

**VIRGINIA: AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD
IN THE POWHATAN VILLAGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, 3910 OLD
BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON APRIL 11, 2019,
AT 6:00 P.M.**

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1
Larry J. Nordvig, District 2
Angela Y. Cabell, District 3, Chairman
William E. Melton, District 4, Vice Chairman
Carson L. Tucker, District 5

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ted Voorhees, County Administrator
Charla Schubert, Director of Finance
Steve Singer, Fire and Rescue Chief
Ramona Carter, Director of Public Works

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sheriff

Guests Present: Adam Sadler, Chief Deputy Sheriff
Kyle Laux, Senior Vice President, Davenport
Griffin Moore, Associate Vice President, Davenport

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cabell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Cabell stated to let the record show all Board of Supervisors members are in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Melton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Invocation

Chairman Cabell called for a moment of silence.

**4. Requests to Postpone Agenda Items and Additions, Deletions or
Changes in the Order of Presentation**

Mr. Tucker requested that a Proclamation recognizing a retiree be added to the Agenda after Item 5.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Angela Y. Cabell, William E. Melton, Carson L. Tucker voted AYE

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Melton seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Angela Y. Cabell, William E. Melton, Carson L. Tucker voted AYE

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

Addition: Proclamation Recognizing a Retiree

Mr. Tucker read a Proclamation recognizing Chief Deputy Adam Sadler on his retirement in the form of a motion. Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Angela Y. Cabell, William E. Melton, Carson L. Tucker voted AYE

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

Mr. Melton thanked Mr. Sadler for his service to Powhatan County and stated that Powhatan is a better place because of his service.

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Sadler, stating that he is a great asset to the community. Mr. Williams added that he cannot think about the Sheriff's Office without Mr. Sadler being there.

Mr. Nordvig echoed the remarks made by other Board members and thanked Mr. Sadler for keeping Powhatan citizens safe.

Chairman Cabell remarked that "service over self" is truly what Mr. Sadler does every day.

Mr. Sadler introduced members of his family, stated that it has been a pleasure working with the Sheriff's Office, and that he has enjoyed every moment. Mr. Sadler thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support and recognition.

Mr. Voorhees thanked everyone from the Fire and Rescue community for attending the meeting and reiterated that the Board will not be talking about cuts to rent or uniforms but will be discussing how an immediate Fire and Rescue need can be met.

Mr. Voorhees vowed to have earlier, better conversations with all involved in the Fire and Rescue system.

6. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5 minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Cabell opened the Public Comment period.

Ben Burkhart, 4348 Three Bridge Road, representing Rumble Baseball, expressed concern about the County's athletic fields and the administration of the fields. Mr. Burkhart requested that Powhatan teams and citizens be given priority status on the fields over out of town tournament teams; and tax payers are competing against for-profit organizations for field time.

Bill Donati, 2788 Spencerwood Drive, a volunteer fireman, addressed the Board regarding staffing at fire companies and asked that the Board take requests for assistance and additional staffing seriously when made.

Ryan Burke, 1782 May Way Drive, a member of the Huguenot VFD, expressed concern about why the option of reducing rent funds and uniform funds for fire companies was initially an option by the Board and staff. Mr. Burke stated that the volunteer culture is needed, yet very broken, within the community.

Floyd Greene, 2047 Hancock Road, expressed concern about funding for the heavy rescue equipment (702) being delayed until 2024 in the Capital Improvement Plan and urged members of the Board to reconsider funding for the vehicle replacement.

William Gwynn, 4370 Steger Creek Drive, Rescue Chief of Powhatan Rescue Squad, asked that each member of the Board attend fire and rescue company meetings to get first-hand information from paid staff and volunteers on what their needs are. Mr. Gwynn added that all volunteers need to be recognized for what they do.

Billy Blevins, 3435 Anderson Highway, expressed concern about the athletic fields being used more by travel teams and for tournaments than by County residents. Mr. Blevins requested that the Board look into how the athletic program is being run.

Chris Tomlin, 1762 Cook Road, President of Powhatan Little League, stated that travel ball tournaments have run the Little League program out of the park except for three weekends this season. Mr. Tomlin also spoke regarding poor field conditions on and lack of maintenance by the County.

Bo Britton, 2630 Setting Sun Drive, stated that it is disheartening to receive a baseball schedule for his children that has the league's opening ceremony and opening game scheduled during spring break. Mr. Britton stated that his sons are getting kicked off County fields because of non-county teams.

Art Tate, 6114 Autumn Bluff Road, representing Powhatan Professional Firefighters, spoke regarding the national shortage of volunteers and the need for the Board to recognize the importance of those who serve the County.

Stevie Barham, 3492 Richards Run, stated that the County needs to take care of and support its volunteers and spoke against raising taxes in order to do so.

Seeing there were no other speakers, Chairman Cabell closed the Public Comment period.

7. New Business

a. Davenport Presentation on Bond Refunding

Mr. Laux and Mr. Moore, representing Davenport, presented and the Board of Supervisors discussed information on the County's current bonds and reviewed refinancing possibilities for savings purposes.

Mr. Tucker inquired as to why the Board would choose not to move forward with refinancing if the interest rates would be lower; and Mr. Moore stated that he did not see any reason not to.

Mr. Williams asked about what happens to the current bonds that the County may want to replace. Mr. Moore stated that, in the event of a current refunding in the fall, the existing bonds would be paid off with proceeds realized by the new bond issuance.

Mr. Nordvig asked whether there would be any penalty costs incurred for refunding the 2010 GO bonds; Mr. Laux stated that there would not.

Mr. Nordvig asked how Davenport would be paid for their services for this refunding transaction. Mr. Laux responded that a flat fee payment would be made and that number is built in ahead of the transaction.

Mr. Melton asked for clarification that the 2020 GO bonds, if refinanced in 2019, would not cause a penalty to the County. Mr. Laux explained that there would be a lag of a couple of months and the funds would be put into an escrow account and the funds would be used to pay off the bonds in January.

Mr. Williams motioned to move forward with having Davenport review refunding options and present the options to the Board at its May, 2019, meeting. Mr. Nordvig seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Angela Y. Cabell, William E. Melton, Carson L. Tucker voted AYE

**VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed**

8. Old Business

a. County Administrator FY 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Mr. Voorhees presented and the Board of Supervisors discussed the County Administrator's FY 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Mr. Nordvig clarified that the discussion at this meeting is regarding funding, not appropriating the funds. Mr. Voorhees stated that the CIP is a plan; and when the Board adopts the Budget, the County will then move forward with the proposed projects.

Mr. Williams asked whether Mr. Voorhees has received any information from the schools regarding the energy savings program and when savings would be realized. Mr. Voorhees responded that he has not yet received that information but does not anticipate those figures showing in the Budget for FY 2020.

The Board discussed funding for the County's proposed capital improvement and other capital projects.

Mr. Williams requested information on what effect the layering of debt in the County's CIP would have on the County's policies, particularly for debt as a percentage of expenditure, so the Board will know how it will affect the debt policy.

b. Fire and Rescue Alternatives

Mr. Voorhees presented and the Board of Supervisors discussed Fire and Rescue Alternatives. Mr. Voorhees began the discussion by stating that the previous proposal to reduce rent and not fund uniforms for Fire and Rescue personnel is no longer being considered by the Board; and there is an EMS Contract in the proposed FY 2020 Budget to provide a second unit to cover twelve hours Monday through Thursday.

The Board discussed the funding necessary and possible ways to maintain the current level of service.

Mr. Williams read an email that was sent out to the Fire Companies outlining the County Administrator's initial plans to reduce the Budget and stated that the email should not have gone out.

Mr. Nordvig addressed communication and morale issues with Chief Singer and asked how often he communicated or interacted with volunteers.

Chairman Cabell asked Mr. Nordvig what he was hoping to accomplish by his interaction with Chief Singer and how it relates to the Budget. Mr. Nordvig answered that the reduced number of volunteers directly relates to the Budget.

Mr. Melton voiced his objection to Mr. Nordvig's apparent attacking of staff in public.

Mr. Nordvig asked about response times and stated that the volunteers do not feel like they are being recognized or communicated with. Mr. Nordvig stated that he wants a plan that does not penalize the people of Powhatan County for the mistakes of County leadership; and the volunteers who serve Powhatan are the County's most precious resource and have the hearts of heroes.

Mr. Nordvig added that volunteers deserve the best and thanked them for their service.

Mr. Melton reiterated that the Board is first talking about making sure there is a balanced Budget to meet the needs set as a request from the volunteer rescue squad.

Mr. Melton stated that it is important to remember the history of the County -- that for many years all calls were handled by volunteers; and in 2001 the County first contracted to have additional coverage. Mr. Melton added that in 2016, the Board voted to establish a response time goal of 14 minutes for emergency calls.

Mr. Melton spoke regarding the request for funding from the volunteers to help handle the number of calls; and their request is not funding for a wish but is funding for a critical need. Mr. Melton stated that the volunteers are the lifeblood of the County.

Mr. Melton stated that adding 3.5 cents to the Real Property Tax Rate would allow Fire and Rescue to cover 92% of the County within the goal set by the Board of a 14 minute response time; and he will be supporting the increase in the tax rate to ensure better service to the community.

Mr. Nordvig expressed his concern about raising the tax rate in order to give the citizens the safety that they need and asked how the proposal will be communicated to them.

Mr. Melton remarked that leadership, which includes the Board of Supervisors, has known that the problem with Fire and Rescue was present and apologized to the citizenry for not speaking up long before now.

Mr. Williams stated that it is how leadership plans and how it spends that have to be taken into consideration before a proposed significant tax increase. Mr. Williams added that he is lacking confidence in an un-agreed to plan and the leadership that will be implementing it.

Chairman Cabell commented that she does not feel the need to castigate staff; however that does not mean she is not in full support of the County's paid Firefighters and all the volunteers. Chairman Cabell agreed that there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer and knows of the unparalleled serves they provide.

Chairman Cabell added that the County leaders must do whatever is necessary to ensure the public welfare of citizens; that Fire and Rescue services have been underfunded long before the current administration; and that she is in favor of the proposed 3.5 cent tax increase in the form of a fire district that is applied equally throughout the County.

Mr. Williams commented that if a tax increase in the form of a fire tax is implemented, it would require that two tax assessments be done. Mr. Williams again stated that a plan needs to be presented, vetted, approved, and implemented by both staff and volunteers.

c. FY 2020 Real Property Tax Rate to Advertise

Mr. Voorhees reported that, according to the Code of Virginia, the Board must select a tax rate on real estate to advertise; and in order to meet advertising deadlines and follow the mandated timeline, that advertisement will be published in the local newspaper as a Public Hearing to get citizen input on the Budget prior to the Board's adoption of the Budget.

The schedule of mandated advertising and Budget adoption dates for the Schools and the County was discussed.

Mr. Melton motioned to advertise a Real Property Tax rate of 83.4 cents and a Fire and Rescue tax of 8.1 cents, for a total of 91.5 cents. Mr. Melton added that the proposed increase of 3.5 cents would only be spent on Fire and Rescue.

Mr. Williams asked whether a fire district designation needs to be established before a designated Fire and Rescue tax can be adopted.

Mr. Lachenev answered that State Code states that a jurisdiction may create or establish one or more Fire District zones through an Ordinance or Resolution; he recommends an Ordinance. The adoption of the Fire District can be placed on the same Agenda as the adoption of the tax.

The Board discussed the best way to advertise the tax rate, whether it should be advertised as the total tax rate or separated out as Real Property and Fire District rates.

Mr. Tucker seconded Mr. Melton's motion to advertise a tax rate of 91.5 cents.

Angela Y. Cabell, William E. Melton, Carson L. Tucker voted AYE
David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig voted NAY

VOTE 3-2
MOTION Passed

9. Public Comment (time limit 3 minutes per individual/5 minutes per group, 30 minutes total time limit that can be extended by the Board)

Chairman Cabell opened the Public Comment period.

Don Silberbauer, 1426 Donavon Mill Lane, addressed the Board suggesting that the tax rate be advertised as 91.5 cents. Mr. Silberbauer also spoke regarding high density housing and the related added strain on the Fire and Rescue system.

Seeing there were no other speakers, Chairman Cabell closed the Public Comment period.

10. County Attorney Comments

Mr. Lacheney had no comments.

11. County Administrator Comments

Mr. Voorhees stated that he recognized that the County was having Fire and Rescue service challenges and reached out to them to try to work with them cooperatively to solve the problem. Mr. Voorhees spoke regarding the County's very lean Budget and the challenges of submitting a balanced Budget while also facing very important needs of the community.

12. Board Comments

Mr. Williams stated that he was not aware of the issue with the ball fields being rented out for tournaments for teams outside the County and the priority should be Powhatan County residents. Mr. Williams asked that members of the Board support him in making sure this situation gets corrected.


Mr. Nordvig stated that he feels sorry for the citizens of Powhatan because of the 3-2 decision by the Board to propose a tax increase and remarked that the two Board members voting against it are the only two seeking another term.

Mr. Melton reiterated that the 3.5 cent tax increase proposal is worth it if lives are saved when an emergency occurs; spending per citizen will be 94 cents.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Cabell adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the May 20, 2019, meeting with a 5/0 vote.


Theodore L. Voorhees, Clerk 4/16/19 Date
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors


Angela Y. Cabell, Chairman Date
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors