December 21, 2011

At a special called meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 21st day of December, 2011; at 4:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

Absent: Charles W. McKay

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; and James Ennis, County Attorney.

Chairman Fore called the special meeting to order, stating its purpose was for an update of the status of the property acquisition on the Route 628 road project and a Closed Session to discuss real property acquisition.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, stated the County has been informed that Haymes Brothers, the contractor, has agreed to hold the price quoted until February 10, 2012, which will allow time to acquire the right of way and other actions. Once that is complete, some other actions required by Prince Edward County are to acquire right of way of the easements, authorize the relocation of the utilities, soil and erosion control approval, revise the Revenue Sharing agreement with VDOT, and the movement of the additional $575,000 from the previous Revenue Sharing project to this project. The request has been made to VDOT; no response has been received at this time. A certification to VDOT must be completed that the County has control of the property, the County needs to clear the timber and probe for rock.

Mr. James Ennis, County Attorney, stated the Certificates of Deposit were recorded in the morning of December 21, 2011; the feasible title is vested in the County as to the 6+ acre parcel which is
taken in fee simple and the 0.616 acre easement. That is now under the control of the County as far as the access, entry and preparation.

Supervisor McKay entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Bartlett stated it appears that the County will need an authorization to gain an appraisal of the Davis property to possibly move ahead with condemnation; as of this time, the County has yet to reach an agreement with Davis Property, LLC. Prior to proceeding to condemnation on any land, you must have an appraisal because the appraisal must accompany the letter notifying any property owner of any eminent domain condemnation request. At best, that could be completed by January 13, 2012. There are time-lines that must be met for advertisements and public hearings. Discussion of the necessary steps followed.

Supervisor Gantt asked if the County has taken possession of the property. Mr. Ennis stated the County has possession of the Glad Hill property. He said the property is not deeded to the County; the Certificate of Deposit filed with the Clerk’s Office vests the feasible interest in the County as of the date of the recording of the Certificate of Deposit, which is today [December 21, 2011]. The condemnation hearing will determine what value needs to be paid and upon payment of that money, the title will be fully vested in the County. As of today, the County has the right to go on the property.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Gantt made a motion that the Board convene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real property related to the Alternate Route 628 road project, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia. The motion carried:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell
     William G. Fore, Jr.
     Don C. Gantt
     Robert M. Jones
     Charles W. McKay
     Howard F. Simpson
     Jim R. Wilck
     Mattie P. Wiley

Nay: None

The Board returned to regular session by motion of Supervisor McKay and adopted as follows:
Aye: Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

Nay: None

On motion of Supervisor Wiley and carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

In Re: Resolution of Support

Chairman Fore stated the County received a resolution that was sent to the Governor by the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors urging the Governor to reconsider the closure of the Mecklenburg Correctional Facility.
In support of the neighboring counties, Supervisor Wiley made a motion to prepare a resolution to the Governor in support of the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors asking the Governor to reconsider the closure of the Mecklenburg Correctional Facility; the motion carried unanimously:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

Nay: None

A Resolution of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors
Urging the Governor to Reconsider the Closure
of the Mecklenburg Correctional Facility

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg Correctional Facility is a major employer in the Southside region of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg Correctional Facility is now slated for closure, which will result in the loss of over 300 jobs for Southside Virginia; and

WHEREAS, unemployment rates in the region are already above the state average of six percent and the unemployment rate for Prince Edward County is currently 8.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact on Prince Edward County and the surrounding communities will be devastating due to the loss of jobs and possible relocation of Prince Edward County citizens seeking other employment opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward does not support this closure and urges the Governor to reconsider the closure of Mecklenburg Correctional Facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Virginia, the Department of Corrections, Senator Tom Garrett, and Delegate James Edmunds, II.
On motion of Supervisor Campbell and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:  Howard M. Campbell  Nay:  None
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.