



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, March 18, 2024
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the March 18, 2024, meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 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
Christopher C. McCotter	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
H. Manning Woodward, III	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Absent	
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Dale Mullen, Interim County Attorney; Chris Coon, Assistance County Administrator; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administration/Director of Finance; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Griff Carmichael, Director of Human Resources; and Scott Raettig, Manager of Information Technology

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to enter Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

1. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(1) VA Code Ann., discussion and consideration of prospective candidate for employment of a public body, in particular, for the position of County Attorney of Louisa County;
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(5) VA Code Ann., discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community;
3. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(8) VA Code Ann., consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provisions of legal advice by such counsel.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, 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	Mover	Yes/Aye
R.T. Williams, Jr.	Absent	
Christopher C. McCotter	Seconder	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel G. Jones	Voter	Yes/Aye
H. Manning Woodward, III	Voter	Yes/Aye

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, 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 18th day of March 2024, 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 18th day of March 2024, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adopt the March 18, 2024, agenda, as amended, with the following changes:

1. Added a Resolution to Enter into a Contract with Woodford Nutrient Credit for the Synthetic Fields Installation Project to Consent Agenda
2. Added a Resolution to Support Dominion Energy Virginia's Efforts to Seek Funding for Potential SMRS at North Anna Nuclear Power Station to Consent Agenda

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Regular Meeting – March 4, 2024

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024, meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL**Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the First Half of March 2024**

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board adopted a resolution approving the bills for the first half of March 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda items for March 18, 2024, as follows:

1. Resolution - Proclaiming April 13 - 20, 2024 as Clean Louisa Week
2. Resolution - Authorizing Fire & EMS to Apply for an Assistance for Firefighters grant for the purchase of SCBA units
3. Resolution - Pursuing Roadway Safety Goals
4. Resolution - Requesting a Safety/Speed Study on Route 613 (Oakland Rd) in the Louisa District
5. Resolution - Requesting a Safety/Speed Study on Route 656 (Cedar Hill Road) in the Cuckoo District
6. Resolution - Requesting a Safety Study on Route 208 (Courthouse Road) in the Louisa District
7. Resolution - Requesting a Safety/Speed Study on Route 33 in the Louisa District
8. Resolution to Enter into a Contract with Woodford Nutrient Credit for the Synthetic Fields Installation Project
9. Resolution to Support Dominion Energy Virginia's Efforts to Seek Funding for Potential SMRS at North Anna Nuclear Power

RECOGNITIONS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Adams opened the public comment period.

Mr. Lew Holladay, Mountain Road District, spoke about improved future planning for economic development.

Ms. Vicky Harte, Louisa District, talked about safety/speed study requests, WIC coverage and hours at the Louisa clinic, and bond pay down.

Ms. Lin Kogle, Mineral District, provided a brief overview of the Louisa Housing and Homeless Coalition (LHHC).

Mr. Richard Welch, Patrick Henry District, spoke about amendments to Section 51 of the Louisa County Code of Ordinances.

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public comment period.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation – VDOT Quarterly Update

Mr. Scott Thornton, Residency Engineer, Louisa Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), presented the VDOT quarterly update, which included an update on projects in development and preliminary engineering, county safety and operational improvements, Smart Scale projects, pavement and resurfacing, construction and maintenance activities, traffic engineering studies, and roads located in the County.

Mr. Thornton further reported on the following projects, designs, and speed study updates in the County:

- Wares Crossroads Roundabout (Route 208 and Route 522)
- Annual Resurfacing Schedule
- Route 15 Improvements from Zion Crossroads to Orange County Line
- Rumble/Mumble Strips
- Hamilton Road Bridge Improvements

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Supplement to Louisa County Public Schools for Multiple Capital Projects**

Ms. Colvin explained that Louisa County Public Schools Superintendent has requested approval to move forward with several capital projects that were requested as part of the fiscal year 2025 budget process during fiscal year 2024 due to the lead time needed and scheduling concerns in order to complete the projects. In order to have projects completed before the 2024-2025 school year begins, it is necessary to begin the procurement process at this time versus waiting until the new fiscal year.

Funding in the amount of \$1,034,000, which is needed for these projects, is available in the Long Term LCPS Capital Reserves.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,034,000 to Louisa County Public Schools Capital projects as follows:

School Bus Purchases (30161000-481052) - \$855,000
Refinish LCHS Stage (30161000-483093)- \$16,500
Resurface LCHS Track (30161000-483092) - \$75,000
Elementary School Refurbish (30161000-482520) - \$17,500
TES Locks (30161000-482020) - \$40,000
Fuel Tank Upgrades (30161000-482025) - \$30,000

Total = \$1,034,000

The source of funding is Long Term LCPS Capital Reserves.

Resolution – Approving the Execution and Delivery of an Amended and Reinstated Support Agreement for James River Water Authority

Mr. Goodwin explained that on or about May 25, 2016, the Water Authority issued its \$7,965,000 Revenue Bond, Series 2016 (the “Series 2016 Local Bond”), which was sold to the Virginia Resources Authority (“VRA”) in connection with the issuance by the VRA of its \$136,620,000 Infrastructure and State Moral Obligation Revenue Bonds (Virginia Pooled Financing Program), Series 2016A (the “Series 2016 VRA Bonds”), with the proceeds from the sale of the Series 2016 Local Bond having been or to be used by the Water Authority to finance a portion of the design and construction costs of a raw water intake, a pump station and a raw water pipeline, as well as the acquisition of land and the rights-of-way necessary therefor (collectively, the “Project”).

In connection with the issuance by the Water Authority of the Series 2016 Local Bond and the purchase by VRA of the Series 2016 Local Bond in connection with the issuance by VRA of the Series 2016 VRA Bonds, (1) the Water Authority and the Member Jurisdictions entered into a Service Agreement dated as of April 1, 2015 (the “Service Agreement”), which provides, among other things, for payments by each Member Jurisdiction to the Water Authority for services to be rendered to the Member Jurisdictions by the Water Authority, and sets forth certain other responsibilities of the Water Authority and the Member Jurisdictions, and (2) The Member Jurisdictions, the Water Authority and VRA entered into separate Support Agreements, each dated as of May 1, 2016 (collectively, the “Support Agreements” and with respect to the County, the “Louisa Support Agreement”), by the terms of which the County undertook a non-binding obligation to appropriate from time to time moneys to the Water Authority in connection with payments due from the County under the Service Agreement, which appropriated moneys constitute the principal source of and security for the payment of debt service on the Series 2016 Local Bond.

The proceeds of the Series 2016 Local Bond have been or will be fully expended on Project costs incurred by the Water Authority since 2016, but such proceeds will ultimately be insufficient to complete the Project, and the Water Authority now desires to finance the remaining costs of acquisition, design, construction and equipping of the Project through the issuance by the Water Authority of its Revenue Bond, Series 2024 in a maximum principal amount not to exceed \$49,000,000 (the “Series 2024 Local Bond” and, together with the Series 2016 Local Bond, the “Local Bonds”).

Water Authority has been advised that VRA is willing to purchase the Series 2024 Local Bond on terms favorable to the Water Authority in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Local Bond Sale and Financing Agreement dated as of April 1, 2024, between VRA and the Water Authority (the “2024 Financing Agreement”).

VRA has indicated that its agreement to purchase the Series 2024 Local Bond will be conditioned upon each of the Member Jurisdictions (in pertinent part for purposes of this Resolution, the County), amending and restating its respective Support Agreement, (herein, with respect to the Louisa Support Agreement, the “Amended Louisa Support Agreement”) to include the non-binding obligation to appropriate from time to time moneys to the Water Authority in connection with payments due under the Amended Service Agreement (as hereinafter defined),

which will constitute the principal source of and security for the payment of debt service on the Local Bonds, the most recent draft of which Amended Louisa Support Agreement has been presented to this meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to approve the service agreement.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Mr. Goodwin reported on the Transportation Safety Commission. He explained moving forward, safety/speed studies will be reviewed by the commission, and there will be a discussion with the commission about meeting more frequently to review such requests in a timely manner.

Mr. Goodwin also reported Louisa Clean is planning a large cleanup event in April and part of the process involves VDOT approval. He stated due to the project scale (multiple sites, VDOT signage and other assets), VDOT regulations require the effort to be approved via their permitting process. The process has an application fee and compels applicants to have insurance coverage. This isn't an option for Louisa Clean. The issues could be avoided if the County were willing to apply for the permit. VDOT would waive the fees and application through the County would nullify the insurance requirement. He noted the Refuse Workgroup (Rachel and Chris) are supportive of the approach.

Chairman Adams reported on volunteer opportunities in the County and having local agencies work together on creating a central location where individuals can volunteer their services.

Mr. Woodward reported on open positions on the Commission on Aging.

Board Appointments

(None)

County Administrator's Report

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Presentation – Proposed Real Property Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2025

Ms. Wanda Colvin, stated the 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 7.83%. 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 \$0.668 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate." 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 \$0.052 per \$100 or 7.26% 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. 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 27.5%. This is subject to change as revenues and expenditures are finalized.

Ms. Colvin invited Ms. Cindy Draves, Deputy Assessor, to the podium to discuss assessments.

Ms. Draves provided an overview on the property assessment process and the organizational structure and relationship between the Assessor’s Office and the Board of Supervisors. She also highlighted the order of events leading up to annual assessments and the public hearing on tax rates. She noted that concerns regarding property value should be communicated to the Assessor’s Office, while concerns regarding the tax rate should be communicated to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Draves further explained that mass appraisal is the process of valuing a group of properties as of a given date using common data to achieve uniformity and equitable values. Collected county-wide sales are further stratified by unique markets for example; Lake Anna Water Communities, Spring Creek, Commercial and rural areas. State code 58.1-3201 requires property values to be assessed at 100% market value. Pertinent sales characteristics are considered including location, sale price, square feet, home type, year built, quality, condition, and number of acres. Updated values are computed based on market values of property sales throughout the County. Virginia Department of Taxation validates the assessment department and analysis. Physical assessments are on a five-year rotational basis. Property owners have right to appeal; deadline advertised each year and the Assessor’s Office encourages questions, especially prior to the appeals deadline.

Comments and questions were addressed by the Board regarding: the assessment and state validation process; how to appeal your assessment; and equitable values and how properties are analyzed, which were answered by Ms. Draves.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. David Sexton, Louisa District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate to offset costs that are directly incurred by the taxpayer.

Mr. Chris Liles, Mineral District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate to offset costs that are directly incurred by the taxpayer.

Ms. Vicky Harte, Louisa District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase. She also talked about her personal experience with the appeal process.

Mr. Steve Randolph, Cuckoo District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase.

Mr. Kevin Long, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate to offset costs that are directly incurred by the taxpayer.

Mr. Patrick Langerbeam, Louisa District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase.

Mr. Mike Yates, Green Springs District, spoke in opposition of the proposed real property tax increase.

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., after regular business, in the Louisa County Public Meeting Room, Main Floor, Louisa County Office Building, Louisa, Virginia.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. McCotter, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adjourn the March 18, 2024, meeting at 7:33 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:
DUANE A. ADAMS, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA