

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
CONSOLIDATION MEETING
MARCH 2, 2009

A meeting between the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and the Covington City Council regarding consolidation was held on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Alleghany County Complex, Low Moor, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen A. Bennett. Roll Call for the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors showed all members present as follows: Chairman 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. Roll Call for the Covington City Council showed all members present as follows: Mayor Stephanie R. Clark, Vice Mayor Robert K. Bennett, II, Councilman Earl L. Brown, Councilman David C. Bryant, Jr. and Councilman William B. Zimmerman, Jr.

APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Chairman Bennett asked if there were any objections to the Summary of Proceedings for the meeting of February 16, 2009. No objections heard, Summary accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CONSOLIDATION ISSUES

Chairman Bennett read the rules as agreed upon for public comments and opened the floor for those wishing to speak.

Eddie Clemmons spoke in favor of consolidation and emphasized the need for unity and a common goal for the area, beginning with a positive attitude.

Roger Timbrooke expressed concerns regarding the issues of forestry, livestock and land use.

Humphrey Moynihan presented information and data regarding the 2000 census and population density.

Robert Floyd IV spoke regarding options available concerning the schools and the need for a positive attitude.

Harrison Scott spoke regarding the difficulties that would arise if the county were to become a city and issues such as water meters, taxes and level of services.

Bob Bennett spoke regarding the need to make a decision of "city" or "county" status and resolving biggest issues first such as those concerning schools.

Don Lugar requested that the governing bodies discover the resources available in each locality that could be made available to all.

Sandy Kemper spoke in favor of consolidation and the need for a consolidated school system.

Final remarks by Mr. Clemmons included the name "city" or "county" was not an issue but to look for the benefits.

Final remarks by Mr. Bennett included an explanation of what the "citizens initiative" means and that the talks are between the City of Covington and Alleghany County.

Chairman Bennett expressed appreciation for the professional comments from the speakers.

5 minute recess declared.

DISCUSSION REGARDING EMERGENCY SERVICES

The governing bodies requested that Mr. John Strutner, County Administrator and Mr. John Doane, City Manager, work together to construct an agreement for emergency services and equipment.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ROADS

Information was presented regarding roads/lane miles in the City of Covington and Alleghany County and the maintenance formula for state funding.

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED

ROADS: Mr. Bryant and Mr. Nicely to work with appropriate staff to provide information and recommendations by the next meeting of March 16, 2009.

SCHOOLS: Mr. May and Mr. Zimmerman to work with appropriate staff to provide information and recommendations for the next meeting of March 16, 2009.

PUBLIC WORKS: Vice Mayor Rob Bennett and Mr. Campbell to work with appropriate staff to provide information and recommendations for the next meeting of March 16, 2009.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Brown to work with appropriate staff to provide information and recommendations for the next meeting of March 16, 2009.

NEXT AGENDA

Items for the agenda for March 16, 2009: (1) Adjustment to the clerk's rate; (2) Committee reports; (3) Decision regarding City/County status. Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of Covington City Hall.

No further business to be addressed, the meeting was adjourned. Time: 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wood, Clerk