



AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, AT 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON MARCH 22, 2022, AT 3:00 PM.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1,
Steve W. McClung, District 2,
Mike W. Byerly, District 3, Chair
Bill L. Cox, District 4,
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Vice-Chair

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator
Charla Schubert, Finance Director
Thomas Vo, Budget Manager

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sherriff
Becky Nunnally, Treasurer

Guests Present:

1. Call To Order

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McClung led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Ms. Carmack led the invocation.

4. Requests to Postpone Agenda Items, and Additions, Deletions, or Changes in the Order of Presentation

None.

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Chairman Byerly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Williams voted AYE.

**VOTE 5-0
MOTION PASSED**



6. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

7. New Business

a. Discussion of Welcome Signage- Winterfield Road

Mr. Schardein gave an overview. He stated that the county was attempting to upgrade its quality of aesthetics and had already upgraded some of the signage in the village area. They also put up VDOT signs at the entrances to the County that did not have them. He stressed the importance of people knowing when they are or are not in Powhatan County. He presented a potential design and explained that VDOT has approved the location and other requirements. He also proposed that the County use a portion of marketing funds for the project.

Mr. Cox stated that the project comes with a very unexpected price in a budget season where there is inflation. He expressed that he did not support the project as it was not going to give any money back to the taxpayers of the community during this economic period. Mr. Williams expressed his support for the project. He stated that it makes sense to put up a sign as he has met many people that are unaware that certain events are in Powhatan County. He was concerned with the price. Mr. Schardein explained that they had looked at multiple quotes and he does not expect to find anything cheaper than the price that is presented. Ms. Carmack expressed her support for the project. Mr. McClung and Chairman Byerly agreed with Mr. Williams and expressed their support for the project.

8. Old Business

a. Budget Discussion

Mr. Smither gave a brief overview of the budget changes including the CPR device, heart monitor replacement, and public works projects. Ms. Wilson gave an overview of the warehouse expansion project. She explained that the warehouse is currently being shared with Sherriff's Department. The expansion would add to the other side of the warehouse and allow for more storage space. Mr. Cox asked why the project is projected to take place ten years from now. Ms. Wilson explained that they do not anticipate needing the space before then. The next phase of Fighting Creek Park would also require them to start storing groundskeeping equipment in the warehouse as well. Mr. Smither moved on, stating that they had also suggested the use of the school maintenance budget to update the radio systems on county school buses.



Mr. Williams asked that the Board go back to the convenience center discussion on page 18. He stated that he had been informed of the center's urgent need of a parking lot renovation. He asked if there was any way this could expedited.

Mr. Smither stated that the project could be expedited. Ms. Wilson agreed that the project should be expedited. Chairman Byerly agreed that the project should be expedited. He suggested completing the project at the same time as the paving for the Village is done. Ms. Wilson explained that the paving may have been donated when it was first put in place, but it had not been donated recently. The Board moved on to the school maintenance fund.

Mr. Smither stated that they had previously discussed using the school maintenance fund to update the school bus radio system, build more classrooms, and replace the HVCs. Mr. Williams asked if the schools could use any of their ESSER funds towards those projects. Ms. Wilson explained that the schools had already filled out an application that stated the intended use of the funds in order to receive them. This means they would have to change their plan if they wanted to put the money to use elsewhere. Chairman Byerly asked if the school would be able to use any of the construction money granted by the state to fund these projects. Mr. Smither stated that he believed they could, except for the radio systems. Chairman Byerly asked if there is any potential for grant money when it comes to the radio upgrades. Mr. Smither explained referred to a colleague who explained that a grant had been given to the schools in the past, but that money did not come from them.

The Board moved on to the Parks and Recreation budget. Mr. Smither proposed spending \$30,000.00 on the installation of three batting cages. One would be installed at the Pocahontas Landmark Center and the other two at Fighting Creek Park. Ms. Carmack suggested that they keep the 32 as a placeholder until they conduct a major overhaul of the parks and recreation budget and set an actual date of construction. Mr. Williams agreed with Ms. Carmack. He also asked Ms. Wilson about the possible construction of the archery range. He was not sure if the original plan called for an archery range or firing range. Ms. Wilson explained that it had always been an archery range, but they had originally looked at creating an indoor space instead of an outdoor one.

The Board moved on to the budget for the Sheriff's Department and school land purchases. Mr. Smither explained that due to inflation, there would still be five new vehicles in the upcoming year instead of six. The only exception to this is 2023, which will have the addition of seven new vehicles. He went on to explain that the budget for school land purchases was allocated at 2.5 million dollars. He explained that this serves as a placeholder for using legalizing debt to purchase the land. He also mentioned smaller projects that were not included in the packet because they could be handled using the general operating budget. Ms. Carmack suggested adding a senior center to the CIP. She expressed that this could be added to the parks and recreation expansion. Mr. Cox suggested that the Board sit down at a later time to discuss the need for a senior center. The Board agreed to put this topic on the agenda for some time in the future.



Mr. Smither stated that he would like to put a placeholder of one million dollars down for an industrial park or commercial park property acquisition. Mr. Cox proposed that the Board use the funds to pay down the \$1.6 million they have for the fire station. Mr. Smither stated that this decision does not have to be made for another year. Mr. Cox asked why the American Rescue Plan funds are not listed under the funding sources in the packet. He stated that those funds could be used for Fighting Creek Lake water treatment plant upgrades. Mr. Smither stated that the Board needed to figure out a strategy for those funds. Mr. Cox pointed to page 5. He stated that the fire station should fall under PAYGO funding for a building of infrastructure. Ms. Carmack stated that, at the end of the day, those are both PAYGO projects. She asked if it mattered which project, they spent the funds on. Mr. Cox explained that the American Rescue Fund is restricted in terms of what you can use it on. Mr. Williams agreed with Mr. Cox. He asked for Mr. Smither's recommendation. Mr. Smither stated that either strategy would work. Ms. Carmack suggested using the money to fund the fire and rescue and other water treatment projects. She wanted to discuss the pros and cons of this approach.

The Board moved on to miscellaneous contributions. Mr. Smither gave a presentation that listed these potential contributions to include in the budget. Mr. Smither stated that there is a \$10,000.00 request from Habit for Humanity. Mr. Cox asked what the justification for this request is. Ms. Schubert stated that the money would be put towards a critical repair program.

Mr. Smither gave a brief description of the rest of the contributions. The Board asked Mr. Vo what he knew about Central Virginia Legal Group. Mr. Cox, Commonwealth Attorney stated that they are mostly involved in landlord/tenant situations. He could not say that he had a positive experience but reminded the Board that his experience is limited. He also stated that they are civil, not criminal.

Chairman Byerly asked if the Sheriff's Department is compensated for the fair in any way. During a discussion of the Powhatan Fair Association, Mr. Vo explained that although the Board could decide what the funding is spent on, there is a chance that the organization would divert funding to use elsewhere. Mr. Cox clarified that the County is already contributing funds towards the fair.

The Board moved on to the Ride Finders contribution. Ms. Carmack asked what the Board gets for Reynolds Community College. Ms. Schubert stated that there is an operating piece and capital piece. She also stated that the county's portion is \$33,156.00 in total. Mr. Williams stated that in the past, the Board of Supervisors had been told that there is an agreement within the community college system that explained how the money was being distributed. Mr. Cox expressed that in the next year or so, when the Goochland campus goes through its renovation, there will be many questions to discuss in terms of its benefits.

Ms. Carmack requested that the Board take a closer look at the Feedmore contribution.



Mr. Cox explained that the “Meals on Wheels” project had been limited to one day a week but will be expanding to five days a week in the near future. He stated that he would remove the contribution for the Central Virginia Legal Aid. The Board agreed to remove the contribution toward the Central Virginia Legal Aid. On the topic of the Senior Connections contribution, Ms. Carmack stated her support for leaving \$5,000.00 in as a placeholder until they see more presentations about it in the future.

The Board moved on to the discussion of the Fire Department. Mr. Smither gave a brief overview and stated that Chief Warner was available to answer any questions. Chief Warner explained that the Fire Department was informed that their rates would be increasing by 19.8%. He stated that this was a decision based entirely on the well-being of the citizens. He went on to explain how the prioritization of emergency calls works. Ms. Carmack expressed concern about the possibility that money would slowly increase over time until it begins draining too much of the County’s resources. Chief Warner understood Ms. Carmack’s concern and explained the situation at hand. He went on to answer several of the Board’s questions about volunteers, funding, FTEs, etc. The Board moved on to the tax rates in the operating budget. Mr. Smither presented a chart of the regional real property tax rates and gave a brief overview of the changes occurring in the budget. He also stated that the County would still fall under the same growth pattern and supported this claim with a projected fund balance chart. Mr. Cox expressed concern with the fact that the County is way behind in their discussion of the tax rates because they changed the calendar. This would mean that any decisions that are made will not be set into motion by June.

Mr. Smither clarified that the Board is in the position to set forth new tax rates by June as long as they present these changes by April 15th. Mr. Cox expressed his support for compensating the citizens in some way in terms of the tax rate. Ms. Carmack expressed her support for the \$0.79 tax rate that was discussed last year. Mr. McClung agreed with Ms. Carmack. Mr. Williams stated that although the \$0.79 tax rate was agreed upon last year, the Board did not know that inflation and gas prices would be at an all-time high. He stated that he was in favor of lowering the tax rate this year. Chairman Byerly asked when the deadline is to change the tax rate is. Ms. Nunnally stated that that tax rate should be decided by April 1st. Chairman Byerly went on to state that he has no intentions of lowering the tax rate.

Chairman Byerly made a motion to approve the \$0.79 tax rate for the upcoming year. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung. Voted AYE. Mr. Cox, and Mr. Williams voted NO.

VOTE 3-2
MOTION PASSED

Chairman Byerly made a motion to approve the proposed budget for health care costs. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.



Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Williams voted AYE.

VOTE 5-0

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Carmack proposed that the Board expedite the following projects because they have the money to do so: Holly Hills turn lane, Rt. 13 & Rt. 60 Academy Road improvement, turn lane at Trend Home Rd., and minor modifications on 711. Mr. Williams asked that the Board get this information down on a spreadsheet so that they can make the best decision for the county. Chairman Byerly asked if Mr. Schardein could bring an analysis to the budget workshop in April. Mr. Schardein stated that he could try, but all the smart scale applications need to be turned in first. The Board agreed to have that information presented on April 25th.

9. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Max Timberlake, 1479 Dorset Road](#), represented the Board of Directors for the Powhatan Farm Bureau Federation. He discussed the contributions of forestry and agriculture and requested the Board's continued support for the Cooperative Extension Service and the Monacan Soil & Water.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

10. County Attorney Comments

There were no County Attorney comments.

11. County Administrator Comments

There were no County Administrator comments.

12. Board Comments

There were no Board comments.

13. Adjournment

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM.

ATTEST:

Ned Smither, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Michael W. Byerly, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

*POWHATAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 22, 2022*



Recorded Vote:

<i>David T. Williams</i>	AYE
<i>Steve W. McClung</i>	AYE
<i>Michael W. Byerly</i>	AYE
<i>Bill L. Cox</i>	AYE
<i>Karin M. Carmack</i>	AYE