



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 SEPTEMBER 20th, 2022, AT 6:30 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

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Deputy County Administrator
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney
Frank Hopkins, Planning Director
Taylor Goodman, Deputy Chief Fire & Rescue

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

Mr. Cox 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



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

Mr. McClung 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

None.

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.

[Steve Jenkins, 1163 Bradbury Road,](#) read part of last week's report on the integrity of the compensation plan and expressed several concerns about its progression and impact. He asked what actions the Board plans to take next.

[Betty Ashmore, 3065 Lower Hill Road,](#) asked several questions regarding the 55+ community and what it means to be a senior. These questions include: Where should a senior go for socialization, mental stimulus, education, or basic technical support? How do you become an active part of the community?

[Tom Ashmore, 3065 Lower Hill Road,](#) spoke on behalf of the veterans in the community and urged the Board to pursue the creation of a senior center.

[Eleanor Delaney, 950 Cedar Green Drive,](#) stated that people would utilize a community center in many different ways.



Annette Stone, 2231 Lakeview Drive, spoke in support of a community center in Powhatan County. She proposed several ideas that could make the center successful and a source of revenue.

Lynn LaPierre, 2465 Gobbler Ridge Road, reminded the Board that a community center could be a multipurpose hub for the community to use as necessary. She used community meetings and fundraising events as examples.

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

8. Old Business

a. Review of Company One Fire Station Renovation

Mr. Smither gave a brief overview.

Mr. Cox read an email from the County Administrator, and he expressed concern about the lack of transparency.

Ms. Carmack expressed concern about spending approximately \$3,000,000.00 without improving response times or adding capacity. She stated that if the Board got a little bit more creative, they could find ways to improve the conditions for volunteers in a better way. She said that she would probably not be in support of this project.

Mr. Williams noted that there had been a necessity for renovation since 2015.

Assistant Fire Chief Taylor Goodman explained that after much research, the Fire Department has learned that single-occupancy bedrooms are better for personal health and sleep patterns. He stated that the renovated firehouse could serve the community

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as a shelter in an emergency and mentioned that the renovation would allow for additional storage space.

Mr. Cox noted that the current budget is about \$1.9 million and shared data that showed that the budget for the project had been reduced by about one million dollars.

Mr. Cox made a motion for Mr. Lacheney and Mrs. Schubert to do an audit of the CIP project to determine if there are other projects where the funding has been modified.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Ms. Carmack stated that two internal employees should not be doing the audit. She explained that she would not be in support of the motion for this reason. Mr. Williams stated that a large part of his decision to hire Mr. Lacheney was based on his ability to conduct an audit. He expressed no concern about Mr. Lacheney and Mrs. Schubert conducting the audit. He then asked Mr. Smither why the one million dollars had been put back in the general fund and for a model. Mr. Smither ensured that they would find a legitimate reason as to why the funds were put back in the general fund.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Schardein what his recollection of the events was. Mr.

Schardein stated that he did not recall off hand. Ms. Carmack stated that she believes the Board took the money out because they were under the impression that the project could be completed for less money.

Mr. McClung stated that the longer the Board waits to complete the project, the higher the construction costs will get. He said that he would not be in support of Mr. Cox's motion. Mr. Williams agreed with Mr. McClung regarding construction costs, and he stated that he would be in support of Mr. Cox's motion.



Mr. Cox made a motion for Mr. Lacheney and Mrs. Schubert to do an audit of the CIP project to determine if there are other projects where the funding has been modified.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 3-2

MOTION DENIED

Chairman Byerly expressed the importance of providing the County's Fire Department with the facilities and storage they need to be comfortable and safe while on duty. He stated that he was in favor of the project.

Mr. Williams made a motion to **approve** the renovation of Fire Station One as presented in the County Improvement Plan and by the architects.

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

VOTE 4-1

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Cox asked for clarification on the leftover bond projects as a source of income for the project. Mr. Smither stated that the County could potentially use money left from bond projects. Mr. Cox pointed out that money was taken from the general fund for the bond project, which means that there is no excess until that \$920,000.00 is paid back to the general fund.

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Mr. Cox made a motion that the Board use the American Rescue Plan Fun to pay for the additional \$1.2 million needed to complete the Fire Station One project.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Ms. Carmack stated that she would not be supporting the motion because there are other potential projects that the County may need complete. Mr. Williams urged the Board to use the funds for projects that have already been voted on instead of holding off.

Mr. Cox made a motion that the Board use the American Rescue Plan Fun to pay for the additional \$1.2 million needed to complete the Fire Station One project.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 3-2

MOTION DENIED

Mr. McClung made a motion to have the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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

VOTE 3-2

MOTION DENIED

Mr. Smither provided evidence of the project fund reduction referenced earlier from a past meeting, where it was discussed publically at a Board workshop.



9. New Business

a. Review of Community Center concept

Mr. Smither gave a brief overview.

Mr. McClung stated that it would be wise to keep the infrastructure close to something already existing instead of having a separate entity.

Deputy County Administrator Will Hagy gave an overview of the different data and programs he researched in surrounding counties for the project.

Mr. Cox mentioned that this is a pretty aggressive agenda, and he expressed reservations about making the government the first funding source and the lack of information. Ms. Carmack agreed with some of Mr. Cox's points. She stated that a stand-alone senior center might be a little too narrow and instead supported the idea of a community center. She also said that she would not have an issue having a 501C3 to help support the project and suggested that the Board consider using leftover funds from the solar projects.

Mr. Williams mentioned that there needs to be more information on how the community will use the community center. He suggested that the County conduct a needs assessment before proceeding. Mr. McClung reminded the Board of the demand for a communal space. He suggested that the County stop comparing themselves to surrounding localities and start meeting the needs of their community.

Chairman Byerly stated that he is in complete favor of gathering information, advancing the conversation, and developing a functional concept. He urged the Board to go down their own path.



Mr. Williams asked what the next steps are in moving forward. Ms. Carmack elaborated on this by asking where the best geographical location for a community center would be. Mr. Cox expressed concern about this approach.

Ms. Carmack made a motion to **move forward** with the review and analysis of the community center concept.

Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Cox voted NAY.

VOTE 4-1

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Williams amended the motion to **support** Ms. Carmack's motion with the understanding that any significant expenditure of funds is brought back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Cox stated that both motions are too amorphous. He asked for more specificity.

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

Mr. Cox voted NAY.

VOTE 4-1

MOTION PASSED

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 Byerly opened the public comment period.



Annette Stone, 2231 Lakeview Drive, agreed with Mr. Cox's concerns. She stated that she believed people would come to the community center for the same reason the Board members gather to better their community.

Steven Jenkins, 1163 Bradbury Road, stated that it was interesting to hear everyone's expectations for the project and its purpose. He urged the Board to gather specifics.

Stacy Henshaw, 2235 Overload Road, urged the Board to look at what will be best for the community and the people of the County as a whole. She stated that she did not believe everyone should have their own room at the Fire Station. She also mentioned that she would like her tax rates to go down more than they did.

Jamie Babcock, (address inaudible), urged the Board to look at the Lifelong Learning Institute. He expressed concern about the Board's tendency to bicker throughout the meetings and stated that it takes away from their efficiency in doing business.

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

11. County Attorney Comments

None.

12. County Administrator Comments

None.

13. Board Comments

None.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM.

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ATTEST:

Brett Schardein, Clerk
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Mike Byerly, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Recorded Vote:

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