

**Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors
Legislative Committee
Monday, January 27, 2020, Meeting**

VIRGINIA: The Legislative Committee of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 27, 2020, in the Main Conference Room of the County Administration Building in Chatham, Virginia 24531. Charles H. Miller, Jr., Chairman, called the Meeting to Order at 3:00 PM. The following Committee Members were present:

William "Vic" Ingram
Charles H. Miller, Jr.

The following Board of Supervisors Members were also present:

Joe B. Davis
Robert W. Warren
Ronald S. Scearce arrived to the Meeting at 3:25 PM
Timothy W. Dudley arrived to the Meeting at 3:28 PM

Mr. David M. Smitherman, County Administrator; Mr. J. Vaden Hunt Esq., County Attorney; Honorable Vincent Shorter, Treasurer; James McLaughlin, Pet Center Director; and Mrs. Kaylyn M. McCluster, Deputy Clerk, were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Ingram, seconded by Dr. Miller, to approve Agenda, which was unanimously approved by Committee Members present.

New Business

(a) County Code Changes Required for Tax Due Date Change

Mr. Shorter recommended the Board consider changing the annual County tax due dates from June 20th and December 20th to June 10th and December 10th. The due date being so close to the end of the fiscal year causes a lot of payments coming in at the end of the year in June. Mr. Shorter stated the Auditors also recommended this change. Mr. Shorter stated if this could be done in February, this would allow sufficient timing for this change to be made. He also suggested, for this first year only, to waive the late penalty on June 21st to allow citizens time to get accustomed to the changes.. Motion by Mr. Ingram, second by Dr. Miller, to recommend this item to the full Board to authorize for a Public Hearing in February, which was unanimously approved by the Committee.

(b) County Community Cat Program

Mr. McLaughlin presented a Community Cats Policy to the Committee. This Policy is an attempt to control the feral cat problem within the County. The cats continue to reproduce and the concept is to get them vaccinated so they cannot spread disease, and to alter them so they can no longer reproduce, eventually reducing colony numbers. The past year there were approximately seventy (70) kittens that were brought in from feral mothers, and they were already sick and around

one (1) month in age. Said kittens did not make it, despite the best efforts of the Pet Center. Motion by Mr. Scarce, second by Dr. Miller, to recommend the Community Cat Policy to the full Board for approval. The recorded votes are as follows: Scarce, yes; Miller, yes; Ingram, no. This was approved by the Committee.

(c) **House Bill 480 Support (Virginia Retirement System; Enhanced Retirement Benefits for 911 Dispatchers)**

Mr. Slemp stated this Bill would allow dispatchers to fall under the State's Enhanced Benefits System. He showed a video about dispatchers and all they are responsible for. They are constantly put under high stress calls and have to be the voice of reason and calm for all involved. Mr. Slemp recommended the Committee forward the Resolution to the full Board. Motion by Mr. Ingram, second by Dr. Miller, to recommend Resolution #2014-01-04 to the full Board, which was unanimously approved by Committee Members.

(d) **Solid Waste Violation Penalty Escalation Ordinance Revisions**

Mr. Hunt stated the County's Solid Waste Ordinance has only one (1) fine for violations, in PCC Sections 17-21(b) and (e). This is a Class 1 Misdemeanor and it is a \$50 fine. If the fine is not paid within ten (10) days, it increases to a \$100 fine. What is being founded by SWAT officers, is that there are contractors who are willing to pay the \$50 fine to avoid having to drive to the Landfill to dump their items. County Staff is looking for input on a Fine Escalation System to prevent these citizens from just paying the \$50 fine constantly. There was discussion about this item and the Committee did like the idea of a Fine Escalation System. Motion by Mr. Ingram, second by Mr. Scarce, to direct Staff to come up with this Solid Waste Fine Escalation System and forward to the full Board to authorize for a Public Hearing, which was unanimously approved by the Committee.

(e) **2020 VACO Legislative Program**

Mr. Hunt stated that he is just bringing attention to VACO's Legislative Program and this is something for the Board to read at their leisure. The Legislative Priority List was adopted in December, and many of the County's Legislative priorities are listed in VACO's Program as well.

(f) **Virginia Code § 58.1-3340 (Lien on real estate for taxes and levies assessed thereon; responsibility of purchaser or trustee at sale; lien on rents) Solid Waste Unpaid Fee**

Mr. Scarce stated he had a constituent who purchased property and the previous owner had not paid the Solid Waste Fee, and when he paid the current year's fee, it went to the previous year's unpaid fee instead of the current year. Mr. Scarce just wanted to discuss this item and was not sure how this process is supposed to be handled. Mr. Hunt stated he wrote a letter to all attorneys in the area, and even into North Carolina, stating how the Solid Waste Fee would be handled, and his opinion is that the problem was at the hand of the citizen's attorney when he purchased this property. Mr. Shorter stated that this is something they run into every year, and in Virginia it is the responsibility of the owner to be sure everything is paid and up to date when purchasing; and that goes for taxes as well, not just the Solid Waste Fee.

Adjournment

Legislative Committee
January 27, 2020

Motion by Mr. Ingram, second by Mr. Scarce, to adjourn the Meeting. Dr. Miller adjourned the Meeting at 4:02 PM.