

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS  
CONSOLIDATION MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2009

A meeting between the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and the Covington City Council regarding consolidation was held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 333 W. Locust Street, Covington, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephanie R. Clark. Roll Call for the Covington City Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Clark, Vice Mayor Robert K. Bennett, II, Councilman Earl L. Brown, Councilman David C. Bryant, Jr. and Councilman William B. Zimmerman, Jr. Roll Call for the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors showed all members present as follows: Chairman Stephen A. Bennett, Vice Chairman Carolyn T. Barnette, Supervisor Bernard "Mac" Campbell, Supervisor Rickey D. May, Supervisor Cletus W. Nicely, Supervisor Paige Morgan and Supervisor David P. Price.

APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Mayor Clark asked if there were any corrections to the Summary of Proceedings for March 2, 2009. As no corrections or objections were heard, Summary accepted as presented.

ADJUSTMENT TO CLERK'S RATE

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bennett, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to adjust the clerk's rate from \$12 per hour to \$20 per hour. With no objections heard from either governing body, the clerk's rate was adjusted to \$20 per hour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ROADS: Mr. Cletus Nicely and Mr. David Bryant presented a report regarding streets and roads. They had been in contact with VDOT for information. Topics addressed included lane mileage in the City and County; responsibility for bridges and guardrails; signs; snow removal; equipment and state funding.

SCHOOLS: Mr. Ricky May and Mr. Bill Zimmerman presented their ideas regarding school consolidation. They concurred that a system with 1 superintendent, 2 high schools (1 east and 1 west), and would include all current middle schools and elementary schools would be the best scenario. They also proposed an elected school board with 4 elected from districts and 3 elected at large. A pay plan would be developed by the School Boards and have continued updates. The new school board would not have taxing authority. Any new school construction would be 5 or more years in the future.

PUBLIC WORKS: Vice Mayor Rob Bennett and Mr. Mac Campbell presented a report regarding public works. Basically all personnel would be needed in a consolidated

government. There would not be any significant funding difference from the state. Regarding landfill/transfer station, Mr. Campbell recommended that for the long term, a transfer station to a professional landfill operation would be the most cost effective. Recycling of glass, plastic, paper and cardboard was also discussed as was the possibility of water meters. From information gathered so far, very little money would be saved in public works. It was noted that these are observations at this point and further facts are needed for consideration.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Ms. Paige Morgan and Mr. Buddy Brown presented a report regarding law enforcement. Information included staffing levels for service and safety, the State police would continue to serve the community at the same level they currently serve, joint E-911 service and funding. Mr. Brown recommended that a Police Dept. be developed for any consolidation as the area would always have an elected sheriff. It was noted that Sheriff Hall and Police Chief Broughman had been very helpful with the information.

By consensus, the governing bodies allowed citizens questions and comments at this time, limited to 2 minutes each.

#### GOAL: REGARDING CITY OR COUNTY STATUS

At this time, Mayor Clark and Vice Mayor Bennett of the City of Covington, presented a proposal for the consolidated area to be a city. A written copy of the proposal, signed by all five members of Covington City Council, was given to all members of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and citizens present.

Mayor Clark requested the Alleghany Board take time to look over the proposal and present views and ideas.

Chairman Bennett, at the request of the Alleghany Board, would develop a written proposal/ response by his Board at their next meeting.

#### NEXT AGENDA

Items for the agenda for April 6, 2009: (1) Update on School Report by the City Manager and the County Administrator; (2) Update regarding E-911; (3) Presentation of consolidation proposal by Alleghany County Board of Supervisors; (4) Discussion regarding proposal by Covington City Council and proposal by Alleghany Board of Supervisors. The meeting will be held at the Alleghany County Administration Complex.

No further business to be addressed, the meeting was adjourned. Time: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wood, Clerk