

**VIRGINIA:**

At a regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, July 13, 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  
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

**ABSENT:**

Nicole M. Price

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**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 Chair Dulcie Mumpower gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Mumpower noted that Ms. Price is sick and may not be in attendance.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

*Mr. McCall                      Aye*  
*Ms. Mumpower                Aye*  
*Mr. Owens                      Aye*

*Mr. Reynolds*            *Aye*  
*Mr. Straten*            *Aye*  
*Mr. Taylor*             *Aye*

**4.      Special Recognitions & Presentations:**

**a.      Presentation of County Employee Service Pins and Certificates**

Ms. Mumpower and Mr. Reeter made the following presentations of employee service pins and certificates:

Five Years Service:

L. Leon Bailey  
Information Systems

Ms. Mumpower on behalf of the Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Bailey for all of his accomplishments in the Information Systems Department.

Fifteen Years Service:

Rocky W. Spiva  
Solid Waste Department

Bruce D. Kolling  
Solid Waste Department

Bobby L. Harris  
Solid Waste Department

William E. Barker, Jr.  
Solid Waste Department

Ms. Mumpower on behalf of the Board expressed appreciation to these gentlemen for the job they do for Washington County.

Ms. Mumpower stated that all of these employees come in direct contact with County citizens on a daily basis. Their excellent work makes the Board and County look good. On behalf of the Board, she commended them for the excellent job they do dealing with the citizens.

**5.      Consent Agenda:**

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

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. June 22, 2010 Regular Meeting

b. Approval of Routine Financial Matters:

No financial matters were presented to the Board.

c. Award of Bids and Approval of Contracts:

No bids or contracts were presented to the Board.

d. Authorization of Routine Business Matters:

- 1. Resolution Approving Temporary closure of State Route 657 for Bridge Replacement - Approved as Follow:

**RESOLUTION 2010-23**

*WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation has deemed it necessary to close a portion of Route 657 in Washington County for the replacement of bridge structure 6103, and;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Supervisors hereby concurs with the Virginia Department of Transportation’s decision to close a portion of Route 657 to traffic during the month of July until reconstruction of structure 6103 is complete. The closure will be at that west intersection of Route 657 and Route 625.*

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

- 2. Approval of Disposition of Surplus County Motor Vehicles
- 3. Approval of parade Permit, Schoolhouse 5K and Kid’s Mile Road Races

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

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

**6. General Business:****a. Actionable Items:****1. Consideration of Request for Joint Meetings with Abingdon Town Council**

Mr. Reeter addressed the Board and explained Abingdon Town Manager Greg Kelly has advised him that the proposed date of August 18 is not good for the majority of the Abingdon Town Council to meet jointly with the Board of Supervisors. Abingdon Town Council asks the Board to consider dates in September.

Discussions ensued among the Board. The following dates were suggested to recommend to Abingdon:

Tuesday, September 21

Wednesday, September 22

It was recommended the meeting begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Reeter explained that Abingdon Town Council is interested in scheduling quarterly meetings with the Board and propose to schedule them on the fourth Wednesday of every third month.

No further action was taken by the Board on this matter.

**2. Consideration of Resolution Establishing County Finance Committee for Fiscal Year 2010-2011**

Mr. Reeter addressed the Board and explained there are a number of important matters involving the County's long-term financial condition that merit in-depth attention and eventually action by the Board of Supervisors prior to the end of the current calendar year, as well as continuous monitoring and review over time. He recommended to the Board establishing a County Finance Committee that would be an advisory board in nature and look at matters pertaining to County financial management and fiscal affairs including new revenue sources and budget policies. The proposed Finance Committee would bring recommendations to the Board on these matters. Mr. Reeter further recommended the proposed Finance Committee not be directly involved with preparation of the County operating budget. This is an administrative function. He added that it is the policy that governs the operating budget and the financial affairs of the County of which the Board needs to consider and adopt that are issues the proposed Finance Committee would review and bring a recommendation to the Board. Like other County committees, a working group of the Board is needed to review policy, practices and procedures relating to budget and financial affairs and bring recommendations to the Board about how best to handle the financial affairs of the County. Mr. Reeter stated the Board has discussed the need to change the County's budget practices. Particularly how the Board evaluates or reviews budget requests. These issues are in the realm of budget policies. He explained the proposed County Finance Committee would be advisory-only and exercise no authority of its own for independent decision-making or action.

Mr. Reeter explained the proposed Finance Committee would be re-established annually at the beginning of each fiscal year (rather than at the beginning of each calendar year as are all other Board Committees) and would have a mandatory rotating composition, with at least one (1) new Supervisor appointed to the Committee annually and no Supervisor serving more than two (2) consecutive terms. He further explained that other County committees do not have term limits. However, he is recommending the

proposed Finance Committee be established with a term limit because of the importance of the committee in looking at County financial matters. There needs to be a rotating system in place to allow all Board members to serve on the committee during their term of office.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Reeter explained the Board was presented with a Resolution for their consideration that would establish a County Finance Committee. Also, the Board was provided with correspondence from Davenport & Company that gives an overview of what the County is looking at in terms of financings. He advised the Board that the County's credit rating would be reviewed in the fall and it is important to have some fiscal policies in place, or to be in the process doing so.

Lengthy discussions ensued among the Board.

Ms. Mumpower proposed that action on establishing a County Finance Committee be tabled until the Board has the opportunity to look at all the information and to have Ms. Price in attendance. She stated that a Finance Committee is a good idea.

Mr. Taylor explained that he supports the County Administrator's recommendation to establish a County Finance Committee and to do away with the Joint School Budget Committee. He also agrees with the suggestion to table action on the matter until Ms. Price is in attendance because she serves on the Joint School Budget Committee. Mr. Taylor inquired if a Capital Improvement Program would be something the proposed Finance Committee would recommend to the Board.

Mr. Reeter explained the proposed Finance Committee would take a look at capital improvement projects in the context of the overall financial picture of the County. If the proposed committee felt a Capital Improvements Program needs to be developed and integrated into the County Operating Budget, a recommendation would be brought to the Board.

Mr. Reeter next explained he belongs to the Virginia Local Government's List Serve, and that he sent out an inquiry about finance committees. He distributed information received back from two counties concerning budget and finance committees. Mr. Reeter noted that some localities have a citizen advisory committee and bring citizens into the budget process.

Ms. Mumpower explained she contacted several localities in the region. None of the localities she spoke with has a finance committee. Several have budget committees. One locality has a budget committee that includes two board of supervisor members. Another has a budget committee composed of staff only. She stated this is not to say a finance committee is not workable or a good idea.

Mr. McCall stated that his initial thought of a proposed County Finance Committee was that this committee would review requests the County receives for funding.

Mr. Reeter explained this is not his intent for the proposed Finance Committee. However, it would be up to the Board to decide how much the proposed Finance Committee would be involved.

Ms. Mumpower asked to clarify that all proposed new policies would be brought to the full Board for approval, and the Board would be privy to all information pertaining to financial matters.

Mr. Reeter stated that was correct. He explained the proposed Finance Committee would be a fiscal policy making committee. Similarly, the committee could look at ways to improve the Board's budget

policies. When this committee comes up with a new policy or policy amendment, a recommendation would be brought to the Board for approval.

Mr. Straten asked for clarification about doing away with the Joint School Budget Committee should a County Finance Committee be established.

Mr. Reeter explained that he did not see the need for two committees. The School Board’s budget is an integral part of the County Operating Budget. Therefore, his recommendation is the proposed Finance Committee would assume the role of the Joint School Budget Committee as long as the School Board and new school superintendent wished to have the County’s involvement.

After further discussions, it was consensus of the Board to table action on establishing a County Finance Committee.

At this time, Mr. Taylor discussed an article in the Boards’ agenda packet written by a professor at Virginia Tech concerning school financing.

**3. Consideration of Appointments to Various Boards, Authorities and Commissions Expiring June 30, 2010**

**Washington County Park Authority**

Ms. Mumpower requested the Park Authority appointment be tabled. She asked staff to obtain information about the roles and responsibilities of the Park Authority and their meeting dates and times.

**Washington County Service Authority**

*On motion of Mr. Owens, second by Mr. McCall, it was resolved to appoint Dwain D. Miller to represent the Tyler Election District on the Washington County Service Authority for a four year term beginning July 1, 2010 and expiring June 30, 2014.*

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</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:**

There were no informational items presented to the Board.

## **7. Board Member Reports**

Mr. Straten reported on the County Facilities Committee meeting held Monday, July 12 with Thompson & Litton relative to their work on the Public Safety Building. Thompson & Litton provided the Facilities Committee with a preliminary report and overview on the condition of the building. The building is sound, but the roof needs to be replaced. At this point, Thompson & Litton was not able to provide costs for the roof replacement.

Mr. Straten further reported the Facilities Committee discussed the Treasurer's Building. The primary problem the committee faces with this building is to determine its best use once the Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue move to the Alpha Natural Resources Building. Mr. Reeter will canvass public agencies to see if there is an interest in the building. He will also canvass commercial realtors.

Mr. Owens (County Facilities Committee member) added to Mr. Straten's report. He explained the Treasurer's Building is presenting a challenge to Thompson & Litton. One of the main problems with this building is parking. Mr. Owens solicited Board suggestions on possible uses for the Treasurer's Building. He noted the building was constructed in 1920 and is the second oldest building owned by the County.

Mr. Owens advised Board members that he would not be present at the July 27 regular meeting.

Ms. Mumpower reported on two groundbreaking events she recently attended. One was in Alvarado for construction of restroom facilities on the Virginia Creeper Trail. The second was at the Washington County Service Authority for a \$12,000,000 grant to fund water/sewer projects. She reported that Lowery Hills and some water/sewer projects in the Madison District will go forward with funds from this grant.

Ms. Mumpower commended County Attorney Lucy Phillips for her victory in the Supreme Court case involving Mr. Harold Walsh.

Ms. Mumpower asked the County Attorney to work on getting the issues relating to Walton Ridge Road in Walton Ridge Subdivision resolved.

## **8. Board Information and Reminders**

Mr. Reeter reviewed the following Board Reminders and Information:

- Reminder of Governor Bob McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring Regional Town Hall Meeting for Southwest Virginia - Thursday, July 15, 5:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon
- Reviewed the Virginia Association of Counties' Capital Contact Newsletter dated July 8, 2010, regarding U. S. House Passage of Collective Bargaining Mandate for Public Safety Employees and Copy of the Resolution Adopted by the Board of Supervisors to the U. S. House of Representatives Opposing the Legislation

Mr. Reeter asked if the Board would like the Resolution to be sent to the U. S Senators. Most Board members indicated they did.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Resolution previously adopted by the Board of Supervisors opposing Collective Bargaining were to be forwarded to the U. S. Senators that it be accompanied by the original motion to show the Resolution was not approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Mumpower reminded the Board of Dr. French Moore's reception being held tonight at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center to honor his service to the Town of Abingdon.

**9. Adjourn or Recess**

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

At this time, Mr. Edward Carlyle Hobbs from Bristol, VA asked to address the Board about Smith Creek Road and the Six Year Plan for Secondary Highways.

Ms. Mumpower informed him that the meeting had been adjourned. However, he was welcomed to stay and talk with Board members individually.

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

<i>Mr. McCall</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Ms. Mumpower</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Mr. Owens</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>

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**Prepared by:**

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Naoma A. Norris, Recording Clerk

**Approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors:**

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Dulcie M. Mumpower, Chairman