

V I R G I N I A:

At a recessed meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Thursday, December 15, 1994, at 7:00 p.m., at the Swiss Inn near Glade Spring, Virginia, the following were present:

PRESENT:

James T. Osborne, Chairman  
 Dulcie M. Mumpower, Vice Chairman  
 Kenneth G. Mathews  
 Bobby D. Ingle  
 Maurice H. Parris  
 Jackson Barker, Jr.

Bruce E. Bentley, County Administrator  
 Joseph B. Lyle, County Attorney  
 Assistant County Administrator  
 Sandra M. Hatfield, CPS, Executive Secretary

Mark K. Reeter,

Absent:

Joe W. Derting                      Delegate Terry Kilgore                      Delegate  
 Barnes Kidd                      Senator Jackson E. Reasor, Jr.

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. James T. Osborne, Chairman of the Board who welcomed everyone in attendance. The Chairman announced that this is the County's dinner meeting with the Legislators and other invited guests before the General Assembly convenes in January, 1995.

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2.            Invocation - Maurice Parris  
 Mr. Parris asked Mr. Barker to give the Invocation.

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3.            Introduction of Legislators, Supervisors and Other Guests -  
James T. Osborne

Mr. Osborne asked each individual to introduce herself/himself going around the table. Those present not already noted were:  
 Senator William C. Wampler, Jr.                      Delegate Joseph P.  
 Johnson  
 Joe Bert Rhea - Transportation Board Member                      Tom  
 Taylor - MRPD Director

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4. Dinner  
Served during discussions. Excellent.

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5. Informal Discussions of Top Priorities-Governor's Commission on Government Report, Impact on Budgets

Senator Wampler noted that the State has projected a revenue shortfall of up to \$350 million and that competition for funding will be fierce.

Senator Wampler stated that Governor Allen plans to release his budget proposals on Monday, December 19, 1994. He also noted that a public hearing on the budget would be on December 28, 1994, 12 noon at Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands.

Delegate Johnson agreed that a State budget crunch is in the making.

Neither Senator Wampler or Delegate Johnson would project the financial impacts to the local government resulting from the the State budget proposals.

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6. SB560

Delegate Johnson stated that he opposed the adding of a \$12 charge to court service fees because it only addresses fringe benefits for constitutional officers and not other state employees. He also stated that the State should pay for fringe benefits and not localities.

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7. SB495

Mr. Parris asked the Legislators to pass the bill because it would provide more funds to the Volunteer Fire Departments to purchase equipment and provide training for personnel. Local governments cannot fund the Volunteer Fire Departments at a level to provide all that is needed. Mr. Parris also cautioned the Legislators not to listen to complaints that some departments (very few) do not use the money correctly. Most departments use and account for funds properly and should not be penalized because of a few abusers.

The Legislators indicated their support.

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8. Slide

Transportation Board member, Joe Bert Rhea, stated that primary and secondary road funding should not be affected by the State budget crunch based upon information from Secretary of Transportation Martinez. He also stated that Route 58 improvements are the "Top Priority" of VDOT. Mr. Rhea noted that the Transportation Board will have their April, 1995 meeting in Abingdon at his request to discuss Route 58 through Washington County.

Mr. Rhea expressed his feeling that the County's appeal of taking the 4.0 million overrun on the Route 611 slide from the County's Secondary Roads Budget could antagonize members of the Transportation Board and jeopardize getting Route 58 upgrade back into southern Washington County. Mr. Rhea also stated that Washington County received \$3.0 million of safety funds to help off-set the slide cost impact to the Secondary Roads Budget.

Mr. Ingle and Mr. Parris both stated that the County was not responsible for the slide and should not have to pay for it out of the County's Secondary Roads budget because it moved planned projects out 2 or 3 years more when people have already waited 6 or more years just to get on the Six Year Plan.

Senator Wampler and Delegate Johnson agreed to see what they could do about the deficit and advise the Board of Supervisors.

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9. Early Retirement Cost to School System

Washington County has a payback figure of \$4,148,098.00 created by the early retirement. The School System has questioned these calculations and the interest rate of 8% being charged by VRS.

Senator Wampler and Delegate Johnson acknowledged that they were aware of complaints from various School Districts within the Commonwealth. Senator Wampler stated that the General Assembly is going to review the interest rate charged by VRS and see if there is a way to lower the interest rate for the early retirement program.

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10. Informal Discussion of Other Topics of Their Choices by Board of Supervisors or Legislators

Mr. Parris questioned the Governor's recommended reduction in 599 funding for local governments with police departments when the public is seeking a "get tough on crime" attitude. Mr. Parris stated it does not make sense to reduce funds to police departments.

Senator Wampler agreed with Mr. Parris.

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Mr. Barker asked Senator Wampler if he did support State funds going to private academies or other private schools for educational reimbursements?

Senator Wampler stated he would not support taking money from public education for private school reimbursements.

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Mr. Ingle inquired about the Legislators position on gambling, specifically riverboat gambling. Senator Wampler and Delegate Johnson stated they were against riverboat gambling and would so vote if it came up at this session.

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Mr. Mathews expressed his appreciation to Senator Wampler, Delegate Johnson, Transportation Board Member Joe Bert Rhea and Mount Rogers Planning District Director Tom Taylor for their attendance and expressed his feeling that the meeting had been productive.

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Mr. Rhea suggested that the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution requesting VDOT to upgrade Industrial Park Road (Route 1717) that serves the Bristol-Washington County Industrial Park. The Board of Supervisors was agreeable by consensus.

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11. Recess to Tuesday, December 20, 1994, 6:00 p.m. To Meet Representatives From Virginia Highlands Cable Company to Proposed Franchise Agreement With Relative

On motion of Mr. Barker, second by Mr. Ingle, it was resolved to recess the meeting to Tuesday, December 20, 1994, 6:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building to meet with representatives from Virginia Highlands Cable Company relative to proposed franchise agreement.

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

Mr. Mathews	Aye	Mr. Ingle	Aye	Mrs. Mumpower	Aye
Mr. Osborne	Aye	Mr. Parris	Aye	Mr. Barker	Aye

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James T. Osborne, Chairman