



AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM AT 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON March 07, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1,
Steve W. McClung, District 2,
Mike W. Byerly, District 3, Chair
Bill L. Cox, District 4,
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Vice-Chair

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Ned Smither, County Administrator
Bret Schardein, Assistant County Administrator
Charla Schubert, Finance Director
Thomas Vo, Budget Manager
Melissa Stowers, HR Manager

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sherriff

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McClung led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Ms. Carmack led the invocation.

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

No requests to alter the agenda.

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Not hearing any requests, Chairman Byerly made a motion to APPROVE the agenda.
Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. Cox, Mr. McClung, and Mr. Williams voted AYE.



**VOTE 5-0
MOTION PASSED**

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

[Richard Ayers, Monacan Soil & Water Conservation District](#), asked the Board of Supervisors to provide Monaco Water Transportation with the same level of funding as they have in the past as they consider their budget. He included some of the ways in which the company benefits from this funding.

[Mr. Padgett, 2936 Edith Lane](#), encouraged the Board to review the budget in detail. He proposed some actions that the Board could take in the face of hard times, including budget cuts.

[Harry Markland, 3701 Hope Meadow Road](#), encouraged the board to review the budget in detail and look at how much money the schools are getting. Consider cuts for county employees.

Not seeing anyone else wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

7. **Appointments to Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc.**
a. **Planning Commission District 2 Appointment**

Mr. Schardein stated that there are two applications to finish the unexpired term through January 31st, 2024.

Mr. McClung made a motion to appoint Ms. Darlene Harris Bowling to the Planning Commission to fill the remainder of the vacant term commencing March 8th, 2022, and expiring January 31st, 2024. Chairman Byerly seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. Cox, Mr. McClung, and Mr. Williams voted AYE.

**VOTE 5-0
MOTION APPROVED**

8. **Old Business**
a. **Discussion of FY23 Budget**

Mr. Smither gave an overview of the budget, presenting a graph that mapped out what the Board sees as the financial future of the county. He stated that the plan being presented shows a general structure that keeps the County 3-4 million dollars above every minimum. He explained that the plan intended to keep the total debt outstanding less than

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three percent of the assessed value of the property, which the County is well below right now. He provided additional information based on the graphs presented.

Mr. Williams asked where the 1.4 million is. He pointed out that although it is not in the presentation, it is a designated fund. Mr. Smither explained that it is in the general fund, but that he pulled it out, so no one mistakes it as spendable. Chairman Byerly asked if they reserve that in their financial report. Ms. Schubert clarified that it is pulled out and considered an assigned fund balance.

Mr. Smither continued with his overview, presenting the regional property tax rates. He stated that both Henrico and Chesterfield had announced a 2 cent decrease in their property tax rates.

Chairman Byerly pointed out that Powhatan County had wanted to reach the same consistency as surrounding areas last year. He explained that although many of these areas are getting good publicity by giving back a few hundred dollars, they are sitting on 200-300 million dollars.

Mr. Cox mentioned that the Board had looked at trying to establish continuity of tax rates in the past year, but the financial world has changed dramatically since then. He expressed concern with the fact that the property tax rate has not been an item of discussion.

Mr. Smither continued, presenting the operating budget initiatives of the general government. This included the tax relief for the elderly, compression adjustment, healthcare increase, and new positions in multiple areas. He confirmed that this would be in the budget as of right now.

Ms. Carmack requested more information on the Fire Strategy Change, including the call volume and the information on the staircasing of employees that have been hired full-time for fire. Mr. Cox asked if this increase in employees would also increase the cost of benefits.

As Mr. Smither moved into the PAYGO projects in CIP-FY22 through FY31, he confirmed that there would be an increase in the cost of benefits.

Ms. Carmack asked Mr. Smither to go over the 5% raise for clarity. Mr. Smither explained that there is a portion of the funding that comes to the County that is allocated to the incremental raise from the state. As long as the County agrees with them and provides a 5% raise, the proportionate funding will be provided. He also clarified that the 5% is shown in the numbers being presented. Chairman Byerly shed light on the fact that only a portion of the 5% raise for the department of education is being paid for by the state. The rest is being paid for by the taxpayers in the community. He agreed with Ms. Carmack's request to know the exact difference in pay would be between 3% and 5%.

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Ms. Carmack asked to hear about some of the heavy equipment that is anticipated.

Mr. Warner explained that two ambulances have been requested although only one is integrated into the budget. She went on to state that this is in the normal replacement schedule for ambulances and that they are in a seven-year replacement plan which is up for replacement at this time.

Mr. Cox verified some of the information that was presented under the primary changes. Mr. Smither continued, presenting some information that is not included in the budget which included transportation garage change, new administration building, accelerated school construction plans, timing adjustments on fire apparatus, and accelerated school bus purchase schedule.

Mr. Smither confirmed that the budget for the high school improvements is still at 13 million dollars. Chairman Byerly asked if the high school has 2 million dollars coming in from the state this year. Mr. Smither stated that this is up for debate now but will be confirmed soon as well as how those funds are planned to be used. Mr. Williams asked what the confusion is on the general assembly. Mr. Smither clarified that he has seen a lot of debate on the use of state money to fund construction at schools. He then proposed the local, state, federal, other, and total funding for the school budget. Mr. Cox asked why the schools are being penalized by the composite index. He did not understand why the Board was considering giving the schools 2 million dollars if they have not lost anything from the composite index.

Mr. Smither explained that if 85% of the budget is supposed to be getting a 5% increase, but the Board is proposing a 4.6% increase, there are going to be cuts made from other areas. He also stated that last year, the schools got an \$871,999.00 increase.

Mr. Smither went on to present another graph of school funding that showed that the funding 2.1 million dollars is not all that the BoS does for the school board. In a given year, the BoS has paid 6.5 million dollars of debt service and they also pay for pay-as-you-go projects.

Chairman Byerly had some questions about the surplus number and how it gets to benefit the schools.

Mr. Smither explained that there is a certain amount of money that the schools do not get to see in their budget, but the BoS takes care of that for them.

Mr. Cox pointed out some inconsistencies in the numbers that do not represent real change over time. He asked to see real numbers. Mr. Smither explained that these numbers were based on the assessed value that they have from six months of data.

Ms. Stowers presented on the FY23 pay compression. She then presented a graph of projected salary progression. She explained that the blue dots on the graph represent



salary progression after the BoS had made its adjustments. She then presented the Central VA Deputy/Police Starting Salaries. The Board was advised to increase these salaries because Orange County is increasing theirs and that will leave Powhatan County at the lowest starting salary in the area. Mr. Cox stated that this seems like an ongoing problem that will need to be addressed annually or every few years. Ms. Stowers agreed with Mr. Cox and stated that adding more funds will not solve the problem but could help satisfy employees until it can be discussed again. Mr. Smither presented a total cost of \$401,934.00 with benefits included for the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Public Safety Communications, and non-public safety.

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

Chairman Byerly opened the public comment period.

Public Speaker, stated that recruitment for the police department is going to be a problem in the future. He explained that law enforcement is changing across the country and are losing liability protections as well as getting paid less. He encouraged the Board to do what they could for the Sherriff's Department. He supported the idea of banding together counties when buying fire engines to save money.

Sherriff Nunnally, stated that sooner or later the County is going to have to fix the compression.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

10. County Attorney Comments

There were no County Attorney comments.

11. County Administrator Comment

There were no County Administrator comments.

12. Board Comments

Mr. Cox expressed concern with the way the BoS has compressed its timetable. He reminded the Board that there is now less time to come to agree on many large decisions.

Mr. McClung thanked Mr. Smither for looking at the tax relief budget for the elderly this year. He stated that he agreed with the sheriff.

Ms. Carmack stated that she didn't recall coming to an agreement about the tax rate until much later into the season in previous years.

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Chairman Byerly stated that he believes the Board is on the right timetable. This was supported by the data from last year.

13. Adjournment

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:18 PM.

ATTEST:

**Ned Smither, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

**Michael W. Byerly Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

Recorded Vote:

<i>David T. Williams</i>	AYE
<i>Steve W. McClung</i>	AYE
<i>Michael W. Byerly</i>	AYE
<i>Bill L. Cox</i>	AYE
<i>Karin M. Carmack</i>	AYE