

# **HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES**

**April 17, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

The Henry County Board of Supervisors met on April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Summerlin Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, King's Mountain Road, Collinsville, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to hold public hearings on the FY 2023-24 School Budget, FY 2023-24 Total County Budget, and a Proposed Siting Agreement with Axton Solar, LLC. The following Board members were present: Chairman Jim Adams, Vice Chairman Joe Bryant, Debra Buchanan, Garrett Dillard, Tommy Slaughter, and Ryan Zehr.

Staff members present were Dale Wagoner, County Administrator; JR Powell, Deputy County Administrator; George Lyle, County Attorney; Brandon Martin, Public Information Officer; Michelle Via, Director of Human Resources; Darrell Jones, Director of Finance; Richard Stanfield, Deputy Director of Finance; and Jennifer Gregory, Administrative Assistant.

Bill Wyatt of the Martinsville Bulletin and Tara Lucas of the Henry County Enterprise were present. Also present was Lt. Col. Eric Hairston, Major Wayne Davis of the Sheriff's Department; and Ben Boone, Henry County Schools Director of Finance.

## **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Adams gave the invocation and Mr. Slaughter led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone present and stated there are three public hearings scheduled; the first public hearing is on the FY 2023-24 School Budget, the second public hearing is on the FY 2023-24 Total County Budget, and the third public hearing is for a proposed siting agreement between Henry County and Axton Solar, LLC. He stated if anyone wishes to address the Board for any of the public hearings to sign up on the sheets provided at the entrance to the Summerlin Meeting Room. He stated those who wish to speak will agree to exhibit respect to the Board and they would receive the same level of respect.

## **PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY 2023-24 SCHOOL BUDGET**

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. There being no one present who wished to speak, Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY 2023-24 TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET**

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Travis Pruitt, of the Ridgeway District addressed the Board to thank them for the additional funding included in the budget for the local rescue squads. Sandra Haley from the Public Defender's Office serving Martinsville-Henry County and Patrick County, addressed the Board concerning the pay disparity between Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. She felt the pay should be similar and requested the Board to consider supplementing the salary of public defenders. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES**

Mr. Wagoner stated the recommended FY 2024 budget has been presented and is the Board's budget to make any changes so desired. Mr. Wagoner explained that staff will need any changes the Board wishes to make in order for those changes to be included in the Board package for adoption at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The budget is scheduled for appropriation at the May meeting.

The Board did not recommend any changes to the proposed budget.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED SITING AGREEMENT BETWEEN HENRY COUNTY AND AXTON SOLAR, LLC**

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. Two residents addressed the Board with concerns of how the solar farm will alter the beauty of the area and noise during construction. Several residents addressed the Board in support of the solar farm bringing the county revenue and alternative income for residents. Jim Roberts addressed the Board with some proposed enhancements to the Axton Solar Siting Agreement. Mr. Adams closed the public hearing at 8:13 p.m. Mr. Dillard said he has spoken to several residents in the area and most support the solar farm.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Slaughter moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion, and it carried by the following vote:

AYES: Adams, Bryant, Buchanan, Dillard, Slaughter, and Zehr.

NAYS: None.