

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 7:00 p.m. Government Center, Verona, VA.

PRESENT: Jeremy L. Shifflett, Chairman  
Wendell L. Coleman, Vice-Chairman  
David R. Beyeler  
Gerald W. Garber  
Larry C. Howdyshell  
Tracy C. Pyles, Jr.  
Nancy Taylor Sorrells  
Patrick J. Morgan, County Attorney  
Timmy Fitzgerald, Director of Community Development  
Becky Earhart, Senior Planner  
Jennifer M. Whetzel, Director of Finance  
John C. McGehee, Assistant County Administrator  
Patrick J. Coffield, County Administrator  
Rita R. Austin, CMC, Executive Secretary

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at the Government Center, Verona, Virginia, and in the 235<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth....

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Chairman Shifflett welcomed the citizens present.

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Dabney Lunsford, Kelsey Grimm, and Renee' Coyner, seniors of Riverheads High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Renee' enjoys playing Varsity soccer and plans on attending Virginia Tech and major in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Kelsey is the Captain of softball and track team and plans on attending James Madison University and major in Biology. Dabney is President of FCCLA and is on the track team and plans on attending Blue Ridge Community College.

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Tracy C. Pyles, Jr., Supervisor for the Pastures District, delivered invocation.

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RAY HOUSER – RESOLUTION

Mr. Coleman mentioned that, because of Mr. Houser's deteriorated health, he was unable to be present tonight.

Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Howdyshell, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser grew up in Augusta County, and attended Staunton's Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, graduating in 1947; and

**WHEREAS**, following graduation, Ray Houser took a job as a dispatcher for a trucking company, and continued his "Take it Easy Time" broadcast; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser hosted several morning shows on which he conducted interviews and played religious recordings, with shows on WKDW/WSVO in Staunton and WSVB in Harrisonburg; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser has donated his time and radio to the advertising of the Ruritan Club programs, such as the Basket Bingo and Food Sales, as well as Community Charities, and Volunteer Fire and Rescue agencies with fund raisers and special events; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser joined the Fishersville Ruritans in 2003, but had been a part of the Ruritans for many years prior to 2003 by opening the district convention with "God Bless America" on the piano; and

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**RAY HOUSER – RESOLUTION** (cont'd)

**WHEREAS**, when not entertaining the community with his comical quips and recordings, Ray Houser is seen throughout the area encouraging young talent and organizing musical performances; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser has been a life-long ambassador for the Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County area and one of the founding members of the Happy Birthday USA event held in Staunton for 25 years and for many years has volunteered his services to Staunton Recreation and Parks as emcee for "Wednesday Night Bluegrass in the Park"; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser has been a member of Staunton Lions for 63 years, has had perfect attendance for 62 years; was instrumental in putting together the Lions Club shows; has been on the Board of Directors, and has been a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellows Award, which is the highest Club award a Lion can win; and

**WHEREAS**, Ray Houser is on the Board for the Valley Mission and the Salvation Army; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors wishes to recognize the life accomplishments of Ray Houser and commend him on his inspirational services and support to a multitude of community organizations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Augusta County Board of Supervisors acknowledges Ray Houser during the regular meeting on March 23, 2011 and that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Ray Houser and spread upon the minutes of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors March 23, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Beyeler commented that Ray Houser is a "true gentleman".

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdysshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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**RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES' PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2010**

Patrick J. Coffield, County Administrator, announced that the following employees achieved perfect attendance for 2010. There are approximately 385 employees currently participating in the County's annual and sick leave program. There were a total of 50 employees who did not miss a day in 2010. For 2009 the total was 54; 2008 -- 45; 2007 -- 57; and 2006 -- 59. Chairman Shifflett commended these employees for their outstanding service:

Elizabeth M. Hearn (16)  
Derek T. Almarode  
Linda T. Beathe (2)  
Shannon L. Ingle (3)  
Katherine F. Bishop  
Jesse F. Bryant  
Eddie L. Carter (2)  
Matthew R. Carter (2)  
Michael C. Roane (2)  
Paul S. McCormick  
Kenneth W. Brown  
Larry M. Clemmer  
Ryan G. Hines  
Phil Sibold, Jr. (4)  
Jeffrey V. Hurst  
Michael L. Johnson  
Rod J. Pierce

John Cook (4)  
Larry O. Wagoner (2)  
Christopher W. Hoover (2)  
Larry A. Bennington (2)  
John R. Wilkinson  
Joel L. Good  
Jack E. Holt  
Robert E. Hammersberg (2)  
Tony W. Shifflett (2)  
Jeffrey J. Brooks  
Bradley A. Young (3)  
Paul "Nathan" Ramsey (8)  
Ken Jacobsen (12)  
Dennis Wayne Hupman  
Michael Jason Melton  
Gregory A. Norman  
Katherine C. Woolfer

Rita R. Austin (5)  
Donald E. Arnold  
Paul A. Sprouse (2)  
Derek W. Davis (2)  
Michael "Greg" Schacht (2)  
Amanda G. Irvine  
Aaron M. Leveck  
Robert E. Hilderbrand (2)  
Douglas O. Cole (3)  
Randolph (C.J.) Smith  
Andrew W. Bunch  
Jacqueline R. Nash  
Dorothy T. Hamilton  
Michael T. Swortzel  
Robert I. Misker  
Anthony W. Puckett

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RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES' PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2010 (cont'd)

Mr. Beyeler noted recognition of Elizabeth "Bunny" Hearn, of Fire and Rescue, of having 16 years of not missing a day of work.

Mr. Coleman added that this list consisted of 11 departments and congratulated those employees with consecutive years of perfect attendance which involved 22 employees representing 8 different departments.

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Chairman Shifflett recognized the following individuals and expressed his appreciation in their outstanding work to enable the County to be a better place to live:

Helen Chew	Library	4 years
Anita Harris	VCSB	6 years
Kimberly Dean	VCSB	3 years
Courtney Yancey	Youth Commission	2 years
Rhonda Winfield	Library	2 years
Benjamin Carter	Blue Ridge Community College	5.5 years
Troy Rutherford	Service Authority	2.5 years
Steven Bridge	Planning Commission	8 years
William Hrovat	Service Authority	1 year
Carl Lind	Parks & Recreation	14 years
Gary Martin	Agriculture Industry Board	4 years
Clifford Cemp	Service Authority	8 years
E. Thomas Jennings, Jr.	Service Authority	6 years
Harold Armstrong	Shenandoah Valley Advisory Board	12 years
Richard Fox	Central Shenandoah PDC	9.5 years

Vice-Chairman Coleman presented certificates to those individuals who were present.

Mr. Coleman added that this group are participants of a much larger group that commit their time and efforts to Augusta County on an ongoing basis and that out of this group, 87.5 years of service collectively have been provided to Augusta County.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC - NONE

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AUGUSTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The Board received a presentation of the Augusta County School Board 2011-2012 Operational Budget.

Nick Collins, Chairman of the Augusta County School Board, made the following statement:

On behalf of the Augusta County School Board, I am pleased to present to you, tonight, a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$88,852,411. This represents a reduction of \$2.7 million (3%) from the current revised 2010-2011 budget that was adopted by the School Board in February of this year. On the revenue side, this budget is based on flat federal dollars, reduced state dollars, the absence of federal stimulus money that we have been fortunate to receive over the past two school years. We are very appreciative of the additional support from Augusta County in the amount of \$266,981. On the expenditure side, we were faced with a shortfall of nearly \$2.4 million. A 2.4% increase in VRS rates, coupled with a 13.25% increase in health insurance premiums contributed significantly to the deficit. Unfortunately, this year continues the trend of reducing our budget. Over the past three years, Augusta County School Board

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AUGUSTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (cont'd)

has cut nearly \$14 million and reduced 52 positions. I now will turn it over to Dr. Bishop for specific information related to how we balanced this budget.

Dr. Chuck Bishop, Superintendent for Augusta County Schools, made the following statement:

As Mr. Collins indicated, we knew very early on that we were going to be faced with a deficit. Depending on which budget you chose to look at, it ranged from \$2.4 to \$3.4 million. The Senate version was actually more favorable and it was in reality the one that was passed closest to the one that was from the budget conferees and awaits signature discussion by the Governor. The highlights of our reductions are as follows. Based on the fact that we knew revenues were decreasing, we knew we would have to go on the expenditures side to make this budget work. Through our established staffing process, we were able to identify \$1.3 million in savings. Staffing is based on School Board approved ratios of 20-to-1 in grades K-3 and that is a maximum number; 25-to-1 in grades 4-12. If we go beyond 20-to-1 in K-3, we run the risk of losing some funding referred to "K-3 Class Size Reduction" dollars. Approximately \$200,000 comes to Augusta County if we agree to make sure that our early elementary ratios stay in average of 20-to-1. Through this process, we reduced 18 positions, with the highest percentage coming in Administration. Layoffs are not part of this reduction strategy. Our attrition this year was higher than we anticipated originally because the Board offered for a second consecutive year retirement incentive program. Like the County, the School Board offers two health insurance options. All of our employees are single subscribers to that program. We're part of the point of service plan--now, which is the better and most expensive of the two options. Beginning in January 2012, the lesser of the two options—the preferred provider option, will be the base plan offered by the Board. It will be paid at 100% and that was important to the School Board to continue to offer that benefit. By doing that, we saved \$903,000. There are some differences in the plan; however, and I'll just mention those briefly. The day-to-day maintenance medications, physicals, those kinds of things were covered at the same level. Mr. McGehee serves on the group of the consortium and it was designed that way. Our employees will see higher deductibles - \$250 to \$750 as an individual; family \$500 to \$1,500. We went from, basically, an 80-20 plan to a 70-30 plan. Out-of-pocket maximums go from \$2,500 to \$3,500 for an individual, or \$5,000 to \$7,000 for a family. Again, it is covered at 100% for our single subscribers and if you choose to buy up, you can. Based on current premiums, it would cost an employee \$49 a month to buy up to the upper plan across the board reductions of 10% and most non-personnel lines. Implementation of an extra-curricular activity fee of \$25 for students to participate per season in extra-curricular activities – football player, base ball player. If you choose not to participate, then there is no fee associated with that. All of that money will stay in the individual schools. It will not come back to Fishersville into our books. Increased expenditures related to fuel based on the current state of affairs is included. There has been much conversation, and some media coverage, regarding the elimination of the retiree health insurance subsidy of \$2,500 per year. This budget has no provision to continue that benefit to our retirees since the insurance trust fund has now been depleted. Retirees will have the opportunity; however, to remain on the plan with us until such time that he or she is eligible for other coverage. In October, the Board received pending notification of receipt of federal jobs bill money. Augusta County's share of that money was a little more than \$2.2 million and the guidelines for the money required that the Board expend the funds on salaries and benefits of current employees or to maintain staff that would have been lost due to budget reductions. Based on my recommendation, the Board chose to hold onto that money. Some school divisions spend it pretty quickly until we found out how this budget was going to play out. Once it was clear the money wouldn't be needed to balance the budget, the Board did agree on Thursday to provide a 1.5% bonus for all part-time and full-time employees who are contracted or on letter of agreement as of March 17<sup>th</sup>. That will be paid in the April paycheck. The remaining funds will be used to offset the costs associated with the retirement incentive, which is approximately \$286,000, and to keep a number of Classroom Aides employed for next year. Aides who were funded previously with stimulus dollars.

Mr. Collins added the following comments:

Our Board would also like to thank you for the annual fixed capital for debt service of \$7,256,250. This will allow us to fund our elementary renovation phase of our Capital Improvements Program. Since November, staff has been working with our architects on

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AUGUSTA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (cont'd)

the Wilson Elementary project, which is scheduled to be bid on June 6, 2011. Our hope is to begin construction around August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. In an effort to become more efficient and to save operating dollars, our Board plans to close Ladd Elementary when the Wilson project is complete in the summer of 2013. Students from Ladd will be redistributed to Wilson, Cassell, Stuarts Draft and Stump Elementary Schools. We have also seriously discussed the possible closure of Beverley Manor Elementary with students being redistributed to Riverheads and Churchville Elementary Schools.

This being the final year of your four-year term and our four-year term, we can reflect and remember the first couple of years as financially pleasant and the last two as financial nightmares. We have always presented you a balanced budget and have not asked for extras because we felt that you were up-to-date and well-informed regarding our needs. As you consider this budget, I will ask that you keep our employees in the school system and other County employees in mind. I will remind you that a 1¢--that's a penny-- increase in the tax rate generates about \$663,000 (that's what Mr. Coffield told me this afternoon) in revenue. This would fund a step increase for teachers, support staff, and bus drivers. In addition, a half a cent increase in the tax rate would provide a well-deserved increase of about 3% for other County employees. I would ask that you consider a minimum of a 1.5¢ increase to the tax rate and that you apply it to salaries of all County employees. This action would have a tremendous and positive impact for all of these well-deserving folks. Thank you, again. Dr. Bishop and I will answer any questions that you may have.

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BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – UPDATE

The Board received a presentation by County representative regarding update on Blue Ridge Community College activities.

Dr. John Downey thanked the Board for its support over the years for the funding and the Augusta County representatives provided for the Blue Ridge Community College Board. Dr. Bruce Bowman was present. A packet of information with statistics about the impact Blue Ridge Community College has on Augusta County residents was provided to the Board. That packet includes information about how students, who come from the local high schools, do at BRCC. Dr. Downey gave a presentation of a “personal perspective” about the impact of BRCC to his family. Dr. Downey expressed the assurance of the ethical and business principals instructed at BRCC. Many needs would probably be assisted by graduates from BRCC such as Veterinarians; Community Services Boards; Law Enforcement (Court and Corrections Officers); Automobile Mechanics; Nursing; Aviation; Manufacturing Technology (18% of local industry); Electronic Technology; Mechanical Design Technology; Information Systems Technology. He noted that the Advanced Technology Center has recently opened which houses these technology programs. Dr. Down added, “If Blue Ridge Community College has this kind of impact on one family, my own, can you imagine the impact it has on the residents of Augusta County and the residents all across the Shenandoah Valley and, indeed, across the Commonwealth of Virginia because of the services we provide? We could not provide those services without the help and assistance of all of you. I just wanted to remind you that it benefits greatly the citizens of Augusta County.”

The Board appreciated Dr. Downey’s presentation and commended Blue Ridge Community College for what it provides, especially, the two-year program which can be transferred to a four-year college program.

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RURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Board considered Ordinance Committee recommendations concerning new district.

Becky Earhart, Senior Planner, advised that this had been discussed at the Staff Briefing on Monday. She reiterated that this district would provide an alternative to the Rural Residential District, which allows two-acre tracts on public roads. This district would allow lots to be created in the Rural Conservation Areas, but would require at least 70% of the tract to be permanently maintained and conserved. Concerns were mentioned at the Monday meeting and a report addressing those concerns was attached to the Board's agenda. Chairman Shifflett stated that he and Mr. Beyeler, who are on the Ordinance Committee, were available to receive any input from the Board. He emphasized that this was a draft and would go before the Planning Commission before consideration from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Pyles moved, seconded by Mr. Garber, that the Board move forward and authorize staff to provide a draft ordinance for review by April 25, 2011.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdyshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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WILSON COMPLEX TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

The Board considered funding to improve road circulation at Wilson Complex.

Funding Sources:

Wayne Infrastructure Account	#80000-8017-66	\$215,062.50
Beverley Manor Infrastructure Account	#80000-8011-44	<u>\$ 71,687.50</u>
		\$286,750.00

Timmy Fitzgerald, Director of Community Development, advised that a presentation was given at the Staff Briefing on Monday and provided the same presentation at tonight's meeting for the benefit of the public. He noted that Route 358 is in the Wilson Complex which consist of the Wilson schools and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville. In 2007, VDOT conducted a study which provided several ways to improve traffic flow in the complex. Several intersections were studied, such as the intersection of Route 250 and Route 358, where the signal light is; the Route 358 Wilson Elementary School entrance/exit; and Route 358 and Route 877, which is the Y intersection. He noted that the A.M. peak hour is where most traffic is being seen. Suggestions from the study were to reconfigure and increase elementary school on-sight pick-up and drop-off capacity and separate the bus drop-off area. The Wilson Elementary School renovation will address both of these suggestions. Another recommendation was to optimize a signal light at Route 250 and Route 358. VDOT has done this. It was also suggested that a westbound right-turn lane on Route 250 be constructed, which has also be completed. A roundabout at the Wilson Elementary School exit and at Route 358 and Route 877 has also been suggested. The roundabout at Route 877 and Route 358 is before the Board tonight for consideration. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the roundabout would help with the traffic flow, especially, at peak times. Mr. Fitzgerald felt that this was a good time to get good prices on grading if this can be tied in with the Wilson Elementary School renovations project.

Mr. Coleman asked Mr. Fitzgerald for the costs of installing a traffic signal. Mr. Fitzgerald said a traffic signal would cost approximately \$300,000 and VDOT would have to pay monthly power costs to keep the signal operating. He felt that the roundabout would provide a better level of service than the signal light.

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WILSON COMPLEX TRAFFIC CIRCULATION (cont'd)

Mr. Coleman advised that he was approached to consider funding. The School Board, County staff, VDOT, and Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center had met and felt that this was a good solution.

Ms. Sorrells said that a traffic light in the complex would be a disaster and that she had traveled on roundabouts before and felt that it would keep the traffic flowing.

Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sorrells, that the Board approve the allocation of funding and to incorporate as part of a bid alternate with the Wilson Elementary School project.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdysshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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WAIVERS/VARIANCES - NONE

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Beyeler moved, seconded by Ms. Sorrells, that the Board approve the consent agenda as follows:

MINUTES

Approved the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 9, 2011

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**(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)**

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD

The Board discussed the following issues:

Mr. Pyles: Budget Package – Asked Director of Finance for a breakdown of funding sources (federal, state and local) of the split by departments and comparison of monthly revenue receipts from January 2010 to current date.

Mr. Coleman:

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION – REAPPOINTMENT

Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Mr. Beyeler, that the Board reappoint Kimberly Bullerdick to serve a 3-year term on the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, July 1, 2011, to expire June 30, 2014.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdysshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

Ms. Sorrells:

1. Riverheads Fire and Rescue Station - opened two weeks ago; people from the community have been stopping by and very excited! First week, the Rescue Squad had 14 calls; the Fire Department had 5 calls.
2. Fire and Rescue Equipment Grant – Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department pending request because of some paper issues.

Wayne Martin, Fire Chief for the Craigsville Volunteer Fire Department, stated that they had applied for a grant for \$38,658.10 for vehicle extrication equipment, floodlights, and EMS equipment. Fire Chief Martin said that they had a company that would give a life-time warranty on the tools if a \$200 fee would be paid annually for service.

Funding Source: Fire-Rescue Grant Fund Account #80000-8152

Ms. Sorrells suggested that the Committee get together for a meeting and submit the request at the next meeting – April 13<sup>th</sup> for consideration.

Mr. Pyles offered to contribute out of his infrastructure account if there were a problem but felt that the request should be considered tonight.

Mr. Coleman felt that if there were nothing else needed to move forward with the request.

Ms. Sorrells advised that Minday Craun had indicated that all the paperwork has been received.

Mr. Beyeler felt that the paperwork that was submitted previously was not what was needed. He felt that it was Ms. Craun's and the Fire Chief's responsibility to help fire companies submit the proper paperwork. "Rescue and Fire should not be based on dotting every 'i' and crossing every 't'. It should be based on need."

Mr. Howdyshell reported that he sat on that meeting, which included volunteer people and paid people who looked at the grants, the need, the application, and followed the procedure. Mr. Howdyshell had told Chief Martin that the recommendation of the Committee was to approve a portion of the request. He stated it was impossible to approve every application. "You have to be very conscientious of what they need, use the advice of the people that sat on the Committee, and make a recommendation." Mr. Howdyshell said there were some questions about the application, and Mr. Howdyshell made the decision to wait until the next cycle to make a recommendation. Mr. Beyeler asked if all the funding was used on the last Committee recommendation. Mr. Howdyshell said they only used a portion of the funds and noted that these requests occur twice a year and these grants help supplement other grants. Mr. Pyles asked what percent was recommended. Mr. Howdyshell said that \$18,000 was recommended. Mr. Pyles, again, offered taking money of his infrastructure account to accommodate the request. Ms. Sorrells stated the funding was available and that the paperwork was completed. She felt that the life-time warranty on the tools was an important issue.

Ms. Sorrells moved, seconded by Mr. Coleman, that the Board approve the request.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Abstained: Howdyshell

Motion carried.





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MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY THE STAFF (cont'd)

6. SHELTER/POUND ARCHITECTURAL AGREEMENT

A year ago, SPCA sent a letter to Augusta County stating termination of their agreement. Mike Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager, and representing the three jurisdictions, requested an additional year to continue negotiations. June 30<sup>th</sup> is date of termination. A proposal has been made by Augusta County but we have received no response from SPCA. The Board has directed County Administration to move forward with an alternative plan. At a cost of \$5,000, an architect can explore building a regional animal shelter to replace the service provided by SPCA.

Mr. Pyles moved, seconded by Mr. Garber, that the Board approve allocating a fee not to exceed \$5,000 for an Architectural Concept Plan to determine feasibility of building a regional animal shelter.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdysshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

John C. McGehee, Assistant County Administrator, added that the initial study should be completed by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Coleman moved, seconded by Ms. Sorrells, the Board adjourned subject to call of the Chairman.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Howdysshell, Sorrells, Garber, Beyeler, Shifflett, Pyles and Coleman

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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Chairman

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County Administrator