

HIGHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTES

MEETING DATE – December 5 2023

The Highland County Board of Supervisors held its regular meeting on December 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Highland Modular Conference Center, Highland Center Drive, Monterey, Virginia.

PRESENT:	ABSENT:	STAFF / GUESTS:
David Blanchard		Roberta Lambert, County Administrator
Harry Sponaugle		Melissa A. Dowd, County Attorney
John Moyers		Ronald Wimer, Sheriff
		Jerri Botkin, Executive Assistant

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATIONS

Nick Fialo, EMS Chief, presented the monthly reports to the Board and provided an update on 701.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comments, Chairman Blanchard moved to the next item on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR ACTION, DISCUSSION, REVIEW OR INFORMATION

Item 1. Solid Waste Collection and Hauling Services

County Attorney Melissa Dowd provided a brief on the contract provided by Allegheny Disposal Services LLC. Supervisor Moyers made a motion to enter into a contract with Allegheny Disposal Services LLC. and allowing Chairman Blanchard to sign on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Sponaugle and carried unanimously with the following vote.

PRESENT

David W. Blanchard
Harry Sponaugle
John Moyers

VOTE

Yes
Yes
Yes

Item 2. **Burn Ban Resolution**

Supervisor Sponaugle made a motion that the County adopt a 60 day burn ban due to the severe drought conditions in Highland County. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Moyers and carried unanimously with the following vote.

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
David W. Blanchard	Yes
Harry Sponaugle	Yes
John Moyers	Yes

Item 3. **Drought Resolution**

Supervisor Moyers made a motion that the County adopt a drought resolution due to the severe drought conditions in Highland County. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Sponaugle and carried unanimously with the following vote.

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
David W. Blanchard	Yes
Harry Sponaugle	Yes
John Moyers	Yes

Item 4. **Resolution in Regard to County Depositories**

Supervisor Sponaugle made a motion that the County adopt a resolution to be sent to the financial institutions that provides services for Highland County, to request a change of County Treasurer for all depositories. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Moyers and carried unanimously with the following vote.

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
David W. Blanchard	Yes
Harry Sponaugle	Yes
John Moyers	Yes

D. **ITEMS FOR ACTION, DISCUSSION, REVIEW OR INFORMATION-continued**

Item 5. **Bonus for County Employees**

Supervisor Sponaugle made a motion to approve a Holiday Bonus for all employees of \$500 for full-time employees and \$250.00 for all part-time employees. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Moyers and carried unanimously with the following vote.

PRESENT

VOTE

David W. Blanchard
Harry Sponaugle
John Moyers

Yes
Yes
Yes

Item 6. **Old Business**

There being no old business, Chairman Blanchard moved to the next item on the agenda.

Item 7. **New Business**

County Attorney Melissa A. Dowd advised the Board that she had received a letter from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative regarding a 4.5% rate increase that will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Item 8. **County Administrator's Reports, Requests and Recommendations**

There being none, Chairman Blanchard moved to the next item on the agenda.

Item 9. **Board Comments**

Supervisor Moyers thanked the people that voted for him and also stated he has never seen an election cause so many issues in Highland County. He also expressed his concerns with civic organizations being able to gain grant funding.

Supervisor Blanchard stated it is interesting that records show Boards voting all in favor the majority of the time. Supervisors do disagree and that is ok, but it is the majority that wins and once that happens you must support that decision. Supervisor Blanchard also stated his excitement about our contract with Alleghany Disposal Services and he is happy with the current EMS Staffing and the ability of Chief Fialo to increase staffing.

Item 10. **Consent Agenda**

Following review of the monthly listing of expenditures and appropriations, a motion came from Supervisor Moyers to approve the warrants and appropriations as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Sponaugle and carried with the following vote.

PRESENT

VOTE

David W. Blanchard
Harry Sponaugle
John Moyers

Yes
Yes
Yes

Item 11. **Open Public Comments**

Dr. Marez, school Superintendent, advised the public that the school received a new bus and there is a play being presented on Friday at the school. Dr. Marez also thanked Meissa a. Dowd for her work she puts in at the school.

Henry Budzinski stated he is very fortunate to have been elected to the Board of Supervisors, and he would like to thank the current Board of Supervisors for their services, and I am hoping that I can call upon Supervisor Blanchard and Supervisor Moyers in the future if necessary.

Item 12. **Closed Meeting** (

2.2-3711 (A) (1)
2.2-3711 (A) (3)
2.2-3711 (A) (5)
2.2-3711 (A) (7)
2.2-3711 (A) (8)
2.2-3711 (A) (29)

See Next Page)

Personnel *(as needed)*
Property *(as needed)*
Prospective Business *(as needed)*
Legal – *(as needed)*
Legal Advice – *(as needed)*
Contract – *(as needed)*

Item 13. **Adjourn / Recess**

ITEM #9

CLOSED MEETING

Supervisor Moyers moved for a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) Personnel. The motion carried. Motion, from Supervisor Moyers to come out of the closed meeting, carried. Chairman Blanchard reconvened in open session. On motion of Supervisor Moyers and carried, the Board approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Return to Open Session

PRESENT

David W. Blanchard
Harry Sponaugle
John Moyers

VOTE

Yes
Yes
Yes

WHEREAS, the Highland County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.1 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters 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 were heard, discussed or considered by the Board of Supervisors.

Communications Manager

Following the closed meeting, Supervisor Blanchard made a motion to advertise this position. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Moyers and carried unanimously with the following vote.

PRESENT

Harry Sponaugle
John Moyers
David W. Blanchard

VOTE

Yes
Yes
Yes

ITEM #10

ADJOURN / RECESS

There being no additional business, the meeting was continued at 9:02pm

APPROVED:



Chairman