

**VIRGINIA: AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE POWHATAN VILLAGE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON JANUARY 25, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.**

**Board of Supervisors Present:** David T. Williams, District 1,  
Michael W. Byerly, District 3, Vice Chairman  
Bill L. Cox, District 4  
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Chairman

**Board of Supervisors Absent:** None

**County Staff Present:** Ned Smither, County Administrator  
Bret Schardein, Deputy County Administrator  
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney  
Phil Warner, Fire and Rescue Chief  
Tom Nolan, Director of Public Safety Communications  
Phil Warner, Fire and Rescue Chief  
Ramona Carter, Director of Public Works  
John Wood, Director of Information Technology  
Karen Alexander, Director of Elections  
Mary Anne Woodel, Recreation Coordinator  
Larry Johns, PCPS Assistant Superintendent

**Constitutional Officers Present:** Brad Nunnally, Sheriff

**Guests Present:** None

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Carmack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- a. Identify Public Entity members physically and/or electronically present

Mrs. Carmack identified the Board members, Mr. Smither, and Mr. Lacheney, and their locations.

- b. Identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment

County Administration staff will accept emailed comments at [administration@powhatanva.gov](mailto:administration@powhatanva.gov). Any comments received until 6:30 pm, on the day of the meeting will be entered into the meeting minutes.

- c. Identify opportunities for the public to access the electronic meeting

The public was able to participate in the meeting by using: <https://zoom.us/j/398095011> by computer. Phone access was possible by dialing: US: 1-929-205-6099 or 1-312-626-6799. As always, the public could view the live feed from the County website. (edit link as needed)

- d. Identify opportunities for the public to participate in such an electronic meeting

The public was able to view and participate in the meeting live with the Zoom meeting link. During the public comment period, members of the public could raise their hands using the zoom controls on their screens, or press \*9 on their phone.

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Byerly 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**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as presented or as amended. Mrs. Carmack seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karin M. Carmack voted AYE

**VOTE 4-0**  
**MOTION Passed**

## **6. Discussion of Special Election Process for District 2 Board of Supervisor**

Mrs. Carmack stated that after Mr. Nordvig's resignation on January 31, 2021, the Board of Supervisors has forty-five days to appoint someone into the District 2 seat. A circuit court judge will then make an appointment if one is not selected. She asked the Board if they would like to wait the forty-five days to turn the decision or would we want someone in sooner for budget season.

Mr. Cox stated that he would like to see interested applicants within thirty days, have the information out to the public by March 1, 2021, then the Board will have two weeks to make a decision.

Mr. Williams asked the Board if they wanted to start interviews as they come in, or after the closing date. Mrs. Carmack responded that she would like it done in one lump sum.

Mr. Byerly added that he would like to see this done as quickly as possible. He said that he liked the idea of applicants sending in a letter of interest instead of a resume. Mr. Byerly pointed out there this is a public elected seat.

Mrs. Carmack stated that the application process will close February 12, 2021. She asked the Board how they wanted to ask people to apply. She added that she would like for them to submit an application. Mr. Cox stated that would like a resume with education and job experience. He added that he would like to know what their community involvement is, why they want to run, and what they hope to accomplish. Mr. Williams stated that he doesn't want to tie folks down to what information they provide the Board, because ultimately, the candidate will have to make their case to the people. Mr. Byerly stated that he isn't in favor of an application, but would like a letter about why they want to run and what qualifies them.

Mrs. Carmack stated that the applicant should submit a letter of intent or a resume with basic information. She then asked if the Board would prefer the interim not run in the November election. Mr. Williams said that he didn't want to get into that. Mr. Cox agreed with Mr. Williams.

Mr. Carmack asked the Board if they would like the interviews open or closed. Mr. Cox injected that he would prefer it closed. Mrs. Carmack agreed.

Mr. Williams stated that he is in favor a closed November District 2 election. Mr. Byerly pointed out that is the people's seat.

Mrs. Carmack introduced Mrs. Karen Alexander, Director of Elections to help with election information.

Mrs. Alexander stated that the earliest a special election could be done is April, 13, 2021. She added that a special election cannot be combined with a June primary, as you cannot have a special election within fifty-five days of a primary election. Mrs. Alexander stated that if that's something that they wanted to do, the absentee voting would have to being February 26, 2021, candidates would need to qualify three weeks prior on February 12, 2021. She noted that she didn't think that timeline would be possible or even fair. She stated that the next logical date would be November 2, 2021. With that date, absentee voting would begin September 17, 2021, and candidates would need to qualify by August 13, 2021.

Mrs. Carmack stated that they would want to wait until the November 2, 2021 date for an election. Mr. Cox agreed.

Mr. Lacheney asked for a motion so that he will have permission to file with the Court for a November 2, 2021 election for the District 2 seat.

Mr. Williams made a motion to have the special election on November 2, 2021. Mr. Cox seconded this motion.

David T. Williams, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karen M. Carmack voted AYE

**VOTE 4-0**  
**MOTION Passed**

**7. County Administrator Updates**

Mr. Smither had no updates.

**8. 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 Carmack opened the first public comment period.

Sharon Yatz, 1917 Farrow Ridge Rd, addressed the resignation of Mr. Nordvig. She stated that Mr. Nordvig was a passionate advocate for his constituents and a knowledgeable, involved Board member. Ms. Yatz said that she has been to board meetings for the last three to four years, and has seen Mr. Nordvig fight for the citizens, for his beliefs, and for the County. It seemed as though he was often dismissed because of some of the ideas from the Board. He was passionate, outspoken, and asked excellent questions on our behalf. Sometimes it seems as though they are more concerned with regulations than what their constituents are asking for. She asked that the Board come together and ask Mr. Nordvig to continue his tenure. She stated that he doesn't get the respect that he deserves. He was passed over year after year for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman seats, yet has more experience than most of them. Ms. Yatz stated that she hopes the Board can come together to and respect each other's differences. She thanks Mr. Nordvig for his devoted service to Powhatan. She added that she feels as though the Board has a love for Powhatan, it's just that the people have different views on how to make decisions that are best for the community.

Jamie Timberlake, 1450 Schroder Rd, echoed what Ms. Yatz said and thanked Mr. Nordvig for his service. His stepping down has been a disservice to the County in many ways. Mr. Timberlake stated that he is disappointed that the Board didn't come to the people of district 2 first. He said that he doesn't mean to be negative, but he doesn't trust the four board members to come up with a person that will represent him for the next year. He is in favor of having a judge appoint someone than have the current board after seeing some of things he has seen happen up there. Mr. Timberlake said that the fact that these discussions didn't happen before today shows you where the power sits.

Ms. Morris, 1101 Dorset Rd, stated that Larry was her supervisor. She said that Mr. Williams knows how long she's been attending and that she's brought her problems to the County about the plan. She stated that her parents spoke here as well and paid taxes. Ms. Morris stated that Mr. Nordvig came to their property and tried to work things out for her. She said that he spent time with her. She thanked Mr. Nordvig. She said that the open position is an elected office. The conversation that she'd heard was so much for district 2, let's just check that off the list. She stated that her views matter. Ms. Morris that that people love this county, and the Board saying that they are going to elect her representative, didn't make her feel good. She asked the Board to listen to its citizens. She added that Mr. Nordvig at least took the time to meet with her. She doesn't feel as though the current Board has a grasp on what their people are going through.

Ms. Kitty Osborne, 1017 Dorset Rd, said that Mr. Nordvig was a good guy. She noted that she worked for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran Affairs. She asked why would an elected official resign. She asked what the elephant in the room is. She stated that she held many roles and didn't tell the truth because it would have been career suicide. Ms. Osborne added that she didn't feel as though her constitutional rights are being supported by the Board. She added that she wished the Board would have been more cooperative with Mr. Nordvig and keeping his expertise and his opinions. Ms. Osborne stated that Mr. Nordvig represents district 2 and their mindset. She felt like the Board was moving into the "cancel culture" and it looked as though Mr. Nordvig got cancelled.

Chairman Carmack closed the first public comment period

**9. Old Business**

- a. Recommendation of Appointments of the Board of Equalization

Mr. Smither presented. He stated that there are three vacancies on the Board of Equalization. The applicants are; Mr. Venable, Mr. Lipscomb, and Mrs. Gannon.

Mr. Williams makes a motion to appoint the following; Jean Gannon of district 4, Carl Lipscomb of district 3, Demetrious Venable of district 5 to the Powhatan County Board of Equalization.

David T. Williams, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karin M. Carmack voted AYE

**VOTE 4-0  
MOTION Passed**

- b. Quarterly Financial Report as of December 31, 2020 Pages 5-10

Mr. Smither presented. He stated that he provided the Quarterly Financial Report to provide greater clarity and information.

Mr. Cox stated that it needed to be amended.

- c. Resolution R-2021-02 Appropriating the Third Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Pages 11-13

Chairman Carmack made a motion to approve Resolution R-2021-02 as amended. Mr. Cox seconded the motion

David T. Williams, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karin M. Carmack voted AYE

**VOTE 4-0  
MOTION Passed**

**10. New Business**

- a. Discussion of Draft FY22 Capital Improvements Program

Mr. Smither presented a slide presentation of the ten-year CIP projects. He added that he wanted to just lay the framework and the Board can make changes from there.

Mr. Smither stated that the first page shows the summary of all of the expenses that have a ten-year total of sixty-nine million dollars, fifty million will come from the General Fund, two million in grants, and thirteen million in debt. Mr. Smither noted that the amount of debt is a

concern for the Board, but explained that by year 2023, the debt will be dipping below the 12% guideline. There's room for debt after that year.

Mr. Smither moved to the second slide, which contained projects for the schools.

1. Asphalt maintenance- \$212,000
2. Land purchase for new elementary school- \$2,500,000
3. School Fleet- \$1, 919,000
4. High School security vestibule and two-story expansion- \$13,989,000

Mr. Cox asked if the buses are being purchased as opposed to leasing. Mr. Smither replied that they are being purchased. Mr. Cox then asked if we have enough money for 2022 to purchase them. Mr. Smither stated that we have a bit of that cash but it will span the entire ten years. Mr. Cox asked what the value in purchasing the buses will be. Mr. Smither responded that by purchasing, they are reducing debt.

Mr. Smither moved the third slide, which contained projects for public utilities.

1. Smart water technology- \$400,000
2. Fighting Creek waste water drainage and improvements- \$700,000
3. Waterline extension- \$40,000
4. Water supply monitoring- \$95,000
5. SCADA equipment- \$65,000
6. Storage building \$30,000

Mr. Williams asked how the waterline extension will work. Mrs. Carter explained that at the high school where the waterline terminates, we are connecting it and looping it to the waterline that is on Batterson Road.

Mr. Cox, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Carter, and Mr. Smither discussed the convenience center and water usage.

Mr. Cox asked if we believe that we will run out of capacity at Fighting Creek. Mrs. Carter replied yes and that it is based on demand. He then asked if the village area is fine. Mrs. Carter responded that the Village will fall under Fighting Creek.

Mr. Smither moved to the fourth slide, which contained projects for Parks and Recreation.

1. Athletic fields and ADA improvements- \$630,000
2. Trail Master Plan construction- \$565,000
3. Athletic field lighting- \$500,000
4. Pocahontas Landmark parking improvements- \$400,000
5. Fixtures, furniture, and equipment- \$630,000
6. Softball concession facility- \$315,000
7. Fighting Creek park expansion- \$6,900,000
8. Field irrigation and additional baths - \$300,000
9. Trail renovations and improvements- \$50,000
10. Turner Sports Complex parking expansion- \$200,000
11. Fighting Creek expansion- \$192,000

12. Village Complex restroom expansion- \$263,000
13. Dog Park- \$50,000
14. Batting Cages- \$30,000

Mr. Byerly asked what we were getting for the Trail Master Plan. Mrs. Carter responded by saying that this is to develop a plan on where we can expand the trails throughout the County, and in the later years, build trails. She added that the grant attached to it would have a minimum award of \$250,000 and we are trying to maximize that.

Mrs. Woodel added that expanding Fighting Creek Park, will extend trails over to the Middle School. Mr. Byerly then asked Mrs. Woodel what fields need to be lighted. Mrs. Woodel stated that it's dangerous in a few places. The football/lacrosse field has exposed wiring that citizens are having to turn on and off. The lighting would be remote controlled and timed LED lighting.

Mr. Cox added that \$315,000 for a concession stand is going to be a hard sell. Mrs. Carter added that the larger part of that cost is because they have to put in a pump station to get to the sewer. Mr. Cox noted that he thinks that we are not listening to what the citizens are saying that they want, and that's trails. Mrs. Carter responded by saying that some of the projects are directly related to maintenance and some items were not part of the citizen's survey. Mr. Williams, Mrs. Carmack, and Mrs. Carter discussed the land purchase and trails.

Mr. Smither presented the fifth slide, which contained Public Works projects.

1. HVAC systems- \$1,032,000
2. Facilities and grounds maintenance- \$415,000
3. Roof replacement- \$715,000
4. LED lighting upgrade- \$165,000
5. HVAC improvements at the Library- \$40,000
6. Mann Road extension- \$800,000
7. Old Plantation Road paving (1/2 mile)- \$200,000
8. Courthouse lighting and street signs- \$30,000
9. Village Building generator and electrical upgrades- \$250,000

Mr. Byerly asked how it is that we are paying \$400,000 for a parking lot but it only costs \$200,000 for a half a mile of paving Old Plantation Road. Mrs. Carter replied that the road is already there with gravel and ground work.

Mr. Smither presented the sixth slide, which contained the Administration general projects.

1. Administration vehicles- \$1,245,000
2. Broadband solutions- \$2,000,000

Mr. Smither presented the seventh slide, which contained the Public Safety projects.

1. Fire and Rescue apparatus and vehicles- \$10,640,000
2. Sheriff's vehicles- \$2,285,000
3. Portable radar signs- \$20,000
4. LMR portable radios- \$1,170,000

5. Backup generator- \$75,000
6. Land purchase for Fire Station number 6- \$250,000
7. Mobile command shelter- \$20,000
8. Station number one expansion- \$2,900,000
9. 911 call center upgrades and equipment- \$271,000
10. Fire and Rescue training center- \$630,000
- 11.

Chief Warner explained that they are looking into four different locations. Three locations mentioned are; Red Lane Road, Huguenot Trail area, and at Dorset Road and Genito Road.

Mr. Cox asked if the training center would be dependent upon the County getting the Beaumont property. Mr. Warner responded by saying that we will be partnering with Goochland, so they will work together even if it's on their side of the county line.

Mr. Smither presented the eighth slide, which contained the Information Technology projects.

1. Firewall replacement- \$40,000
2. VOIP (phone) system upgrade- \$140,000
3. Data storage- \$305,000
4. Network appliance upgrade- \$490,000
5. Sheriff/EMS/Fire laptop replacement program- \$636,000
6. Fiber network extension- \$700,000
7. PC replacement- \$706,000

Mr. Smither explained that the fiber network extension would have to be discussed with the School Board, but could save the County \$180,000 a year. He closed the presentation by saying that these projects and the CIP is a work in progress and there is time to work though these. He added that the next session is on February 12, 2021.

**10. 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 Carmack opened the second public comment period.

Mr. David Anderson, 2120 Stavemill Estates Drive, stated that he appreciates the heartfelt comments from the citizens. He noted that those comments were after the Board had already chosen what they wanted to do. He said that it seemed backwards to him that the Board didn't listen to what the citizens had to say about their seat. He pointed out that that seat is not the Board's seat but it's citizens. He said that just because you have the right to do something, doesn't mean that you should. Mr. Anderson implored the Board to listen to what the citizens are saying in the future.

Ms. Kitty Osborne, 1017 Dorset Rd, asked the Board to be conservative with the CIP money. She said that she felt like we have not had the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic yet. She added that it will be interesting to see how many people ask for special consideration next year for taxes.

Jim Carver, 4245 Sterger Creek Drive, wanted to take the time to thank Mr. Nordvig for his service to the County. He said that whether or not he agreed or disagreed with Mr. Nordvig is irrelevant because he can recognize and separate that. Mr. Carver added that he had been on many committees with Mr. Nordvig, and he knows how much time and energy he expends into helping the people of Powhatan. He said that he would like to thank Mr. Nordvig to his hard work and dedication.

Chairman Carmack closed the second comment period.

**11. County Attorney Comments**

None

**12. County Administrator Comments**

None

**13. Board Comments**

Mr. Cox thanked Mr. Smither for his work. He noted that the long-term planning numbers are huge, but that long-term planning is so that the County can be conservative. He said that he is excited and anxious to properly plan for the County. Mr. Cox asked for feedback from the citizens. He stated that this long-term planning meetings are to include the citizens not exclude.

Mr. Williams stated that for the first time, we will have a ten-year CIP. Mr. Williams challenged citizens to take a look at the money spent in the previous year's CIP's, add them up and see what was spent. Mr. Williams stated that this year, we are planning to plan. Mr. Williams said that he believed that this is what the County should be doing. He added that some counties have twenty-five-year CIP's. Mr. Williams stated that he is excited and that it'll be something that we build on.

Mrs. Carmack stated that she would like to apologize to the citizens and will take full responsibility. She stated that she was the one who asked that the Agenda item be put before the public comment period. Mrs. Carmack said that she asked Mrs. Alexander to come and knew that it would be a long meeting. She said that she was not trying to halt and discussion or input from the citizens.

**14. Adjournment**

Chairman Carmack adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm

