



AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, AT 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON MAY 03, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.

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

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney
Frank Hopkins, Planning Director

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sherriff

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Carmack led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Mr. Williams 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

Ms. Carmack made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 5-0

MOTION PASSED



6. County Administrator Updates

There were no County Administrator comments.

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

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Mike Oliver, 4372 Three Bridge Road](#), expressed concern about a comment made toward the County Administrator at the previous meeting.

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

8. Public Hearings

a. Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Stephen Barham, 3492 Richard's Run](#), urged the Board to try to eliminate any waste that the budget may include.

[David Anderson, 2366 Belle Crest Circle](#), thanked the staff and the Board for all of the time and effort they have put into the budget, Mr. Williams for his effort to uncover the mistakes that had been made, and Mr. Smither for his proactivity and willingness to inform him when he had questions. He recommended that the Board give more thought to the level of guidance and assumption that they give their staff to prepare the budget and consider putting strategies together now for the following year's budget.

[Debbie Weir, 1501 Page Road](#), expressed concern with the budget and the advertising priority that it was given. She suggested that the Tourism Fund within the budget is an unnecessary expense.

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

Ms. Carmack stated that she did not believe the convenience center positions were necessary for this fiscal year. She asked what her colleagues thought about removing this from the budget. Mr. Smither clarified that there is only four months' worth of salary for the convenience center included in the budget, not a full year. Ms. Carmack asked if they could eliminate one of the new firefighter positions and only have two. Mr. Goodman, Deputy Chief of Powhatan Fire & Rescue, stated that they had asked for three new positions because it would allow the personnel on staff to fill the spots and receive compensation.

Ms. Carmack went on to ask about the necessity of a Deputy Clerk for the Commissioner of Revenue. Mr. Timberlake, Commissioner of Revenue, stated that he cannot give up this position in light of the transition of the assessment office back to him but that this position

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should be up for removal next year. Ms. Carmack asked if the budget for the assessment office would increase now that the positions have been transferred over to Mr. Timberlake. Mr. Cox stated that it depends on how Mr. Timberlake chooses to fill the positions.

Mr. Cox asked that the purchasing agent be removed from the budget because they do not have an MOU with the schools yet. He also agreed that the Board should remove the convenience center positions. Chairman Byerly stated that he and Ms. Schubert both know there is a definite need for a purchasing agent and suggested that the job be part-time instead of full-time.

Mr. Cox then presented the 5% raises, revenue associated with the 5% compensation Board increases, and the expenditure chart. He stated that this sheet does not show the revenue changes of about \$700,000.00 and asked where this money is in their budget. Mr. Smither noted that he would find out where this discrepancy was coming from and that he assumed the numbers might have changed since they last spoke. Mr. Cox stated that he would also like to see the cost of health benefits for retirees. He asked if the general fund personal property tax estimate should be looked at again, considering the increasing value of vehicles and the sales tax. Mr. Smither stated that he would be getting an answer regarding the personal property tax but that he believed the County had been too conservative in fiscal year 22, which is why there seems to be such an increase compared to fiscal year 23. Mr. Cox asked that the contingency fund be updated.

Mr. Cox wondered why there aren't more full-time information technology positions. Mr. Wood explained that information technology employees only work a tenth of the time that a full-time employee does.

Mr. Williams asked who was going to pick up the duties of Ms. Ramona, who recently stepped down as the Director of Public Works. Mr. Smither explained that Mr. Hagy would be taking over those duties and projects.

Ms. Carmack asked why the Board never looked at the personal property tax rate. Mr. Smither stated that it is not a tax rate typically looked at annually. Ms. Carmack suggested that the Board consider lowering this tax rate to make up for the increase in other areas. Mr. Timberlake explained that the effectiveness of a penny on personal property is so minute compared to real estate, meaning that adjusting it would have much less of an impact on the County budget than the real estate tax rate.

Chairman Byerly suggested getting rid of the \$35.00 fee associated with the property tax bill. Mr. Timberlake, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Williams both expressed their support for this idea. Ms. Carmack asked that the Board still look into reducing the personal property tax rate. Mr. Smither reminded the Board that waiving the fee plus a two-cent decrease in the real estate tax would equal about a \$23,000,000.00 hit on a \$25,000,000.00 fund balance over the next ten years.

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Ms. Carmack asked if the County would be giving 3% or 5% raises. Mr. Cox explained that a 5% raise is included in the contingency fund as of right now. Ms. Carmack wondered if holding the tax rate at \$0.77 over the next ten years would help keep the model they had last year. Chairman Byerly explained what lowering taxes would mean for the tax rate. He also urged having an advertisement to draw more people to the meetings.

Mr. Cox moved on to the CIP. He stated that he does not believe the County is keeping its volunteers engaged with the type of training they deserve and informed the Board that Goochland County is interested in partnering with Powhatan County to create a training facility. He also stated that he did not believe the CIP should include commercial real estate development, emphasized the trail master plan as an important project that should be focused on, and pointed out that replacing the Powhatan High School roof is not urgent. Ms. Schubert explained that the replacement in 2023 would be the camera and radio systems.

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

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Harry Markland, 3701 Hope Meadow Road,](#) expressed his support for how the Board conducted the meeting.

[Stephen Barham, 3492 Richard's Run,](#) expressed his support for the efforts being made to lower the tax rate. He also urged the Board to reconsider their decision to get involved in real estate.

[Mike Oliver, 4372 Three Bridge Road,](#) reminded the Board of the importance of a conversation about the senior center and stated that he was looking forward to continuing a thoughtful discussion.

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 closed the public comment period at approximately 8:07 PM.

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Ned Smither, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Mike W. Byerly, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

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