomplishments. He addressed issues pertaining to funding that MRPDC may receive through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and discussed the decrease in revenue for MRPDC during the last year. Mr. Barrett explained that MRPDC is working on the annual program of work and encouraged the Board to send a list of projects that they would like the MRPDC to provide assistance with. He reminded the Board of the MRPDC Annual Dinner scheduled for April 2 at the Holston Hills Country Club in Marion, VA.

Mr. Reynolds thanked Mr. Barrett for the presentation.

4. Presentation of Annual Report of Smyth-Washington Regional Industrial Facilities Authority

Mr. Russell Owens, Chairman of the Smyth-Washington Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (SWIFA), presented the Board with SWIFA's Annual Report. Mr. Owens provided a financial update for SWIFA, a report of activities accomplished by SWIFA, the anticipated activities for the next year and a summary of SWIFA's prospect activity.

Mr. Reynolds expressed appreciation to SWIFA for their services to Smyth and Washington Counties.

Sciüuener's Note: The annual report referenced above is included as Minutes Exhibits Item 2009-03-24-C.

At this time, Mr. Reeter reviewed for Board consideration a proposed Resolution that addresses reductions for VDOT that would be presented at the VDOT Public Hearing on March 25.

Discussions ensued among the Board.

On motion of Mrs. Mumpower, second by Mr. Owens, the Board acted to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION 2009-05
REGARDING PROPOSED ACTIONS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Virginia that the Board wishes to express the following positions and concerns with respect to the current Proposals regarding reductions in Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects and services:

- 1). To oppose the proposed reduction in right-of-way maintenance to the extent that such reductions would leave Virginia’s highways unsafe and unsightly;***
- 2) To oppose the elimination of funding for planned improvements to U.S. Highways 58 and 11 in Washington County;***
- 3). To express concern over the proposed closing of I-81 rest areas to the extent closing of certain facilities would significantly inconvenience the travelling public, negatively impact tourism and affect public safety;***
- 4). That reduced employment levels in VDOT would affect local economies and transportation services; and***
- 5) To support the continued operation of the Abingdon Residency and Washington County equipment maintenance facilities.***

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. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

5. Presentation of Proposed & Recommended County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Mr. Reeter made a brief presentation of the proposed and recommended County Operating Budget for FY 2009-2010, and asked the Board to review the executive summary. He provided a review of the calendar of budget meetings and highlighted the changes to the calendar. The two departmental/agency hearings will be held on April 7 and April 9. The reassessment public hearing and the general public hearing for the proposed FY 2009-10 County Operating budget is proposed for Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM respectively. The budget adjustment worksessions will be held prior to the public hearing on the budget and are scheduled for April 16, April 21, and April 23.

Discussions ensued among the Board concerning the budget calendar. Some Board members have conflicts with the dates scheduled for the budget adjustment worksessions. It was consensus of the Board to reschedule the budget adjustment worksessions to April 13, April 15 and April 27.

At this time, Mrs. Mumpower asked that the recessed meeting scheduled for March 26 be rescheduled to March 31.

Mr. Reeter explained that he has contacted the people scheduled to appear before the Board on March 26 and that rescheduling the meeting to March 31 would not be a problem. He advised the Board that the Agenda materials for the recessed meeting were placed at Board stations for review.

It was consensus of the Board to reschedule the March 26 recessed meeting to March 31 at 7:00 PM.

7. Board Member Reports

There were no Board member reports.

8. Board Information and Reminders

Mr. Reeter asked the Board to review the materials included in Board Information regarding certain conferences scheduled in April. If any Board member wishes to attend any of the conferences, please let the County Administrator's office know so that registrations could be made.

Ms. Phillips distributed a notice of depositions relative to the Clifton-Stewart lawsuit that are scheduled for April 15 at 9:00 AM in the Board meeting room. Ms. Phillips asked Board members to let her know what time on this day they could take their depositions.

Ms. Phillips advised the Board that the public hearing on the Robert E. Lee Hotel property is scheduled for the April 14 Board meeting.

9. Adjourn or Recess

On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mr. McCall, it was resolved to recess to 7:00 PM on March 31, 2009.

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. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Prepared by:

Naoma A. Norris, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Kenneth O. Reynolds, Chairman