



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, December 5, 2022
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
3:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Adams called the special meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 3:31 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Absent	3:30 PM
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Absent	3:30 PM
Eric F. Purcell	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Helen Phillips, County Attorney; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Kyle Eldridge, Assistant County Attorney; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director; and Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk

Legislative Representatives: Senator Mark Peake - District 22; Delegate John McGuire - District 56; Chris Snider, U.S. House of Representatives District Representative; David Blount, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; and Katie Boyle, Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Discussion - 2023 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Adams provided some opening remarks and stated the purpose of the meeting is to provide the legislators the opportunity to bring the Board up to date on current happenings from their district and to allow the Board to present their list of legislative priorities for the upcoming session. At the October 3, 2022, Board meeting, the Board adopted the County's 2023 Legislative Platform. The priorities for the 2023 Legislative session include:

Undergrounding

The reliability of our power grid is mission critical for residents, businesses, and emergency responders. On January 3, 2022, Louisa County was impacted by a violent winter storm which delivered up to 15" of snow and severe winds. The County sustained significant damage and 98% of residents lost power (include towns, gas stations and grocery stores). Restoration efforts took nine days, during which neighbors were unable to help those around them in many situations due to roads closed by downed power lines. Without power in rural communities, citizens lose the ability to get water, heat homes and maintain adequate food supplies.

Undergrounding represents the transition of aerial lines to underground placement. The State Corporation Commission has taken a past negative stance on full undergrounding due to the

overall cost to ratepayers. Louisa County supports the fair treatment of ratepayers, but even partial undergrounding represents a critical reduction in power restoration timelines. Dominion Energy, one of three utilities providing electricity in the County, estimates that undergrounding just 20% of lines would increase restoration speeds by 50%, at 2-3% of the cost of full undergrounding. Louisa County supports undergrounding efforts in the County and the Commonwealth.

Broadband

Internet has become a necessity, yet citizens in many localities have insufficient connectivity. Louisa was the first locality in the region to partner with multiple utility providers to provide end-user fiber on a County-wide basis, and the County supported the effort with a commitment of up to \$15 million in local dollars.

The County supports state (and federal) efforts to offset further funding requirements and to bolster cooperative efforts (among utility providers and other entities) and concerns such as easement usage associated with deployment.

Compensation Board / Related State Funding Flexibility

The Commonwealth has funding responsibilities for several local services such as law enforcement (through the State Compensation Board) and education (through the Standards of Quality). In many cases, localities supplement this funding, and in some cases that supplement is significant. In Louisa, the state funds only 26 of the 55 full time and 16 part time deputy positions in the Sheriff's Office. When the state provides salary increase funding, it calculates the state funding amount on that number of positions, but sometimes compels the same increases for non-state funded positions. This is an unfunded mandate. As an example, the state's recent bonus (\$3,000 per position) would cost the County over \$200,000 for all staff, while the state portion is \$78,000.

It is requested that the state allow flexibility in the application of state revenues (Compensation Board and otherwise) for compensation increases across all positions. Local governing bodies would have the choice (and therefore bear the responsibility for their decision) to either match the state amount for all positions or to spread state funding across all positions.

Freshwater Harmful Algae Blooms

The County is home to Lake Anna, the third largest freshwater lake in Virginia. The lake has experienced Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) over the past several years. HAB's are also materially impacting other bodies of water in the Commonwealth, including Lake Gaston and the James River. HAB alerts have a material impact on public usage of our natural assets and this in turn impacts economic assets which rely thereon. These impacts include tourism-based operations such as vacation rentals, restaurants, marinas, and many related offerings. The County is grateful for the funding approved by the 2022 General Assembly, and requests ongoing support in future years to combat this issue.

Equal Revenue Authority

The County of Louisa gratefully acknowledges prior efforts by the General Assembly to address revenue generation inequalities, and fully supports further county rights to raise the same revenues as cities.

Jail Costs

Louisa County is a member jurisdiction of the Central Virginia Regional Jail (CVRJ), and is grateful for the increase in jail per diem rates approved by the General Assembly in the 2022 session. As of the most recent Jail Cost Report prepared by the Commonwealth, CVRJ's actual daily cost is \$99.69. CVRJ member localities pay 55.5% of this amount, and the state funds 34.58%. Similar percentages apply to other jails on a statewide basis.

In an effort to offset future surprises and to fairly share future cost increases, the County supports indexing per diem costs as a fixed percentage of the actual statewide daily expense average (\$100.32) as set forth by the state in the annual Jail Cost Report.

Small Modular Reactors

Virginia is a leader in clean energy production with over 30% of the state's power based on zero emission nuclear generation. Nuclear power provides reliable, competitively priced electricity to consumers in the Commonwealth, and low energy costs play a critical role in maintaining Virginia's stature as an attractive location for business. The Commonwealth is also home to numerous facilities and operations in the nuclear energy sector including BWX Technologies (engineering), Framatome (industrial computing and regulatory compliance), Newport News Shipbuilding and many others. These entities sustain thousands of jobs throughout the Commonwealth which support Virginia families, generate substantial tax dollars, and trigger beneficial relationships with higher education in the state to train the future nuclear workforce.

Dominion Energy operates the North Anna Nuclear Power Station in the County, and has set "net zero" emissions goals for its overall generation portfolio. Achieving these goals represents a substantial benefit to the environment and will require diversification of generation resources beyond that which is achievable by wind, solar, and energy storage alone. Additional nuclear generation represents a viable path forward in this important effort. Small Modular Reactors (SMR) represent an innovative, safe alternative to traditional nuclear power stations. Ranging from 50-300MW and fabricated in a factory environment, SMR's incorporate advanced features including scalable output and safe shutdown even in the absence of operator action, and their reduced complexity results in lower infrastructure requirements. HB894 (2022) directed the Department of Energy to study the development of SMR's and convene a stakeholder group for "promoting the development of advanced small modular reactors in the Commonwealth." Louisa County supports this effort.

Back and forth discussion took place between the Board and the legislative representatives regarding: compensation and state funding flexibility; jail costs; and small modular reactors.

ADJOURNMENT

The special legislative meeting ended at 4:42 p.m.

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