

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
September 25, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room, 600 North Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia on September 25, 2018. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Chairman Conrad A. Helsley, Vice Chairman Dick Neese, Steve Baker, Richard Walker, Karl Roulston and Dennis Morris. Others present included County Administrator Mary T. Price, Assistant County Administrator Evan Vass, Deputy Clerk Chris Sherman and County Attorney Jason Ham.

An invocation was given by Supervisor Baker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Supervisor Neese made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Baker to approve the September 25, 2018 regular meeting agenda as presented. The Motion was approved by a vote of 6-0 as follows:**

**Ayes: Baker, Walker, Roulston, Morris, Neese and Helsley.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF NON-ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discussion regarding tax relief for elderly and disabled citizens.

Ms. Price explained that the board requested review of the tax relief chapter on an annual basis.

Kathy Black, Commissioner of Revenue was available to answer questions by the board. She indicated that the office has seen no significant changes since amending Chapter 146 Tax Relief in 2016.

Supervisor Roulston questioned the asset amount indicated for citizens and suggested an increase might be necessary.

Supervisor Walker proposed the income ranges increase 15% due to the fact it has been 2.5 years since the last change and because a real estate tax increase was adopted this year.

Chairman Helsley asked to see the proposals by Supervisor Walker in writing.

Supervisor Walker requested a comparison graph of tax relief used by other adjoining localities would be a helpful resource.

Ms. Black said she could have that prepared for the October 4 board meeting.

2. Discussion related to the invitation for bid for the proposed Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Communications Center Office Complex.

Jim Boyd, Architect with Grimm and Parker stated that they were pleased that three bids were received and the lowest bid received was from Lantz Construction of Winchester in the amount of \$ 8,039,000 million dollars. Mr. Boyd explained that an amendment related to concrete, grout and drywall in certain sections of the building was added after the bid opening in the amount of \$13,500.00 by the architects prior to finalizing the contract. Supervisor Morris asked if local contractors would be afforded the opportunity as sub-contractors and Mr. Boyd said he would make sure the general contractor is aware of their availability.

Mr. Boyd said a sidewalk in front of the building is included in the bid but added that furniture will be a separate procurement.

Mr. Vass explained that those items are included as part of the request to amend the 2019 budget amendment on the agenda as Old Business Item C-3.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** (other than matters previously the subject of a public hearing)

Robert Clark of 967 Fairview Circle, Woodstock spoke in support of the Sheriff's Office Complex.

Lee Scharf of 129 S. Main Street, Woodstock spoke on behalf of supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment adding that we still do not have all rights equal to men.

Ms. Scharf provided her full prepared statement to the board members and the statement will be kept on file with agenda documents in County Administration.

Karen Kwiatowski of 1785 Deerhead Road, Mt. Jackson commented that she is an instructor of government at Lord Fairfax Community College and said there is no reason to change the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> amendment.

Dennis Atwood of 24230 Old Valley Pike, Maurertown spoke in favor of seeking the Board's support and approval of the ERA Resolution.

Chairman Helsley acknowledged a prepared statement on behalf of Stephen Curtis of 401 Forest View Drive, Edinburg who could not be in attendance and who is opposed to the Resolution for Ratification of the ERA. The statement will be kept on file with agenda documents in County Administration.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Supervisor Neese made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Baker to approve the consent agenda. The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0 as follows:**

**Ayes: Baker, Walker, Morris, Roulston, Neese and Helsley.**

1. Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2018 and September 6, 2018 regular meetings.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

To receive citizen comments in accordance with Section 15.2-2507 and Section 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to adopt an ordinance amending Shenandoah County's fiscal year 2018-2019 annual budget. It is proposed that the budget be amended to include the replacement of Shenandoah County's public safety radio system and the construction of a new office complex for use by the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office and department of emergency communications. The total budget amendment will increase the budgeted expenditures and offsetting revenues by \$19,750,000. The total proposed expenditure is delineated as follows: public safety radio system: \$11,000,000, Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office Complex, including emergency communications: \$8,750,000

Diane Wyss of 668 Stephens Lane, Quicksburg questioned the need to burden the taxpayers with this debt.

Karen Kwiatowski of 1785 Deerhead Road, Mt. Jackson said that this accumulation of debt is a problem.

Ellen Flugel of 924 Lupton Road, Woodstock expressed the need for good space for our Sheriff's Department.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Joan Comanor, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors presented the annual report for the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District. She introduced staff members Allyson Ponn, Education and Program Support Specialist and Dana Gochenour, Senior Conservation Specialist who assisted her with the presentation and praised them for their support.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of a Resolution of Support for Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment.

**Supervisor Morris made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Roulston to approve the Resolution of Support.**

Supervisor Neese said that he felt time had expired for ratification.

Supervisor Roulston said that Virginia has enjoyed equal rights for a long time and if the possibility exists to discriminate, then legislation should prevent it. He said the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment does not guarantee equal rights as it is subject to interpretation and he said he would support this resolution to help send a message.

Supervisor Walker said that no law can make men and women the same. He said he is in favor of equality, however, he would like to research more before he can vote in favor of this resolution.

**The Motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of 4-2 as follows:**

Morris	aye	Baker	aye
Walker	nay	Roulston	aye
Neese	nay	Helsley	aye

2. Consideration of a Letter Agreement with Davenport and Company LLC for financial advisory services related to the proposed Virginia Resources Authority bond financing.

**Supervisor Baker made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Morris to approve the letter agreement with Davenport. The Motion passed by a roll call vote of 5-1 as follows:**

Walker	nay	Morris	aye
Roulston	aye	Baker	aye
Neese	aye	Helsley	aye

3. Consideration of an Ordinance Amendment to the FY2019 Budget to include the public safety radio system replacement and the sheriff's office and emergency communications complex.

Supervisor Walker said that he was hesitant to approve the amendment without knowing the specific funding sources.

Jason Ham, County Attorney said that the ordinance contains general language for expenditures and revenues. He added that it has been previously discussed the money acquired from the eight bank accounts as well as Asset Forfeiture would be possible funding sources, but the board has not decided what pays for what yet.

Mr. Vass explained that for simple budgeting purposes this budget ordinance indicates two projects totaling \$19 million in expenditures with plans to borrow \$15 million dollars.

**Supervisor Baker made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Morris to approve the ordinance amendment. The Motion passed by a roll call vote of 5-1 as follows:**

Morris	aye	Walker	nay
Baker	aye	Roulston	aye
Neese	aye	Helsley	aye

**PLANNING COMMISSION ITEMS - No PC Items were scheduled.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of a Resolution to approve lease financing for the Shenandoah County Sheriff and ECC Office Complex and Public Safety Radio Replacement Project.

**Supervisor Neese made a Motion, seconded Supervisor Baker to approve the Resolution.**

Supervisor Walker said that we are borrowing \$3 million dollars more than is needed and stated that general obligation bonds should have been sold.

**The Motion to approve was passed by a roll call vote of 5-1 as follows:**

Walker	nay	Morris	aye
Roulston	aye	Baker	aye
Neese	aye	Helsley	aye

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Mr. Ham reminded the board that the resolution does authorize county staff to use any of the three scenarios presented by the County's financial consultants Davenport and Company. He said only one of the options will cost more than the other two and that was option 3.

Mr. Vass said he has provided several pages of the Davenport Report which describe all 3 options.

Chairman Helsley said he prefers Option #2.

Supervisors Morris, Baker and Neese agreed.

Supervisor Walker said he preferred Option #3 as it would result in less of a tax burden to the citizens.

Supervisor Roulston agreed with Mr. Walker.

Mr. Ham also informed the board that a bond resolution will be coming forward for renovation of a low income housing project that will require no financial commitment from the County or IDA.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Supervisor Walker said he recently attended and enjoyed the Industrial Hemp Field Day at James Madison University.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS**

Ms. Price reported to the board the recent award of a one year grant to the Sheriff’s Department to convert a part time School Resource Officer to full time at Triplett Tech.

Mr. Vass stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has received an offer from an individual to remove the dead ash trees at the Maurertown Park for free. He said if there is no objection with this arrangement, staff will proceed.

The Board proceeded into a five minute Recess at 8:31 p.m.  
The Board convened into regular session at 8:36 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS – No other business was discussed.**

**CLOSED SESSION(S)**

Supervisor Neese made a Motion seconded by Supervisor Morris to enter into closed session at 8:36 p.m. as authorized by 2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss the assignment and appointment of specific public officers, appointees or employees. The subject matter is the appointment of public officials to serve on the: Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging, Planning Commission, the Industrial Development Authority, the Conservation Easement Authority, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Comprehensive Plan and the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board.

**Supervisor Morris made a Motion, seconded by Supervisor Baker to return to regular session at 8:44 p.m. The Motion passed by a vote of 6-0 as follows:**

**Ayes: Baker, Morris, Roulston, Walker, Neese and Helsley.**

Mr. Vass read the certification that all members must certify that to the best of each member’s knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement, under The Virginia Freedom Information Act 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 meeting of the public body.

Members were polled to certify that only those matters identified in the above Code Section was discussed.

Baker	aye	Roulston	aye
Walker	aye	Morris	aye
Neese	aye	Helsley	aye

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad A. Helsley, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary T. Price, Clerk of the Board