

VIRGINIA: AT A WORKSHOP 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 29, 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 Nolan, Director of Public Safety Communications
Charla Schubert, Director of Finance
John Wood, Director of Information Technology

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 their locations.

- b. Identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment

County Administration staff will accept emailed comments at 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.

- 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. 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

None

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

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

Seeing no one come forward, Chairman Carmack closed the first public comment period.

7. Old Business

a. Discussion of FY22 Budget and Decision on Advertisement

Mr. Smither opened by saying that because the Board has been so conservative during the fiscal year 2020, there will be a surplus this year. He said that because of the surplus, it has enabled the Board to lower taxes, increase services, minimize the debt, and compensate its employees.

Mr. Smither presented a slide that listed budget updates since March 1, 2021. The list goes as follows; a tax decrease impact \$1,486,171, State salary increase impact of \$585,000, employee salary increase impact \$264,000, State allocated funds for school raises revenue \$474,000, State allocated funds for county employee raises \$56,000 in revenue, PAYGO changes impact of \$1,993,000, split in the school revenue \$111,339 in revenue, school revenue updates \$19,699 impact. These changes will leave an impact of the fund balance from \$5,338,744 to \$4,937,795.

Mr. Cox asked why they can't have the budget deadline of April 19th pushed out to May. Mr. Smither responded by saying that we could go to May but that butts up against the teacher contracts. Mr. Smither and Mrs. Shubert noted that the Board can still change the Budget after it's been advertised.

Mr. Smither moved on to show a slide about the Schools Budget. In this slide he notes the following; the Administrator's proposed budget is \$25,672,975, the additional funding for the 5% raise is \$474,440, additional updated revenue is \$319,699, the take on the split with the County is \$102,800, compression pay \$127,000, and other budget adjustments of \$7,179.

Mrs. Carmack noted that the Board wants to get together to discuss the school transfers.

Mr. Williams noted that the School Board had asked for more information on the CIP plan at the last meeting.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Smither for clarity on the cost differential on the Assessor's office.

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 second public comment period.

Seeing no one come forward, closed the second public comment period.

9. County Attorney Comments

None.

10. County Administrator Comments

Mr. Smither stated that we have been fortunate enough to receive another grant application. He explained that every congressional office in the U.S.A. has been told that they can submit up to ten grants for community development. Mr. Smither said that he has picked two projects that, he feels, might be accepted. Mr. Smither asked the Board to adopt a resolution to endorse the projects. He explained that the first project is running Broadband from Cook Tower. This would improve emergency communications, allow us to hook up customers to internet, and improve cell service. The second project is improving walkways and paths around the village. The Cook Tower project is about \$300,000 and the walkways are \$50,000.

Mr. Cox noted that Verizon will have fiber in that area and we are using Microwave for communications. Mr. Cox asked if we could get rid of Microwave. Mrs. Carmack then asked if we would be running duplicate fiber alongside Verizon. Mr. Nolan and Mr. Wood answered their questions by saying that Verizon will not let us use their fiber, but would share their trench for our own fiber.

Mr. Williams requested more information on these projects.

Mr. Byerly asked for another meeting the week of April 5th, 2021.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Smither to put something together to have a consultant for our water needs to be added to the list of projects to be submitted for the grants.

11. Board Comments

Mr. Cox stated that folks were concerned that if we dropped the tax rate so significantly, the schools may be affected. Mr. Cox asked if it's too much. Mr. Smither stated that he didn't feel as though the County was compromising on the things that the County wanted to do. Mr. Cox then thanked the Board and Mr. Smither. He added that this is the 14th meeting that the Board has had this year and they are working hard.

Mr. Williams made a motion to propose that the tax rate Mr. Smither has identified as applicable beginning July 1, 2021 for the next 18 months be \$.79.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

Mrs. Carmack called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Smither conducted a roll call vote:

Mr. Williams Aye

Mr. Byerly Aye

Mr. Cox Aye

Mrs. Carmack Aye

**VOTE 4-0
MOTION Passed**

12. Adjournment

Chairman Carmack adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

These minutes were approved on November 22, 2021, with a motion, second, and 5/0 vote.



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



**Karin M. Carmack, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

<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

MLW