

VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the County Administration Building in Abingdon, Virginia the following were present:

PRESENT:

Dulcie M. Mumpower, Chair
Odell Owens, Vice Chair
Phillip B. McCall
Nicole M. Price
Kenneth O. Reynolds
Joseph C. Straten
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 Ms. Dulcie M. Mumpower, Chair of the Board, who welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Agenda

On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mr. McCall, it was resolved to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

Item 4.d.2 Withdrawn from Agenda

Consideration of Resolution Requesting Incorporation of Bridle Drive, Halter Trail, Spur Lane, Lariat Loop and portion of Chase Lane within Steeplechase Subdivision into State System of Secondary Highways

Move Item 6.b.2 to a New 5.a.

Presentation by Washington County Sheriff's Office Concerning Litter Control Activities

Addition of New Item 6.a.1

Consideration of a Request for a Supplemental Appropriation from Hayter's Gap Community Center

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Straten</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

4. Consent Agenda:

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

a. Approval of Minutes:

1. February 23, 2010 Joint Recessed Meeting – Approved as Corrected

Page 16828, Item 4-Adjourn or Recess, Correct Motion to Read:

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

2. February 23, 2010 Regular Meeting - Approved as Corrected

Page 16840, Item 10 – Adjourn or Recess, Correct Motion to Read:

On motion of Ms. Price, second by Mr. McCall, it was resolved to recess to Thursday, February 25, 2010, 6:30 p.m. to receive agency/department comments concerning the Requested & Recommended County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

b. Approval of Routine Financial Matters:

1. Payment of Bills – Month of February 2010

2. Request for Revenue Refunds – Washington County Sheriff’s Office-Animal Sterilization Fees

3. Request for Supplemental Appropriation – Washington County Sheriff’s office

4. Request for Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies-Damascus Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., for Local Matching Funds of a RSAF Grant

5. Request for Revenue Refunds – Washington County Department of Recreation Office for Recreation Program Fees

6. Budget Status Report - February 28, 2010

c. Award of Bids and Approval of Contracts:

No Bids or Approval of Contracts were presented to the Board.

d. Authorization of Routine Business Matters:

- 1. Consideration of Resolution Requesting Incorporation of Blake Drive within Millstone Village Subdivision into State System of Secondary Highways – approved as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2010-10
 ADDITION OF 0.07 LINEAR MILES OF BLAKE DRIVE
 TO SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS
 MILLSTONE VILLAGE SUBDIVISION**

WHEREAS, the street(s) described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3, fully incorporated herein by reference, are shown on the plats recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Washington County, and

WHEREAS, the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation has advised this Board the street(s) meet the requirements established by the Subdivision Street Requirements of the Virginia Department of Transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this Board requests the Virginia Department of Transportation to add the street(s) described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3 to the secondary system of state highways, pursuant to Section 33.1-229, Code of Virginia, and the Department’s Subdivision Street Requirements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Board guarantees a clear and unrestricted right-of-way, as described, and any necessary easement for cuts, fills and drainage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Resident Engineer for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

- ~~2. Consideration of Resolution Requesting Incorporation of Bridle Drive, Halter Trail, Spur Lane, Lariat Loop and portion of Chase Lane within Steeplechase Subdivision into State System of Secondary Highways~~

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

- Mr. McCall Aye*
- Ms. Mumpower Aye*
- Mr. Owens Aye*
- Ms. Price Aye*
- Mr. Reynolds Aye*
- Mr. Straten Aye*
- Mr. Taylor Aye*

5. a. Presentation by Washington County Sheriff's Office Concerning Litter Control Activities

The board received a presentation from Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman concerning the litter control activities that have occurred in the county. Sheriff Newman was accompanied by the litter control officers. A report concerning the cleanup efforts/illegal dump cleanup efforts was distributed to the Board. Sheriff Newman commented that the Litter Control Program has proved to be very beneficial.

Discussions ensued among the board and Sheriff Newman.

Ms. Mumpower commended the Litter Control Department for an excellent job.

Scrivener's Note: The report referenced above are included as Minutes Exhibits Item 2010-03-09-A.

5. b. Public Hearings:

Public Hearing to Solicit Input on Local Community Development and Housing Needs in Relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for a Project in Washington County

Washington County Service Authority (WCSA) General Manager Robbie Cornett and Mr. Bobby Lane with the Lane Group addressed the board and presented information pertaining to a possible Community Development Block Grant project to provide an improved water system to the Mendota community.

Mr. Cornett explained the WCSA has identified a CDBG project in the Mendota community to make improvements to the water system. He explained for 17 years, the WCSA has provided drinking water to about 60 households in the Mendota community. Because the water source is a single well and because of regulatory issues, the WCSA has been limited to serving only 60 households. The well contains iron and manganese. While these two minerals do not directly pose a health risk it does bring into question the quality and reliability of the system. He further explained that the WCSA has talked for many years about connecting the Mendota water system to an existing WCSA line. However, the nearest water line is on US Route 19. The WCSA recently had discussions with representatives from the Scott County Public Service Authority about selling water to the WCSA to serve the Mendota community. This would allow the WCSA to do away with the well. A water study was completed by the Lane Group and presented to the board at the February Joint Board of Supervisors/WCSA Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Cornett stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) CDBG program is a good funding source for the project.

Mr. Bobby Lane distributed to the board a fact sheet that provides information the DHCD requires to be covered in the public hearings. Mr. Lane explained this public hearing is the first of two public hearings required by DHCD as part of the CDBG application process. The first public hearing is general in nature and the second public hearing scheduled for March 23 will address in detail the project specifications.

Mr. Lane next explained the CDBG provides funding to eligible units of local government to address critical community development needs. The CDBG application deadline is March 31. There is about \$11,156,222 in funds available to award to communities such as Washington County for eligible projects. Eligible applicants include most counties, small cities and towns. The WCSA requests that Washington County file a CDBG application on their behalf. Eligible community development needs include housing, infrastructure and economic development projects. The WCSA believes the Mendota community would benefit from approximately 60 low to moderate income families being provided with

safe drinking water. The project identified by the WCSA at this time would cost an estimated \$400,000 and would include water connection to the Scott County Public Service Authority.

Mr. Lane reviewed information concerning DHCD's requirements for items to be provided to the public. He reviewed information concerning the county's present and past use of CDBG funds. Mr. Lane stated the public hearings complete the CDBG application process.

Discussions ensued among the board and Mr. Cornett.

Mr. Owens inquired if the improvements to the Mendota water system would allow the WCSA to serve additional customers.

Mr. Cornett explained the WCSA does not yet have a contract with the Scott County Public Service Authority, but their plan is to have the ability to purchase a sufficient amount of water from Scott County in order to expand the existing Mendota water system. The first priority however will be to eliminate the well.

Mr. McCall inquired if the CDBG funds would be used strictly to build the water line.

Mr. Cornett explained the grant funds would be used to build approximately 3,000 feet of waterline, a pumping station and connection to the Scott County Public Service Authority system.

Mr. McCall inquired about the connection fee policy.

Mr. Cornett explained the 60 households currently being served by the WCSA are existing customers and would not be charged a connection fee.

Mr. Taylor asked if a preliminary engineering report has been completed and approved.

Mr. Cornett explained the Western Washington County Water Supply Study has been completed, but approval has not been obtained by the Washington County Health Department.

Mr. Taylor asked if the WCSA would obtain approval from the health department by the CDBG application deadline.

Mr. Lane replied that they would.

Mr. Taylor inquired if the 60 existing customers in Mendota were low to moderate income.

Mr. Lane explained that based on demographics all 60 customers would meet the low to moderate income guidelines.

Mr. Taylor questioned who would complete the income study.

Mr. Lane explained the study would be completed by WCSA staff with the assistance of the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC). He stated that MRPDC has not yet been contacted because the WCSA wanted to make sure the board supported the proposed project.

Mr. Taylor commended the WCSA for going forward with the Mendota Water System Project in light of the fact that the DHCD has not looked favorably on applications for projects where people are already receiving public water. However, times have changed and this project will serve low to moderate income families. The project will not only improve the water quality but also the quality of life for the residents in the Mendota community.

Ms. Mumpower opened the public hearing and invited comments regarding the CDBG Project.

Mr. Mark Mitchell addressed the board and questioned if Scott County had the additional water capacity to serve future needs in the County. Mr. Mitchell asked the board to broaden their thinking in regards to use of CDBG funds. He proposed using CDBG funds to provide broadband internet service to the thousands of people in the county that currently do not have access to broadband. Mr. Mitchell stated the CDBG program could be used for broader purposes, and these funds were meant for economic development projects. He encouraged the board not to be comfortable with seeking CDBG funds for only for water/sewer projects.

Mr. Cornett addressed the Board and explained that he has met with Scott County Public Service Authority officials to discuss Scott County’s water capacity and their ability to meet the needs of the Mendota community now and in the future. While there is not a contract in place with Scott County, they indicated they would not have a problem with meeting the current needs in Mendota and had the capacity to serve future growth and expansion in this community.

There being no further comment, Ms. Mumpower declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Ms. Price, the Board acted to authorize a second public hearing on an application for CDBG funds for the Mendota Community Water Project for March 23.

Mr. Owens stated there is a real need to improve the quality of water in Mendota. He explained several residents of the community have spoken with him about the water quality issues and knows they will be anxious to see the water improved. Mr. Owens commended the WCSA for putting forth effort to make the improvements.

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Straten</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Scrivener’s Note: The fact sheet referenced above are included as Minutes Exhibits Item 2010-03-09-B.

6. General Business:

a. Actionable Items:

1. Consideration of a Request for a Supplemental Appropriation from Hayter's Gap Community Center

Ms. Lisa Eskridge representing the Hayter's Gap Community Center addressed the board and explained at the suggestion of Ms. Price; she requests on behalf of the Hayter's Gap Community Center that their next quarterly appropriation from the County be received early as opposed to asking the county for a supplemental appropriation. Ms. Eskridge explained the operational funds for the community center are nearly depleted primarily because of extremely high electric and heating oil bills in the amount of \$10,259.31.

Ms. Eskridge explained the community center houses a branch of the Head Start Program, branch of the Washington County Public Library, Senior Citizens Program, and the Hayter's Gap Life Saving Crew. Meeting space is provided for the 4-H Club, home school children's sports organizations, a meeting place for community & church events, a Red Cross Emergency Center and an election site. There are free events at the community center provided to the community that include monthly jam sessions where local musicians play, and a children's event hosted at Halloween. She further explained that money was raised by the community center to build a new playground at the center. The community center received a Virginia Tobacco Commission grant in the amount of \$15,000 to construct walking trails, and they will need to raise the matching funds of \$15,000.

Ms. Price explained that Mr. Reeter recommended the board consider advancing the final quarterly payment of \$7,690 and further since the winter has been exceptionally cold advancing the next quarterly payment might take them through closer to the end of the fiscal year. Then if there is still a need for funding, the board could consider a supplemental appropriation. She supports the recommendation and believes the board might feel less of impact by going this direction. Ms. Price stated that the electrical expenses for the branch library are not excluded from the electrical bills for the community center.

The following action was proposed:

On motion of Ms. Price, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board acted to approve advancement of the final quarterly disbursement in the amount of \$7,690 as soon as possible to the Hayter's Gap Community Center and postpone consideration of need for a supplemental appropriation until later if necessary.

Discussions ensued among the board.

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Straten</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

b. Information Items:

1. Presentation by Washington County Firemen's Association

Mr. Mike White addressed the board on behalf of the Washington County Firemen's Association (WCFA) and made a presentation regarding budgetary concerns of the WCFA. The board was provided with copies of Mr. White's presentation materials.

Mr. White thanked the board for the funds provided in the past years to the WCFA. However, he explained that the current funding to the departments is not covering the costs of equipment or trucks. Mr. White presented information to the board regarding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as follows and explained these are standards that all department heads must follow to protect their members:

NFPA 1500	Fire department chiefs/heads have to provide personal protection equipment to personnel
NFPA 1977	Firefighting gear -- \$4,000.00/set (DRD/thermal/moisture barrier)
NFPA 1851	Care & maintenance of equipment – requires that every 10 years from date of manufacture the equipment must be taken out of service and replaced
NFPA 1981	Requires self contained breathing apparatus at a cost of \$6,000 per unit. A standard change is required every five years. The equipment manufacture price increases 4% yearly.
NFPA 1901	Truck standards – in 2009 the NFPA added 18 new standards to be added to new fire apparatus increasing the truck price by \$20,000

Mr. White explained that in 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented emission control standards that increased the price of a truck by \$12,000. Then in 2010, the EPA came out with additional emission control standards which added an additional \$17,000 to the price of a truck. Therefore, because of the costs of meeting the required NFPA standards and the EPA standards the \$250,000 in fire truck rotation funds provided by the board are not covering the costs of a new truck. The average cost for a fire truck, not including the firefighting equipment, is \$300,000. There is an additional \$50,000 added to the costs to purchase the required firefighting equipment.

Mr. White next explained to the Board that the WCFA has applied for a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to install a new radio system for the county. This FEMA grant is for fire departments only. The FEMA grant is an 80/20 grant and if received would help purchase 10 base stations, 87 mobile radios, 312 portable radios, 338 pagers and 3 repeaters. He stated that should the FEMA grant funds not cover all of the costs of the new system; the WCFA would apply for another grant. Mr. White further explained the WCFA applied for this grant to be in compliance with the 2013 Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) narrowbanding mandate that all radio equipment be digital. The FCC made localities aware of the new mandate in 2003 giving localities 10 years to prepare. He asserted that no department in the county was moving forward with this project; therefore, the WCFA took it upon them to make sure the public safety communications in the county continue to operate without interruption. The 2013 FCC narrowbanding mandate will affect all public safety organizations. Mr. White stated the only time the county has assisted in purchasing radio equipment for the fire departments was about 15 years ago. This equipment is now obsolete and cannot be serviced. The equipment would not be in compliance with the new 2013 FCC mandate.

Mr. White explained that the WCFA requests the board take into consideration the price increases due to the NFPA, EPA standards and the yearly manufacturer's price increases; that the board provides

increased funding to the fire departments to meet the rising costs of firefighting equipment. Further, the WCFA requests the county contribute the 20% match, which would be \$200,000 for the FEMA grant. In conclusion, the WCFA requests the board consider funding all fire departments at the same level and implement a formula that would adjust the department budgets due to call volume.

Substantial discussions ensued among the board and Mr. White.

Mr. Taylor asked if the WCFA had already applied for the FEMA grant.

Mr. White explained they had applied for the FEMA grant. The grant cycle began in April of last year. He reviewed the FEMA grant process. Currently, FEMA is on round 5 of awarding grants. The WCFA will be in the running for a grant until they receive an official letter from FEMA stating their grant application was denied.

Mr. Taylor inquired if the source of the 20% match was included on the FEMA grant application.

Mr. White explained the WCFA put on the grant application that the 20% matching funds would be provided by the locality/fire departments. He further explained that this is the first time the county has been notified about the WCFA's FEMA grant application. Mr. White stated if the WCFA is awarded a FEMA grant, they have one year to come up with the 20% local match.

Further discussions ensued concerning WCFA's FEMA grant application and other issues relating to funding for the fire departments.

Ms. Mumpower, on behalf of the board, expressed appreciation to the fire departments for the much needed service they provide to the citizens of Washington County. She stated the board appreciates all of their hard work in obtaining funding from other sources.

7. Board Member Reports

Mr. Straten reported that he recently visited the Green Cove Senior Center and discussed actions the board has taken since the first of the year. He explained that Commissioner of Revenue David Henry accompanied him on this visit and talked about the Elderly Tax Exemption Program. Mr. Straten explained there are concerns in this community particularly with issues pertaining to Chestnut Mountain Road.

Mr. Straten commented about the article in the *Bristol Herald Courier* about Tri-Tube closing their operations in the county. He stated this is a large blow to the county from the standpoint of employment. Mr. Straten explained the county needs to be aggressive and make every effort to attract another industry to provide jobs. He proposed the county look at past industrial prospects that were not approved.

Mr. Owens commented that David Henry is willing to speak to any group the board wishes about the Elderly Tax Exemption Program. He reported that Mr. Henry would be accompanying him on a visit to the Mendota Community Center. Mr. Henry will discuss the Elderly Tax Exemption Program and the reassessment.

Ms. Mumpower discussed the joint meeting with the Washington County School Board scheduled for March 24. She explained that during the Virginia Association of Counties Chairpersons' Institute an

issue was discussed pertaining to investigating a formula based approach in regards to providing local funding to school systems. Ms. Mumpower gave an example of this approach. She explained when the economy is good and more revenue is generated, the school system would benefit by receiving increased funding. On the flip side, when the economy is bad and revenues are down, the schools would receive less funding. Ms. Mumpower requested this issue be placed on the agenda for the March 24 joint meeting with the school board and possibly to direct the Joint School Budget Committee to investigate.

Discussions ensued among the board about Ms. Mumpower's request.

Mr. Reeter explained the primary purpose of the March 24 joint meeting is to discuss permanent financing for the BAN issued to fund the Phase II School Construction Projects. However, other items could be added at the board's direction.

It was consensus of the board to direct the county administrator to add to the March 24 joint meeting agenda discussion about a formula based approach to funding the school system.

Mr. Reeter proposed the board/school board direct the Joint School Budget Committee to obtain additional information on formula based funding and consider asking Mike Chandler to make a presentation.

8. Board Information and Reminders

Mr. Reeter reviewed the following Board Reminders and Information:

- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on the Requested & Recommended County Operating Budget scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. Board of Supervisors Meeting Room (followed by the third budget adjustment worksession meeting)

At this time, Mr. Reeter reviewed a draft agenda for the March 11 public hearing along with materials he proposes to be made available to the public. This material includes the public hearing notice that has a more readable summary of the revenue and expenditure budgets and a table on tax rate comparisons among jurisdictions. He further reviewed a draft agenda for the third budget adjustment worksession scheduled to begin at the conclusion of the public hearing.

The board provided their consensus for the county administrator to make the documents he reviewed available to the public at the March 11 public hearing on the Requested & Recommended County Operating Budget for FY 2010-2011.

Lengthy discussions ensued among the board concerning the status of the General Assembly adopting a budget and the anticipated impact the state's budget will have on the county's operating budget.

- Tentatively scheduled Joint Board of Supervisors/School Board recessed meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the School Board Offices, 812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, VA.
- Correspondence from the Town of Abingdon dated February 25, 2010 concerning consideration of quarterly meetings with the Abingdon Town Council.

Mr. Reeter asked the board if they would like the first quarterly meeting to be scheduled in April.

Discussions ensued among the board. It was consensus of the board to schedule the first meeting for sometime after the upcoming town elections.

9. Adjourn or Recess

On motion of Ms. Price, second by Mr. Owens, 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>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Price</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Reynolds</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Straten</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Taylor</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Prepared by:

Naoma A. Norris, Recording Clerk

Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:

Dulcie M. Mumpower, Chairman