

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 June 15, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1, Chairman, present in the Village Building Auditorium
Larry J. Nordvig, District 2, present in the Village Building Auditorium
Michael W. Byerly, District 3, present in the Village Building Auditorium
Bill L. Cox, District 4, present remotely from the Village Building Conference Room
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Vice Chairman, present in the Village Building Auditorium

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Bret Schardein, Interim County Administrator, present in the Village Building Auditorium
Charla Schubert, Director of Finance, present in the Village Building Auditorium

1. Call to Order

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

Mr. Williams identified the Board members, and Mr. Schardein,

- 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/83998792911> by computer or smartphone with the Zoom app. By phone, dial 1-301-715-8592 or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099 or 1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799 or 1-669-900-6833, Or iPhone one-tap : US: +13017158592,,83998792911# or +13126266799,83998792911# . 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. Schardein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Mr. Nordvig gave the Invocation.

4. Requests to Postpone Agenda Items and Additions, Deletions or Changes in the Order of Presentation

None

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Carmack motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Nordvig seconded the motion.

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

**VOTE 5-0
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 Williams opened the first public comment period.

Linwood Challenor, 2496 Red Lane Rd, stated that his family would like to see the tax rate set at 84% per 100%. He added that he is aware that the neutral tax rate is 80% of 100%.

Chairman Williams closed the second public comment period

7. Public Hearing

a. FY21 Proposed Tax Rate

Mr. Schardein presented the FY21 Proposed Tax Rate. Mr. Schardein stated that the current advertised 88% tax rate is meant to be advertised as a 'do not exceed limit' tax rate. He noted that the County would like to provide as much tax relief as possible, while providing quality services, and being prepared for an uncertain future. Mr. Schardein explained that this meeting is a public meeting to receive feedback from the advertised 88% document.

Chairman Williams opened the public comment period.

Mr. Jim Carver, 4245 Sterger Creek Dr., thanked the Board for the opportunity to comment. Mr. Carver stated that he supports a revenue tax neutral rate. He adds that he would welcome a lower than neutral tax rate as well. Mr. Carver strongly opposed going above the revenue neutral rate. He explained that there is no new known significant increase in expenditures that would warrant an increase.

Chairman Williams closed the public comment period at 6:40 pm.

8. Old Business

a. FY21 Budget Discussion

Mr. Schardein presented the FY21 Budget Discussion. Mr. Schardein stated that the Board provided some direction to staff to look at reductions at a two and four percentage rate reduction from the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Mr. Schardein mentioned that he and Mrs. Schubert have been looking into providing those numbers to the Board. Mr. Schardein stated that by the close of business on June the 16th, they hope to have some preliminary ideas for budget cuts. He explained that there will be a menu of things that could be reduced as well as expenditures that the Board will be able to choose from. Mr. Schardein suggested that Board members schedule a meeting with him and Mrs. Schubert to answer any questions, and help the Board with their own individual proposals over the next week. He stated that individual proposals are to be ready for the June 22nd regular board meeting, so that the Board will be prepared for the June 29th special meeting finalizing the budget.

Mrs. Carmack asked if there will be enough time to add the individual proposals to the regular meeting on June the 22nd. Mr. Schardein replied that the meeting will have a very manageable agenda.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Schardein if the two to four percent cuts are only on the expenditure side. Mr. Schardein responded by saying that Mr. Cox is correct. Mr. Cox added that they may need some projections of revenue before dealing with how much to spend.

Mr. Williams addressed the Board members stating that Mr. Schardein will provide different budgets, and those budgets will have different scenarios with different collection rates. He explained that each board member can patch together their own version of what they want the budget to look like from the menu that Mr. Schardein provided, and present it at the June 22nd regular board meeting.

Mrs. Carmack asked Mr. Schardein if he and Mrs. Shubert had discussed a projected collection rate for November. Mr. Schardein noted that no one knows for sure what the collection rate for November will look like, however, they are looking at between 90-94%. Mrs. Carmack then asked if the collection rate could go lower than 94%. Mr. Schardein responded that there is a possibility. He noted that if we look at our current unemployment, it is higher than the 2008 recession unemployment numbers.

Mr. Cox stated that he would like to know what is going to happen with Broadband as it is in the County's top three objectives. Mrs. Carmack suggested that the Board ask the Schools for help with the funding for Broadband. Mr. Cox added that the Broadband Fund has \$200,000. He stated that Broadband funding needs a plan.

Mr. Nordvig and Mr. Cox discussed the logistics of adding Broadband funding to the budget.

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 Williams opened the second public comment period.

Mr. Brian Courtright, 3033 Mill Mount Ln, stated that he doesn't think that it's a prudent time to cut the budget and welcomes a deeper discussion.

10. County Administrator Comments

Mr. Schardein mentioned that today was the first day the County had their Phase One transition and everything seems to be going smoothly so far.

11. Board Comments

Mrs. Carmack stated that she would like to ask some of the other localities if they would like to join us in writing a letter to the Governor. The letter would be in regards to opposing some of the regulations the Governor has put on the schools.

Mr. Nordvig agreed with Mrs. Carmack. He added that contacting VECCO, Plan RVA, and Thomas Jefferson PDA, might be another way of reaching out for help. Mr. Nordvig stated that he encourages the public to participate a bit more when it comes to the tax rate discussion.

Mr. Williams stated that he contacted Chairman Walters of the School Board about a collaboration to send letters to the Governor, our elected officials, and Dr. Lane, head of the Department of Education. He remarked that the letters would be to express frustration in the reopening of schools, and the financial implications. Mr. Williams added that he is hearing the same issues from other localities.


Mr. Williams announced that the County will be getting a Safety Study on the Route 711 and Huguenot Trail Road. VDOT will be funding the study at \$75,000 and the study should wrap up by the end of this year.

Mr. Williams was pleased to announce that on June 16th, the Board would be interviewing for the position of County Administrator.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.


These minutes were approved on September 28, 2020, by the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors.



David T. Williams, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Recorded Vote:

ATTEST:



Ned Smither, Clerk
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

<i>David T. Williams</i>	<u>AYE</u>
<i>Larry J. Nordvig</i>	<u>AYE</u>
<i>Michael W. Byerly</i>	<u>AYE</u>
<i>Bill L. Cox</i>	<u>AYE</u>
<i>Karin M. Carmack</i>	<u>AYE</u>