

V I R G I N I A:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Thursday, January 2, 1992, at 5:30 p.m., at the Virginia Highlands Community College Board Room, Abingdon, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

James P. Litton, Chairman
 Maurice H. Parris, Vice Chairman
 Kenneth G. Mathews
 Joe W. Derting
 James T. Osborne
 Jackson Barker, Jr.
 Cecil K. Simcox

Bruce E. Bentley, County Administrator
 Sandra M. Hatfield, CPS

ABSENT:

Mark W. Seamon, Director of Accounting
 Cliff Walsh, County Attorney

Legislators invited to the meeting were:

Senator William Wampler
 Senator Jack Reasor

Delegate Joseph P. Johnson
 Delegate Ford C. Quillen

Absent was Delegate G. C. Jennings

1. Call to Order

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mr. James P. Litton, Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Ed Hardison, Dean of Instruction, welcomed the Board of Supervisors and the legislators to Virginia Highlands Community College campus, extending best wishes and a Happy New Year to all.

2. Introduction of Legislators and Supervisors

Introduction of legislators and supervisors occurred. In attendance and invited to participate in discussions was Speaker of the House, Delegate Thomas W. Moss, Jr., of Norfolk, Virginia.

3. Informal Discussion:

Chairman Litton turned the meeting over to County Administrator, Bruce E. Bentley, who introduced each of the following agenda items for discussion:

- (a) Disparity in educational funding;
- (b) Election of School Board Members;
- (c) Alternative 2E Routing for Route 58 through Washington County;
- (d) State asking all state agencies to modify their already submitted budget requests for the FY 92-94 biennium by 6% and 9%;
- (e) State charging localities to review landfill plans;
- (f) State Waste Management is reorganizing to four regional offices - Staunton, Norfolk, Roanoke and Lynchburg with main office in Richmond. Nothing west of Roanoke;
- (g) Eliminate dental services provided by local health departments;
- (h) \$500 million reduction in VDOT this biennium, don't make it permanent;
- (i) Use of 911 funds collected;
- (j) State level Economic Development Incentive Program should be tied to CDBG administration;
- (k) Equal rights for counties, cities and towns;
- (l) Annexation;
- (m) Other.

Speaker Moss commented on the state of the revenue for the biennium expressing concerns over further state funding cuts. He commented he does not anticipate localities will receive any additional revenue and does not believe there will be a move toward increasing taxes during the 1992 General Assembly sessions.

Delegate Quillen commented on the status of legal action to correct education funding disparities. He stated programs are being developed that are oriented toward teacher development and education. A brief discussion among legislators occurred. General agreement was reached that there may not be any resolution to educational funding disparities during the 1992 session of the General Assembly.

Discussion of election of school board members resulted with Delegate Johnson stating he would support a legislative bill that will allow localities to determine their preference through a referendum ballot. Senator Reasor stated he opposes election of School Board members, however, he would support legislation only if it allows both governmental bodies to have taxing powers. Senator Wampler stated he has drafted legislation to be introduced into the Senate that allow localities to decide what they want to do about election of school board members. He added that the bill does not have taxing authorities.

With regard to Route 58 funding, Mr. Bentley commented there needs to be strong support from the legislators for funding. He encouraged them to be familiar with the routing. Mr. Bentley called attention to the importance of supporting the southerly route pointing out the potential economic impact to Washington County.

Mr. Bentley commented on Governor Wilder's recent communication requesting agencies to further cut their budget requests by 6 to 9 percent for the 1992-94 biennium. He emphasized the negative impact this request will have on services to the taxpayers.

Senator Reasor announced the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the State Budget on January 9, 1992 at Wytheville. He encouraged the supervisors to attend this meeting to express their concerns and hear the concerns of other localities in Southwest Virginia.

Mr. Bentley expressed his concern over the Department of Waste Management proposal to reorganize services and move the regional office to Roanoke. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a regional office in Southwest Virginia. Mr. Moss expressed concern over the proposed reorganization and stated he would look into the matter.

With regard to Department of Waste Management regulations that permits the State to charge fees to localities to review landfill plans, Mr. Bentley pointed out that localities pay an engineering firm to prepare landfill plans. He stated, under new DWM regulations localities are then required to pay a fee for the DWM staff to review these plans. He asked the legislators to amend this regulation and waive the fee requirement provided landfill plans are prepared by a certified engineering firm.

A brief discussion occurred on the legislation allowing use of E-911 funds for operation and capital improvements. Delegate Johnson stated he would support this legislation.

Mr. Mathews asked about equal rights for counties, cities and towns. Representative Quillen stated he was not aware of differences. Mr. Bentley is to provide Representative Quillen with more detail on this matter.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Litton expressed appreciation to each legislator for attending the meeting. In turn, the legislators expressed their appreciation to the Supervisors for the opportunity to meet and discuss the above concerns.

4. Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Parris, second by Mr. Mathews, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

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

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| Mr. Mathews | Aye | Mr. Litton | Aye | Mr. Derting | Aye |
| Mr. Osborne | Aye | Mr. Parris | Aye | Mr. Barker | Aye |
| Mr. Simcox | Aye | | | | |

James P. Litton, Chairman