

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: Stephen A. Bennett, Chairman
G. Matt Garten, Vice-Chairman
Shannon P. Cox
James M. Griffith
Cletus W. Nicely
M. Joan Vannorsdall

and Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator
Suzanne T. Adcock, Director of Finance
Jim Guynn, County Attorney
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Richard Lee Shull

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Rev. Bill Hartsfield gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting held on March 6, 2018; (2) an adjourned meeting held on March 22, 2018; and (3) an adjourned meeting held on March 28, 2018.

PUBLIC HEARING - APPOINTMENTS TO THE ALLEGHANY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (CLIFTON FORGE WEST, FALLING SPRING, AND SHARON DISTRICTS):

Public Hearing was held to consider appointments to the Alleghany County School Board from the Clifton Forge West District, Falling Spring District, and Sharon District. The appointments are for a term of four years beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2022.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 and Tuesday, April 17, 2018 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Bennett stated that two resumes were received for the Clifton Forge West District (Rev. David Halsey, Sr. and Mr. Donnie Kern), one for the Falling Spring District (Mr. Randall Tucker), and one from the Sharon District (Ms. Jennifer Seckner). He asked all but one of the candidates to go out in the hall so that each can give a brief presentation and answer any questions the Board may have without the others present.

Presentations by candidates and questions from Board members:

Ms. Jennifer Seckner, 307 Evans Lane, read the following prepared statement which is a part of the records of this meeting:

Chairman Bennett, Members of the Board, Mr. Lanford,

Good evening and thank you for allowing me to speak with you tonight regarding my application to serve on the Alleghany County School Board. It has been a great honor and a privilege to serve on this board for the past 2 years. I care deeply and passionately about the students, teachers and staff in our school system and would like to continue to represent the Sharon District and all of Alleghany County on the school board for the next 4 years.

Over the the past 2 years that I have served on the Board, our team has successfully rolled out the one to one initiative with the Chromebooks. This initiative will be fully implemented in the fall of 2018 in which each of our 1st through 12th graders will have their own personal computing device. We also had the goal, as a board; to start the New Tech program at Alleghany High School which will be a project based learning approach in our high school classrooms. This program will begin in the fall as well.

*During the past 2 years, I have also served as the chairperson on the JRTC Board, as you know this is a joint board with Covington City Schools. JRTC is the ultimate project based learning facility and I believe is a diamond in the rough. We should encourage more students to apply to these programs and understand that there is a high demand for trained graduates in the vocational & technical trades. Our JRTC program should be a priority beginning with exposure to the vocational trades in the 8th grade, **especially for our young men** who usually become bored at this time in their adolescence. With that being said, this past year, we have added Computer Systems Technology to our schedule and next year it will include Cyber Security. Our students and instructors at JRTC perform extremely well at competition and we have even had a few*

State Champions the past several years. I am extremely proud of our program at JRTC and our program is becoming very well known throughout the region and the State. Also, this past year under the direction of our board, Mr. Spangler had a new sign installed at the entrance to the facility.

The Jackson River Governor's School is also a diamond in the rough, so to say, as the students who apply and that are accepted, will begin their college years with around 40 or more college credits. These college credits come at little or no cost to the students or the parents. This is an incredible opportunity for our high achieving students as it has allowed many to either graduate early from college or others, like my daughter to graduate as double majors.

In order to tackle the monetary issues that we face, this past year, our school board signed a resolution with other rural communities across the Commonwealth to support the creation of a Small and Rural School Division Coalition in order to enhance our voice in the legislative process. This resolution states that on average the state share for school operations has decreased by 4.7% in rural school divisions since 2009; while the local share for operations has increased by 4.3%. As you know, Virginia schools get funding through local taxes and the state, which provides funding per pupil. Rural schools may not maintain a high student population, which in turn means lower funding from the state, we still have to provide the same resources and educational programs that the larger districts provide. This rural school coalition was modeled after the "Coalfields coalition", in which Alleghany schools are also a member.

As I stated in my closing 2 years ago, in order for our County schools to thrive, we need to **attract** and **retain** the best teachers and staff in our schools. In our Legislative Priorities which we adopted this past January, our board recognized the shortage of qualified teachers and we recommended to the General Assembly that we raise teacher salaries above the national average (the state is about \$7,000 below the national average). We also asked the General Assembly to fully fund our nursing program. We do have some challenges facing us, however, we need to recognize and face these challenges and work diligently to try to correct and improve these issues.

In closing, it would be an honor to continue to be the representative for the Sharon District for all of Alleghany County Schools. Thank you for your time. Questions?

Ms. Vannorsdall asked about the nursing program. Ms. Seckner replied that there is a nurse in each school as well as a nursing program at JRTC and funding is being cut.

Mr. Nicely commented that he appreciates Ms. Seckner's commitment and dedication.

Mr. Randall Tucker, 3603 Jackson River Road, commented that he has served twelve years total on the School Board and asked the Board to consider reappointing him. He mentioned reinstating the Communications Committee with the Board of Supervisors, working with Superintendent Gene Kotulka on the Vision 20/20 plan, New Tech beginning this fall, the One-to-One initiative being huge with kids, and next year there will be the first two graduates to receive an Associates degree.

Mr. Garten thanked Mr. Tucker for the work he has done on the School Board.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked where he is on teacher salary. Mr. Tucker replied that it should be improved and he does support increases, but is not sure how to pay for it. He mentioned that Virginia is a wealthy State and should pay their share. He stated that the salary scale has been discussed, but has to be sustainable.

Mr. Bennett commented that he agrees with both boards working together and having the Communications Committee.

Rev. David Halsey, Sr., 739 Verge Street, stated that he has ten years past experience on the School Board and eight years on the JRTC Board. He commented that he has a real desire to offer quality education to the children in our community as he values education. He mentioned that he is positive and honest and would not be biased.

Mr. Nicely stated that Mr. Shull could not be at the meeting tonight and he wanted him to ask Rev. Halsey what he can do to make the school system better. Rev. Halsey replied that there is not one thing he can do, but would work with the School Board as a whole. He commented that he is open to moving forward with technology, etc.

Mr. Donnie T.A.M. Kern, 115 Church Street, asked the Board if they have any questions for him.

Mr. Nicely stated that Mr. Shull could not be at the meeting tonight and he wanted him to ask Mr. Kern what he would do to change minds as all talks have failed regarding consolidation of schools. Mr. Kern replied that eventually consolidation will be inevitable. He commented we can do it today and reap the benefit, or do it down the road and then the benefit would be diminished. He mentioned that for some reason we do not bring the right idea or the right people to the table that have positive ideas and solutions. He stated that Democracy is a key ingredient.

Mr. Nicely asked if he sees a need for change in the school system. Mr. Kern replied that change is great and anything to do with the learning habits of children is great. He mentioned New Tech and that it is thinking outside of the box that bring kids a realistic situation that can be inspiring. He mentioned his fondest memory from school was visiting the lumber mill.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if he has previously served on the School Board. Mr. Kern replied that this is his first try and he would like to share his skills and talents.

Mrs. Cox commented to Mr. Kern that his resume is excellent and asked him to tell the Board more about himself personally. Mr. Kern replied that he grew up here and went to Clifton Forge Schools. He commented that he has been a part of youth organizations for ten years (i.e., Boy Scouts, YMCA, etc.). He mentioned that recently he spearheaded a Career Coach program with DSLCC which he wishes he had when he was in school. He commented that the program has success with high school students to keep them on the right track for success.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed. He stated that action will be taken at the June 5th regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Mr. Donald Roberts, 315 Wintergreen Avenue, spoke regarding issues with his neighbor's fence (height of fence, fell on his garage during a storm, nails sticking out which are a safety issue, etc.). He asked the Board to consider regulations/inspections of fences as the County does not have an ordinance.

MS. SUSAN HAMMOND, VDOT RESIDENT ENGINEER - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, gave a report on the following VDOT activities:

Maintenance

- Completed cleanup of snow storm damaged trees.
- Making drainage repairs from rain events - shoulders, ditches, pipes. This should be completed later this week.
- Repairing potholes from winter pavement breakup.
- Replaced pipe on Rt. 645.
- Responded to citizen concerns.

Construction

- Exit 21 project on schedule.
- Rt. 638 bridge replacement underway.
- Public Hearing for Six Year Improvement Program will be held on May 3rd at the Holiday Inn Staunton Conference Center beginning at 4 p.m.
- Joint Public Hearing for Secondary Six Year Program to be held on June 5th.

Mr. Garten commented regarding slide activity on Rt. 220 above Honda due to the recent rains and that there is a tree hanging by its roots. He mentioned there is drainage off of Rt. 687 running down into Clearview near the property of Mr. Butch Brown and Mr. Gordon Specht.

APPROVE PROCUREMENT AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH LUMOS NETWORKS FOR FIBER OPTIC SERVICES RELATED TO THE NEW RADIO SYSTEM:

Ms. Adcock stated that there is a memo in the agenda packet from Mr. Ryan Muterspaugh, Director of Public Safety, which she reviewed. The memo is as follows:

A critical piece of the new Emergency Radio Communications System is having the ability to utilize fiber connections as both a primary and redundant means to link the tower sites and Dispatch Centers. Harris Corporation requested information, on behalf of the County (and City), for providing this service from both Lumos and Shentel since they are the two fiber service providers in the area. Shentel sent notification (attached) that they would not provide the necessary fiber service and opted to "no-bid" the project. Lumos has made assurances that they can reliably

provide the fiber infrastructure and service needed for the new radio system. Harris and County staff have been in contact with Lumos and have successfully negotiated a contract. Since this is a long-term contract and there is more than one service provider, the County's legal counsel advised that the Board would need to authorize the execution of the contract and the posting of a Sole Source Procurement Notification.

County staff is requesting that the Board approve the posting of the Sole Source Procurement Notification on the Virginia Department of General Services' website per Virginia Code § 2.2-4303(E). Also, requesting approval to execute the contract between Alleghany County and Lumos Networks by the County Administrator relating to the provision of fiber services for the new Emergency Radio Communications System.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

On motion of Mr. Garten, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve the posting of a sole source procurement notification relating to the provision of fiber services by Lumos Networks for the new Emergency Radio Communications system. Lumos Networks is the only fiber service provider in the area capable of providing the infrastructure and fiber service required for its operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves a contract with Lumos Networks for the provision of said fiber service as it relates to the new Emergency Radio Communications System.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board authorizes Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to sign the abovementioned contract with Lumos Networks on behalf of the County.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK OFFICE (LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FUNDING):

Mr. Lanford stated that there is an email in the agenda packet from Ms. Debbie Byer, Circuit Court Clerk, in relation to funding they have been awarded from the Library of Virginia in the amount of \$12,039.50. He stated that a supplemental appropriation is needed to expend the funds.

On motion of Mr. Garten, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve the following supplemental appropriation in FY18 for the Circuit Court Clerk Office due to the award of funding from the Library of Virginia for item conservation:

<u>Revenue Account</u>	
Fund 110 - Library Grant - Clerk (1100-4240409)	\$12,039.50
<u>Expenditure Account</u>	
Fund 110 - Books & Subscription (210611-55411)	\$12,039.50

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE PURCHASING POLICY REGARDING PURCHASE ORDER LIMITS:

Ms. Adcock reviewed a memo included in the agenda packet from her to the Board. The memo is as follows:

I would like to request the Board of Supervisors consider the following change to the Purchasing Policy:

Section IV "Purchasing Procedures," Item 3 "Purchase Orders," (page 9)
*Currently states: "Purchases over \$1,000 are required to have a Purchase Order."
Change to: "Purchases over \$2,999.99 are required to have a Purchase Order."*

This change will better align with our current Purchase Procedure that requires solicited quotes/proposals from vendors at the \$3,000 threshold. This will also alleviate unnecessary paperwork and generation of quintuplicate pre-printed forms.

On motion of Mr. Garten, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors that the Purchasing Policies and Procedures of Allegheny County be amended as follows:

Section IV. Purchasing Procedures

3. Purchase Orders.

CURRENT:

Purchases over \$1,000 are required to have a Purchase Order.

CHANGE TO:

Purchases over \$2,999.99 are required to have a Purchase Order.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE APPLICATION TO THE ALLEGHANY FOUNDATION FOR PARTIAL FUNDING OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER UP-FITTING COSTS:

Mr. Lanford stated that funds were included in the budget for additional School Resource Officers and initial up-fitting costs. He asked the Board to authorize an application to the Allegheny Foundation for \$67,550 which is 50% of up-fitting costs.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to apply for a grant through the Allegheny Foundation for partial funding of School Resource Officer up-fitting costs.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE AUDIT CONTRACT WITH ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES:

Ms. Adcock stated that the County issued a RFP on March 26th for audit services for years ending June 30, 2018 through June 30, 2020. She mentioned that proposals were due on April 16th and one proposal was received from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates. She stated that the fee for FY 18 would be \$47,200 with fees to increase 3.5% per fiscal year. She commented that staff recommends approval of the contract.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Garten, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the County advertised a Request for Proposal for firms to submit proposals for financial audit services for fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 through June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, one proposal was received by the April 16, 2018 deadline; and

WHEREAS, a committee consisting of Mr. Jonathan Lanford, County Administrator, and Ms. Suzanne Adcock, Director of Finance, reviewed the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the committee recommends that the Board accept the proposal received from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates (RFCA) in the amount of \$47,200.00 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 with fees for subsequent fiscal years increasing annually by 3.5%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors accept the abovementioned proposal from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates for financial audit services for fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 through June 30, 2020, with the option to renew the contract for up to two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorize Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to sign documents in relation to Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates conducting these audits on behalf of the County.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES TO THE TOWN OF IRON GATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING:

Mr. Lanford stated that there is a letter in the agenda packet from the Town of Iron Gate requesting a waiver of building permit fees for a new fire department building.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve waiving building permit fees for the Town of Iron Gate in relation to the construction of a new fire department building.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

APPROVE AUTHORIZATION OF A BONUS FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES IN FY18 UTILIZING FUNDS CURRENTLY IN THEIR BUDGET:

Ms. Crystal Bishop, DSS Administrative Services Manager, stated that on April 23, 2018 the Social Services Board voted to approve a \$1,000 bonus for Social Services employees. She commented that the additional funds were due to vacant positions not filled until later in the year.

Mr. Bennett mentioned that, as he understands, the funds are included in the Social Services budget and the Social Services Board has the right to authorize the bonus, but our Board needs to endorse the bonus in order to be reimbursed by the State. Ms. Bishop agreed.

Mrs. Cox added that the funds would be lost at the end of May if not used. Ms. Bishop commented that the State and Federal fiscal year ends June 1st and the Board's endorsement would need to be sent in before then.

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors authorize a bonus of \$1,000 in FY18 to all Department of Social Services employees utilizing funds currently in their budget.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Absent
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanford reviewed a handout placed at each seat which is a part of the records of this meeting. The report is as follows:

Rezone County-Owned Property at Exit 29

During our Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee work, it was brought to the attention of several of us that the approximately 169 acre County-owned tract is currently zoned AR. Staff would recommend Board authorization to begin the rezoning process for this parcel. Recommendation would be rezoning from AR to M-1.

Included with this memo is a copy of Virginia Code section regarding rezoning process, existing zoning overlay map, County code section regarding rezoning process, both AR and M-1 zoning sections, and map showing potential lot layout from Preliminary Engineering work completed in the late 90's.

Staff will request Board authorization by resolution at your June meeting to begin rezoning work.

Wrightsville CDBG Planning Grant

We continue work on our Comprehensive Planning Grant for revitalization of the Wrightsville Community. Staff has issued an RFP for consulting services and hope to bring a contract to you for approval in either July or August.

Joint Revenue Sharing Site Selection

Work continues on site prioritization. We meet with Draper Aden tomorrow morning to continue engineering analysis.

Brownfield Grant

AHEDC was recently awarded a \$600,000 grant from EPA to begin work evaluating potential brownfield redevelopment sites in the Highlands.

Budget Work Sessions

Please plan on budget work session for Tuesday, May 8th and 15th beginning at 6 p.m. If additional sessions are necessary, we will schedule accordingly. He added that the County will be looking at a refuse fee to off-set the need for a real estate tax increase.

Opportunity Zones

One low-income census tract in Allegheny County has been included in Governor Northam's recommendation to the Federal Government. The Opportunity Zone program is fairly new, but intends to provide incentives for private investment in designated areas. The Allegheny County tract includes area south of I-64 from west of Clifton Forge to City of Covington.

Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Session

On May 8th from noon to 6 p.m. a community outreach session will be held in Council Chambers at Covington City Hall from noon to 6 p.m. Our consultant and staff from both City and County will be present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Griffith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and also thanked the applicants for the School Board appointments.

Mrs. Cox stated that it is great to have more than one person apply for board and committee openings so that there are choices.

Ms. Vannorsdall commented that she attended the VACo County Supervisor’s Forum. She stated that there is a lot to learn. She mentioned visiting with offices, attending the Houff open house, and meeting with Deputy Chris Fisher (School Resource Officer).

Mr. Garten thanked the applicants for the School Board.

Mr. Bennett stated that it is great to get the \$600,000 Brownfield Grant as once those sites are rehabilitated they will be more marketable.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Garten, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of: (1) discuss potential acquisition and disposition of real property. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Garten, that the Board come out of the Closed Meeting with the following certification:

CERTIFICATION
SECTION 2.2-3712

To the best of our knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session.

/s/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/G. Matt Garten	Yes
/s/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard L. Shull	Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of the County Governmental Complex. Motion carried.

Stephen A. Bennett
Chairman