V I R G I N I A:

At a regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors held Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 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

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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 Phillip McCall gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

The following individuals addressed the Board:

- Mr. Nick Safay
- Ms. Cassa Von Kundra
- Mr. Rees Shearer

4. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Mumpower asked that the agenda be amended to allow an additional group to make comments on sustainable development.

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Ms. Price, it was resolved to approve the agenda with the following amendment:

Revise Item 7.b.2 to allow an additional group to make comments on sustainable development.

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. 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:

Ten Years Service:

Doug Cassell
Department of Building and Development Services

David Hatfield
General Services Department

(Mr. Hatfield was unable to attend the meeting)

Fifteen Years Service:

Christy Parker
Assistant County Administrator/Community and Economic Development

Twenty Five Years Service:

Jerry Williams
Solid Waste Department

Thirty Years Service:

Cathie Freeman
Zoning Department

Ms. Mumpower on behalf of the Board expressed appreciation to these employees for the outstanding job and service they provide to Washington County.

6. Consent Agenda:

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

a. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>:

1. December 21, 2010 Recessed Meeting
2. January 11, 2011 Annual Meeting

b. <u>Approval of Routine Financial Matters</u>:

1. Request for Revenue Refunds – Washington County Sheriff's Office – Animal Sterilization Fees

2. Request for Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies – Board of Supervisors Public Information Meeting

3. Payment of Bills – Period of December 1, 2010 thru January 10, 2011

4. Budget Status Report – As of December 31, 2010

5. Adjustment of Christmas Stipend for Part-time Employees

c. Award of Bids and Approval of Contracts

No bids or contracts were presented to the Board for consideration.

d. <u>Authorization of Routine Business Matters</u>:

1. Resolution Requesting Addition of Roads into State System of Secondary Highways, Sweetbriar Subdivision

2. Resolution Endorsing Grant Application by Mountain Heritage, Inc., for Clinch Mountain Trail Improvements

3. Approval of Surplus Motor Vehicles, County Department of General Services

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***

7. General Business:

a. <u>Actionable Items</u>:

1. Consideration of Appointments to County Redistricting Review Committee

Harrison Election District*:*

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Mr. Owens, the Board acted to appoint Dan Smith to represent the Harrison Election District on the County Redistricting Review Committee for Calendar Year 2011.

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***

Jefferson Election District:

On motion of Ms. Price, second by Mr. McCall, the Board acted to appoint Beulah "Boots" Lambert to represent the Jefferson Election District on the County Redistricting Review Committee for Calendar Year 2011.

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***

Monroe Election District:

On motion of Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Reynolds, the Board acted to appoint James G. Wallace to represent the Monroe Election District on the County Redistricting Review Committee for Calendar Year 2011.

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***

b. <u>Information Items</u>:

1. Presentation Concerning Mountain Empire Regional Geographic Information System (MERG) Project

Deputy County Administrator Nadine Culberson addressed the Board and explained that about 18 months ago, six Southwest Virginia localities (City of Bristol, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth and Washington Counties) initiated the Mountain Empire Regional GIS Project or "MERG Project". The MERG Project allows member jurisdictions to share GIS-based street mapping among the localities' Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) which will improve emergency and disaster response times involving law, fire and rescue units across multiple localities, save lives and result in more efficient intergovernmental operations.

Mr. Brandon Moore, GIS Consultant for the County, demonstrated an actual event (call to E-911) that happened in Washington County prior to the MERG Project.

Ms. Culberson explained the MERG Project was funded through a $775,000 grant from the Virginia E-911 Wireless Board, PSAP Grant Program. The project launched on December 9, 2010 on time and under budget. She provided recognition to employees of Washington County that were involved with the MERG Project.

At this time, Ms. Culberson provided special recognition to Kevin Hill, IS Specialist, who served as Project Administrator for MERG; and Leon Bailey, IS Technician II, who served as Infrastructure Architect for the MERG Network. She explained that Kevin Hill still serves as Project Manager, and is the go to person for other localities that want to join MERG. She advised that Wise and Dickenson Counties joined MERG on the day the project was launched. Other localities in Southwest Virginia have petitioned for a grant to be included with Phase II of the project.

Ms. Culberson presented Kevin Hill and Leon Bailey with Certificates of Appreciation to recognize these gentlemen for the time and effort they put into the MERG Project.

Ms. Mumpower commented that Commonwealth of Virginia Deputy Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson was the guest speaker at the MERG Project launch on December 9, 2010. Ms. Jackson was impressed with the regional project, and commented the Commonwealth would be using Southwest Virginia as an example for projects the Commonwealth implements in the future. Ms. Mumpower stated the MERG Project would be a tremendous benefit to the citizens of all participating localities. She commended the staff involved in the MERG Project for an excellent job.

Mr. Taylor asked questions of Brandon Moore about the MERG Project.

2. Presentation Concerning Sustainable Development

Ms. Cathy Turner and Mr. Richard Macbeth made a lengthy presentation to the Board concerning issues surrounding the current interest in "sustainable development."

Ms. Cassa Von Dundra and Mr. Rees Shearer asked for an equal opportunity to address the Board on this matter at a later time.

The Board agreed to hear the other side of this issue at a later Board meeting.

Mr. Taylor asked questions of Ms. Turner and Mr. Macbeth.

Ms. Mumpower thanked the speakers for their presentation, and stated the Board appreciated all the information that was presented in advance.

3. Consideration of Daytime Regular Meeting of Board of Supervisors

Mr. Straten addressed the Board and explained a constituent asked if the Board of Supervisors would contemplate holding one of their regular monthly meetings during the day. Some years back, a day meeting was held by the Board. He explained scheduling one day meeting a month would be more accessible to older adults.

A motion was made by Mr. Straten to schedule one of the Board's regular monthly meetings during the day. The motion was second by Mr. Owens.

Discussions ensued among the Board.

Mr. McCall inquired about the time of day the Board meeting would be scheduled.

Mr. Straten proposed a noon meeting.

Ms. Price explained she would be happy to change to a day meeting if it provides an opportunity for more citizens to attend meetings. She inquired about scheduling for members of the Board that work full time jobs, and proposed a late day start time. This would limit the amount of time a working Board member would need to take off from their jobs.

Mr. Owens explained the Board's current By-laws state that Board meetings will not go past 10:00 p.m. If a day meeting is decided upon by the Board, the By-laws would need to be amended to include a cut off time for the day meetings.

Mr. Taylor explained a concern he has with the proposal is that it would be an imposition to the current Board members that have daily employment and also for future Board members and candidates that may have day jobs.

Mr. McCall explained a noon start time would not work for him because of his job. He proposed if a day meeting is approved that they begin at 3:00 or 4:00 p.m.
Mr. Reynolds explained he has served on the Board for several years and has not had the first constituent request the Board hold a meeting during the day. The current structure of holding Board meetings in the evening is working well. He added there have been times he has attended a day meeting in other

localities and they were not as productive. Mr. Reynolds expressed support for continuing with the evening meetings.

Ms. Mumpower explained she works during the day. However, if it is the desire of the Board to change to one day meeting a month, she will arrange her schedule.

Further discussions ensued, with the following substitute motion being made:

On motion of Mr. McCall, second by Ms. Price, the Board acted to leave the regular monthly meetings as they are currently scheduled, and further to reconsider this issue again in the future if requests are received by citizens.

The vote on this motion was as follows: (6-1)

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

8. <u>Board Member Reports</u>

Mr. Reynolds reported that a number of well organized groups from Southwest Virginia will be going to Richmond to meet with legislators about various issues that affects localities, and he believes they will have a positive impact on the legislators. Mr. Reynolds encouraged Board members to contact members of these groups to provide them with comments.

Mr. Reynolds commented on Governor McDonnell's Transportation Plan and explained there is only one I-81 project for Washington County included, which is Exit 14. He explained there are several exits off of I-81 that have real problems and need to be addressed.

Mr. Reynolds reported on the amount of litter around the exits and roads leading to I-81, and he has received many complaints from constituents. The Sheriff's Department is working hard on these issues, but there still remains a problem with litter in the County.

Ms. Price reported on the proposal to install a traffic light at the connecting road between Rustic Lane (location of the Public Safety Building) and US Route 19. Sheriff Fred Newman and residents from neighboring Quail Ridge Subdivision are supportive of the proposal. A Traffic Impact Study (TIA) was completed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The results of the TIA show that a traffic light at this intersection does not meet VDOT requirements. She has since met with Steve Buston and other VDOT representatives. One issue is the TIA was conducted during the week. The problems being experienced at this intersection are occurring on the weekend as people are going to the nearby flea market. Mr. Buston will be looking into the commercial permit aspect to see if this is a possibility. At this time, it appears a traffic light will not be installed; however, VDOT officials are looking into other options to solve the traffic issues.

Mr. Taylor inquired about the status of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) request for a special assessment to fight proposed legislation regarding a change in the assessment process.

Mr. Reeter explained at the January 11 annual meeting, he was directed to contact Delegate Joe Johnson about the proposed legislation, and has been unable to reach him. VACo has been monitoring the legislation and to-date has not issued alerts to localities.

Mr. Taylor reported on legislation being considered by the General Assembly that deals with alternative on-site sewer systems. He explained the County Utilities Committee will be asked to review the legislation and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Taylor further explained the Virginia Department of Health is attempting to establish guidelines for alternative on-site sewer systems.

Mr. Owens reported on a conversation he had with Washington County Extension Agent Phil Blevins concerning the proposed Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Restructuring Plan. Mr. Blevins advised that a lot of support for the VCE has been received from the Governor down to local legislators. However, it appears the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech still has not gotten the message. Mr. Owens explained the County needs to stay on top of this issue to assure the proposed restructuring plan does not get implemented. He recommended that Board members write letters to the legislators and to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech.

Discussions ensued among the Board.

Ms. Mumpower explained she seeks guidance from the Board in regards to an appropriation to the Washington County Little League to assist with completion of the ball fields. She advised if the Board decides to consider this request during the FY 2012 County Operating Budget process it will delay the project. Washington County Little League is hopeful to begin work in February, if weather permits.

No action was taken on Ms. Mumpower's request.

9. Board Information and Reminders

Mr. Reeter reviewed the following Board Information:

Reminders:

- Joint Board of Supervisors/Washington County School Board meeting concerning FY 2012 School Budget scheduled for Thursday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m., at the School Board offices.

- The Virginia Association of Counties/Virginia Municipal League Legislative Day 2011 is scheduled for Thursday, February 3 in Richmond.

Information:

- Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Briefing on Governor McDonnell's Transportation Plan

- Registration for Virginia Tech's Certified County Supervisor Program Course, Governance in the 21st Century: The Role in Budget – Begins February 25

- Press Release Announcing that Kathy Johnson, County Personnel Assistant, has Obtained Certification as a Professional in Human Resources

Mr. Reeter noted this certification is very difficult to receive. The County is proud of Ms. Johnson for her hard work and accomplishment.

- SB 743 Transient Occupancy Tax

Mr. Reeter noted the legislation passed the full Senate. On the House side the original legislation was merged into HB 1452 that adds a number of other counties. The report from the House Finance Committee was favorable. Now the legislation goes to the full House for consideration.

At this time, Ms. Mumpower recognized County Personnel Assistant Kathy Johnson for her achievement in becoming certified as a Professional in Human Resources.

10. <u>Adjourn or Recess</u>

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

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***

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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