MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
August 10, 2004

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2004, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zaremba, Sheila S. Noll, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Kenneth L. Bowman was absent

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

POLICY REVIEWS

Personnel Policies and Procedures

Mrs. Laurie Blanton, Human Resources Officer, reviewed the changes made to the County's Personnel Policies and Procedures, stating the majority of them concern the compensation plan dealing with SIG payments and incentive payments being rolled into base pay.

Mrs. Noll asked how the employees feel about the change.

Mrs. Carol White, Director of Financial and Management Services, indicated there was no significant opposition.

Mr. Zaremba asked if there were any costs involved with implementing the changes.

Mr. McReynolds indicated the administrative cost saving will offset the one-time transition cost.

Discussion followed concerning incentive pay received by firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and building inspectors. During the discussion Mrs. Noll asked that Mr. McReynolds provide the Board with the requirements for becoming one of the County's uniformed personnel. The Board also asked Mr. McReynolds to provide the Board with information concerning the provision of an allowance to the vehicle mechanics for tools.

Mr. Zaremba noted that the word "may" is used regarding the reimbursement of educational costs if the employee does not stay with the county. He stated he does not feel this is consistent with rest of language.

Mr. McReynolds noted his agreement, proposing the language be amended to add "If applicable, the County will collect on a prorated basis."

Purchasing Policy

Mrs. White reviewed the changes proposed for the York County Purchasing Policy, noting the two changes deal with the requirement to post public notices on the state's web site with regard to unsolicited proposals, and an amendment to the terms of the comprehensive agreement between the County and the selectee with regard to the performance bond. She stated these new requirements have been mandated by the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act adopted during the 2004 session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Barnett noted he felt there was another provision to be added concerning unsolicited proposals, which states that unless the Board says otherwise the County would have to retain certain kinds of professionals to evaluate this type of proposal. He stated when the Board receives the ordinance in final form for the public hearing, it will contain language concerning the provision. He noted the advertisement that has already been prepared contains all three amendments.

Board Policies

Mr. Carter indicated the amendments to the Board Policies were few and mostly all housekeeping types of things. He then reviewed the changes.

Mr. Zaremba asked if BP94-08 contains anything about the responsibility of the organizations who use the County fields and parks to leave them the way they find them.

Mrs. Anne B. Smith, Director of Community Services, stated the facilities agreement form addresses the obligations of the user, and staff tries to enforce it as best they can.

Discussion followed regarding the school fields being the responsibility of the School Division and the condition of the Queens Lake Middle School fields. Mr. McReynolds indicated he had been in contact with the Superintendent of Schools previously about this particular school's fields and the on-going construction, but he did not know the current status. He stated he would visit the site and contact Dr. Staples if necessary.

The Board then discussed the policy concerning the Youth Commission's Outstanding Youth of the Year Program and the award of scholarships to each recipient. The proposal stated that upon the death of a recipient, the family would get the $500 award, but the Board of Supervisors indicated it should go back into the General Fund.

Mrs. Noll stated, regarding the policy on New Quarter Park, she can understand not having overnight camping at the park, but it has been used in the past by the Scouts, and she feels the Board should not prohibit primitive camping. She stated she feels if the Board limits it to York County organizations, it would work.

Mr. McReynolds stated that State regulations have now changed, and the requirements for sanitation and water supply systems are very different. The County would now have to provide different restroom facilities as well as a water supply system.

Mrs. Smith noted that her staff has been researching the issue of camping, and the Health Department regulations are quite strict. Primitive camping is specifically mentioned as a prohibition.

Chairman Shepperd asked if people could bring in their own water supply and porta-johns.

Ms. Cheryl Sonderman, Recreation Manager, stated that staff has not been able to get the Health Department to define the certain types of facilities required for an organization like the Scouts to camp. Staff understands the Health Department will not allow porta-johns.

Chairman Shepperd indicated he would like to know under what rules the Health Department is prohibiting this type of function. He noted the County has thousands of people in Yorktown during the 4th of July with porta-johns, and he did not see why it could not be done at New Quarter Park.

Ms. Sonderman explained that the difference might be if the County advertises primitive camping, it puts this particular function under their regulations.

Mr. Barnett noted that the Board would not be able to discriminate about who will camp at the park.

Chairman Shepperd stated he did not want to look at primitive camping on an individual basis. He stated the Board should consider it only for groups like the Boy Scouts or groups of certain size.

Mr. McReynolds asked the Board to prohibit camping completely until the construction is finished next spring.

Discussion followed regarding security and adequate signage at New Quarter Park.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING FORMAT

Chairman Shepperd distributed to the Board members his proposal for a change to the Board's Regular Meeting format. He stated he had made some suggestions for possible consideration of the second meeting of the month in order to do things a little more efficiently. He indicated the second meeting would be more of a work session which could possibly reduce the number of work session meetings the Board currently conducts each year. He then reviewed his format proposal as follows, stating the major part missing is the public hearing aspect:

- Roll Call
- Citizen Comment Period
- County Attorney Reports and Requests
- County Administrator Reports and Requests
- Matters Presented by the Board (Optional)
- Work Session Items
- Closed Meeting

Mrs. Noll suggested that there be a Consent Calendar to take care of administrative items.

Mr. Burgett stated he has about 17 years of watching and observing the Board meetings, and he feels the work stays fairly steady. He expressed his concern that if the Board goes to a work session type of atmosphere, the citizens will lose the opportunity to get a decision from the Board, and he feels the job of supervisor will be minimized or trivialized. Mr. Burgett stated the Board has a good staff, and they are paid well to come to these meetings and do their jobs. There was a time when a goal of a new Board was to move the supervisors into the position of running York County, where before it used to be more run by the staff and administrator. He stated he thinks the actions taken by the Board and the involvement it has had are being enjoyed by the Board members, it is working well, and the perception is that the Supervisors do run the County. If the Board cuts back to one meeting and one work session, the staff will have to pick up the load. He noted that sometimes the agenda is thin, but the Board still provides the opportunity for decision-making. Mr. Burgett also spoke of the inadequacies of the East Room for presentations, noting it is difficult to hear people talk and does not lend itself to a formal public meeting. He stated he appreciated the initiative, but he did not agree with it.

Mrs. Noll agreed that the Board puts in a lot of time, but she stated she feels that quality over quantity is better than having a meeting just for the sake of having a meeting. She stated if the Board goes to the work session format for one of its regular meetings, it does not mean all other work sessions will be eliminated. It gives the Board more of a chance to talk about the issues and share with each other. She indicated she did not feel it would be trivializing the job, and the Board can get into more depth in the work session format. When the Board then goes to a formal meeting to take a vote, the citizens will have heard all the in-depth discussion. Mrs. Noll stated the Supervisors have oversight, but the County Administrator carries out the Board's policies, and the staff are the professionals. She suggested the Board try this proposal, and if it does not work, the Board can go back to the way it was or change it again. Mrs. Noll stated the Board's ultimate goal is to conduct the County's business the best way possible.

Mr. Zaremba stated he feels the Board has a fairly heavy agenda most of the time, and he did not feel the Board should ever meet without televising its meetings. He stated he gets many comments about the Board's meetings being too long. The indicated he felt the Board was not focused always on the subject matter. He suggested the Board needs to do something to talk about what is important, but brevity is the key. He noted that currently the public hearings are held at 8:00 p.m. because the presentations on the agenda usually take an hour. He suggested that very often there is filler with things the Board does not need at a formal meeting, and there is no reason at 10:00 p.m. to be still looking at several agenda items ahead of them. Mr. Zaremba stated he did not have any problem considering this suggestion, but stated the Board still needed Mr. Bowman's input. He indicated if the Board does a more efficient job of

spreading the workload, there might be substance for two meetings. Mr. Zaremba stated he would like to give it more consideration and thought before making any changes.

Chairman Shepperd indicated this was an opportunity for everyone to provide their input. Nothing in this proposal eliminates any other work sessions. He stated what he is seeing is that the Board will have two or three public hearings at the first meeting of the month that are not emotionally driven but required by law, and the second meeting is no where near substantive.

Mrs. Noll stated the Board Room upstairs does not lend itself to a good format for work sessions. She noted she has been looking at the lack of crowds at the Board meetings, and for the most part very few people come for public comments.

Mr. Burgett noted when people are pretty satisfied with the way things are being run, they do not come to the meetings. When they are unhappy and there are problems, they come. He stated if the Board turns the second meeting of the month into a work session, the citizens will lose access to the Board. Mr. Burgett stated he is still in favor of giving the citizens the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Zaremba suggested that perhaps the Board has accomplished many of the major issues of the County, and things are going pretty smooth. He stated there has been a lull, but he is not convinced that it will continue.

Mrs. Noll stated she feels this discussion needs to be continued and needs Mr. Bowman's input. She indicated there would be no harm in trying a different way of doing things and look at other alternatives. Mrs. Noll stated the Board's goal is to serve the citizens efficiently.

Chairman Shepperd stated he would put it all together and come back with another proposal so the Board can continue this dialog.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES REVIEW (Not on Agenda)

Mr. McReynolds stated he had received a number of RFPs from other jurisdictions that have had their assessment procedures reviewed. He stated staff will have it ready for the Board's review in the not too distant future.

LEGISLATIVE DINNER

Mr. McReynolds noted that August 26 had been determined to be a date when the County's four legislators can be present at a meeting with the Board.

Mrs. Noll asked that the meeting be set for 6:30 p.m.

Mr. McReynolds indicated staff would find a suitable site and put out the information to the Board members and legislators as soon as possible.

Meeting Adjourned. At 8:12 p.m. Chairman Shepperd declared that the meeting be adjourned sine die.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors