



MINUTES

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING ROOM
BEDFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

5:00 P.M. WORK SESSION

- a. Review of General Fund

6:00 P.M. Annual Report and Dinner with the Extension Office (*Main Floor Meeting Room*)

7:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

(1) Call to Order & Welcome

(2) Moment of Silence

(3) Pledge of Allegiance

(4) Approval of Agenda

(5) Citizen Comments (15 Minutes)

(6) Consent Agenda

- a. Consideration of a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue to authorize a refund to James Ohlert the amount of \$2,778.88, together with accrued interest, due to an erroneous assessment. (*Resolution #R020915-01*)

(7) Approval of Minutes – January 10th and 12th, 2015

(8) Public Hearings & Presentations

(9) Action & Discussion Items

- a. Consideration of a request to award the contract for restoration work on the Courthouse Clock Tower. (*Resolution #R020915-02*)

- *Staff Presentation: Sheldon Cash, Director of Public Works (also Public Works Committee Report)*

(10) Board Committee Reports

(11) Board Member Comments

(12) Board Appointments

(13) County Attorney Report

(14) County Administrator Report

(15) Board Information

- a. Bedford Regional Water Authority Board of Directors meeting minutes from December 16th, 2014
- b. VACo Notice of Mark Reeter's appointment to the 2015 General Government Steering Committee.
- c. Notice of AEP Review of VWP Permit, Smith Mountain Project #2210
- d. Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative meeting minutes from January 29, 2015 (draft)
- e. Bedford E-911 Communications Report for January 2015
- f. Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees meeting agenda for February 2, 2015

(16) Board Calendar & Reminders

- February 23rd – Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)
- March 2nd – Budget Work Session at 5:00 p.m.
- March 9th – Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

(17) Adjourn

5:00 P.M. – WORK SESSION

Board of Supervisors: *Tammy Parker, Chairman – District 7; Bill Thomasson, District 1; Steve Wilkerson, Vice-Chairman – District 3; Curry Martin, District 2; John Sharp, District 4; Steve Arrington, District 5; and **Annie Pollard, District 6

**Arrived at 5:02 p.m.*

***Arrived at 5:03 p.m.*

County Staff Present: County Administrator Mark Reeter, County Attorney Carl Boggess, Fiscal Management Director Susan Crawford, Accountant Ashley Anderson, Public Works Director Sheldon Cash, Community Development Director Gregg Zody, Fire and Rescue Chief Jack Jones, Jr., Chief of Rescue Division Janet Blankenship, and Executive Assistant Brigitte Luckett

Vice-Chairman Wilkerson called the meeting to order (the Chairman was delayed a few minutes due to attending a VDOT public hearing regarding a bridge replacement in her district), and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Reeter and Ms. Crawford for a review of the General Fund.

Mr. Reeter stated that this work session would be focused on the General Fund component of the FY2015-16 budget. He began his review with the latest Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) update

on the respective budgets for the State House and Senate, which contained information on the proposed elimination of local aid to the state; compensation for state supported local employees and teachers; the unfunded teacher liability (VRS); and the eliminated proposals to reimburse localities for the purchase of voting equipment.

There followed a brief discussion between the Supervisors and staff regarding the various potential impacts of matching the compensation to state supported employees for locally supported employees. It was noted that while the state’s additional 1.5% (for a total potential increase of 4.5%) would bring other localities deputies starting pay above the State’s poverty line, Bedford’s deputies starting pay is already higher than the compensation boards; the 1.5% would simply be treated as revenue (reimbursement) for what the County is already paying out in deputy salaries.

Mr. Reeter then began his review of the General Fund, noting that we are anticipating an additional \$239,000.00 as a result of the real estate reassessment. He said that the total FY2015 is at \$89,378,219.00 and the proposed/requested revenues for FY2016 is \$91,251,975.00, which is a difference of \$1,873,000.00 in additional revenue.

Mr. Reeter then briefly reviewed the current and anticipated expenditures, with clarifying questions being asked by the Board throughout his review:

	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016 Request</u>	<u>FY2016 Proposed</u>
General Government Administration	3,731,768	3,837,556	3,846,509
Judicial Administration	2,036,821	2,053,980	2,048,945
Public Safety	16,347,440	16,751,952	16,531,733
Public Works	4,457,993	4,577,949	4,479,339
Health, Welfare, & Education	10,279,998	10,705,857	10,693,718
Recreation & Cultural	2,942,967	2,997,781	2,928,731
Community Development	3,201,401	3,377,497	3,370,840
Non-Departmental	44,349,831	44,131,349	44,131,349
Reserve for Schools	1,530,000	1,530,000	1,530,000
Reserve for Solid Waste Expansion	500,000	500,000	500,000
2% Raise	-	-	340,000
Health insurance	-	-	255,000
Personal Protective Gear	-	-	90,000
Copsync	-	-	84,240
SRO	-	-	353,187
Blue Ridge Legal Services	-	-	7,717
Feeding America Southwest Virginia	-	-	5,000

Smith Mountain Lake	-	-	4,130
Roanoke Area Ministries	-	-	1,000
Grand Total Revenues	89,378,219	91,251,975	91,251,975
Grand Total Expenditures	89,378,219	90,463,921	91,201,438
Over (Under)	-	788,054	50,537

In response to a question from Supervisor Pollard, Mr. Reeter said the County has not received an official renewal yet from our insurance company. In response to a question from Supervisor Sharp, Ms. Crawford said that the School Division is not expecting a large increase in their insurance rates. She said she would follow up with Mr. Hagler at the School Board Office for this information. In response to other questions that were asked, Mr. Reeter clarified that the ‘Personal Protective Gear’ is separate from the apparatus funding the Board gave last year and would provide three sets of protective clothing for each department; ‘Copsync’ is being requested by the Sheriff’s Office, not the School Division; and ‘SRO’ is for 3 additional School Resource Officers (also requested by the Sheriff’s Office).

Supervisor Sharp reminded the Board that they did not allow the Sheriff to apply for grant money for SROs last year due to the concern that the funding to support these positions in later years would fall on the County. He said the Board has already made an alternative suggestion of allowing teachers and school staff to carry weapons instead of adding more SROs, and has forwarded this to the County’s legislators as a legislative priority in both 2014 and 2015.

Mr. Reeter said the Board will need to wait to see what the General Assembly decides to do with compensation, etc., before any final numbers can be decided upon, and asked the Supervisors if they had questions about the information presented this evening.

In response to a question from Supervisor Pollard, Mr. Reeter stated that funds have not at this time been diverted to the ‘Rainy Day Fund’. Ms. Crawford said she would bring an update showing what the reserves were at the next meeting.

Supervisor Martin noted that the funding for Smith Mountain Lake will be used towards events for the 50th Anniversary, which he feels will be money well spent.

Supervisor Sharp said he feels the Copsync request is a wise expenditure, but there are less costly solutions to the SROs. He said he is confident that if the County gives the employees a 2% raise the Schools will feel obliged to budget a raise for their employees as well, which means it is likely the money requested for SROs will be needed elsewhere. Another brief discussion followed regarding teacher and deputy compensation.

Mr. Reeter reiterated tonight’s presentation was very general, based on what we know at this point in time about the State’s proposed budget.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Parker recessed the meeting at 5:59 p.m. The Board moved to the Main Floor Meeting Room for the Extension Office's Annual Presentation and dinner.

7:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors: Tammy Parker, Chairman – District 7; Bill Thomasson, District 1; Steve Wilkerson, Vice-Chairman – District 3; Curry Martin, District 2; John Sharp, District 4; Steve Arrington, District 5; and Annie Pollard, District 6

Staff Present: County Administrator Mark K. Reeter, County Attorney Carl Boggess, Public Works Director Sheldon Cash and Executive Assistant Brigitte Luckett

REGULAR MEETING

(1) Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

(2) Chairman Parker asked the room to observe a moment of silence.

(3) Chairman Parker led the room in the pledge of allegiance.

(4) Approval of Agenda

- Additional Documentation for Agenda Item #9a: Under 'Action & Discussion Items' – Public Works Committee Meeting Notes (related to the Courthouse Clock Tower contract award).

Supervisor Sharp made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

**Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wilkerson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Arrington,
Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker**

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

(5) Citizen Comments

- Gregory Modselewski, citizen from Bedford, addressed the Board by stating that he is willing to pay more in taxes for the School System if there is actual student improvement. He said teacher salaries need to be tied to results, and asked the Board to give a \$1 million bonus to the teachers if 75% of the schools become accredited. Mr. Modselewski asked that a \$2 million bonus be given if 100% of the schools are accredited. He said that since the teachers are the ones who would have to do the heavy lifting to achieve accreditation, they should be the ones to receive the bonus if they succeed.

- Jackie Davis, citizen from Thaxton, addressed the Board with a prayer.
- John Briscoe, citizen of Thaxton, addressed the Board by stating that he has to pay \$600 a year in taxes on a new truck he had to purchase for his business and he doesn't know what he is getting in return. Mr. Briscoe said that if had known how high the tax would be, he wouldn't have bought the truck. He said before anyone gets too excited about giving out raises to anyone, they should keep in mind that he had a 20% loss last year and he would like to be made whole for that. He said that being generous with someone else's money is called stealing, and asked that the Board consider how many people live hand to mouth and can't afford an increase in their taxes. He said he hasn't gotten a raise and it isn't right to give one to County employees.

(6) Consent Agenda

Mr. Reeter read the Consent Agenda for the benefit of those in attendance.

Vice-Chairman Wilkerson made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Consideration of a request from the Commissioner of the Revenue to authorize a refund to James Ohlert the amount of \$2,778.88, together with accrued interest, due to an erroneous assessment. (*Resolution #R020915-01*)

**Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wilkerson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Arrington,
Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker**

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

(7) Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairman Wilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2015 as presented.

Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wilkerson, Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker

Voting no: None

Abstained: Mr. Sharp and Mr. Arrington

Motion passed.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman noted a correction on line 381, page 12 of the minutes for January 12, 2015; specifically, it was the County Administrator who called for the nomination of the Vice-Chairman, not Chairman Parker.

Vice-Chairman Wilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015 as corrected.

**Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wilkerson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Arrington,
Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker**

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

(8) Public Hearings & Presentations – *There were no public hearings or presentations*

(9) Action & Discussion Items

(9a) Director of Public Works Sheldon Cash addressed the Board with a request to award the contract for restoration work on the Courthouse Clock Tower. Mr. Cash reviewed the process that led to the request before the Board this evening, noting that this will be the first time significant improvements will be made to the structure since the 1930s. He said the low bid was received from Jamerson-Lewis Construction, Inc. at a proposed base bid of \$637,265.00 (before roofing alternates are taken into consideration). Mr. Cash clarified that if the Board chooses to go with a metal roof, the bid would be reduced by \$50,000.00.

Mr. Jeremy Lucas, representative from Masters Engineers, addressed the Board to explain the cost differences in the slate versus the metal roofing options. He stated that while the slate was more expensive, it was expected to last longer than the metal roofing and could provide savings over the long-term. It was also noted that the north portion of the Courthouse roof would probably need to be replaced in approximately five years, as it is also nearing the end of its useful life and is showing signs of degradation.

There followed a brief discussion between Mr. Lucas, staff and members of the Board on the merits of the two types of roofing, the anticipated maintenance costs, etc.. Supervisor Sharp voiced his concern that by going with metal roofing he is risking having to replace the roof earlier than a slate roof, which means passing the long-term costs along to the next generation. Supervisor Arrington, speaking as an experienced builder, noted the proven durability of metal roofs and their historical use throughout the County, as well as the costs associated with the yearly maintenance that is normally needed on slate roofs. After some debate, the consensus of the Board was to opt for the metal roofing, which is used extensively throughout the County and has proven to be very durable and long-wearing in the past.

Supervisor Pollard noted that she felt a metal roof was a more responsible use of taxpayer funds at this time.

Supervisor Pollard made a motion to approve Resolution #R011215-02 with a metal roof and copper on the bell tower cap.

Supervisor Thomasson commented that if the Courthouse was ever relocated, the new tenants in the Courthouse building would probably want a low maintenance roof, so he was also in favor of metal instead of slate.

WHEREAS, the Bedford County Courthouse has experienced significant water infiltration due to leaks; and

WHEREAS, the Courthouse and more specifically the Bell Tower are iconic architectural elements in Bedford; and

WHEREAS, Master Engineers and Designers has been contracted to evaluate the necessary repair and prepare the required specifications for an Invitation to Bid; and

WHEREAS, three firms responded to the Invitation to Bid; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsive bidder was Jamerson-Lewis Construction, Inc. at a proposed base bid of \$637,265; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee also recommends replacement of the copper cap on top of the Bell Tower at an additional cost of \$10,646; and

WHEREAS, the Board has decided to utilize a standing-seam metal roof, which reduces the base bid by \$50,000 to \$587,265;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors that the Board does hereby authorize the County Administrator to execute any documents and/or contracts, upon review as to form by the County Attorney, to initiate and complete the work as specified in the Board's authorized Invitation to Bid.

Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Arrington, Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker

Voting no: Mr. Sharp and Mr. Wilkerson

Motion passed.

(10) Board Committee Reports – *there were no committee reports at this time*

(11) Board Member Comments

Supervisor Pollard thanked Mr. Modselewski for his comments this evening and said she would be in favor of his proposal if it is legal.

Vice-Chairman Wilkerson informed Mr. Cash that the 'Welcome to Bedford County' sign on Route 460 East is down. Mr. Cash noted he had been made aware of this issue just this evening and will be working to have the sign restored.

(12) Board Appointments – *there were no appointments*

(13) County Attorney Report

Attorney Boggess stated that hearings with the Board of Equalization regarding the real estate reassessments will be scheduled for March.

(14) County Administrator Report

Mr. Reeter reminded the Board that he will be getting in touch with members of both the Personnel and Public Safety Committees to schedule meetings.

(15) Board Information

- a. The Board was given a copy of the Bedford Regional Water Authority Board of Directors meeting minutes from December 16th, 2014 for review.
 - b. The Board was given a copy of the VACo Notice of Mark Reeter's appointment to the 2015 General Government Steering Committee for review.
 - c. The Board was given a copy of the Notice of AEP Review of VWP Permit, Smith Mountain Project #2210 for review.
 - d. The Board was given a copy of the Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative draft meeting minutes from January 29, 2015 for review.
 - e. The Board was given a copy of the Bedford E-911 Communications Report for January 2015 for review.
 - f. The Board was given a copy of the Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees meeting agenda for February 2, 2015 for review.
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(16) Board Calendar & Reminders

Chairman Parker noted the Board's upcoming meetings as follows: February 23rd – Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.); March 2nd – Budget Work Session at 5:00 p.m.; March 9th – Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

(17) Adjourn

Supervisor Sharp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

**Voting yes: Mr. Thomasson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Wilkerson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Arrington,
Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Parker**

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

Tammy Parker, Chairman