BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES **SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

At a regular meeting of the Orange County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 beginning at 4:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Gordon Building, 112 West Main Street, Orange, Virginia. Present: R. Mark Johnson, Chairman; Clement L. Dodson, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Thomas E. Graves; Teri L. Pace; and Richard D. Wallace. Also present: William C. Rolfe, County Administrator; Todd G. Patrick, County Attorney; and Donna D. Curry, Chief Deputy Clerk.

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mike Ross, Vice-Chairman of the School Board, called the School Board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. for a joint presentation by Moseley Architects.

RE: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Wallace moved, seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Dodson moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace and carried, to approve the following consent agenda item as presented:

RE: SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Board approved the following supplemental appropriations:

- $2,157.78 from Donations (100-18990-0305) to Animal Shelter, Emergency Vet Fund (100-35200-3115);
- $100.00 from Donations (100-18990-0305) to Animal Shelter, Pet Food (100-35200-6003);
- $24.97 from Friends of the Library (3-100-16150-0700) to Orange County Library, Periodicals (100-73100-6012);
- $7.00 Friends of the Library (3-100-16150-0700) to Orange County Library, Periodicals (100-73100-6012);
- $4.53 Expenditure Refund (3-100-18030-0100) to Sheriff's Office, Repair & Maintenance (100-31200-6009);
- $250.00 from Donations Triad Grant (3-100-18990-0520) to Triad Program, Supplies/Misc. (100-31770-6001);
- $141.71 from Donations Triad Grant (3-100-18990-0520) to Triad Program, Supplies/Misc. (100-31770-6001);
- $125.00 from Donations Triad Grant 3-100-18990-0520) to Triad Program, Professional Services (100-31770-3100);
- $128.88 from Forfeited Assets State DCJS (3-150-24040-1200) to Sheriff's Forfeited Asset, Sheriff's forfeited Prop Expenses (150-31700-5844);
- $6,500.00 from Technology Trust Fund Fees (3-100-23070-0101) to Clerk, Circuit Court, Salary: P/T TTF (100-21600-1301);
- $10,000.00 from Technology Trust Fund Fees (3-100-23070-0101) to Clerk, Circuit Court, TTF Equipment/Images (100-21600-8107)

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: BUDGET TRANSFERS AND WAIVER OF COUNTY FEES PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

Mrs. Pace pulled the budget transfers and waiver of county fees from the consent agenda for discussion. She questioned the reserve for merit pay and whether the funds were coming from the contingency fund or whether they had been budgeted. Mr. Rolfe stated that the funds were budgeted under the Human Resources department and are being disbursed out to the departments. Mrs. Pace stated that since the County recently approved the Pay and Classification Study in order to be more competitive, she voiced concerns regarding possible budget cuts that the County will be faced with next year. She indicated that she calculated the merit pay to be $27,897 in addition to the Cost of Living Raise, and noted that people should be rewarded for excellent work but she is very concerned about the budget since such large increases were given last year and there will be a crunch with the next budget. With regard to the waiver of county fees, Mrs. Pace pulled this item to clarify how the Board will be notified of projects. Mr. Rolfe stated that the information would be included as an informational item on the Board's agenda.

Following discussion, Mr. Wallace moved, seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried, to approve the following Budget Transfers as presented:

- $6,676.00 from Human Resources, Merit Pay Wedge (100-12220-1902), $11,092.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for HR Contingency (100-12220-9210), $19.00 to Finance Department, Workers' Comp (100-12420-2710) $145.00 to Finance Department, Group Life (100-12420-2400), $2,041.00 to Finance Department, Retirement (100-12420-2210), $1,106.00 to Finance Department, FICA (100-12420-2100), $14,457.00 to Finance Department, Salary: Regular (100-12420-1111);
- $11,513.00 from Planning & Zoning, Wages: Part-Time (100-81100-1322), $6,036.00 to Human Resources, Reserve for HR Contingency (100-12220-9210), $2.00 to Planning & Zoning, Workers' Comp (100-81100-2710), $131.00 to Planning & Zoning, Group Life (100-81100-2400), $2,331.00 to Planning & Zoning, Hospitalization (100-81100-2310), $1,849.00 to Planning & Zoning, Retirement (100-81100-2210), $123.00 to Planning & Zoning, FICA (100-81100-2100), $13,113.00 to Planning & Zoning, Salary: Regular (100-81100-1111);
- $5,500.00 from County Wide Wireless Program, Wireless Project (312-94400-3100) to Information Technology, Lease/Rental Equipment (100-12510-5410);
- $1,440.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $2.00 to County Administration, Workers' Compensation (100-12110-2710), $9.00 to County Administration, Group Life (100-12110-2400), $166.00 to County Administration, Retirement (100-12110-2210), $90.00 to County Administration, FICA (100-12110-2100), $1,173.00 to County Administration, Salary: Regular (100-12110-1111);
- $1,953.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $1.00 to Wilderness Branch Library, Workers' Compensation (100-73110-2710), $10.00 to Wilderness Branch Library, Group Life (100-73110-2400), $146.00 to Wilderness Branch Library, Retirement (100-73110-2210), $79.00 to Wilderness Branch Library, FICA (100-73110-2100), $1,034.00 to Wilderness Branch Library, Salary: Regular (100-73110-1111), $1.00 to Orange County Library, Workers' Compensation (100-73100-2710), $48.00 to Orange County Library, FICA (100-73100-2100), $634.00 to Orange County Library, Wages: Part-Time (100-73100-1322);
- $2142.00 to Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $2.00 to E-911 & Central Dispatch, Workers' Compensation (100-31400-2710), $17.00 to E-911 & Central Dispatch, Group Life (100-31400-2400), $246.00 to E-911 & Central Dispatch, Retirement (100-31400-2210), $133.00 to E-911 & Central Dispatch (100-31400-2100), $1,744.00 to E-911 & Central Dispatch, Salary: Regular (100-31400-1111);
- $3,180.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $157.00 to Orange Co. Fire & EMS, Workers' Compensation (100-32310-2710), $25.00 to Orange Co. Fire & EMS, Group Life (100-32310-2400), $348.00 to Orange Co. Fire & EMS, Retirement (100-32310-2210), $188.00 to Orange Co. Fire & EMS, FICA (100-32310-2100), $2,462.00 to Orange Co. Fire & EMS, Salary: Regular (100-32310-1111);

- $1,530.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $3.50 to Youth Commission, Workers Compensation (100-53700-2710), $6.00 to Youth Commission, Group Life (100-53700-2400), $87.50 to Youth Commission, Retirement (100-53700-2210), $47.50 to Youth Commission, FICA (100-53700-2100), $620.50 to Youth Commission, Salary: Regular (100-53700-1111), $3.50 to VA Juvenile Crime Control, Workers Compensation (100-53600-2710), $6.00 to VA Juvenile Crime Control, Group Life (100-53600-2400), $87.50 to VA Juvenile Crime Control, Retirement (100-53600-2210), $47.50 to VA Juvenile Crime Control, FICA (100-53600-2100), $620.50 to VA Juvenile Crime Control, Salary: Regular (100-53600-1111);
- $2,494.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $28.00 to Solid Waste Disposal, Workers' Compensation (513-42400-2710), $6.00 to Solid Waste Disposal, Group Life (513-42400-2400), $83.00 to Solid Waste Disposal, Retirement (513-42400-2210), $45.00 to Solid Waste Disposal, FICA (513-42400-2100), $585.00 to Solid Waste Disposal, Salary: Regular (513-42400-1111), $8.00 to Landfill Collection Center, Workers' Compensation (513-42317-2710), $16.00 to Landfill Collection Center, FICA (513-42317-2100), $211.00 to Landfill Collection Center, Salary: Part-Time Attendants (513-42317-1301), $2.00 to Public Works, Workers' Compensation (513-42100-2710), $12.00 to Public Works, Group Life (513-42100-2400), $174.00 to Public Works, Retirement (513-42100-2210), $94.00 to Public Works, FICA (513-42100-2100), $1,230.00 to Public Works, Salary: Regular (513-42100-1111);
- $1,185.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $17.00 to Maint of Bldgs & Grounds, Workers' Compensation (100-43200-2710), $10.00 to Maint of Bldgs & Grounds, Group Life (100-43200-2400), $134.00 to Maint of Bldgs & Grounds, Retirement (100-43200-2210), $73.00 to Maint of Bldgs & Grounds, FICA (100-43200-2100), $951.00 to Maint of Bldgs & Grounds, Salary: Regular (100-43200-1111);
- $1,455.33 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $1.00 to Circuit Court Jury, Workers' Compensation (100-21110-2710), $36.00 to Circuit Court Jury, FICA (100-21110-2100), $476.00 to Circuit Court Jury, Wages: Part-Time (100-21110-1322), $1.00 to Clerk, Circuit Court, Workers' Compensation (100-21600-2710), $8.00 to Clerk, Circuit Court, Group Life (100-21600-2400), $108.00 to Clerk, Circuit Court, Retirement (100-21600-2210), $59.00 to Clerk, Circuit Court, FICA (100-21600-2100), $766.33 to Clerk, Circuit Court, Salary: Regular (100-21600-1111);
- $12,518.00 from Human Resources, Reserve for Raises (100-12220-1900), $145.00 to Sheriff's Office, Workers' Compensation (100-31200-2710), $101.00 to Sheriff's Office, Group Life (100-31200-2400), $1,423.00 to Sheriff's Office, Retirement (100-31200-2210), $771.00 to Sheriff's Office, FICA (100-31200-2100), $10,078.00 to Sheriff's Office, Salary: Regular (100-31200-1111).

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Wallace. Nays: Pace.

Mr. Dodson moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace and carried, to approve a blanket waiver for building permit fees associated with the following county agencies as presented:

- Volunteer fire departments;
- Volunteer rescue departments;
- The County itself, including the libraries; and
- Tenants of County owned facilities.

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace.

RE: PUBLIC APPEARANCES

RE: SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION

Frances Herndon was recognized for her 30 years of dedicated and loyal service to Orange County.

RE: VDOT UPDATE

Roy Tate, VDOT Assistant Resident Engineer, updated the Board on the status of projects in Orange County.

RE: CONSIDERATION OF NAME CHANGE OF NURSING HOME

Vernon Baker, Orange County Nursing Home Administrator, explained that with the excitement of the new assisted living construction project beginning at the Nursing Home, it is time to move forward to change the name of the nursing home for marketing purposes. He noted that out of 350 nursing home facilities in the state of Virginia, only ten have nursing home in their names and only three facilities in the state have County in their names. Mr. Baker indicated that the facility is progressing into the future by meeting the needs in the County and indicated that it would be diligent at this time to change the name so that people outside of the County will know that the facility is not for indigent patients only. While the facility does care for the indigent, nearly half of the residents are Medicaid patients. Mr. Baker indicated that people are unaware of how nice the facility is and of its reputation; therefore, he felt that a name change would help to precipitate that even before coming through the doors of the facility. He stated that the proposed name is Dogwood Village as it is located on Dogwood Lane, which was chosen by the residents when the E911 addressing system was implemented. He concluded by saying that the Nursing Home Commission has approved the name change.

Mr. Graves stated that the name change has been precipitated while trying to market the nursing home. He stated that citizens will always know the facility as the Orange County Nursing Home. Mr. Baker gave examples of other nursing home facilities that have removed nursing home from their name. Mr. Wallace stated that he has no problem changing the name; however, the examples that Mr. Baker used are private facilities not county owned. He requested that Orange County appear below the facility name on the sign so that citizens will know that it is a county owned facility. Mr. Dodson stated that he liked the idea of changing the name.

No action was taken at this time.

RE: JOINT MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD

Mike Ross, Vice Chairman of the School Board, introduced Bill Wotham of Moseley Architects who is the principal in charge of the Orange County Middle School Project. Mr. Wotham updated the Boards on the status of the project.

RE: RECESS

The School Board adjourned its meeting at 4:51 p.m. and the Board took a short recess to allow time for the School Board members, architects and others to leave the Board Room. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:58 p.m.

RE: ACTION ITEMS

RE: TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Mr. Rolfe explained that at a previous Board meeting, he and the Commissioner of the Revenue were asked to review the County's ordinance on providing tax relief to the elderly and disabled to determine if the eligibility thresholds needed amending. Currently, the County has a sliding scale system that provides some form of real estate tax relief if your annual income is less than $30,000 and your net worth is less than $80,000. The County also exempts the first $6,000 of relatives' income other than the owners living in the house from the income cap. A survey was conducted to determine how the tax relief system in Orange compared with surrounding localities. It was determined that all of the surrounding localities have a real estate tax exemption program with the exception of Madison County which has a tax deferral program. Mr. Rolfe stated that

based on the list of surrounding localities and their income maximum, relative's income exemption and net worth maximum, it is recommended that the Board consider increasing the maximum income figure from $30,000 to $37,000; increasing the income exemption from $6,000 to $6,500 and finally, increasing the maximum net worth from $80,000 to $110,000. This recommendation would put the County more in line with surrounding localities. He stated that staff is recommending that the County exempt the residence and five acres of land from the net worth calculation.

Discussion ensued including: the financial impact; clarification on the exemption of the residence; and possible stipulation concerning selling land that is included in the tax relief exemption.

Mr. Graves moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace and carried, to schedule a public hearing on October 9, 2007, on a proposed ordinance to amend sections of Chapter 58, Taxation, Article III, Division 3, Exemptions for Certain Elderly and Disabled Persons.

Discussion continued concerning how a person qualifies for a tax exemption.

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: "WELCOME TO ORANGE" SIGNS ON ROUTE 3

Joe Ward, Tourism Director, explained that the Board previously requested staff to purse the cost of "Welcome to Orange" signs which would be located in the eastern end of the County on Route 3. He indicated that there were two options: (A) an 81" x 120" sign and (B) a 96" x 120" sign. The lowest bidder was Michael Neely Signs & Banners who came in at a cost of $3,800 for sign "A" and $4,200 for sign "B". He noted that if the County elected to commit to 10 or more signs, there would be a 5% discount. Mr. Ward stated that after consulting with VDOT on locations for the signs on Route 3, another more vertical 6' x 5' sign option was researched in accordance with the County's procurement policies. Two bids were received: Michael Neely Signs and Banners and Signworx, a Company that has previously installed similar signs for other municipalities. Signworx was the lowest bidder with a price of $1,707.50 per sign based on a minimum order of two signs and a maximum order of 10 signs. VDOT would prefer not to have the "Welcome" signs installed in the median of Route 3; therefore, staff is recommending that the County purchase the vertical sign.

Mr. Wallace moved, seconded by Mr. Dodson and carried, to approve the design of "Welcome to Orange" signs and transfer $3,415 from the contingency fund to the Tourism Department budget (4-100-81600-8236) for the purchase of two signs.

Discussion ensued including: the color and design of the signs; the wording on the signs; and the number of signs to be purchased.

Mr. Graves asked for a clarification of the motion. He stated that he felt that consideration to purchase the proposed signs should be done during the upcoming budget process and noted that he would be opposing the action.

Ayes: Johnson, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: Graves.

Mr. Ward asked the Chairman's permission to briefly update the Board on items of interest from the Tourism Department including: the electronic kiosk at Montpelier and an advertisement recently published in a group tour magazine promoting Orange County.

RE: FIRE & EMS VOLUNTEERS TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Jamie Clark, Director of Fire & EMS, stated that in the past, Orange County has given active members of the volunteer fire and rescue agencies a free county decal for their volunteer services. The Towns of Gordonsville and Orange have also done the same for Town residents. This year, the County and the Town of Gordonsville eliminated decals; however, the Town of Orange continues to sell decals. With the elimination of decals, staff is proposing that a tax voucher in the amount of $100 be granted to all active volunteer personnel that meet the minimum eligibility requirements set forth in the proposed ordinance which was drafted by the County Attorney and reviewed by the fire/rescue community. Mr. Clark explained that certain criteria defines an active volunteer and noted that a list will be prepared annually with a tally of individuals who qualify for the voucher and will be submitted to the Finance Director. He concluded by saying that if approved, the Finance Director will issue a tax voucher for each eligible volunteer member.

Discussion ensued including: whether the proposed program would cause additional work for the Fire & EMS Department; how the individuals would redeem their voucher; and whether there would be a breakdown as to how the hours were accumulated including meeting attendance; responding to calls; and administrative functions.

Mr. Rolfe noted that currently 229 individuals qualify for the proposed tax relief program which would cost the County $22,900.

Mr. Wallace moved, seconded by Mrs. Pace, to schedule a public hearing on October 9, 2007 on a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 58, Taxation to include the Volunteer Tax Relief.

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

The Board made no appointments at this time.

RE: INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented to the Board for its information:

- Treasurers Report
- RRCSB Executive Director's Report – August, 2007.

RE: PENDING ITEMS

Mr. Rolfe distributed a memo from staff outlining advice received from outside legal counsel regarding the Subdivision Ordinance update. According to the report, the revisions made by the Board can be accomplished but not all in the Subdivision Ordinance. Some pieces must be pulled and added to the zoning ordinance. He suggested that the Board consider a worksession at its next meeting to further discuss the issue.

RE: CALENDAR

The Board received copies of its calendar for the months of September, October and November, 2007.

Mr. Rolfe reported that the Extension Office would like to have a joint dinner meeting with the Board on November 13, 2007.

RE: RECESS

At 5:27 p.m., Mr. Dodson moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace and carried, to reconvene in Closed Session for the following purposes:

- Consultation with legal counsel and staff regarding actual litigation by Margaret Fletcher, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the County, as permitted by Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(7);

- Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating its facilities in the community, as permitted by Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(5).

Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: OPEN SESSION

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Dodson moved, seconded by Mr. Wallace and carried; to reconvene in open session where upon the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Supervisors has 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 Orange County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange 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 business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

The motion carried. Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Moore, 219 Battlefield Road, Locust Grove, commented on the need for a high school in the eastern end of the County.

RE: BOARD COMMENT

Supervisor Graves and Chairman Johnson commented on the recent passing of lifelong resident and previous Board of Supervisors member, R. Lindsay Gordon, III.

Supervisor Dodson requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the September 11th tragedy and the many lives that were lost.

RE: RECESS

The Board took a short recess at 7:10 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dodson stated that he inadvertently omitted the brave passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Certainly, their heroism saved the lives of countless others. He concluded by saying that he wanted to make sure that they received credit as well.

RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS

RE: VPSA BONDS FOR EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

At 7:30 p.m., this being the time and place as advertised in the Orange County Review, Chairman Johnson called the public hearing to order to receive comments on the following:

VPSA Bonds for Eastern Middle School

Mr. Rolfe stated that the public hearing is in accordance with Section 15.2-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, on the issuance of general obligation school bonds of the County in an amount not to exceed $50,000,000 to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of certain capital projects for public school purposes consisting primarily of the construction of a new middle school. He explained that while the actual borrowing may be in two or three issuances, only one public hearing is necessary if the proposed amount is the total amount estimated for the project. He concluded by saying that, in working with Davenport and Company, staff has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to sell a portion of the Bonds to the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) in an amount not to exceed $5,500,000.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for public comment at 7:35 p.m. The following individuals spoke: Nathan Goodsell, 28476 Murel Way, Rhoadesville; Joan Bergstrom, 16075 Zachary Taylor Highway; Vanessa Gardner, 19446 Summerleas Drive; Laura Moore, 219 Battlefield Road, Locust Grove; Ray Wareham, 11416 Woodland Drive, Unionville; Julie Lovell, 4505 Lakeview Parkway; Michelle Casey, 10397 Tower Road, Unionville; William Hedger, Sr., Locust Grove; and Jim Hopkins, 135 Green Street, Locust Grove. There being no additional speakers, Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Dodson stated that he feels the proposed middle school will carry the County into the future much longer than trying to expand the current facility. He stated that the School Board is endorsing the project and he feels this is the right move for the County at this time. He applauded the School Board and fellow Board members for working on this project.

Mr. Wallace stated that there had been rumors indicating that the School Board was not unified in its decision to construct a new middle school. He asked Mike Ross, Vice-Chairman of the School Board, to comment. Mr. Ross stated that last year when the Board of Supervisors asked the School Board to prepare a long range plan; the School Board was unanimous with the strategy and continues to be. Mr. Wallace clarified that all five School Board members were in support of the proposed project. Mr. Ross stated that they were.

Mr. Graves stated that he echoed the comments of some of the speakers regarding the need to keep costs under control. He indicated that the Board hopes to hire a Clerk of the Works to oversee the project to make sure that mistakes are kept to a minimum. He indicated that this person will also follow through the construction to make certain that it is constructed properly. He stated that when the previous two middle schools were constructed, the School Board, at that time, hired a company for approximately $1.2 million to oversee the construction. This time the Board is hoping to hire someone locally to manage the project on the County's behalf. He indicated that there will be a committee comprised of representatives of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors that will be overseeing the construction. A critical view will be taken as to how to keep the costs down and yet provide the quality needed for the building. He indicated that green space incentives will be incorporated to make it as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. He concluded by saying that well over a year ago, the proposal made sense and it still does today. Hopefully the County won't have to revisit the issue for a significant period of time.

Mr. Johnson stated that a good deal of time has been spent on the project. Many different options have been reviewed and weighed. Consensus was found when building a larger middle school was proposed. He indicated that he does not like to spend millions of dollars, but

that is what the Board is elected to do. He noted that a few years ago, six million dollars was spent on the Courthouse which didn't give one square foot more than the County could have gotten for two million dollars. He stated that he is in favor of spending more money now to save lots of money down the road and feels that that is what the Board is doing. He stated that a comment was made that the Board is not educators which is correct, and noted that the Board is not making educational decisions but spending decisions. The School Board hires the Superintendent who makes the educational decisions. The School Board makes money decisions. The Board of Supervisors makes money decisions. Being people that want to do what is right and in the best interest of the community, it is not just looked at from a dollars standpoint. In looking at the many learning cottages currently outside of the current elementary and middle schools, it is not in the best interest of the community. He explained that that is why the Board is looking at spending this large sum of money, looking out for the best interests of the children. Then there is reality, getting the best bang for the buck. Therefore, comprises have to be made. He stated that this is a compromise which will take care of middle school space issues for a number of years, depending on the rate of growth. Yes, it is being done at a hefty price, but not at a price that is out of line for what is being accomplished. This proposal will get the students out of the learning cottages and hopefully allow the County to better educate and take care of the children in the elementary and middle school grades. Bricks and mortar certainly don't educate anyone, but he doesn't think that anyone will maintain that the learning cottages are in the best interest of children or their education either. Mr. Johnson concluded by saying that he will support the plan, not because he thinks it is the perfect plan, but because it is the best plan out of the options the County has available.

Mrs. Pace stated that in no means does she feel that the County adequately investigated how to solve school problems. Certainly they need to be addressed and have needed to be addressed. She stated that throwing out money doesn't fix the problems or set the County up for the future. She stated that it is a shame that this Board has not learned the lessons of previous Boards in that it is important to always respect the tax payer. The County has an election coming up where three seats will be voted on and in each district there are two opposing views as to what the County should do to address the school issue. Since the tax payers not only vote but have to pay the bills that the Board passes on to them, she feels that the Board could at least respect the tax payers by allowing this bond to be for an eastern school because if a majority of the tax payers feel that a middle school is what is needed, then Board members will be elected that support an eastern middle school and the project will go forward. If, on the other hand, a majority of the tax payers feel they want to pursue a different strategy by building an elementary school then Board members will be elected that support a different strategy. She stated that she also feels when making a $50 million dollar plus decision, there needs to be an account taken of what is going on in surrounding areas. She read an article from the Free Lance Star dated September 5, 2007, which reported that Culpeper County is feeling the impact of a housing slump and also an article from the current Free Lance Star regarding a real estate tax hike in Culpeper County. She stated that certainly there can't be a price put on quality education because that is a child's tool for the rest of his life. There is nothing more important than how valid that tool is but spending $50 million on a school facility is not going to bring about quality education. Quality education can be brought about by being fiscally responsible with the facilities that are built and using the County's assets to the fullest potential, being very careful with the tax payers' money and respectful of their wishes. She stated that she could support the borrowing of money for an eastern school because it is quite evident that the County needs it and has needed it, but not for an eastern middle school because that ties the hands of future Boards and it also bounds the tax payer into paying for something that they may not necessarily want.

Mr. Wallace moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Dodson seconded the motion. He stated that Mrs. Pace is promoting that the decision be tabled until after the election, hoping that there will be a change on the Board. He directed a comment and a question to Mr. Ross: Should the decision be postponed until after the election, will the School Board move forward with the proposed plan to meet the time table or put it on the back burner and wait until January 1, 2008, for the next Board to make a decision as to whether it is a middle school or an

elementary school?

Mr. Ross stated that the proposal that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board have been working on, has been to develop a long term plan that addresses K-12 education and the needs of the students until 2017-2018. The strategy proposed addresses K-12 education and is not something that has happened in a short time. The School Board believes and is unanimous, that this is the best plan. The impact of not making a decision will stop the School Board in its tracks. There is currently a schedule for completion in 2010. He concluded by saying that time is of the essence and if deliberations continue there will be a much later opening date.

Jerry Bledsoe, District Four School Board Member, stated that he agrees with the statements that Mr. Ross made and noted that every action that a Board takes, impacts future boards. No decision would ever be made if we were concerned with impacting future boards. The School Board and Board of Supervisors have worked for well over a year in putting this plan together as a team effort. He stated that the five School Board members are in support of the project for the future of Orange County students and their education. He concluded by saying that it is time to move forward.

Mrs. Pace stated that her point for borrowing money for an eastern school as opposed to an eastern middle school would allow for a smoother transition if the direction were to change. Another public hearing would not be required because it would be for a new school, not specifying middle school, and allow the project to move forward no matter which direction is chosen. She noted that en elementary school will be constructed much quicker than a middle school and the issue with learning cottages would be resolved much sooner. She concluded by saying that the County can get the most for its money by building on the assets that it currently has rather than building something new.

Mr. Johnson stated that he is uncertain as to whether the upcoming elections will be a referendum as to whether there will be an elementary school or a middle school. He feels that the elections will be for a much broader set of questions and only one of which will be for a school. He stated that several years ago, the Board of Supervisors voted for staggered terms; therefore, that allows for a two year windows of opportunity between elections. Using Mrs. Pace's criteria, the Board would never get anything done. It is time to make a decision and move forward.

Mr. Wallace called for the question as presented. Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Wallace. Nays: Pace.

RE: RECESS

The Board took a short recess at 8:18 p.m. and reconvened at 8:23 p.m.

RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS CONTINUED

RE: ROUTE 20 CORRIDOR STUDY

Chairman Johnson called the public hearing to order at 8:23 p.m. to receive comments on the following:

Route 20 Corridor Study

Deborah S. Kendall, Director of Strategic Planning, stated that a presentation was made to the Board at its August 14, 2007, meeting by VHB regarding Phase II of the Route 20 Corridor Study. Phase II covers Route 522 West into the Town of Orange to Route 15. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 2, 2007, and took the following actions regarding the study:

- Remove the long term solution for Village Road (closing off both ends of Village Road and extending Marquis Road to Route 20).
- Amend Item J in the list of recommendations to state as follows: "Retain/acquire appropriate right-of-way along the corridor to allow for potential intersection widening proposals".

Mrs. Kendall concluded by saying that Phase II of the Route Corridor Study be sent forward to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation that the document be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan with corrections and amendments as discussed.

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for public comment at 8:27 p.m. The following individuals spoke: Douglas Duncan, 10324 Gospel Hill Road, Unionville; Donald Waugh, 385 Waugh Boulevard, Orange; and Charles Bowman, 7551 Moormont Road, Rapidan. There being no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed at 8:39 p.m.

Comments were made by Board members regarding: four-laning Route 20; round-abouts not being a safety solution; four lane intersection at Route 661; and Planning Commission recommendations.

Mr. Graves moved, seconded by Mrs. Pace and carried, to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and adopt Phase II of the Route 20 Corridor Study as amended and remove all mid-term proposals. Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace. Nays: Wallace.

RE: ADOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dodson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Wallace seconded the motion. Ayes: Johnson, Graves, Dodson, Pace, Wallace. Nays: None.