

VIRGINIA: County of Lee, to-wit:

At the Recessed Meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors in Conference Room of the Lee County Courthouse on May 8, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. thereof.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Smith, Chairman
Nathan Cope
Larry Mosley

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. D. Leonard
Charles Slempp, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dane Poe, County Administrator
Jeny Hughes, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS ABSENT: Stacy Estep Munsey, County Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m.

METALLURGICAL COAL TAX CREDIT

Mr. Poe reported that the tax credit on metallurgical coal was set to expire this year and there were a couple of bills to reinstate the credit. There has been a compromise bill adopted by both the House and the Senate and waiting action by the Governor. Mr. Poe has been contacted about the possibility of County adopting a Resolution, or at the least drafting a letter of support. Not knowing when the Governor might pick up the bill, Mr. Poe already sent a letter of support. The bill as proposed would put the tax credit back into effect until 2023. If the Board wants to adopt a formal resolution, it can be ready at the regular Board meeting next week.

It was moved by Mr. Cope seconded by Mr. Mosley, to adopt a resolution in support. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Cope, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Smith

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF HB 665/SB 378
18-013**

WHEREAS, coal is the most valuable mineral resource produced in the Commonwealth of Virginia, accounting for more than five percent of Southwest Virginia's workforce and nearly twelve percent of the region's total wages; and

WHEREAS, virtually all of Virginia's overseas exports of metallurgical coal are transported by rail from the southwest coalfields through the state, where they are shipped from the Port of Hampton Roads to international customers; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Hampton Roads exports greater quantities of metallurgical coal than any other U. S. port; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 378 and House Bill 665 were introduced into the 2018 General Assembly and would reinstate and reform the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, but before January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, passage of these bills would have a positive impact on Southwest Virginia's economy and the Commonwealth at large;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby respectfully requests Governor Ralph Northam sign HB665/SB378 on or before May 18, 2018.

SUNSET DIGITAL LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. Poe reported that Sunset Digital is preparing to submit a grant application to USDA to develop an enhanced internet and computer service in the Wallens Creek area. One of the requirements is to have a location in the community that is open certain hours and for the facility to be staffed. Sunset is asking for a letter of support from the County in order to apply for this grant. There is no obligation to the County.

It was the consensus of the Board to draft a letter of support to Sunset Digital for the USDA grant for enhanced internet and computer service.

POOL APPLICATIONS

Mr. Poe stated that the deadline for pool applications has passed and suggested the Board authorize Mr. Smith to hire Thomas Walker Pool Employees.

It was moved by Mr. Cope seconded by Mr. Mosley, to authorize Mr. Smith to hire Thomas Walker pool employees. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Cope, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Smith

TOWN OF ST. CHARLES ELECTION

Mr. Poe stated that town elections were held last week, and the Town of St. Charles has not had a legal council in place for two years, no one filed for candidacy for this year's town election, which only left the option for write in votes. Because no one turned out to vote, it leaves the Town without a Mayor or council members. Without council in place, there is no way for the Town to pay expenses. The total cost for the Town of St. Charles election was \$1328.00 and the County will need to approve payment for the expenses.

Mr. Cope asked if it would get to the point that the town would have to be absorbed.

Mr. Poe stated that he was in the hopes that someone would be interested in running, or that the council would vote to seek dissolution, but with no one even voting in this election, it is his opinion that it is time for the Board of Supervisors to take action.

Mr. Cope asked that this be discussed further at the regular meeting.

SIX YEAR PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Poe stated that the Six Year Plan Public Hearing will be held next month and this year the Board would have the option to put some roads on the Six Year Plan. All of the roads that were on the list have been completed with the exception of two. Mr. Poe will give the Board a list of VDOT suggested roads and a list of roads that were discussed

during previous public hearings. He suggested that the Board be considering which roads they would like to add to the plan.

Mr. Leonard entered the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Dr. Brian Austin, School Superintendant, addressed the Board about the School Board's cash budget versus the accrued budget and explained that due to the way the teachers' salaries for July and August were paid in the past, that the amount of cash on hand is not the amount that was thought. The School Board has voted to correct the situation this fiscal year, and requests the Board of Supervisors help with the cost of roof repairs next fiscal year, which will total \$1,000,000.00.

Mr. Cope asked if the School Board is asking for help with the \$1,000,000.00 or if they are asking the Board of Supervisors to fund the entire amount.

Dr. Austin stated for the Board of Supervisors to pay for the repairs.

It was moved by Mr. Cope seconded by Mr. Leonard, to take a 5 minute recess. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Cope, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Smith

The meeting was called back to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Poe reported that the budget has been entered as requested by each department and is showing a \$2,092,663.00 deficit. Since the budget was finished just prior to this meeting, he has only been able to scan the budget to ensure totals were entered correctly and has not had time to review each department's request. Some figures are only estimates because the state has not released any budget numbers at this time. From scanning through the printout it looks like several departments have made

very conservative requests while a few others have asked for increases, additional staff, and an increase with the Regional Jail of nearly \$250,000.00. Mr. Poe will be better able to make recommendations once he has reviewed the budget requests.

Mr. Cope asked if anyone has checked into inmates being transferred to state custody.

Mr. Poe stated that it has been discussed at the jail meetings.

Mr. Leonard stated that the State should at least be financially responsible for the inmates the day they become state responsible.

Mr. Poe stated that the State would argue that they are already paying forty percent of all costs because they pay the salaries of the correctional officers.

Mr. Cope asked if there is someone that is keeping up with the day an inmate becomes state responsible.

Mr. Poe stated that he is sure there is someone in the regional system that tracks that information to make sure the expense is reimbursed. He will ask questions at the next regional jail meeting.

Mr. Mosley asked the Board to get with Delegate Kilgore and Senator Carrico about the misuse of Farm Use tags.

Mr. Leonard stated that it has been discussed.

Mr. Mosley stated that the state and county are losing tax revenue because vehicles with farm use tags do not have to pay state sales tax or local personal property tax.

Mr. Poe stated that state code is very specific on what can and cannot be done with a farm use tag.

Mr. Mosley suggested that the farm use tags be given out at the Commissioner of the Revenue's office only if someone files Schedule F on their income taxes.

It was moved by Mr. Mosley, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to adjourn. Upon the question being put the vote was as follows.

VOTING AYE: Mr. Cope, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Smith

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

CLERK OF THE BOARD