Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, April 4, 2022
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the April 4, 2022 regular meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 P.M.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Present	
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	
Eric F. Purcell	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Helen Phillips, County Attorney; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Kyle Eldridge, Assistant County Attorney; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Wanda Colvin, Director of Finance; Griff Carmichael, Director of Human Resources; Andy Wade, Director of Economic Development; Josh Gillespie, Director of Community Development; Linda Buckler, Deputy Director of Community Development; Scott Raettig, Manager of Information Technology; Robert Dube, Chief of Fire & EMS; and Anderson Woolfolk, Manager of General Services.

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Williams, 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,
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3) VA Code Ann., to discuss the disposition and acquisition of real property in the Cuckoo District where discussion in an 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 a public contract involving property in the Mineral District 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 6:00 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 4th day of April 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 4th day of April 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.

INVOCATION - MR. PURCELL

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the April 4, 2022 agenda, as presented, with no changes.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Regular Meeting - Mar 21, 2022 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 21, 2022 meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL

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

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

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 4, 2022, as follows:

- Resolution – To Approve and Award a Contract for Fire Equipment Testing
- Resolution – To Approve and Award a Contract for Facility Supervising Veterinarian for the Louisa County Animal Shelter
- Resolution – To Approve and Award a Contract for Professional Engineering Services
- Resolution – A Resolution to Proceed with the Replacement of Fleet Vehicles Per the Capital Improvement Plan Project for FY 2022
- Resolution – Approving the Right-Of-Way Easement Agreement Between Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and Louisa County Board of Supervisors
- Resolution – Authorizing a Pass through Appropriation to Fire and Emergency Services for Emergency Preparedness Funding

RECOGNITIONS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Adams opened the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Susan O'neale, Mineral District, appeared before the Board to talk about the operation of short term rentals and how they impact residential quality in the County.

Ms. Barbara Coe, Cuckoo District, appeared before the Board regarding the draft proposed amendments to the Louisa County Code regulating short term rentals.

Mr. William Shaw, Green Springs District, encouraged the Board to refrain from conducting closed session at the beginning of each meeting and to consider having a more open dialogue in front of the public.

Mr. David Rogers, Mineral District, talked briefly about Chopping Road traffic impacts and road improvements.

Mr. Gerald Harlow, Green Springs District, appeared before the Board to speak in opposition of the proposed sports complex to be placed on referendum.

Mr. Goodwin read a letter from resident, Rebecca Wood who resides in the Cuckoo District (see APPENDIX A).

With no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Adams closed the Public Comment Period.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion – Update on Tax Relief Thresholds

Mr. Williams stated the working group met to discuss ordinance changes that would allow further real estate tax relief to elderly persons by expanding the income threshold from $40,000 to $50,000 and increasing the percentage on net worth. He noted the estimated loss in revenue would be around $500,000 and the committee is recommending they extend the application deadline to June 1 of this year. The proposed changes would require a public hearing.

Mr. Barlow noted the proposed changes are an effort to help offset inflation that affects the overall cost of living.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to advertise a public hearing for amendments to Louisa County Code §70-33(a)(4) and 70-35, Tax Exemption for the Elderly and Disabled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Resolution – To Amend the Ratified Performance Agreement Dated November 10, 2021 Between the County of Louisa ("County") and Crossing Pointe Development, LLC., GET CAPTIVE, LLC., and GW & FW Holdings, LLC ("Companies").

Mr. Wade, Director of Economic Development, appeared before the Board to discuss the amendments to the ratified performance agreement dates November 10, 2021 between the County of Louisa (“County”) and Crossing Pointe Development, LLC., GET CAPTIVE, LLC., and GW & FW Holdings, LLC (“Companies”)

The County from time-to-time awards financial incentives to encourage and assist existing real estate development companies to facilitate their capital investments in Louisa County. The Companies’ request to rezone 35.6 acres from General Commercial (C-2) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) for a mixed used development called Crossing Pointe was approved by the County on December 16, 2019. The Companies intend to develop 138,000 square feet of commercial property, and 321 dwelling units, creating jobs and revenue for the County.

By resolution dated November 2, 2021, the County approved a performance agreement for a tax rebate incentive package in favor of the Companies for an amount equal to $250,000.00. The County has determined that there are direct public purpose benefits to the County from new tax revenues and increased economic activity created by the Capital Investment and Real Estate Improvements, and has determined that the total amount of the tax rebate is appropriate.

The County is willing to increase the maximum rebate to an amount not to exceed $500,000.00. The Tax Rebates (“Rebates”) in favor of Companies are subject to annual appropriations, as described in the Performance Agreement dated November 10, 202.

In consideration of the foregoing, the mutual benefits, promises and undertakings of the parties to this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties covenant and agree as this performance agreement amendment as follows:

1. The terms of the Performance Agreement dated November 10, 2021, attached hereto as Exhibit A, are hereby incorporated in their entirety and are only modified as set forth in this amendment.
2. The tax rebate will increase from $250,000 to an amount not to exceed $500,000.
3. The tax rebate period shall be for five years or until such time that the Companies have received tax rebates totaling $500,000.00, whichever occurs first.
4. The five year tax rebate period shall begin upon commissioning of the pump station for public use and ownership transfer of the new pump station to the Louisa County Water Authority.
5. The Companies shall not be entitled to any portion of the rebate described in paragraph 2 above until the regional wastewater pump station is fully constructed, permitted, and in a completely operational state.
6. The Companies shall complete all obligations set forth in paragraph 5 above within 18 months from the date of approval of this amended performance agreement. If these obligations are not completed within 18 months from the date of approval of this amended performance agreement, the Companies shall not be entitled to any tax rebate pursuant to the performance agreement and this amended performance agreement.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Jones, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board authorizes the amendment to the performance agreement between the County and the Companies.

Resolution – To Refer Amendments to the Louisa County Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission for Advertisement, Public Hearing and Recommendation

Mr. Josh Gillespie, Director of Community Development, stated a committee of the Board of Supervisors was formed to review ordinances regarding utility-scale solar generation facilities in Louisa County, and on December 21, 2021, the solar committee reported its recommendations for modifications to these ordinances to the Board, and the solar committee report was approved unanimously by the Board. He noted the proposed amendments will modify Conditional Use Permit requirements, conditions, and procedures as well as modify performance standards and decommissioning requirements. He explained staff prepared amendments to the zoning ordinance, Chapter 86 of the Louisa County Code in accordance with the solar committee report and presented said amendments to the Board, which are outlined below:

Section 86-45. Conditional use permits for minor or utility-scale solar generation facilities.

1. State the Board's intent to preserve and protect to the county's rural ambience and its agricultural and forestall lands
2. Establish a maximum of 3 percent of the total county acreage or 9,800 acres for total approved utility-scale solar generation facilities
3. Provide a minimum of project size of 151 MW to be generated
4. Limit facilities to within one mile of existing high-voltage transmission or distribution lines right-of-way, or on a case-by-case basis
5. Prohibit the use in the R-1, R-2, IND and I-1 Growth Area Overlay Districts

Section 86-46. Application requirements.

1. Provide property control or ownership documentation
2. Provide a copy of the PJM Interconnection Application
3. Locate and describe any proposed battery storage, and address the fire threat

4. Change the most mature simulated views and simulations from 15 to 20 years
5. Address the fiscal impact to the county for Fire and EMS services for fighting battery storage fires
6. Provide a minimum vegetative buffer of 300 fee, with supplemental plantings capable of reaching 20 feet within 10 years

Section 86-632. Performance standards for minor and utility-scale solar generation facilities.

1. Add criteria
    a. Independent engineer. The applicant will pay an independent engineer to check construction progress weekly, ensure construction is proceeding in accordance with the CUP, and resolve any disputes between the applicant and county staff over construction problems. The Board of Supervisors will decide any unresolved disputes
    b. Construction bond. Sufficient to cover the construction requirements of the CUP
    c. Erosion and sediment control. Limit site clearing to 100 acres per phase, with stabilization of a phase a pre-requisite to beginning each new phase
    d. Increase opaque vegetative buffer width from 150 to 300 feet, and prohibit stormwater holding ponds within them
    e. Increase the supplemental plantings, where applicable, from 3 rows to 4 of staggered evergreen specimens, and increase the height from 10 to 20 feet during a growing period lengthened from 3 years to 10 years

Section 86-33. Decommissioning of utility-scale solar generating facilities.

1. Prohibit the disposal of solar panels in any of the county's landfill facilities

Pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2285(B), the Board is required to refer proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance, Chapter 86 of the Louisa County Code to the Planning Commission for its recommendations.

Mr. Adams stated he, along with Mr. Barnes, served on the committee that was formed to review ordinance changes to the utility-scale solar generation facilities. He said the prepared amendments that were brought forth were presented and accepted by the Board back in December of 2021 and it is time to refer the proposed amendments to the Planning Commissions for its recommendation.

Mr. Barlow asked if the amendments were specifically for utility-scale facilities.

Mr. Adams replied yes.

Mr. Barlow noted the titles for Section 86-45 and Section 86-632 include minor.

Mr. Adams reiterated that the proposed amendments are for utility-scale only and that the titles will need to be amended to reflect that recommendation.

Ms. Jones asked if the proposed amendments will impact the solar generation projects at the schools.

Mr. Adams said it will not affect their solar projects.

Mr. Purcell offered suggestions for the Planning Commission to consider regarding on-site solar generation for industrial development projects.

Mr. Gentry asked how the committee came to the maximum of 3% under Section 86-45(2).

Mr. Adams said the committee felt that 3% was fair in comparison to surrounding localities, which varied between 3-5%.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Purcell abstaining, the Board referred the proposed amendments to Chapter 86, Article I Division 5 and Article IV Division 2 with the addition of conditional use permit requirements, conditions, and procedures; as well as the addition of performance standards and decommissioning requirements to the Planning Commission for its recommendations.

Resolution – Approving a Budget Supplement and Authorizing the General Services Department to Proceed with Construction of the New Bridge Fire & Rescue Station

Mr. Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator stated the Board of Supervisors previously appropriated $1,500,000 for the construction of the New Bridge Fire & Rescue Station at 1856 New Bridge Road, Mineral, VA 23117 (Louisa County Land parcel 29 35A1). The Louisa County General Services Department has received a quote per Sourcewell cooperative contract #013019-BSC from BlueScope for site work and design/build/construction of the New Bridge Fire and EMS Building and has negotiated the price for construction in the amount of $2,017,466.

The project will also entail $349,000 for geotechnical testing, quality assurance testing, well/septic design, well construction, alternative drainfield construction, landscaping, landscaping design, propane tank purchase, interior appliances, contingency money for unforeseen costs/unsuitable soils, etc. Of the original allocation, $1,450,000 is remaining, but an additional $916,466 for the cost of construction is needed.

Mr. Barlow asked for clarification on the additional expenses.

Mr. Anderson Woolfolk, Manager of General Services, explained that the additional expenses are for things that were not included in the original number such as geotechnical testing, quality assurance testing, well/septic design, contingency money for unforeseen costs/unsuitable soils, etc.

Mr. Barlow asked if the station will be weighted more heavily towards fire or EMS services.

Mr. Goodwin explained that the station will be equipped to support pieces of apparatus for both fire and EMS services based on the needs of the community and overall need in the County.

Mr. Gentry expressed his concerns with the escalation of project costs, but noted his support for the project.

Mr. Purcell said he feels the Board has done a great job at recognizing the need in the community and being fiscally responsible in following through with the project. He noted the additional expenses are recognized by both the Board and the community, however, unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances have occurred, but the Board must proceed as necessary.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board authorizes the General Services Department to proceed with the Construction of the New Bridge Fire & Rescue Station with the funds previously allocated in GL #30332000-483100-C3209, via a Sourcewell contract with BlueScope Construction;

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes a budget supplement in the amount of $916,466 to New Bridge Fire & Rescue Capital Project (30332000-483100-C3209) from General Fund Balance for the aforementioned project.

Resolution – Referral of Short Term Rentals to Planning Commission

Mr. Coon stated at the February 14, 2022 regular meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors, a Board of Supervisors workgroup was formed to consider potential code amendments regarding short term lodging ("short term rentals") in Louisa County. He said the workgroup met with stakeholders and interested parties and directed staff to draft potential amendments for Board consideration. Staff prepared amendments to the zoning ordinance, Chapter 86 of the Louisa County Code in accordance with the workgroup's direction and presented said amendments to the Board. He explained the proposed amendments would modify a defined term, establish conditions of a use permitted generally and by Conditional Use Permit, and provide for administrative requirements.

Pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2285(B), the Board is required to refer proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance, Chapter 86 of the Louisa County Code to the Planning Commission for its recommendations.

Mr. Williams said as they move forward, he would like to receive an opinion from a septic professional, as well as a review and limitation on stated occupancy for each rental.

Mr. Barlow concurred with Mr. Williams's sentiments regarding a limited number of occupants for each rental at one time.

On the motion of Mr. Gentry, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to refer the proposed amendments to Chapter 86, Article I Division 2, Article II Division 3, Article II Division 4, Article II Division 6, and Article IV Division 3 with the addition of one defined term, uses to the use matrix, additional requirements, permitted uses in zoning districts, and off-street parking requirements to the Planning Commission for its recommendations.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Mr. Williams stated that a report is forthcoming from the bounty on coyote working group.

Mr. Barnes updated the Board on the solar committee's efforts with Belcher Solar.

Ms. Jones updated the Board on the Louisa Clean's efforts in finding innovative ways to clean up the roadways in the County.

Mr. Adams appointed Mr. Williams and Mr. Barlow to a Comprehensive Plan work group.

Board Appointments

(None)

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.

Resolution – Authorizing the Louisa County Sheriff's Office and the Louisa County Public Schools to Proceed with the LCSO Vehicle Replacement Capital Project and the LCPS Bus Replacement Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2023

The Sheriff's Department Vehicle Replacement FY2023 capital project entails purchasing vehicles to replace the oldest vehicles with the highest mileage and/or supplement the Sheriff's Office vehicle fleet. The Sheriff's Office plans to retain the best high mileage vehicles to supplement the Sheriff's Office vehicle fleet as potential back-up vehicles. The Sheriff's Office has experienced delays in placing replacement vehicles into service if ordering is done after the start of the new fiscal year.

Louisa County Public Schools is experiencing these same delays when ordering school buses. The Sheriff's Office requests authorization to proceed with the FY 2023 vehicle replacement capital project, not to exceed $565,000 and Louisa County Public Schools requests authorization to proceed with the FY 2023 bus replacement capital project, not to exceed $713,570 in FY2022 and allow ordering these vehicles for delivery and payment in FY2023.

The Louisa County Public Schools to proceed with the aforementioned Fiscal Year 2023 capital projects not to exceed $565,000 for Sheriff's vehicles and $713,570 for buses by ordering the vehicles in FY2022 for delivery and payment in FY2023. Additionally the buses and vehicles are not to arrive sooner than July 1, 2022.

The Board approved the resolution authorizing the Louisa County Sheriff's Office and the Louisa County Public Schools to Proceed with the LCSO Vehicle Replacement Capital Project and the LCPS Bus Replacement Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2023.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance – Amendment to Section 86-531 (A) (4) to Reduce the Family Subdivision Parcel Retention Period

Ms. Linda Buckler, Deputy Community Development Director, stated at the January 10, 2022 meeting, the Board directed staff and the Planning Commission to review the family subdivision regulations, specifically the minimum required 10-year retention period for parcels created under the family subdivision provisions. She explained the Louisa County Community Development Department completed a comprehensive review of the retention period and requirements for family subdivisions in surrounding counties and researched the Louisa County ordinances to provide historical information on family subdivisions and the required retention period for a parcel divided under the family subdivision regulations.

The Planning Commission held a work session on February 10, 2022 and discussed the current retention period for a family subdivision parcel, the intended purpose of the retention period and family subdivision provisions in general, and requested staff to advertise a proposed amendment for the March 10, 2022 regular meeting, to the family subdivision provisions that would "potentially reduce the time period that a family subdivision parcel must be retained, once recorded, to a period of less than ten (10) years".

On March 10, 2022, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment to Chapter 86. Land Development Regulations, Section 86-531. Same for family subdivisions and voted 4-3 (Ayes - Brooks, Quarles, Woodward and Weaver; Nays - Disosway, Dickerson and Goodwin) to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors supporting an amendment to Section 86-531(a) item (4) of the family subdivision regulations, as follows:

(4) Each such division shall remain in the name of the qualified family member for a minimum of ~~ten~~ ***five (5)*** *years from the date of recordation, unless the lot is the subject of an involuntary transfer such as foreclosure, death, divorce, judicial sale, condemnation or bankruptcy.*

Ms. Buckler stated should the Board vote to reduce the retention period, the amendment would become effective immediately and would not apply to existing family subdivisions that are already recorded.

Mr. Adams noted how there was record for the original retention period of 5-years, but there does not seem to be a reasoning or record of why the retention period went from 5 to 10 years.

Ms. Buckler stated the minutes are vague and do not provide enough reasoning, but there has been some recollection from Planning Commission members that the intent was to help alleviate the circumvention of the subdivision ordinance by doing a family subdivision.

Mr. Williams asked if the amendment will remain the same for permitting a single division per family member and that the minimum lot size is still 1.5 acres.

Ms. Buckler replied yes.

Mr. Williams asked if involuntary transfers will still apply.

Ms. Buckler replied yes.

Mr. Williams asked if someone were to petition the involuntary transfer, are they still limited to a single division per family member.

Ms. Buckler replied yes.

Ms. Jones asked if a medical clause was included as one of the involuntary transfers.

Ms. Buckler replied no.

Mr. Williams said he felt that a medical clause could be identified as a financial hardship.

Ms. Phillips referred to Section 86-531(4) of the Louisa County Code of Ordinances. She noted the medical condition would have to rise to the level of bankruptcy in order for it to be considered an involuntary transfer.

Mr. Williams noted the medical condition could compromise someone's cognitive ability to where a judge could order the sale of the property.

Ms. Phillips concurred.

Mr. Barlow said he thought there was an additional involuntary transfer discussed by the Planning Commission that is not included in the original ordinance.

Ms. Phillips said to her knowledge she thought it was a medical hardship, but it was not made part of the recommendation.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Jack Matthews, Mineral District, spoke in support of the proposed amendment to the retention period.

Mr. Gerald Harlowe, Green Springs District, spoke in opposition of the proposed amendment.

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

Mr. Gentry said he is having a hard time understanding why the Board should revert back to a 5-year retention period.

Mr. Purcell expressed his support for the proposed amendment.

Mr. Barlow said he does not have an issue with the proposed amendment, however, he knows property owners that wish the County could extend the retention period past 10 years.

Mr. Adams said he does feel there should be some type of regulation and that 5 years is reasonable.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Ms. Jones voting against, the Board approved an amendment to Section 86-531 A(4) of Chapter 86 Land Development Regulations for family subdivisions, as follows:

*(4) Each such division shall remain in the name of the qualified family member for a minimum of ~~ten~~ **five (5)** years from the date of recordation, unless the lot is the subject of an involuntary transfer such as foreclosure, death, divorce, judicial sale, condemnation or bankruptcy.*

Note - All remaining language of Section 86-531(a) and (b) remains unchanged.

Ordinance – Amending Louisa County Code Chapter 2, Administration Article 1-In General Section 2-4-Election Districts

Ms. Phillips stated Virginia counties are required every 10 years to redistrict according to the census and state redistricting. The Supreme Court of Virginia finalized the new congressional and state legislative district maps in late 2021. She explained the Louisa County Code Chapter 2, Administration Article 1-In General, Section 2-4, currently provides election district boundary descriptions and the proposed amendment will reapportion election district populations by revision of the election district boundaries for all seven election districts and describes new precinct boundaries for all seven election districts drawn in accordance with the law as a result of the 2020 Census.

Ms. Phillips has requested the Board to move forward and consider the proposed amendment to the election districts. She stated the precinct descriptions have not been made available until today and has requested the Board refrain from considering/adopting the new precinct boundaries until April 18th.

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

Mr. Gentry said he does not agree with the proposed election district boundary lines and will not vote in favor of the proposed amendment.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Gentry voting against, the Board voted to approve an amendment to Chapter 2, Administration Article 1- In General, Section 2-4 Election Districts of The Code of the County of Louisa.

Discussion – Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Ms. Wanda Colvin, Finance Director, presented the following information on the proposed County budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023:

- Revenue sources and highlights;
- Operating expenditure sources and highlights;
- Capital expenditure sources and highlights;
- Fund balance details;
- Tax Rate comparisons;
- Real estate tax analysis.
- Outside agency requests; and
- Major points in the advertised budget.

Ms. Colvin concluded her presentation by stating the next steps in the budget process is to receive State revenues, consideration of funding levels for outside agencies and Capital projects, She noted adoption of the Operational & Maintenance (O&M) and CIP budgets, and establishment and adoption of the tax rate is scheduled for mid-April. Following adoption of the FY23 budget is appropriation of the O&M and CIP budgets, which is scheduled for May.

Mr. Adams noted that of the $146M proposed for FY23, 70% will go towards Louisa County Public Schools (LCPS) ($70M) and public safety ($19.5M). He stated the CIP is set at $11M for FY23 and noted that $3M will go towards the down payment for fiber installation, $2M for LCPS, and $1.3M for essential equipment for Fire & EMS. He explained how there is not a tremendous amount of excess in the budget and the Board has been extremely conservative when making their deliberations.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Kendall Allen, Mountain Road District, appeared before the Board to express his concerns with the proposed tax rate.

Mr. William Shaw, Green Springs District, encouraged the Board to learn how to operate the County within their means as they consider the budget.

Mr. Gerald Harlowe, Green Springs District, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposed budget for FY23.

Mr. Phillips asked for the comment submitted by Ms. Wood to be included in this portion of the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed budget and operating and maintenance sources along with Capital expenditures.

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 April 4, 2022 meeting at 7:43 p.m.

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

REBECCA WOOD
6221 Jefferson Hwy, , Mineral , VA 23117

My name is Rebecca Wood and I live in the Cuckoo District. I am not sure if I will be able to attend the board meeting concerning next year's budget, the tax rate and assessed values so I am writing you to let my thoughts known. While it's wonderful that you are looking for ways to help with tax relief for the elderly and the handicap there are others that need help due to inflation as well.

Forbes recently reported that 7 of 10 American's say they are living pay check to paycheck. CNBC reported on March 8, 2022 that 64% of Americans are living pay check to pay check. Sadly pay increases are not keeping up with inflation leaving families with less disposable income.

If the BOS does nothing and leaves the tax rate the same thus imposing a 12% increase in taxes on the citizens of Louisa County, how many of the citizens will be able to pay their taxes? How many will eventually lose their homes or property? How many will forgo necessities such as prescription medications. I would request that you lower the tax rate to the point that there would not be any tax increase; thus reducing the tax burden on the citizens of Louisa County in these difficult times. It is time for county government to learn to live within its means and stop increasing individual's taxes.

On February 22, 2022 Henrico County approved a one-time credit to the taxable value and they are proposing lowering the real estate tax rate. The Federal Government is considering another round of stimulus checks to help offset the rising cost of living. The governor of Virginia is just signed into law HB1239 empowering localities to cut car tax rates due to the "dramatic increase in used vehicle values." The Governor further said, "Many Virginians are struggling due to rising prices, now it is up to local leaders across Virginia to step up and fight inflation with real tax relief." The governor is also proposing a 3 month suspension of the gas tax and eliminating the grocery tax. While the Federal Government and State Government are trying to help defray some of the increased cost due to inflation, I find it extremely disturbing and hurtful that our local elected officials are effectively considering increasing our taxes.

I would like to remind you of your mission statement "It is the mission of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to provide County citizens and businesses with high quality core services in a fiscally prudent and socially responsible manner." An increased 12% tax burden on citizens at this time is not being socially responsible.