

At a **Retreat** of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the county-owned building (former I.P. building) located at 24283 Old Bridge Road, Courtland, Virginia, on March 17-18, 2011 at 8:15 AM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman (Drewryville)
Walter L. Young, Jr., Vice-Chairman (Franklin)
Walter D. Brown, III (Newsoms)
Anita T. Felts (Jerusalem)
Carl J. Faison (Boykins-Branchville)
Ronald M. West (Berlin-Ivor)

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

Moses Wyche (Capron)

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
Lynette C. Lowe, Finance Director
Sandi P. Plyler, Information Technology Manager
Beth Lewis, Director of Community Development
John Smolak, President, Franklin-Southampton Economic Development
Julien W. Johnson, Jr., Director of Public Utilities
Michael Smith, Utilities Systems Supervisor
Hart Council, Public Works Director
Jackie Vick, Maintenance Director
Susan H. Wright, Administrative Secretary

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 8:45 AM. Supervisor Faison gave the invocation. (Breakfast was served from 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM.)

Mr. Michael Johnson, County Administrator, welcomed everyone. He briefly discussed the benefits of a retreat and keys to making it a success. He then shared a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Everything Starts and Ends with the Budget," in which he shared financial benchmarks, summary of current debt, and FY 2012 early indicators. Overall, expenses were down and revenues were up slightly. He noted that while the financial outlook was not great, it was a lot better than FY 2011.

The Board and staff took a 15-minute break.

Upon returning to open session, Mrs. Sandi Plyler, Information Technology Manager, introduced Mr. Eric Morrow of Bright & Associates, our software provider. He would be sharing information in regards to e-government.

Mr. Eric Morrow of Bright & Associates indicated that he appreciated the opportunity to share with the Board and Staff the exciting things going on in e-government. He presented a PowerPoint presentation in which he discussed the many services and enhancements that e-government could provide a locality. Notably, citizens could access and pay their real estate and personal property taxes securely online. They could also register vehicles, update contact information, and perform a vast array of other transactions online.

The Board thanked him for his enlightening presentation.

The Board and staff took a 30-minute break for lunch.

Upon returning to open session, Mrs. Susan Wright, Administrative Secretary, and Mrs. Sandi Plyler, Information Technology Manager, gave a presentation regarding voter redistricting. Mrs. Wright recognized the Redistricting Committee: Sandi Plyler (Information Technology Manager), Leona Davis (Voter Registrar), Peggy Davis (Assistant Voter Registrar), Michael Drake (Planning Commissioner), Walter L. Young Jr. (Supervisor), Carl J. Faison (Supervisor), and Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney.

Mrs. Wright advised that the Board was required to reapportion its election districts every 10 years based on population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau – figures were released February 4. Changes were necessary in four of our seven Districts. Based on our total population of 18,570,

the target population for each District was 2,653. The *Civil Rights Act* provided for a maximum 5% variation above or below the mean, so the total population for each District should fall between 2,520 and 2,786. With the exception of Capron, Franklin and Newsoms, the total population of the remaining Districts was now outside the target range as indicated below:

	<u>2000</u>					<u>2010</u>				
	Black	White	Other	Total Pop	Percent Minority	Black	White	Other	Total Pop	Percent Minority
Berlin-Ivor	791	1747	35	2573	32.10	616	2266	102	2984	24.06
Boykins-Branchville	1299	1075	32	2406	55.32	1157	1150	67	2374	51.56
Capron	1169	1210	33	2412	49.83	1118	1528	103	2749	44.42
Drewryville	1490	872	28	2390	63.51	1278	982	59	2319	57.65
Franklin	599	1995	24	2618	23.80	558	2133	73	2764	22.83
Jerusalem	873	1675	32	2580	35.08	918	1846	58	2822	34.59
Newsoms	1274	1209	20	2503	51.70	1248	1233	77	2558	51.80
	7495	9783	204	17482	44.04	6893	11138	539	18570	40.02

Mrs. Wright noted that because Berlin-Ivor (who had to lose the most) was not contiguous to Boykins-Branchville or Drewryville (who had to gain the most), all seven districts had to be modified to balance the numbers. She noted that with redistricting, you strictly looked at the number of people in a district, and not voters.

Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Plyler presented two options the Committee had developed so far. Option 1 was developed by starting at the western end (Drewryville), while Option 2 started at the northeast end (Berlin-Ivor). Both proposed to eliminate the Meherrin Precinct in the Boykins-Branchville District, that was added 10 years ago. Both proposed to move a number of people from the Capron District, who could stand to lose, to Boykins-Branchville, who had to gain. Both also proposed to move the most people out of the Berlin-Ivor District, as dictated by the Census numbers. However, Option 1 moved them primarily to the Capron District (Sebrell), while Option 2 moved approximately 1/3 each to the Capron (Sebrell), Jerusalem, and Franklin Districts. Because Courtland and Franklin could not retain the number of people they would gain from Berlin-Ivor in Option 2, further moving/shifting of people in the Jerusalem and Franklin Districts, and even the Newsoms District was necessary, as it created a ripple effect. She noted that in Option 1, the Jerusalem, Franklin, and Newsoms Districts were minimally impacted.

Mrs. Wright explained that per the *Civil Rights Act*, they were also charged with ensuring that redistricting did not cause majority minority districts to lose that status. The Census numbers released February 4, 2011 (prior to any redistricting) indicated that three of our seven districts were majority minority – Boykins-Branchville, Drewryville, and Newsoms. After redistricting, with Option 1, those three districts remained majority minority. After redistricting, with Option 2, Boykins-Branchville no longer remained a majority minority District, by less than 1%. However, that fact could perhaps raise a “red flag” with the U.S. Department of Justice who had to preclear our redistricting plans. Mrs. Wright noted that they hoped to hold a public hearing in April.

The Board thanked Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Plyler, and the rest of the Committee for their hard work.

Mr. Michael Johnson, County Administrator, lead a group discussion entitled, “Relationships are Primary and All Else is Derivative.” Topics of discussion included Board/Constituent Relations, and Board/Planning Commission relations.

The Board and staff took a 15-minute break.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Johnson lead a group discussion regarding the following miscellaneous topics that the Board had indicated they wished to discuss:

- Staggered terms for elected officials
- Board salaries
- Discussion of additional funding for Fire Departments that function as first responders
- Office Center parking
- County-owned property
- Vacant 4-H position
- Major highway projects
- Litter prevention

The meeting was recessed at 4:30 PM.

Chairman Jones called the meeting back to order on Friday, March 18, 2010 at 8:45 AM. Supervisor Faison gave the invocation. (Breakfast was served from 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM.)

Mr. Michael Johnson, County Administrator, facilitated a group exercise for the purpose of setting goals for FY 2012. Each individual group shared its results of the exercise. Afterwards, the groups joined together, and while they did not reach consensus on specific goals, each group deemed economic development vitally important, whether it be in the form of tourism, creation of jobs, and/or or focusing on small businesses.

Lunch was served from 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

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