

# Charlotte County Supervisors approve committee formation

By Debra Ferrell/The Union Star

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Charlotte County supervisors appeared supportive of the proposed formation of a local committee of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission during their monthly board meeting January 20. In a presentation from county planner/purchaser Monica Elder, she explained how the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is scheduled for 2011-2015.

During the next few years, the state commission will promote Civil War museums, sites and local committee actions through an interactive website, computer kiosks, maps and brochures at welcome centers and locations throughout the state. The goal is to make travel easier for visitors and citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

Each locality has been asked to form a local committee to work with the commission as it coordinates events within the community. The local committee will plan programs, events and activities highlighting specific local history. Regional coordinators for the Civil War Trails program will be asked to serve as regional coordinators of the local committees.

Elder explained, "The Museum of the Confederacy was built in Richmond for the 100th anniversary but the commission wants to get out more in communities this time."

"They want folks with a knowledge of history who can be active participants," said Chairman Garland Hamlett Jr. "I've given county administrator R. B. Clark some names to consider. We want a well-rounded group involved in things like government, civics and education. Good team players are needed so we can bring it alive and get people involved."

After Charlotte County voted "yes" on the committee's formation, Hamlett stressed the need to quickly gather a list of names for Elder to contact. Most counties have voted to create these committees.

Members are encouraged to inventory Civil Wars sites so this information can help the commission staff program the interactive website and kiosks at welcome centers. Data should include historic homes, museums, cemeteries, battlefields, special library collections, and historical research centers.

Feedback from community residents about their ancestors' roles in the war will be gathered and involving young people in writing essays and contests is recommended.

Later in the meeting, full approval was granted to the Charlotte County Emergency Sewer Project Management Plan. The project description states that approximately 23,000 linear feet of 6" force sewer line between the towns of Drakes Branch and Charlotte Courthouse will be laid to improve water quality to county facilities. Installation of a pump station using Southern Rivers Water Shed Grant Program will be included.

Leverage funding includes \$200,000 from Southern Rivers, \$820,905 from the Tobacco Commission and \$46,245 from local funds.

Monthly meetings on the project's progress will be held the last Thursday of the month, 10 a.m., in the Charlotte County Administration Building.

During his monthly report to supervisors, J. D. Barkley, II, VDOT residency administrator, assured the board that no problems were created by an early morning snowfall on January 20. "There was only a trace amount up to an inch of snow with even less this way (Charlotte Courthouse). Our crews came in at midnight and did a good job. Mother Nature helped out

today."

In his report on area projects, Barkley said that the Rt. 15 bridge near Keysville should be really nice with higher clearance once improvements are complete. A signal light will be installed in March.

Work is anticipated to begin within the next couple of months to prepare signal poles with caution lights at the Rt. 360-Rt. 47 intersection. Lane improvements are projected sometime around June. The Rt. 92 bridge project is under study by VDOT.

In answer to supervisor Nancy Carwile's question about countywide trash pickup, Barkley replied, "Less money to buy materials (in a tight budget) means you can do a better job on litter pickup. We'll also keep up on repairing potholes."

In other business:

\* Members voted approval for a resolution honoring the Phenix Volunteer Fire Department's 50th anniversary. The crew was organized in 1959 with a total membership of 22. The facility was constructed in 1960 with an official charter granted in 1964. A state of the art firehouse was constructed in 2002.

\* Carwile reminded the board that a full report on coyote kills was needed.

\* Approval was granted for the 2006 delinquent real estate tax list to be published in an area newspaper. Supervisor Gary D. Walker questioned whether county employees could have payroll deductions for these overdue bills.

\* Deputy County Administrator Susan Adams reported that the county broadband project was entering Phase II where information was being requested for consultants. The decision on whether to go with or without wire will be addressed later.

\* During a discussion on appropriations, Clark informed the board that an increase in juvenile cases was costing the county more money for court services. "But it's cheaper than detention," he said. "There are more juvenile problems with judges handling things differently. You can't tell the judge what to do. Bottom line-pay it."