

VIRGINIA: AT A BUDGET 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 MAY 3, 2021, AT 6:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1,
Tom E. Berry, District 2
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
Ramona Carter, Director of Public Works
John Wood, Director of Information Technology
Melissa Carpenter, Social Services

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.

- 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. Berry 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. Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 5-0 MOTION Passed

6. County Administrator Updates- Certificates of Appreciation, Special Resolutions, Proclamations and Presentations

- a. Proclamation P-2021-04 Recognizing Older Americans Month

Mr. Smither introduced Ms. Melissa Carpenter, of the Social Services Adult Family Services team. She is presented with a proclamation that declares May 2021 as Older Americans month. Mr. Smither stated that Powhatan supports the lives of older Americans and encourage residents to recognize older adults and the people that serve them.

- b. Proclamation P-2021-05 Recognizing Foster Care Awareness Month

Mr. Smither presented Ms. Carpenter with Proclamation P-2021-05 in recognition of May 2021 as Foster Care Awareness month. Mr. Smither stated that the Commonwealth of Virginia has 5,600 children in foster care. He said that we recognize that children in foster care can best succeed in a family-focused, child-centered, and community-based system. Mr. Smither thanked the foster families in Powhatan for the difference they make in a child's life.

- 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 Carmack opened the first public comment period.

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

8. Old Business

- a. Convenience Center Land Acquisition Agreement

Mr. Smither presented. He stated that the County has been looking for land for a new convenience center in the east end of the county. The County has negotiated a contract to purchase parcel 4042-9F. This land is 19.76 acres from Shady Oaks Irvine LLC for a property located just east of south creek industrial park on Anderson Hwy. The price is \$850,000, and subject to a 90-day due diligence period.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve. Mr. Byerly seconded.

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

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

9. Public Hearings

- a. Public Hearing on the FY22 Operating Budget

Mr. Smither presented. He stated that the Board would like public input of the budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. He said that there will be a new proposed real estate tax of \$.79 with the guidance from a new 10-year financial plan. The Board is proposing many initiatives to support the citizens including; investment in public safety in fire, rescues and sheriff's office providing 5 new positions in these areas, a transition to yearly assessments by a new real estate assessment office, the creation of a permit center, continued support of Powhatan County Public Schools by increasing teacher, staff, and County employee compensation by 5 %, Parks and Recreation new staff, building permit office, Social Services and IT. Mr. Smither stated that Powhatan will have the lowest rate in the Richmond area and thanked the Board for all their efforts.

Chairman Carmack opened the hearing to the public.

Mrs. Joanne Fico, 2762 Maidens Road, shared her concerns for the library staff and loss of funding. Mrs. Fico's comment can be seen in full at the 7:17-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Ms. Susan Ash, 802 Clayton Road, shared the why the community values the library, her concerns for funding, and staffing. Ms. Ash's comment can be seen in full at the 10:22-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Mr. Bruce Berringer, 2170 Hunter's Mill Road, asked the Board to invest in the wonderful source that is the library. Mr. Berringer's comment can be seen in full at the 13:09-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Ms. Beverly Baker, 1811 Mill Quarter Road, spoke in support of the library and asked the Board to reconsider staff for the library. Ms. Baker's comment can be seen in full at the 16:30-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Ms. Patricia Berman, 1105 Clayton Road, spoke of her support of the library. Ms. Berman's comment can be seen in full at the 19:28-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Mrs. Robin Mead, 2500 Butterwood Drive, stated her appreciation of the Board's responsiveness to concerns regarding the School Board, and urged the Board caution on the School's budget. Mrs. Mead's comment can be seen in full at the 20:43-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Mr. Curtis Newton, 2000 Jude's Ferry Road, expressed his concerns over the increases in the budget. Mr. Newton's comment can be seen in full at the 24:19-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Chairman Carmack closed the public hearing.

Chairman Carmack opened the floor for Board comments.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Smither about the rationale behind the negative 1.2% gap and our General Fund expenditure with a plus 19.3%, which the library is a part of. Mr. Smither responded by saying that the Budget was based on year 2020 and there was an increase in 2021 so that is why the numbers are a bit skewed. Mr. Cox asked Mr. Smither to reconsider a financial commitment to the library.

Mr. Cox stated that the three areas of concerns for the Schools have been addressed. Mr. Cox asked Mr. Smither to reconsider the \$117,000 compression money.

Mr. Byerly stated that he wasn't ready to attach a number to the School Budget yet. He explained that he's asked Dr. Jones for itemized curriculum purchases but hasn't received the information yet. Mr. Byerly stated that he's would like to be as transparent as possible. He was given a long list of programs that Powhatan has purchased from. Mr. Byerly goes on to list several programs that Powhatan gives money to, that if you look them up are associated with Critical Race Theory (CRT) and diversity, equity, and inclusion, Black Lives Matter, and Side by Side. Mr. Byerly stated that there was a PowerPoint slide that was presented by the High School through MERC, one of the programs associated with BLM and CRT, that was upsetting, divisive, and was about racial justice. He went through the questions the PowerPoint asked and stated that he wants Powhatan together, not divided. He said that we can progress if we communicate and have dialog. Mr. Byerly added that he supports teachers. Mr. Byerly stated that we need more transparency and the parents need to pay attention. He said that the values being taught should be reflect the values of Powhatan County. Mr. Byerly then read from a post on a private social media page that was made by a Powhatan teacher. This post asked if folks were looking to create anti-racist and social justice minded individuals in and out of the classroom. The post stated that the teacher is looking for ways to infuse new elements, based on their work together, to their curriculum. Mr. Byerly read an email from a concerned parent to Dr. Jones about how we should all love and respect one another without making them feel bad about themselves by being taught CRT. Mr. Byerly noted that 2.1 million dollars in Federal funding will be given to the County. If the School Board accepts the money, there are conditions attached to it. He explains that 20% of the 2.1 million will address learning loss through education-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to social, emotional, and academic needs, and address the impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student sub-groups. Mr. Byerly asked why the Schools will need more money if we are giving them 50 million dollars and should they accept the money, can we reduce 2.1 million from the Budget to go towards the library or parks and recreation.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Byerly where folks can find the information that Mr. Byerly provided tonight. Mr. Byerly responded by saying that he will have it posted on his Facebook page, Powhatan Conservative Coalition Facebook page, and Educating Powhatan Facebook page. Mr. Williams goes on to say that the Board wants to fund a quality education and what that looks like may vary, but no matter how they differ, the Board wants to be good stewards of the County's money.

Mr. Smither added that the Schools don't have much information on the 2.1 million in Federal funding yet. Mrs. Carmack asked Mr. Smither to get more information about this funding by next week's meeting, if possible.

Mr. Lacheney stated that the Schools are allowed to spend any money that hasn't been appropriated by the Board.

b. Ordinance O-2021-05 Amending the Fee Schedule

Mr. Smither stated that included in the changes are increases in certain fees. Those are increases are the building inspection office, parks and recreation, and public utilities. Staff recommended the changes proposed.

Chairman Carmack opened the public comment period for Ordinance 0-2021-05.

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

Mr. Williams made motion to approve Ordinance O-2021-05. Mr. Cox seconds the motion.

Chairman Carmack called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Smither conducted a roll call vote:

Mr. Williams Aye

Mr. Berry Aye

Mr. Byerly Aye

Mr. Cox Aye

Mrs. Carmack Aye

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

c. Ordinance O-2021-06 Changing the Real Estate Tax Year to the Calendar Year and Creating a Short Calendar Year

Mr. Smither presented. He explained that they would need to create a short year for the new proposed tax rate. He wanted to make one clarification. He said that they would see the word biannual assessment, should actually be the annual assessment on page 47.

Chairman Carmack opened the public comment period for Ordinance 0-2021-06.

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

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve ordinance with correction from biannual to annual.
Mr. Byerly seconds the motion.

Chairman Carmack called for a roll call vote.
Mr. Smither conducted a roll call vote:

Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mr. Byerly Aye
Mr. Cox Aye
Mrs. Carmack Aye

VOTE 5-0
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 Carmack opened the second public comment period.

Ms. Terri King-Stratton, 2940 Lake Louise Drive, pointed out that part of the SEL curriculum is CRT no matter what it's being called. Ms. King-Stratton's comment can be seen in full at the 1:15:56-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Mr. Curtis Newton, 2000 Judes Ferry Road, spoke in support of Mr. Byerly's idea to remove 2.1 million from the Budget. Mr. Newton's comment can be seen in full at the 1:20:24-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Mr. David Anderson, 2366 Bell Crest Circle, supports the push back on the \$117,000 and thanked and supports Mr. Byerly for bringing up the transparency issue. Mr. Anderson's comment can be seen in full at the 1:21:48-mark of the Powhatan County's YouTube channel dated 2021-5-3.

Chairman Carmack closed the second public comment period.

11. County Attorney Comments

None

12. County Administrator Comments

None

13. Board Comments

Mr. Byerly mentioned that it is national teacher appreciation week. Mr. Byerly spoke for the Board when saying ‘thank you’ to the teachers for all that they do. Mr. Byerly wanted to recognize the genuine effort teachers have put forth.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Carmack adjourned the meeting at 7:47 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