

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
January 10, 2006

The Grayson County Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by William Ring. Members present were Joe Vaughan, Larry Bartlett, Doug Carrico, Mike Maynard, and Ralph Tuggle. Mr. Graham Parks also attended.

The invocation was led by Ralph Tuggle, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was the reorganization meeting for the board of supervisors. William Ring announced that at this time a Chairman would be selected, Vice Chairman, and also a Clerk of the Board. Mr. Ring opened the floor for nominations for Chairman for the Grayson County Board of Supervisors for the calendar year of 2006. Doug Carrico nominated Ralph Tuggle and it was duly seconded by Joe Vaughan. A motion that nominations be closed was made by Larry Bartlett and was duly seconded by Mike Maynard. Ralph Tuggle was approved by acclamation.

Newly selected Chairman, Ralph Tuggle took over the meeting. Mr. Tuggle opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman for the Board of Supervisors. A motion was made to nominate Larry Bartlett by Joe Vaughan and was duly seconded by Doug Carrico. A motion that nominations be closed was made by Mike Maynard and duly seconded by Joe Vaughan. The motion to close nominations was approved unanimously by roll call vote. Mr. Bartlett was approved as Vice Chairman unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Tuggle opened the floor for the selection of Clerk of the Board and nominated Mr. William Ring as Clerk of the Board. The nomination was duly seconded by Larry Bartlett. A motion was made that nominations be closed was made by Joe Vaughan and duly seconded by Doug Carrico. The motion to close nominations was approved. Mr. Ring was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

The next item of business was the approval of the agenda. There were no additions or deletions from the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Doug Carrico and duly seconded by Joe Vaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes from the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry Bartlett and duly seconded by Joe Vaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the monthly bills. A motion was made to approve the monthly bills was made by Joe Vaughan and duly seconded by Larry Bartlett. Doug Carrico had a question about check number 16566 for Grayson County School Board maintenance vehicle, asking if it was for building inspection. It was confirmed by William Ring that it was building inspection. Mr. Bartlett asked if this was the garage. Mr. Ring said yes, that this was maintenance on the building inspection

vehicles at the bus garage. There were no further questions. The motion to pay the bills carried unanimously.

Mr. Matthew Cox from VDOT was welcomed by Chairman Tuggle. Mr. Cox brought up a question about the possibility of putting up stop signs at the intersections of Route 607 and 785 Fishers Gap Road. Mr. Cox said that this had been discussed with the District Tracking Engineering Staff and they did not recommend placing a three way stop at this intersection. Mr. Cox informed the board that Route 607 carries double the traffic (over 500 vehicles per day) than Route 785 where it intersects and they felt like it would be creating more of a safety concern, saying that if stop signs were placed at that intersection, maybe if the speed limit were reduced (it is currently posted at 45) to 35 it might help.

Larry Bartlett stated that the motivation of the issue was the utilization of the church parking lot when church is dismissed and people are leaving, there becomes a traffic hazard. Mr. Bartlett asked what other solution could be offered beyond reducing the speed limit to 35 miles per hour. Mr. Cox replied that some additional signs approaching the intersection might be helpful to alert travelers about approaching the intersection. Mr. Bartlett then asked Mr. Cox if rumble strips had been considered. Mr. Cox said that rumble strips may be a possibility, but with that much traffic volume on that route, they wanted to keep the traffic moving as much as possible. He also stated that as to the sight distance issue, there might be something that could be done from the cemetery that might help visibility looking West on 607, but they were very much limited. Mr. Cox also suggested that he and Mr. Bartlett and the District Traffic Engineer have a meeting before the next Board of Supervisors meeting and maybe see if there are other alternatives to be looked at that may be safe and acceptable for everyone. Mr. Bartlett stated that he would be glad to participate and that maybe the members of that community would be glad to participate as well. Mr. Bartlett then asked if there were any way to manage that traffic during Sundays, suggesting possibly a blinking light that operated and reduced the speed on Sundays. Mr. Cox said that this was something that they could possibly look at but he wanted to get input from the District Engineer before they could proceed with that. Mr. Bartlett stated that due to the fact that many of the drivers attending that church were elderly and reacted slower to traffic situations, the simplest thing would be a stop sign.

Joe Vaughan stated that on Providence Road off Spring Valley Road (805), there needed to be something done about the trees where F & F Farm and Auto is. Mr. Cox asked if this was on 604 or 805 and Mr. Vaughan stated that it was on 604 on Providence Road. Mr. Vaughan stated that during the winter when sleet and freezing rain is on the trees, the tree limbs hung down, hitting the tops of vehicles. He also stated that the trees shade the road, keeping ice there longer than anywhere else on the road.

Ralph Tuggle asked whether Hidden Valley Road would be cared for in the springtime. Mr. Cox stated that VDOT approved the money for this and once the weather improved in the spring, they would try to begin work then. Mr. Tuggle then asked if VDOT had come up with any ideas as far as the curve on Peach Bottom Road. Mr. Cox said they had a couple of alternatives depending on what kind of right of way they could get in

there. He said they were going to try to tie down costs on both of those and see which the Board would progress toward.

Mike Maynard addressed Mr. Cox regarding a stretch of Highway 16, at the intersection of Teasterwood and Highway 16. This intersection, he stated, has been the scene of two accidents Christmas Eve and from talking to some people in the community, it seems to be a section of the highway that there have been a number of accidents at over the years. The issue, he said, that this is a relatively high speed part of the highway because it is one of the few straight pieces of Highway 16, also it tends to be a section of the highway that is the first to freeze and the last to thaw. Mr. Maynard stated that both of the vehicles from Christmas Eve wound up in Wilson Creek, one of which was upside down. Mr. Maynard suggested that perhaps a guardrail to help vehicles stay out of the creek might be a solution.

Chairman Tuggle asked if anyone else had anything that they would like to bring up with Mr. Cox that had not been covered yet. Barbara Russell spoke asking for an update on Rocky Hollow Road. Mr. Klienke, she stated, had offered some of his land to widen the road and currently has not heard from VDOT about this. Mr. Cox stated that VDOT planned on doing this in the spring. VDOT has gotten an estimate together. Mr. Cox stated that he would contact Mr. Klienke. He also stated that there was a question about that right of way along that western slope about 800 feet from the horse trailer camp, as to whether that was National Forest or Mr. Klienke or what and that this was something that needed to be cleared up. Barbara Russell stated that he did own that section of land. Ms. Russell asked for an estimate of how long it would take once it was begun. Mr. Cox estimated a few weeks to construct the project. Ms. Russell expressed concern about how horse trailers would be able to maneuver around bull dozers doing the construction and Mr. Cox assured her that there would be flagmen with the construction.

Chairman Tuggle stated that the Treasurer's report was included in the information packets, and noted that Mr. Young was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Tuggle asked Mr. Ring if it was correct that the audit should be completed by now. Mr. Ring replied that this was correct that it should be very soon...hopefully before the next board meeting. Mr. Tuggle stated that he felt that it would be valuable for the auditors to present this at the February board meeting as was done last year. He then asked if there were any questions as to where the Treasurer's report was concerned. There were no questions, so the next item of business was addressed.

The next item of business was Old Business. The first item of Old Business was the meeting date. There was a request included in the information packets from Tina Vaughan requesting that the Board reconsider the decision to hold meetings on Tuesday nights because of the conflict of the Independence Town Council. Chairman Tuggle suggested three alternative dates that might be available: the first Monday night, the first Wednesday night, and the second Wednesday night. The first Monday and the first Wednesday were bad choices due to the need to get things like bills and other things together. This left the second Wednesday as the only alternative choice. Mr. Vaughan asked if the Board needed to meet before or after the School Board meets. The school

board meets the second Monday of the month, but that is not always before the Board of Supervisors meeting. The date for public hearings would remain the same or Mr. Tuggle suggested that the public hearings be switched to the second Wednesday and the Board of Supervisors meeting then be held on the second Thursday, but that this was an alternative that they had not looked at. Joe Vaughan suggested that the meeting schedule be left on Tuesday and that if night didn't work, then have the meeting during the day. Being no consensus to change anything at the present time, it was decided to move on to the next item of business.

The next item of business was the 2006 Working Session. Chairman Tuggle proposed that, because the Thursday night public hearings are fairly straightforward and don't usually last very long, that the board do the Goals Working Session immediately after the completion of the public hearings on Thursday night, January 12th. Without objection, the Goals Working Session was scheduled for that time.

The next item of Old Business was the extended toll free calling area. Chairman Tuggle stated that by passing this resolution, if they act on this resolution and a poll is taken of the subscribers in this area for a county wide toll free calling area and that poll does not pass, the county has an exposure for somewhere between \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the cost of that poll. He further explained that if the request for calling area is a user generated increased calling area, in other words, by a petition if the poll is taken and fails, there is no liability to pay for it on the county's part. The State Corporation Commission made the following recommendation – that this board withdraw the resolution that they passed requesting the SCC establish a county wide toll free calling area and instead, the SCC will work with the county to determine the interest of subscribers in each of the calling exchanges of the county, which are Fries, Galax, Independence, Mouth of Wilson, Konnarock, Sugar Grove, Whitetop, and Comers Rock. They will work with generating a petition for the subscribers in that area and each petition will be acted on separately, which can have the effect of accomplishing the same thing – county wide toll free calling without exposing the county to a possible cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000 if it does not pass. The people would be voting on whether they wanted to continue paying long distance or whether they were willing to see their base phone bill go up by a dollar or so a month so that they have toll free calling. This is an expansion of people's ability to make toll free calls, this is not a trade off. The areas that can be called toll free now will remain so. This will enable Troutdale or Whitetop to call Independence toll free and they would be able to make any calls into Smyth or Washington County that they can right now. A move to rescind the resolution requesting an expansion of the toll free calling area was made by Larry Bartlett and was duly seconded by Doug Carrico. The motion carried unanimously.

The last item of Old Business was a letter regarding drought relief. Mr. Ring addressed how dry it was last summer and how this adversely affected the farmers' abilities for fall grazing and fall pasture. He also stated that drought relief had been requested for Grayson County. He stated that the request had been processed and the county should be hearing something from this in the next few months in regard to drought relief. Mr. Ring

stated that there were also some other southwest Virginia counties that had submitted the same information that Grayson County did requesting drought relief.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. The first item of this was the request from Wythe Grayson Regional Library for its quarterly appropriation of \$48,447.25. A motion to appropriate this amount was made by Joe Vaughan and duly seconded by Doug Carrico. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The next item on the agenda was Information.

The first item of the Information section was a letter from Mr. Fred Saul, dealing with recycling information that Mr. Saul found on the internet. Part of the County Administrator's report will update the board on the recycling capability for our county.

The second item of Information was a letter from the Virginia Lottery providing the board with the information of how much money the lottery was able to turn over to the Commonwealth's public schools in fiscal year 2005.

The third item was a letter received by the board from Mr. McGrady having to do with the cell tower coverage in the western part of the county or the lack thereof and the request for some action. Yesterday the board received in the mail a letter from the law offices of Trimblay and Smith, LLP in Charlottesville (attorneys for US Cellular), which was read by Chairman Tuggle stating that they were seeking to expand cell service in remote areas.

The next item of Information was an executive summary from Mt. Rogers Planning District having to do with waste water collection, treatment, and disposal infrastructure. Mr. Bartlett stated that this was a study conducted by the Planning District Committees in all of Southwestern Virginia showing that there are needs in Grayson County in waste water disposal, particularly in Fairview. He also stated that having adequate waste water disposal facilities is instrumental in getting industry in this county.

The next Information item was an article from the most recent Virginia Issues and Answers magazine published by Virginia Tech for Virginia municipalities and counties

The next item of Information was a letter from the editor of the Declaration requesting the consideration of changing the meeting night.

The last item of information was the school financial reports as of November 30th.

The next item on the agenda was the County Administrator Report from William Ring. Mr. Ring had two items to discuss in his report - the first being recycling. The recycling center in Galax recently closed and the county has engaged in negotiations in speaking with Alleghany County, NC. Alleghany County is currently accepting recyclables from Grayson County and their location is closer than the one in Galax was. Mr. Ring stated that they were convenient and had easy access. Mr. Ring spoke of a recycling center in

Beckley, WVA that he felt would be a good model for Grayson County to look at when considering building a facility.

The second item Mr. Ring had was the VDOT Six Year Plan is now complete. Mr. Ring stated that he felt like the Six Year Plan was going to become more accurate than it had in the past.

Mike Maynard spoke regarding the new school board that had just been put into place, suggesting the board meet with the school board to get to know the new members and asked the best way to go about doing something like this. Joe Vaughan stated that the board normally does this. Monday, January 23rd from 6-8 pm, there will be a reception for Ms. Thomas, new school superintendent, which is open to everybody. Mr. Maynard suggested a meeting apart from this to get to know them personally.

Public Comments

Barbara Russell spoke regarding the county web site and noted that up until April 28th, there were the basic minutes of the Board of Supervisors meetings were on the web site and wondered if this had been discontinued or perhaps, it was a mistake. Mr. Tuggle stated to her that it has not been discontinued on purpose.

Ellen Brewer stated that she was attending the meeting regarding Rocky Hollow Road.

Chairman Tuggle made a motion for the board to go into executive session as follows: Pursuant to Section 2.1-3 44.1A of the Code of Virginia, Chairman moved that the board convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters: Discussing candidates for appointments to various committees and commissions, to discuss the Administrator's new contract and it's terms, and to discuss matters concerning two other employees. Mr. Tuggle stated to the press that they should have decisions on the Administrator's contract and on selection of personnel appointments to be made following the closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tuggle announced that on this 10th day of January, 2006 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and aware that Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, requires this board of supervisors that such an executive meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law, therefore be resolved that the board of supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge on the public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies and to only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the board of supervisors with recorded confirmation for members as follows: The members certified confirmation unanimously by roll call vote. Mr. Tuggle made a motion that the board accept an employment agreement with the

Grayson County Administrator incorporating the terms and conditions discussed in the closed session. An effective date of this agreement being January 11, 2006. The motion was duly seconded by Mike Maynard. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tuggle announced that the following appointments have been made to Mount Rogers Planning District: The representative from the Grayson County Planning Commission will be the Chairman of the Planning Commission based on the reorganization of the Planning Commission at their first meeting of the year. Social Services board appointment – Mary Lucy Fields; Rooftop of Virginia CAP – Mike Maynard. Mount Rogers Mental Health is open. Mount Rogers Economic Development Partnership – Ralph Tuggle; Industrial Development Authority – Robert Williams, Larry Osborne, and Jason Cassell; Records Manager – Lisa Robertson; Regional Jail Authority – Ralph Tuggle; Solid Waste Authority – Ralph Tuggle; County Planning Commission – Edgar Dean Edwards, Claude Rutherford, Marla Phillips, and Don Young; Mount Rogers Planning District Transportation Committee – Larry Bartlett; Emergency Medical Services – Robby Wingate; District III Cooperative – Mike Maynard; Grayson Regional Library Board of Trustees – Ralph Tuggle, Gretchen Jones; Mount Rogers ASAP – Doug Carrico; Building Inspection Board of Appeals – Raymond Tomlinson, Don Dudley; Resource Conservation & Development Board – Doug Carrico; Southwest Development Finance, Inc. 9th District Development Financing Committee – James Meyer; Comprehensive Services Act/Family Management Policy Team – Emily Wright; Regional Industrial Facilities Authority – Ralph Tuggle; Work Force Investment Board – Ralph Tuggle; Whitetop Community Services Facility – Mike Maynard; Recreation Policy Board – Shannon Holdaway, Matt Cassell.

A motion was made to accept these appointments for the year 2006 by Ralph Tuggle and was duly seconded by Mike Maynard. The motion was passed with a vote of 4-1. Joe Vaughan cast the lone dissenting vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned.

IT IS ORDERED THAT THIS BOARD ADJOURN:

_____, Chairman

