

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 MARCH 3, 2021, AT 3:00 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, Chair

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sheriff

Guests Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair Carmack called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

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

- b. Identify the persons responsible for receiving the public comment.

County Administration staff accepted emailed comments at administration@powhatanva.gov . Any comments received until 3:00pm, March 3rd were 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.



- 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 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. Cox 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

No requests to amend agenda.

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Chair Carmack motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 4-0

MOTION Passed

6. 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.

No speakers in person or on zoom. Citizen comments received via email are attached at the bottom of these minutes.

Chairman Carmack closed the public comment period.



7. **Closed Meeting** as authorized by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A) to discuss, consider or interview prospective candidates for the position of District 2 Board of Supervisors Member

Chair Carmack motioned the closed meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion

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

VOTE 4-0

MOTION Passed

8. **Certification of Closed Meeting** as authorized by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A) to discuss, consider or interview prospective candidates for the position of District 2 Board of Supervisors Member

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

VOTE 4-0

MOTION Passed

Chair Carmack then announced the following: "After careful consideration and review of a number of exceptional candidate for district two supervisor, we have unanimously determined that the most prudent, nonpartisan objective course of action is to allow the general circuit court judge to determine the appointee. We are excited to serve with any of the potential candidates and look forward to a productive time together until the November 2nd special election.

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 Carmack opened the first public comment period.

No speakers in person or on zoom.

Chairman Carmack closed the public comment period.

10. Board Comments

No board comments.



11. Adjournment

Chairman Carmack adjourned the meeting.

These minutes were approved on December 20, 2021.

ATTEST:

**Ned Smither, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

**Karin M. Carmack, 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

Citizen comments:

Good evening,

I write to you all in regards to the upcoming decision to fill the vacant District 2 supervisor seat. Rachel Welsh Iga has applied and is supremely qualified to serve our county in this position. She has done great work on behalf of many organizations in Powhatan (and surrounding counties.) Her professional skills and abilities would also prove invaluable in the course of the important coalition building required of a public servant. I have worked with her on past projects and know her to be responsible, professional and committed to excellence. Rachel cares deeply about her neighbors and fellow Powhataners. I truly believe she would be an excellent choice to represent District 2 on the board.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Alicia Amos

2966 Janet Lane

Dear Chairwoman Carmack and Members of the Board,



I hope you all are doing well. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Alexander Campbell. I am currently a student at the high school and a life long resident of Powhatan. I am writing in regards to the vacancy that you all will be discussing tomorrow. I think we have quite a few great applicants. Rachel Welsh Iga, Nathan Mitchell, Steven McClung, and Thomas Berry stood out as exceptional applicants. For me, selecting someone who represents Powhatan's amazing community and values is the most important factor in this decision. In my opinion these values include caring about this community, being invested in this community, hard work, leadership skills, and an open mind. I also think it is important to ensure that the interim supervisor will represent the people of Powhatan when making decisions on things like expanding broadband, helping small businesses, taxes, working with the school system, and fiscal responsibility. Furthermore, I think it is important to have a nonpartisan person who is unifying. I would request that the board steer clear of anyone who has listed partisan political affiliations on their resumes. Over the past few years especially, we have seen extremists on both sides of the political isle. It is important to ensure that our community does not become that, as we are far better than that. Additionally, someone who will promote division within the community using divisive rhetoric should not be appointed to the board. We have such a wonderful community and I am glad so many people stepped up who are willing to serve. I think it shows us how many people deeply care about Powhatan. I am confident that you all will make the right decision. Thank you all for your service and dedication to this community.

Take care,

Alex

Alexander Campbell

alexandercampbell2005@gmail.com

(804) 517-7265

Good morning, Supervisors

Thank you for your role in providing wise and inclusive leadership for all of us in Powhatan. Today, given the multiple crises in our global communities, we are/I am so very concerned that we elect leaders who understand complexity and simple principles of "goodness for all." So know that you are in my prayers as you decide our next steps in electing wise, sensitive and inclusive leadership for our county.

Sincerely,

Sr. Maureen T. Carroll,

Director of the New Drexel-Morrell Center



Dear Member of the Board of Supervisors,

My husband and I are District 2 residents of Powhatan County. We feel it is our responsibility to make our voices heard regarding the applicant who will fill the vacant Board of Supervisors position. Over the last year, we have spoken with neighbors, friends, and family regarding the myriad of political, social, and cultural changes that have occurred in Powhatan County. What we have observed is a shift within Powhatan to be more inclusive and conscientious of the diverse needs and identities of our neighbors. This is a step in the right direction. My family and I believe that Ms. Rachel Welsh Iga is the best candidate to take on the role of Supervisor for District 2. Her research-based approach to problem-solving is matched only by her ability to foster genuine dialogue. Ms. Iga has proven time and again that she has the backbone to defend her positions and the strength of character to listen to the perspectives of others. Ms. Iga is rational, creative, forward-thinking, and well capable of representing the diverse perspectives of the fine residents of District 2. We hope that the candidate you choose will demonstrate all of these qualities, as they are the characteristics that make for a leader who can unify a community.

We appreciate your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Marlene Cooper-Cravey & Family

973 Genito West Blvd

Moseley, VA 23120

To whom it may concern:

We would like to lend our support for a wonderful candidate, Rachel Iga.

Rachel is the true personification of the phrase "servant leader." Powhatan would be lucky to have her time and attention for the good of the community.

She keeps a busy schedule but always has time to help someone when a need arises. She is very involved with her church, St. John Neumann, and in the past has also been involved in helping at The Powhatan Food Pantry.

She is thoughtful, considerate, and results oriented. She is a quiet but strong leader with a well honed concept of ethics and moral clarity. She has a strong focus on family, friends, and the community around her.

As a member of the Powhatan's Board of Supervisors, we would trust her with the county's future the same way we would trust her with our children's lives if something were to happen to us.

Regarding Powhatan's many educational options, she would be a tremendous voice on the Board of Supervisors with experience in every option: public schools, private schools, and homeschool. In fact, she currently has a child in each setting which would bring a unique



point of view to the Board. For Rachel, it's always about doing the right thing for each child and focusing on results.

We support this candidacy and strongly believe more diverse viewpoints make for stronger decisions. As a mother and community leader she would bring an important viewpoint to an important role, shaping the future of Powhatan County.

Plus, she's just a ton of fun to be around and work with — we strongly advise you to appoint Rachel Iga.

Kati & Andrew Hornung
3331 Scarlet Oak Drive

Good Morning,

I hope you are well. My name is Chiara Hoyt, and I am a resident of District 5 in Powhatan. In anticipation of the closed session today in which the vacant seat for District 2 will be discussed, I wanted to share my concerns and hopes. I am unable to attend the meeting to participate in the public comments, but am emailing these in its place.

As you select an applicant to fill the District 2 vacancy, I think you have a unique opportunity to heal some of the fractures and divisions that have been revealing themselves in our county, and to set a renewed tone of professionalism and commitment to diversity of thought. It has been disturbing to see several of the applicants across social media and in public meetings over the last year stoke the fires of division within the school system and community, spread misinformation, and denounce any line of thinking that is not the same as their own. There appears to be a line of thinking among some candidates that diversity efforts or initiatives toward inclusion of all people is a threat to our rural lifestyle or to the values of the citizens of Powhatan. I wholeheartedly disagree, and maintain that ensuring Powhatan is a county that embraces all people is a strength that can only help us achieve our mission and vision. I urge you not to select a candidate who will further an agenda of disunity in Powhatan and to take seriously the charge to heal the relationship between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board.

I am, however, excited to also see applicants who espouse the values of unity and diversity of thought, taking into account the need to make Powhatan a welcoming place for everyone and a place that embraces all people. As those who work in leadership, you know the value of differing perspectives when trying to solve problems. The process takes longer, but the chosen solution is refined through dialogue and healthy debate, resulting in a resolution that is tailored, fine-tuned, laser-focused, and representative.

Selecting an applicant that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and who demonstrates a commitment to work with and listen to all constituents in a respectful and uplifting manner is in line with the vision of a "vibrant community" and the mission of "attracting and retaining an excellent workforce." A vibrant community is a community that is diverse



in racial, gender, thought composition, and socioeconomic status. An excellent workforce (which equates at least in part to a diverse workforce) can only be retained if the community is a safe place for all people to be themselves and to raise their families without fear of being ostracized or attacked for their race, political stance, or background. This viewpoint needs to be represented on the Board of Supervisors, and based on the applicant pool for this interim position, you have the opportunity to make that happen. I strongly urge you to consider how your selection can bring our county together and to prioritize the people of Powhatan over partisanship.

Thank you so much for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With gratitude,
Chiara Hoyt

Good Evening,

My name is Bob Kelly and I am a citizen of the Second District in Powhatan. I am unable to attend this evening's meeting, but would like to enter the following comments into the record.

I would like to sincerely thank our former Supervisor Larry Nordvig for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors. He worked hard and was an unbending, and at times, divisive advocate for his conservative point of view.

This vacancy offers the Second District with the opportunity to select a different sort of candidate. I believe that Powhatan citizens are in agreement on 90% of our overall goals. We all want an excellent education for the County's children, high quality public services at a reasonable cost, exceptional emergency services (police, fire, etc.) and an overall excellent quality of life. We will always have disagreements on how to accomplish these goals, but we cannot forget that we share in the same hopes and dreams.

Our next Supervisor should sincerely solicit the opinions of those who both agree and disagree with his/her point of view. This individual should respect the diverse thinking of those within the District and never talk down to those who disagree. Most of all, we need someone who is willing to compromise with other members of the BOS to get things done. I personally believe that Rachel Welsh Iga would be an excellent choice, but there are other candidates who would represent us well without being overly dogmatic.

Thank you for your time.

Robert J Kelly
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Powhatan, VA 23139
434-390-9063