



MINUTES

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BEDFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

MARCH 9, 2015

7:00 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 Sheriff's Office to submit an application for the Smart Policing Initiative FY2015 Competitive Grant Application. (*Resolution #R030915-01*)
 - b. Consideration of a request from the Sheriff's Office for a position change in the Bedford County Pay and Classification Plan (covered under the State Internet Crimes Against Children Program Grant). (*Resolution #R030915-02*)
- (7) Approval of Minutes – no sets are ready for approval at this time**
- (8) Public Hearings & Presentations**
 - a. Presentation – Proclamation Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month (*Presented to Susan Shutt, CASA Representative*)
- (9) Action & Discussion Items**
 - a. Consideration of a request from the Tourism Department to approve a resolution endorsing the “Virginia Mountains” Regional State Tourism Marketing Designation for Bedford County. (*Resolution #R030915-03*)
 - *Staff Presentation: Jerry Craig, Tourism Director*
- (10) Board Committee Reports**
 - a. Public Safety Committee Report - February 18 Meeting
 - b. Personnel Committee Report - February 25 Meeting

(11) Board Member Comments

(12) Board Appointments

(13) County Attorney Report

- a. Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (3) for consideration of the acquisition or disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of negotiating strategy of the public body.

(14) County Administrator Report

- a. Report concerning compliance with Virginia Code §58.1-3321 with respect to County Reassessment of Real Property
- b. Notification of change of venue for the April 13th public hearing on the budget and tax rate

(15) Board Information

- a. Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative meeting minutes from January 29, 2015
- b. Bedford Public Library System Board of Trustees meeting agenda for March 3, 2015

(16) Board Calendar & Reminders

- March 23rd – Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)
- April 9th – VDOT Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)
- April 13th – Regular meeting (Public Hearing on Budget and Tax Rate **to be held at BSTC**) (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

(17) Adjourn

7:00 P.M.

Board of Supervisors: Chairman Tammy Parker – District 7; Vice-Chairman Steve Wilkerson – District 3; Bill Thomasson, District 1; 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, Tourism Director Jerry Craig, Community Development Director Gregg Zody, IT Director Eric Rice and Executive Assistant Brigitte Luckett

REGULAR MEETING

- (1) 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**

Mr. Reeter noted that agenda item #8a, Presentation of a Proclamation in Recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, has been postponed until the March 23rd meeting.

Supervisor Arrington 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**

- Ethel Knoll, citizen from Hardy, addressed the Board with a request to make her neighborhood part of the 'No Dogs Running at Large' Ordinance. Mrs. Knoll stated that her own dogs have been attacked in her yard in the past, and her neighbors have also had numerous problems with roaming dogs. Attorney Boggess told Mrs. Knoll that he would send her the paperwork and information on how to add her neighborhood to the Ordinance. Supervisor Sharp suggested that Mrs. Knoll should try to get signatures from the subdivisions surrounding her property, as a larger area will make enforcement easier for Animal Control.
- Jackie Davis, citizen from Thaxton, addressed the Board with a prayer.

(6) **Consent Agenda**

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

Supervisor Thomasson made a motion to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Consideration of a request from the Sheriff's Office to submit an application for the Smart Policing Initiative FY2015 Competitive Grant Application. (*Resolution #R030915-01*)
- b. Consideration of a request from the Sheriff's Office for a position change in the Bedford County Pay and Classification Plan (covered under the State Internet Crimes Against Children Program Grant). (*Resolution #R030915-02*)

**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

There were no sets of minutes ready for approval.

(8) Public Hearings & Presentations

There were no public hearings or presentations.

(9) Action & Discussion Items

(9a) Tourism Director Jerry Craig addressed the Board with a request from the Tourism Department to approve a resolution endorsing the “Virginia Mountains” Regional State Tourism Marketing Designation for Bedford County. Mr. Craig noted that this request has been two years in the making, and will assist with branding and cooperative marketing for Bedford County in tourism. He gave a brief overview of the process that led to the request before the Board this evening, and noted the marketing benefits the County receives through the Virginia Tourism Commission (VTC). Mr. Craig stated that the VTC is not affiliated with Region 2000 (R2K) and does not have any overlapping programs with R2K. He said he has reached out to community shareholders such as the D-Day Memorial Foundation, Peaks of Otter, etc, and has received overwhelming support for this request.

In response to a question from Supervisor Arrington, Mr. Craig stated that Bedford would be the southern-most county in the regional designation. There followed a brief discussion between Mr. Craig and members of the Board regarding the benefits of this proposal.

Supervisor Pollard made a motion to approve Resolution #R030915-03.

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) currently has eight marketing regions in the Commonwealth, of which Bedford County is the western most county in the Central Virginia Marketing Region, that region extending to Richmond and south to Emporia; and

WHEREAS, VTC markets Bedford County for tourism along with all of these other Central Virginia counties, yet it is questionable about tourism-related commonalities that we have with these counties; and

WHEREAS, for approximately two years the Bedford County Department of Tourism has been considering moving to a newly proposed region, to be called the "Virginia Mountains" Marketing Region; and

WHEREAS, many of Bedford's neighboring counties recognize there is need for change due to their commonalities with other mountainous counties in this part of the Commonwealth not currently reflected by the VTC's current marketing regions; and

WHEREAS, these counties are ready to petition the VTC to create this new Virginia Mountains region; counties moving forward in this regard are Franklin, Roanoke, Botetourt, Allegheny, Bath,

Highland, Floyd, Pulaski, Montgomery and Giles, with Patrick and Rockbridge Counties and City of Lexington also giving serious consideration at this time; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County has always been associated with the Blue Ridge Mountains but is not being marketed and promoted as such; and

WHEREAS, the advantages of moving to this newly created region would be to improve Bedford County's branding as a mountainous county; to increase and enhance our marketing capabilities for Smith Mountain Lake and its shared history with Franklin County (i.e. co-op advertising, etc.); and possibly increasing the financial support from VTC being in a smaller region; and

WHEREAS, for the last 2 ½ months the Bedford County Department of Tourism has investigated the pros and cons by conversing with other mountainous counties, the county's stakeholders and with the VTC - nearly all finding the move to be positive and advantageous;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors that the Board does hereby support moving to a new marketing region called the "Virginia Mountains" Marketing Region and further directs the Bedford County Department of Tourism to advocate and support for establishing this new region and inclusion of Bedford County therein.

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

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

(10) Board Committee Reports

(10a) The Board was given a copy of the Public Safety Committee Report from February 18th meeting for review.

(10b) The Board was given a copy of the Personnel Committee Report from February 25th meeting for review.

(11) Board Member Comments

Supervisor Wilkerson asked if a decision was made whether a joint meeting would be held between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. There followed a brief discussion between Mr. Reeter and the Board, with the Board deciding to have the School Board make a budget presentation to the Board at the work session on March 23rd.

Supervisor Pollard said Liberty High School has never gotten a competition gym, which she believes is required by State law. Supervisor Martin said that the gym is still on the discussion table and has not been eliminated from the design plan. Supervisor Arrington concurred, and said there are just

several unknown issues right now that still need to be worked out. Supervisor Sharp said they also need to work to be sure to use taxpayer funds wisely.

(12) Board Appointments – no appointments were made

(13) County Attorney Report

Supervisor Sharp made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (3) for consideration of the acquisition or disposition of real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of negotiating strategy of the public body; motion passed by acclamation.

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

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

Supervisor Sharp made a motion to go back into regular session; motion passed by acclamation.

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

Voting no: None

Motion passed.

WHEREAS, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Bedford County Board of Supervisors.

MEMBERS:

Tammy Parker, Chairman

VOTE:

Yes

Steve Wilkerson, Vice-Chairman	Yes
Bill Thomasson	Yes
Curry W. Martin	Yes
John Sharp	Yes
Steve Arrington	Yes
Annie S. Pollard	Yes

(14) County Administrator Report

(14a) Mr. Reeter gave the Board a certification concerning compliance with Virginia Code §58.1-3321 with respect to ‘County Reassessment of Real Property’. Mr. Reeter said this document states Bedford will not have to go through the equalization process due to the reassessment having basically remained flat.

(14b) Mr. Reeter notified the Board of the change of venue (from the Administration Building to the Bedford Science and Technology Center) for the April 13th public hearing on the budget and tax rate.

(15) Board Information

(15a) The Board was given the Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative meeting minutes from January 29, 2015 for review.

Supervisor Sharp questioned the appropriateness of including the Bedford/Franklin Regional Rail Initiative (BFRI) meeting minutes in the agenda packet since they are not an appointed Board Committee. Mr. Reeter clarified that this is a citizen group that has asked for County and Town officials to meet with them to assist in pursuing a rail stop within the Town of Bedford. Supervisor Sharp said he understood the purpose and that the Supervisors have in the past stated their support for the rail stop, but he doesn’t feel the minutes should be in the official Board agenda packet. Mr. Reeter responded that these minutes are included for information purposes only. There followed a brief discussion between the Board members, with the consensus being reached to continue to include future sets of BFRI minutes in the Board agenda packets as an information item.

(15b) The Board was given the Bedford Public Library System Board of Trustees meeting agenda for March 3, 2015 for review.

(16) Board Calendar & Reminders

Chairman Parker noted the Board’s upcoming meetings as follows: March 23rd – Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.); April 9th – VDOT Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. (Tentative

Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.); April 13th – Regular meeting (Public Hearing on Budget and Tax Rate to be held at BSTC) (Work Session 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

(17) Adjourn

Supervisor Sharp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

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

Voting no: None

Motion passed.