

February 13, 2007

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors held its regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 13, 2007. The location of the meeting was in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Wythe B. Sharitz, Chair  
James E. Hagee, Vice Chair  
Lisa R. Eaton

Charles S. Dix  
Martha P. Umberger  
Danny C. McDaniel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Susan R. Crigger

**STAFF PRESENT:**

R. Cellell Dalton, County Administrator  
Stephen D. Bear, Assistant County Administrator  
Martha G. Collins, Secretary  
Kim D. Slusher, Grants Coordinator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary "Sis" Cassell, Commissioner of the Revenue  
Mike Webb, JIDA  
William Watts, LMRS  
Andy Kegley, Mountain Shelter  
Thirteen Citizens

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair determined that a quorum was present and called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**REASSESSMENT WORK SESSION**

Due to inclement weather the Assessors could not make the workshop. The meeting was scheduled for 11:00a.m Tuesday, February 20. The Board agreed to recess until February 20, at 11:00 a.m. The Board reviewed several proposed versions of the Reassessment Notice and General Conditions. The Board agreed to review the real estate exemption limits as provided in the ordinance concerning the elderly and disabled.

**RECESS**

Mr. Sharitz recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

## **INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Ms. Laura Wyke, Associate pastor of Discipleship & Youth, St. Paul United Methodist Church. The Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **CITIZEN'S TIME**

Chair Sharitz welcomed the guests and citizens present at the meeting, and inquired if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board.

1. Lead Mines Rescue Squad – Mr. William Watts, Captain of the Lead Mines Rescue Squad, appeared before the Board and expressed thanks for the Board's past support of the squad. He gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the squad and provided pictures of the current facility at Jackson which was built in the 1940's. He stated that the current facility may not pass state inspections in the condition it is. He requested the Board of Supervisors consider providing assistance in constructing a new facility for the Lead Mines Rescue Squad.

Chair Sharitz expressed appreciation to the squad for all their work and dedications. He indicated that he Board does want to help and referred this matter to the B&G Committee for review.

Supervisor Dix inquired if the rescue squad has a specific location in mind.

Mr. Watts indicated that the squad has looked at the site at Fort Chiswell High School but has concerns with school traffic interfering with response times.

Supervisor Hagee stated that he agrees that the current facility is in terrible shape and needs to be addressed.

Supervisor Eaton inquired about working with the area fire departments for use of training facilities until a better solution is found.

Mr. Bear noted that the County has made application to the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation for funding a needs assessment for the county rescue services.

Mr. William Wertz, Second Lieutenant for the Lead Mines Rescue Squad, appeared before the Board stated that the squad is willing to apply for grants to fund a new construction project which may require applying in the County's name.

Mr. Dalton referenced several state and federal grant applications and requested Mr. Watts contact Mr. Ikey Davidson.

As no one else appeared before the Board to speak, the Chair closed Citizen's Time and proceeded with the agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 7**

The Chair stated that pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors would conduct a public hearing on February 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Notification of the public hearing was published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. The Chair stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comment regarding the proposed Amendment No. 7 to Ordinance 99-5, "Subdivision Ordinance of Wythe County." The Chair opened the hearing for comments at this time.

Hearing no comments, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dalton advised to defer any action until the February 27, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – DISCONTINUE & VACATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY**

The Chair stated that pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors would conduct a public hearing on February 13, 2007, at 7:05 p.m. Notification of the public hearing was published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. The Chair stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comment regarding the proposed ordinance to discontinue and vacate a right-of-way located adjacent to the property owned by Barry Catron in the Fort Chiswell Magisterial District of Wythe County. The Chair opened the hearing for comments at this time.

Hearing no comments, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dalton advised to defer any action until the February 27, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG FUNDING**

The Chair stated that pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and amendments thereto, the Wythe County Board of Supervisors would conduct a public hearing on February 13, 2007, at 7:10 p.m. Notification of the public hearing was published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. The Chair stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to hear public comment regarding potential projects through the Department of Housing & Community Development and past use of DHCD funds. The Chair opened the hearing for comments at this time.

Mr. Mike Webb, Associate Director for the Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA), appeared before the Board and stated that the JIDA is in support of CDBG funding for economic development. He requested the Board consider continuing the use of this funding process.

Ms. Carmen DiGirolamo appeared before the Board and spoke in favor of using CDBG funding for low to moderate income household projects; however, does not feel past CDBG funds were used properly. She referenced the Newtown Housing Project administered by the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission MRPDC. She noted several instances of misuse of the funding.

Supervisor Eaton inquired the management for these projects.

Mr. Dalton reported that this specific project was administered by the MRPDC.

Ms. DiGirolamo noted that there was also a local board that also oversaw this project.

Supervisor Hagee inquired to Mr. Andy Kegley of who administers these type projects for Mountain Shelter.

Mr. Kegley indicated that each project has a specific engineer or manager.

Mr. Dalton briefly explained the Newtown project issues and indicated that the Department of Housing & Community Development conducted a review of this project and the concerns of Ms. DiGirolamo.

Mr. Andy Kegley, Executive Director for Mountain Shelter, Inc., spoke in favor of CDBG projects.

Hearing no other comments, the Chair closed the public hearing.

**PAYMENT OF COUNTY INVOICES**

Supervisor Hagee made a motion to approve the revised invoices for February 13, 2007 in the amount of \$1,319,201.20. The invoices for February 13, 2007 were paid on General Warrants 30062072-30062075; 30062246-30062250 and 30062252-30062385 as follows:

**EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
February 13, 2007**

**DESCRIPTION**

**AMOUNT**

1101	Board of Supervisors	\$	3,191.04
1202	County Administrator's Office		2,038.27
1209	Commissioner of the Revenue		327.52
1213	Treasurer		5,246.26
1301	Electoral Board		958.63
1302	Registrar		581.07
2101	Circuit Court		91.97
2102	General District Court		600.01
2102A	Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court		340.37
2103	Magistrate		81.40
2106	Clerk of the Circuit Court		9,927.31
2108	Law Library		549.53
2201	Commonwealth's Attorney		1,509.46
3102	Enforcement & Traffic Control		18,117.05
3102A	Cops Universal Hiring Grant		1,993.09
3102B	Courtroom Security		489.86
3102D	Dare		188.86
3102J	Cops in Schools Grant		500.49
3202	Volunteer Fire Departments		8,196.94
3203	Ambulance and Rescue Services		15,642.05
3301	Correction and Detention		76,863.50
3302A	Victim Witness Assistance		152.46
3303	Probation Office		305.68
3401	Building Inspection		591.56
3501	Animal Control		1,049.59
3503	Medical Examiner		20.00
3504	E911 Department		25,810.16
3505	Office of Emergency Services		158.02
4100	Road Construction		15,114.50
4203	Refuse Collection		88,084.28
4304A	Landfill Building		13.75
4304C	Courthouse Building		2,166.83
4304D	County Office Building		4,900.95
4304F	Library Building		35,000.00
4320	B & G Maintenance		172.14
4401	Water Department		25,476.22
4401A	Regional WTP		21,868.30
4401B	Water Transmission System		128,373.82
4402	Wastewater Department		87,604.63
7105	RR Lake Swimming Pool		133.57
7109	Recreation Commission		1,183.47

7110	RR Lake Campground	578.97
7111	Ager Park	455.18
7205	Festivals	1,456.59
7302	Wythe-Grayson Regional Library	56,810.00
8101	Planning Commission	3,727.10
8106A	Wythe County Progress Park	670,345.30
8305	Cooperative Extension Service	197.46
9201	Revenue Refunds	15.99
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 1,319,201.20</b>
Wythe County Water Department Fund		\$ 25,476.22
Wythe County Wastewater Department Fund		87,604.63
E-911 Department		25,810.16
Law Library		549.53
Sheriff's State Asset Forfeiture Funds		93.25
Police Activity Fund		18,188.21
County General Fund		1,161,479.20
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 1,319,201.20</b>

Supervisor Dix seconded the motion and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger	James E. Hagee
	Charles S. Dix	Lisa R. Eaton
	Wythe B. Sharitz	Danny C. McDaniel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**NEW RIVER COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS & PRETRIAL SERVICES**

The Board was asked to endorse and consider resolution for program to assist in relieving jail costs. Reference was made to trash on roads throughout County. A program would be beneficial. Supervisor Eaton, Mr. Dalton, and Sheriff King were asked to serve on committee. Supervisor Dix and Mr. Hagee made motion to approve resolution and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger	James E. Hagee
	Charles S. Dix	Lisa R. Eaton
	Wythe B. Sharitz	Danny C. McDaniel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AGREEMENT**

The Board reviewed a memorandum dated January 17, 2007 from Craig Smith, Director of the Mount Rogers Health District, requesting consideration of the Local Governmental Agreement for fiscal year 2007 with the Mount Rogers Department of Health.

Supervisor Dix made a motion to approve the Local Governmental Agreement for fiscal year 2007 with the Mount Rogers Department of Health. Supervisor Hagee seconded the motion and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger	James E. Hagee
	Charles S. Dix	Lisa R. Eaton
	Wythe B. Sharitz	Danny C. McDaniel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**WALL OF HONOR – CIVIC MONUMENT HONOREES**

The Board reviewed a memorandum dated January 24, 2007 from Jacqueline King, Chairperson of the Wall of Honor Committee, requesting endorsement of the nominations of Benny Burkett and Ralph Whitt as honorees on the Civic Monument.

Supervisor McDaniel made a motion to support the nominations of Benny Burkett and Ralph Whitt as honorees on the Civic Monument. Supervisor Hagee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**CARROLL COUNTY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

The Board reviewed a Mutual Aid Agreement between Carroll and Wythe Counties. The Mutual Aid Agreement serves as an inter-jurisdictional arrangement in planning for, preventing or responding to a disaster within the two counties. The Agreement will increase the ability of parties to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Carroll County and Wythe County.

Supervisor Umberger made a motion to adopt the Mutual Aid Agreement between Carroll and Wythe Counties as presented. Supervisor Hagee seconded the motion and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger	James E. Hagee
	Charles S. Dix	Lisa R. Eaton
	Wythe B. Sharitz	Danny C. McDaniel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**JIDA – FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FY 2005-06**

The Board reviewed the Joint Industrial Development Authority financial audit for fiscal year 2005-06.

**MANUFACTURED HOUSING PROJECT – MOUNTAIN SHELTER**

The Board reviewed a project concept for Mountain Shelter, Inc. as provided by Mr. Andy Kegley, Executive Director of Mountain Shelter, Inc.

Mr. Kegley indicated that Mountain Shelter, Inc., is interested in developing a 30-50+ unit single family detached, home ownership project on publicly owned land, with utilities, within it service area, in order to provide affordable financing opportunities for working and/or retiring working families.

Mr. Dalton reported that Mountain Shelter is interested in the Ivanhoe Industrial Park site and indicated that the JIDA is to discuss this matter at an upcoming meeting. He reported that Mr. Kegley will be providing a funding application for consideration.

Mr. Kegley explained the difference between modular and manufactured homes. He indicated that manufactured homes conform to HUD codes.

**JETBROADBAND – TRANSFER OF CABLE FRANCHISE RESOLUTION**

The Board reviewed a resolution for the transfer of cable television franchises from Rapid Acquisition Co., LLC to JetBroadband VA, LLC.

Mr. Dalton noted that the County Attorney is revising the current franchise agreements to reflect a 5% franchise fee.

Supervisor McDaniel made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution approving the cable television franchise transfer request from Rapid Acquisition Co., LLC to JetBroadband VA, LLC and to provide a letter to JetBroadband indicating the County's concerns with programming. Supervisor Hagee seconded the motion and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger	James E. Hagee
	Charles S. Dix	Lisa R. Eaton
	Wythe B. Sharitz	Danny C. McDaniel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**NACO – JAMESTOWN 2007 BUS SPONSORSHIP**

Supervisor McDaniel reported that NACo is requesting each county in the Commonwealth to sponsor a bus as part of the Jamestown 2007 Commemorative celebration. He explained that the buses will be making a trip from Richmond to Jamestown and each county will be able to provide marketing material and a hospitality area to its bus for local tourism.

Supervisor Umberger indicated that the Heritage Center may be able to provide a Wythe County tourism video for this occasion.

Supervisor McDaniel made a motion that Wythe County sponsor a bus for the Jamestown 2007 Commemorative celebration. Supervisor Umberger seconded the motion and the roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Martha P. Umberger Charles S. Dix Wythe B. Sharitz	James E. Hagee Lisa R. Eaton Danny C. McDaniel
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NAYS: None

ABSENT: Susan R. Crigger

**AGAPE FOOD PANTRY – TAX EXEMPTION STATUS**

Supervisor Umberger inquired about the tax exemption status for the Agape Food Pantry.

Mr. Dalton reported that the County Attorney is drafting an ordinance to this matter.

**DISABLED & ELDERLY HOME OWNERS – REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION**

Chair Sharitz suggested the County Attorney draft an amendment to the real estate tax exemption for disabled & elderly home owners.

Mr. Dalton suggested this matter be referred to the Budget Committee.

The Board concurred.

**CROCKETT COMMUNITY – DELAPIDATED BUILDING**

Mr. Dalton referenced pictures of a dilapidated building in the downtown Crockett community. He indicated that the owner paid someone to tear the building down but the project was not completed. He indicated that the County Attorney is currently in the process of determining the owner and reviewing whether the property can be cleaned up at the owner’s expense.

## **RECESS**

At approximately 8:26 p.m. Chair Sharitz recessed the meeting until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

## **RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Chair Sharitz stated that all members were present except Supervisor Crigger. Others present were: Mr. Dalton, Mr. Bear, Mary "Sis" Cassel, Commissioner of Revenue, Kim Hite and Martha Collins.

## **BLUE RIDGE MASS APPRAISAL**

David Hickey reported that corrections have been made to the reassessment notices based on the latest reviews and discussed some confusion regarding multiple parcel sales. Mr. Hickey provided a print out with a list of recent sales (July-Dec) showing new assessments and ratios with a new sales ratio of 99.2. Mr. Hickey indicated that he ranked sales in order of assessment ratios going from lowest to highest. Supervisor Eaton inquired as to why some current assessments are less than previous assessments. Mr. Hickey responded by indicating that some assessments may have other hidden lots or parcels involved with the assessment that do not show on the original parcel. He further stated that the assessments are not based on sales price of an individual parcel but the sales ratio and fair market value. Supervisor Hagee also inquired as to how the assessments were actually derived. Mr. Hickey stated that the assessments on the report are ranked from lowest to highest. The Median Sales Price Ratio is what the state refers to and median, by definition, will be the number in the middle. Mr. Hickey reiterated that the report submitted ranks lowest to highest. Commission Cassell brought up the scenario of an assessment being done on unimproved land (currently on the low end) and then a house being added later, further adding that the report is not clearly understood. Mr. Hickey stated that he would be breaking down the land use classes in a report. The average increase for homeowner's is reported at 48% to 49%. Supervisor Hagee asked for mountain land review. Mr. Hickey stated that he will prepare a formal report showing land class, total land, total buildings, percentage of increase for each parcel and then average increase for each land class type. The report will also show residential properties. Supervisor Hagee asked how a home with acreage is assessed. In response to Supervisor Hagee's inquiry regarding an appraisal break down for a large farm with a house on it, Mr. Hickey indicated that typically he would show one acre where the house is located and the balance would be assessed based on the composition of the land. (wood land, open land, swamp, etc.) Mr. Hickey stated that he anticipated confusion from property owner's who have filed for land use as the assessment will show the full value of their land. Notices will be mailed out on Friday and Blue Ridge Mass Appraisal will start taking calls on Monday and start

scheduling hearing appointments. Supervisor Sharitz confirmed with Mr. Hickey that the sales used were from July 2006 through December 2006 and further discussion was held regarding land value and median sales prices. Supervisor McDaniel brought up for question the interpretation of sales on the report, asking if some of the sales prices were one price for multiple parcels or if each parcel sold was reported as a separate price. Mr. Jeff Hayden with Blue Mass Appraisal responded by indicating that some parcels could have been split and resold and their data is based on information provided by the land owner at the time of inquiry.

Further discussion continued regarding the value, median sales, summary of classifications, variability and how assessment is derived. Mr. Dalton requested that Mr. Hickey e-mail a package with the above mentioned criteria to him and he will forward to the necessary staff members. Mr. Hickey reported that the formula and ratio used is the same formula used by the Department of Taxation. Blue Ridge Mass Appraisal verified completion of all assessments including mobile homes and commercial property. Blue Ridge Mass Appraisal looks forward to the opportunity to review the assessment with property owner's to correct any errors that may have occurred. Mass appraisal will provide rate chart, depreciation tables, books and formulas used for mobile homes to Commissioner Mary "Sis" Cassell. Vamanet.com will be available to every citizen this Friday, February 16, 2007 to view the assessment on line.

Property owner's who have not received their notice can meet with the Board of Equalization or can submit a letter to the assessor's office. Evening hours will be made available based on necessity per Blue Ridge Mass Appraisal. A representative from Blue Ridge will be available when the Board of Equalization is in training. Jeff Hayden will be available to answer questions or arrange for an onsite property check. Comparables will be made available via the secretary working with Blue Mass Appraisal during the BOE.

There being no further questions, Chairman Sharitz thanked the appraisal company for their time and they were excused.

## **RESIGNATION**

Having received a resignation e-mail from Mr. Jerry Langadorfer with the Planning Commission, Chairman Sharitz announced that an official letter will be forthcoming.

Supervisor Umberger expressed disappointment in the resignation of Mr. Langadorfer and suggested appointing Mr. Clyde Watson contingent upon receipt of Mr. Jerry Langadorfer's official letter of resignation.

Supervisor Umberger made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisor's consider Clyde Watson as the replacement to the Planning Commission upon receipt of Mr. Langadorfer's letter. Vice Chairman Hagee seconded the motion and their roll call vote is as follows:

AYES:	Danny C. McDaniel	Lisa R. Eaton
	Charles S. Dix	Wythe B. Sharitz
	James E. Hagee	
	Martha P. Umberger	

Discussion was held regarding a Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Langadorfer.

**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

Chairman Sharitz announced the BOE members as: Mr. Jim Willis, Ms. Cleta Roberts, Mr. Nathaniel Kelly, Mr. Frank Hoch, and possibly Mr. Jerry Miller. If Mr. Miller declines the BOE will remain four members. The compensation will be \$100 per day. Chairman Sharitz encouraged the Board of Supervisors to attend the training if possible.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Supervisor McDaniel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Hagee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Wythe B. Sharitz, Chair