



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, April 5, 2021
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Babyok called the April 5, 2021 regular meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Eric F. Purcell	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Robert F. Babyok	Green Springs District Supervisors	Present	5:00 PM

Others Present: Jeff Ferrel, Assistant County Administrator; Helen Phillips, County Attorney; Alexandra McKinley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Wanda Colvin, Finance Director; Andy Wade, Economic Development Director; Bob Hardy, Information Technology Director; Griff Carmichael, Human Resources Director; and Diane Miller, Animal Shelter Manager

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to enter Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

1. Pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) to discuss prospective business expansions in the Patrick Henry District, the Louisa District and the Mineral District where no previous announcements have been made of the businesses' interests in expanding in the County; and
2. Pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (3) to discuss potential acquisitions of real property for public use in Louisa County where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the County; and
3. Pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (29) to discuss potential awards of public contracts involving the expenditure of public funds and terms of such contracts where discussion in open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the County.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION - CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Voter	Role	Vote
Tommy J. Barlow	Voter	Yes/Aye
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Voter	Yes/Aye
R.T. Williams, Jr.	Mover	Yes/Aye
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Voter	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Seconder	Yes/Aye
Bob F. Babyok, Jr.	Voter	Yes/Aye
Eric F. Purcell	Voter	Yes/Aye

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting this 5th day of April 2021, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of April 2021, that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors.

INVOCATION - MR. BARNES

Mr. Barnes led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Purcell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the April 5, 2021 agenda, as amended, with the following changes:

- Added a Discussion on Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled;
- Added Discussion on Community Projects for Federal Funding;
- Added a Discussion Regarding Flat Funding to Region Ten; and
- Added a Discussion on the Assessment Process for Louisa County.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Regular Meeting - Mar 15, 2021 5:00 PM

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021, regular meeting as presented.

BILLS APPROVAL**Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the Second Half of March 2021**

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the bills for the second half of March 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda items for April 5, 2021, as follows:

- Resolution – Requesting a Speed/Safety Study on Route 745 (Tisdale Rd) in the Patrick Henry District
- Resolution – Proclaiming May 2021 as Older Americans Month
- Resolution – Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation to Children's Services Act Funding
- Resolution – To Proceed with Louisa County Water Authority's Northeast Creek Water Treatment Plant Sludge Vac System Capital Project
- Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Transfer to the Holly Grove Volunteer Fire Department for Apparatus Repairs
- Resolution – Recognizing Alyssa Lyons for Receiving a Certificate of Excellence for Her Research Findings at the International Poultry Scientific Forum
- Resolution – Requesting a Speed/Safety Study on Route 208 (Courthouse Road) in the Patrick Henry District

RECOGNITIONS**Presentation – Recognizing Owen Greslick for Winning the 2021 120Lb VHSL State Championship**

Mr. Ferrel read the resolution and Mr. Adams presented a framed copy to Mr. Owen Greslick recognizing him for winning the 2021 120Lb VHSL State Championship.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Allison Burton, JABA, talked about the activities and programs offered at the Senior Center and alternative programs such "At Home with JABA" to help combat the isolation seniors may be experiencing during the pandemic.

Ms. Casey Rabe, Options Counselor at JABA, also discussed additional programs offered through JABA.

Mr. Rob Woolfolk, Mineral District, appeared before the Board to speak in favor of the tax exempt status of the timber harvesting equipment.

Mr. Will Shaw, Green Springs District, appeared before the Board to address his concerns with litter in the County.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation – Virginia Loggers Association

Mr. Ron Jenkins, Executive Director with the Virginia Loggers Association, appeared before the Board to provide a PowerPoint presentation on Virginia Forest Harvesters and Virginia Loggers Associations efforts that help Virginia logging business owners by requesting exemption from machinery & tools and personal property tax on forest harvesting equipment.

Mr. Jenkins noted throughout his presentation that logging companies are the least able to continue making the tax payments and yet are key to entire forest products industry. He stated despite higher finished lumber prices, loggers are not recipients of higher returns on the raw products. Weather and mill quotas continue to hurt our loggers' production.

Back and forth discussion ensued between Mr. Jenkins and the Board regarding the appeal for tax exemption on machinery & tools and personal property tax on forest harvesting equipment.

Discussion – County Wide Classified Salaries

Mr. Barnes requested the Personnel Committee work with staff and the schools on compensation/merit increases for support staff such as custodians, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers.

Discussion – Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled

Mr. Purcell said he requested this item to be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Board. He explained there is a process for tax relief for the elderly and disabled and qualifications associated with the request. He said the threshold for qualification on net worth, not including the home, is \$100,000 and he would like to increase that to \$200,000.

On the motion of Mr. Purcell, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board approved to advertise the ordinance amendment increasing the threshold for qualification on net worth to \$200,000 and provide the data points to support this request.

Discussion – Assessment Process in Louisa County

Ms. Rich Gasper, Assessor's Office, provided an overview on the assessment process for Louisa County. All assessments of real estate and tangible personal property shall be at their fair market value, to be ascertained as prescribed by law. Fair market value and fair market value alone is the, only legal rule provided by law for the assessment of real estate situated within this Commonwealth. Assessments are not set or regulated by the local governing body. The Virginia Constitution requires that real estate be assessed at fair market value. The Court of Appeals has defined fair market value as, the price which it will bring when it is offered for sale by one who desires, but is not obliged, to sell it, and is bought by one who is under no necessity of having it.

Discussion – Region Ten's FY22 Budget Request

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to flat fund Region Ten in FY22 and the additional \$90,308 they requested will be given to the schools for crisis counselors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Resolution – Authorizing the Construction of an Animal Exercise Yard at the Louisa County Animal Shelter

Ms. Diane Miller, Animal Shelter Manager, and Wendy Callahan, provided a PowerPoint presented to the Board on an outdoor exercise and play area and the benefits it gives to the animals cared for at the Louisa County Animal Shelter.

The Louisa County Animal Shelter received a \$27,000 grant from the Louisa County Humane Society for the construction of an outdoor exercise area. The Louisa County Departments of General Services and Parks, Recreation and Tourism would like to move forward with the construction of an outdoor exercise and play area at the Louisa County Animal Shelter.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize the County Departments to move forward with the construction of an outdoor exercise and play area at the Louisa County Animal Shelter with a total purchase price not to exceed \$54,000. The source of funding is Park Maintenance and Enhancements, Capital Improvement Plan (GL # 4-303-71000-8113) in the amount of \$27,000 and grant funding from the Louisa County Humane Society in the amount of \$27,000.

Resolution – Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of Application for a Federal Community Funding Project for a New Fire and Rescue Facility in the Area of Lake Anna

Response times in the areas around Lake Anna demonstrate the need for additional emergency response capability. The Louisa County Board of Supervisors recognizes this need by allocating \$800,000 toward the project in the fiscal year 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. There has been overwhelming community support for this project. Including the formation of a community based non-profit, the Foundation for Lake Anna Emergency Services, to fundraise for the construction of this project. The Foundation for Lake Anna Emergency Services has independently raised and committed \$160,000 toward construction of the facility. The construction of a new emergency services facility would greatly improve access to these critical services not only in this area, but County Wide.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Gentry voting against, the Board voted to fully support and authorize the submission of application for a Community Funding Project grant for the construction of a new fire and rescue facility in the Lake Anna Area.

Mr. Gentry voted against because the pool enclosure project was left out of the community funding projects.

Resolution – Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of Application for a Federal Community Funding Project to Purchase and Upgrade the Lake Anna Wastewater Treatment Plant

There is a privately owned Wastewater Treatment Plant located adjacent to Lake Anna on Parcel 18 1 1B. This plant serves a limited amount of the surrounding residential and commercial

development. There is a demonstrated history of regulatory deficiencies at this facility, which raise environmental concerns with the plant and the associated discharge location into Lake Anna. The County has coordinated with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisa County Water Authority and the owner of the plant to acquire the property, permits and equipment to take over operations of the plant. The County intends to replace the plant using with a state of the art technology whereby significantly improving the environmental quality of the discharged materials. The County intends to increase the service capacity of the plant to support the growing economic development interest in this designated growth area. This project will support the County and Community goals and protect the waters of Lake Anna, the areas most significant tourism location.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Gentry voting against, the Board voted to fully support and authorize the submission of application for a Community Funding Project grant for the acquisition and improvement of the Lake Anna Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Gentry voted against because the pool enclosure project was left out of the community funding projects.

Resolution – Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of Application for a Federal Community Funding Project to Support the Construction of a Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Project

There is a significant lack of affordable housing options for residents of Louisa County. Housing market trends and the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic have only increased financial gaps for low income individuals and families. The Louisa County Board of Supervisors is collaborating with Habitat for Humanity to develop a mixed income development to support this underserved community. This collaboration includes the shared cost of water and sewer infrastructure expansion, land development and housing subsidies. The development will include a community building to support the neighborhood and general area. This project represents the single largest investment to help resolve housing inequities in Louisa County.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Adams, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Gentry voting against, the Board voted to fully support and authorize the submission of application for a Community Funding Project grant to support the habitat for humanity affordable housing project in Louisa County.

Mr. Gentry voted against because the pool enclosure project was left out of the community funding projects.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Mr. Adams reported on the Management Oversight Group.

Board Appointments

(None)

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Ferrel reported that there were several monthly reports and items of correspondence in the Board packet and reminded the Board of several upcoming events.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**Discussion – Public Hearing - Proposed Real Property Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2022**

Ms. Colvin stated the County of Louisa proposes the following on property tax levies for FY22:

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 5.58%.
2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.682 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. Effective Rate Increase: The County of Louisa proposes to maintain the current tax rate (\$0.72 per \$100 of assessed value). The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.038 per \$100 or 5.29% percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Louisa County will exceed last year's by -.21%. This is subject to change as revenues and expenditures are finalized. A public hearing on the increase will be held on April 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., after regular business, in the Louisa County Public Meeting Room, Main Floor, Louisa County Office Building, Louisa, Virginia.

Mr. Babyok opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Robert Kobert, Mineral District, appeared before the Board to talk about the average assessment rate and fair market value in Louisa County.

With no one else wishing to speak, the Board closed the Public Hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

No other discussion took place.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the April 5, 2021 meeting at 7:52 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:
ROBERT F. BABYOK, JR., CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA