



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, March 21, 2022
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the March 21, 2022 regular 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
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
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Helen Phillips, County Attorney; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Griff Carmichael, Human Resources Director; Wanda Colvin, Finance Director; Robert Dube, Fire & EMS Chief; Scott Raettig, Information Technology Manager; Janice Allen, Human Services Director; and Anderson Woolfolk General Services Director

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Barnes, 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. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) VA Code Ann., for a discussion of compensation of staff in various departments, and consideration of prospective candidates for employment in Community Development; and
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3) VA Code Ann., to discuss the disposition of real property in the Cuckoo District and in the Mineral District, and for acquisition of real property in for public use in the Mineral District where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the County; and
3. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (29) VA Code Ann., for a discussion of the amendment of a public contract where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the negotiating position or bargaining strategy of the County.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 6:03 p.m.

RESOLUTION - CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Voter	Role	Vote
Tommy J. Barlow	Voter	Yes/Aye
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Seconder	Yes/Aye
R.T. Williams, Jr.	Mover	Yes/Aye
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Voter	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel G. Jones	Voter	Yes/Aye
Eric F. Purcell	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 21st day of March 2022, 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 21st day of March 2022, 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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the March 21, 2022 agenda, as present, with no changes:

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Regular Meeting - Mar 7, 2022 5:00 PM

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL

Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the First Half of March 2022

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board adopted a resolution approving the bills for the first half of March 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda items for March 21, 2022, as follows:

- Resolution – Posthumously Honoring Sherman Shifflett's Contributions and Dedication to Louisa County
- Resolution – To Approve and Award a Contract for Furnish and Installation of a Public Safety Radio Amplification System
- Resolution – To Take Streets in the Hidden Farm Estates Subdivision into the Secondary System of Highways in Louisa County, Virginia
- Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Supplement to Parks & Recreation for Virginia Department of Education Child Care Stabilization Grant Funding
- Resolution – Authorizing the Renewal of the Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance Contract

RECOGNITIONS

Presentation – Louisa County Crime Solvers Officer of the Year Award

Louisa County Crime Solvers presented the Louisa County Sheriff's Office Deputies, Jonathan Said and Dustin Powell with a plaque recognizing them for service and contributions to Louisa County.

Presentation – Recognizing the Essential Workers, Volunteers, Community Members, and Staff for Their Efforts During the Winter Storms of January 2022

Mr. Goodwin read the resolution and Mr. Adams presented a framed copy to the essential workers, volunteers, community members, and staff during the efforts of January 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Adams opened the public comment period.

Ms. Shelia Bernard, Patrick Henry District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed amendments to the Dogs Running at Large ordinance.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mr. 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, construction and maintenance activities, traffic engineering studies, and roads located in the County.

Mr. Michael Barnes, VDOT District Planner, provided an overview on the Zion Crossroads

Gateway study. He explained the transportation component of the Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan is focused on Route 15 starting just south of Route 250 and running northwards to just south of the Green Springs Historic District. He noted the plan also looks at potential improvements along Route 250 about 1-mile either side of the Zion Crossroads intersection. He said using current traffic counts, local land use plans, and recent plans for new residential and commercial projects, the study's goal is to determine potential road improvements required to preserve the Route 15 Corridor's long range regional transportation function while meeting the needs of existing and future residential and commercial growth.

Mr. Barnes took a moment to explain the SMART Scale program. SMART Scale is the Commonwealth's bi-annual prioritization process that uses a cost/benefit analysis to rank and distribute transportation funding. He noted that SMART Scale is not the State's only transportation fund program, but it is the largest and it is the most applicable program for building projects like those being considered along the Route 15 Corridor.

Mr. Barnes explained that localities, like Louisa, can submit up to 4 project each round and the SMART Scale process requires localities to submit a pre-application by April 1st. The final application deadline is August 1st. He noted that VDOT has already been working with Louisa County's planning staff to prepare the pre-application.

Mr. Barnes stated safety is the only applicable eligibility category for the projects within the Route 15 Corridor and in order to meet the criteria, an intersection or stretch of road must have had at least three injury related accidents within the past five years. He added a given intersection may become eligible, but it may still face tough competition to other intersections within the Culpeper District.

Mr. Barnes stated the transportation component of the Zion's Gateway Plan recommended a series of improvements, primarily along the Route 15 Corridor, however, it is important to note that only two of the various intersection improvements currently experience the minimum safety thresholds necessary to meet the eligibility requirements for SMART Scale. He noted the two intersection are Spring Creek/Camp Creek/Route 15 intersection and the Route 250 and Route 15 intersection.

He noted the other intersections will need to be considered at some point in the future, either as future SMART Scale intersection as safety concerns increase OR as part of future private sector development proposal which might increase traffic at these intersections and place additional pressure on the corridor.

Mr. Barnes explained the Route 250/Route 15 intersection is currently being considered by the County to be submitted as a roundabout.

He said a similar concept was submitted during the last round of Smart Scale for this intersection, however, that proposal failed to be ranked high enough to get funded when it was compared with other projects within the Culpeper District. He noted the current roundabout concept has been tweaked and a proposed shared use path has been added to the concept. He explained the Shared Use Path would eventually link across I-64 and connect to a shared use path being proposed.

Mr. Barnes stated the second SMART Scale project being considered by the County is at the Spring Creek/Camp Creek/ Route 15 intersection. He said the recommended proposal calls for a

“Bow-Tie” Intersection, which is an innovative and highly efficient intersection that takes advantage of the relatively close side streets of Market Street and Wood Ridge Terrace. He explained the concept would construct roundabouts at intersections of the two side streets and then reconfigure the Route 15 intersection so that all left turn movements would be eliminated. He noted removing the left turns, would mean that a driver would need to pass through one of the roundabouts and make a right-hand turn. He further added that by removing left-hand turns from the Route 15 intersection, congestion will be reduced and safety will be increased.

Comments and questions were addressed by the Board regarding the gateway study and SMART Scale funding. More specifically, the Board questioned the “Bow-Tie” method and asked how long it would take for travelers to become acclimated to the intersection and pass through improvements, which were answered by Mr. Barnes.

The Board thanked Mr. Barnes for his time.

Mr. Adams asked for Mr. Thornton to approach the podium for additional project and maintenance activity questions.

Mr. Adams asked when VDOT expects to complete their disaster relief cleanup from the winter storms.

Mr. Thornton replied that it varies, but they are expecting to be complete by June.

Presentation – Louisa County Water Authority Quarterly Update

Ms. Pamela Baughman, General Manager of the Louisa County Water Authority (LCWA), provided the LCWA Quarterly Update, which included; municipal relief for past due customer statements; revenues & expenses; maintenance, repairs, supplies & projects; and updates on waste water regulations and legislation.

She stated HB582 addresses the new required regional water supply plans, and as of now, Louisa will be combined with Spotsylvania, Stafford, City of Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Madison, Greene, and Orange. She noted that HB1297 passed and the comprehensive water study process will direct the State Water Control Board to consider interjurisdictional agreements and designated comprehensive water supply regional planning areas and to provide a mechanism for localities to request a change of its designated regional planning area to an adjoining planning area.

She stated she is working with the Virginia Department of Health on a possible funding package to run a water line from the Northeast Creek Water Treatment Plant to the Town of Mineral and down Route 605 to provide water services to the Route 605 Trailer Park to help end the water service difficulties experienced by the residents.

She concluded her remarks by explaining how the Authority will be required to replace lead services lines and inventory of all lead services lines. She noted the Authority does not install nor maintain lead services lines, and in many cases they do not know where the customer’s service lines run, but they will be required to replace the lines by October of 2024.

Mr. Williams asked if the lead service line will include meter to the house.

Ms. Baughman replied yes.

Mr. Williams asked if the Authority is responsible for identifying the lead service lines and replacing them.

Ms. Baughman said they will be responsible for inventorying the lead service lines and replacing them.

Mr. Williams asked if the Authority's line stops at the meter.

Ms. Baughman replied yes, and stated that point of transference is considered at the meter.

Mr. Goodwin said he asked the same questions and spoke with the regulatory agencies and the requirements are coming from Federal EPA legislation.

Mr. Williams asked what would happen if the Authority chose not to adhere to the regulations.

Ms. Baughman said they agency would be fined for not complying with the regulations.

Mr. Williams asked where the service line stops.

Ms. Baughman said 18-inches into the customer's home. She said in order for the Authority to replace the line, they must have the home owner's permission to enter the home and replace the line.

Mr. Adams asked if there will be any type of compensation or funding to conduct the lead service line replacement.

Ms. Baughman said they are hoping that some funding will come through.

Mr. Williams asked for a number of potential lead service lines.

Ms. Baughman said they do not believe there are any at Zion Crossroads, except at the Route 250 Corridor, and there may be some on Poplar Ave. right outside the Town of Mineral.

Mr. Adams said he would like to know a cost estimate to replace the lead service lines so they can lobby the County's Federal representatives.

Ms. Baughman said once they can conduct their inventory, they will know what the cost associated with the replacement could be.

The Board asked questions regarding HB582 and the regional water supply plans and asked if the Authority could request a change of its designated regional planning area to an adjoining planning area.

Ms. Baughman said there is now a way where the locality can request a change, but it will not impact the regulatory requirements or impact the County's water supply.

Presentation – Update on the Firefly Fiber Project

Mr. Galen Creekmore, Key Accounts and Member Engagement Representative, Mr. Denis Reeves, General Manager, and Mr. Gary Wood, President and CEO of CVEC and Firefly, gave an update on the Firefly Regional Internet Service Expansion (RISE) project and provided a PowerPoint presentation, which included: CVEC service territory and substations; Louisa connection and construction status; areas in service; active connected accounts; miles of fiber; total investment; RISE proposed project area and figures in Louisa; areas under construction announced to start; steps of fiber construction and timeline; and Firefly's commitment to affordable service.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Board regarding: the construction and timeline, specifically for Dominion and REC customers and the Eastern part of the County; how underserved areas can access Firefly's moderate services; and middle mile service between Firefly and Dominion, which were answered by Mr. Wood.

Discussion – Update on Clean Community Efforts

Mr. Goodwin updated the Board on the possibility of reinstating the Clean Community Commission. He said staff hopes to bring the bylaws back to the Board for formal adoption at their next meeting.

Mr. Barnes noted there is an active group known as Louisa Clean and they are already conducting litter pick up days and doing an excellent job at promoting litter control throughout the County.

Mr. Goodwin said he suggested the Board appoint a liaison to the Clean Community Commission.

Ms. Jones asked if the commission would be separate from the private group, Louisa Clean.

Mr. Goodwin replied yes.

Mr. Barnes said he does not feel it is necessary to reinstate the Clean Community Commission.

Mr. Williams suggested the Board appoint a liaison to the private group.

Mr. Barnes was appointed to serve as the liaison to the private group, Louisa Clean.

Discussion – Update on Amendments to the Dogs Running a Large Ordinance

Ms. Helen Phillips appeared before the Board to provide an update on the proposed amendments to the County's Dogs Running at Large Ordinance. She reported that a committee was appointed to review the dogs running at large ordinance and suggest any amendments. The following is the proposed amended ordinance:

Sec. 14-28. Dogs not to be off owner's premises except when under control; enforcement.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any dog in this county to run at large at any time. It shall be the duty of the animal control officer to enforce the provisions of this section.
- (b) For the purpose of this section, a dog shall be deemed to be "running at large" while roaming or running off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control; provided, that no dog shall be deemed to be running at large in violation of this section if it shall be engaged in lawful hunting or training for

lawful hunting under the direction of its owner or custodian and shall thereafter stray from lawful hunting or training for lawful hunting; provided, that such owner or custodian shall place such dog under his immediate control within a reasonable time.

- (c) A violation of this section will result in such dog being confiscated and returned to the owner with a written warning.
- (d) A second violation within one (1) year of the first violation will result in such dog being confiscated and returned to the owner with a written warning.
- (e) A third violation within two (2) years of the second violation will result in a \$100 fine.
- (f) A fourth violation within two (2) years of the third violation will result in a court summons pursuant to Louisa County Code Sec. 14-51 for an unlawful act that constitutes a Class 4 misdemeanor.

Mr. Gentry asked how vicious dog incidents would be handled under the proposed amendments. Ms. Phillips stated the vicious dog would be addressed under state code and it would be an automatic criminal penalty.

Discussion ensued regarding the sequence of violations and repeat offenders, and the possibility of shortening the time period between violations.

On the motion of Mr. Purcell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to move forward with a public hearing on the above mentioned proposed amended ordinance.

Discussion – Fiscal Year 2023 Operational & Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan Budget

Ms. Wanda Colvin appeared before the Board to provide an update on the recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2023. She provided a PowerPoint presentation, which included a summary of operating expenses and revenues, revenue highlights, capital projects costs, surpluses and fund balance detail.

SUMMARY

- Total Budget - \$146.1 M
- Operating Expenses - \$13.8M/ +11.45%
- Revenues - \$16.1M/ +12.9%
- No Tax Increase
- Operating Surplus - \$6.6M
- Capital Projects - \$10.9M
- Fund Balance Detail (Impact of FY23 Proposed Budget) - \$5,702,574

Mr. Gentry expressed his concerns with the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2024. He said he understands the increased amount is related to the addition at the middle school, the CTE center, and athletic complex, but does not know enough to feel comfortable with the projected amounts.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Board regarding the locking mechanism proposal for the middle school, which were answered by Mr. Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin agreed to provide additional information on the proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding educational facility improvements and how to handle future upgrades and enhancements.

Discussion – New Bridge Fire & Rescue Station

Mr. Chris Coon stated the Board asked for staff to look into ways at reducing costs for the New Bridge Fire & Rescue Station. He said one option is to utilize the site off of Route 208 (New Bridge Road). He concluded his remarks by informing the Board that staff intends to present further information, in detail, at the April 4th meeting.

The Board took recess at 8:21 p.m. and reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

(None)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**Committee Reports**

Mr. Goodwin briefly reported on the James River Water Authority and Project.

Mr. Barnes and Mr. Barlow encouraged staff to continue to work with Fluvanna County on project-related planning.

The Chairman appointment Mr. Barnes and Mr. Purcell to a working group to work with staff and Fluvanna County on project-related planning for the James River Water Authority and report back to the Board at their May 16th Board meeting

Board Appointments

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to make the following appointments:

- Appointed Mr. Gerald Bowles to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Mr. Lacey, after his term expires in April of 2022; and
- Reappointed Mr. Gerald Bowles to the Transportation Safety Commission to represent the Mountain Road District.

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Goodwin 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 2023**

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 12.16%. She explained the Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment, the tax rate 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 \$0.642 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the “lowered tax rate.” She noted the Effective Rate Increase would be if 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 \$0.078 per \$100 or 10.84% 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. Ms. Colvin stated the Proposed Total Budget Increase is 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 11.23%. This is subject to change as revenues and expenditures are finalized.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Ronnie Laws, Mineral District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate rather than maintain to help offset increased costs.

Mr. Chris Liles, Mineral District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate rather than maintain to help offset increased costs

Ms. Gene Crider, Jackson District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate rather than maintain to help offset increased costs

Mr. Ron Lassiter, Jackson District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed real property tax increase and encouraged the Board to reduce the tax rate rather than maintain to help offset increased costs

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

Discussion ensued regarding increasing the tax relief thresholds on income and asset levels.

Mr. Gentry said they Board could always consider a decrease in the tax rate.

The Chairman appointed Mr. Williams and Mr. Barnes to a working group with staff on reevaluating the tax relief thresholds on income and asset levels.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the March 21, 2022 meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA