

VIRGINIA: AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE POWHATAN VILLAGE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON MAY 14, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors Present: David T. Williams, District 1, Chairman, present in the Village Building auditorium
Larry J. Nordvig, District 2, present in the Village Building auditorium
Michael W. Byerly, District 3, present in the Village Building auditorium
Bill L. Cox, District 4, present in the Village Building conference room
Karin M. Carmack, District 5, Vice Chairman, present in the Village Building auditorium

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Bret Schardein, Interim County Administrator, present remotely from his home
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney, present remotely from his home
Phil Warner, Fire and Rescue Chief
Jeff Searfoss, Chief Deputy
Charla Schubert, Director of Finance, present remotely from her home

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sheriff

Guests Present: Larry Johns, School Board, present remotely from his home

1. **Call to Order**
 - a. Identify Board members physically and/or electronically present
 - b. Identify opportunities for the public to access and participate in the electronic meeting

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Byerly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Invocation**

Mr. Nordvig provided the Invocation.

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

There were no requests.

5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Mr. Nordvig moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Byerly seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karin M. Carmack voted AYE

**VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed**

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 Williams opened the Public Comment period.

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

7. Old Business

- a. Resolution R-2020-29 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021 School Operating and Cafeteria Budgets and Appropriating the Funds Page 3

Chairman Williams opened the discussion on the school budget. Mr. Nordvig came forward with questions about the budget. He asked if the number given to them by the Commonwealth of Virginia was an official number. Mr. Larry Johns stated that it was. Next, Mr. Nordvig asked if a specific number in his packet included that official number of \$4,60,000. The answer to that question was yes, the \$23,650,639 included the additional state revenue. Mr. Nordvig asked for clarification on the large variance with the amount of \$424,543 for the public. Mr. Johns explained that the only increase in their budget for this year is the increase in the VRS expenses and health insurance. This focuses a majority on the school's employees and their benefits, that is why that category increased more from FY20 to FY21. Mr. Nordvig reminded the public that the VRS amount is mandatory.

Mr. Byerly asked Mr. Johns if the state portion was tied to the County transfers in any way or if they receive that state portion no matter what the County does. Mr. Johns stated that the County must appropriate it, but they will receive the money no matter what the County does. He also stated that there is a minimum requirement that the County must make, and Powhatan is above that requirement. Mr. Byerly asked what that minimum requirement is. Mr. Johns estimated about 14 million dollars. Mr. Nordvig asked for clarification if Mr. Johns was talking about the SOQ requirements. Mr. Johns replied yes.

Mr. Cox brought up a point of order involving the legal level of control within the County. Mr. Lacheny went through the legal level of control provided in the County budgetary policy. Mr. Cox asked if this inhibits in any way their ability to separate a budget approval from an appropriation approval. Mr. Lacheny responded no to Mr. Cox's question.

Chairman Williams asked Mr. Johns what the percentage in the proposed budget was for personnel. The answer was 41.3 million was for personnel and benefits and 7.4 million was for line items. Payroll was estimated to be anywhere from 82%-85% of the budget.

Mrs. Carmack made a motion to reduce the school budget strictly from County appropriation to \$21,500,000. Mr. Byerly seconded the motion. Mr. Cox asked for clarity on the exact numbers Mrs. Carmack is proposing. Mr. Nordvig asked a point of order question on how it will be handled if there are 5 different motions. Chairman Williams suggested that the motion on the table be withdrawn to allow for all the proposals be discussed openly first before any motions are made. Mrs. Carmack removed her motion to allow for discussion of all proposals

Mr. Schardein discussed the details of school board budget versions R-2020-29, R-2020-29B, R-2020-29C and R-2020-29D.

Mr. Nordvig asked for a comparison of R-2020-29 and R-2020-29B in the paragraph that discusses contracts. He asked for clarity on a section that stated the Board would commit to the funds for employee contracts. Mr. Schardein stated that the Board would need to budget it due to the school board needing some assurance that it would be funded at some point. Mr. Nordvig asked for clarity on a total budget from one of the proposals, asking if it was stating around 50 million instead of around 40 million. Mr. Schardein explained that they would adopt the original amount of around 40 million if they were to adopt that specific proposal. Next, Mr. Nordvig asked for an explanation on the state amount, He pointed out that the transfer amount was at 90% and asked for clarification on the state amount. Mrs. Schubert explained that she just applied 90% of the proposed budget in total assuming it would be 90%.

Mr. Nordvig proposed, as a temporary measure, that the Board adopt the 90% of the requested County transfer funds from the school budget. The total of that would be \$21, 012,075. He also proposed the Board adopt a policy with this budget which creates a new line item designated for the school's, titled School's Revenue Stabilization Fund. This policy would take left over funds from the end of the year to place it into a reserve for future use as a comfort cushion.

Mr. Cox proposed to stay within the projected reductions that Mr. Johns had provided and avoid reducing the budget further.

Chairman Williams discussed the difference in times that we are in at this time and suggested that they give the school board a chance to review the budget cut or cuts that the Board comes up with to give them a chance to then show what that would look like for the school's if budget cuts were to happen.

Mr. Cox asked what the meetings going forward would like as far as discussion on the remaining 10%. Mr. Nordvig mentioned the upcoming workshops already on the calendar for

budget discussion and if additional dates needed to be added. Mr. Byerly asked Mr. Johns when they would issue the contracts for the school employees. Mr. Johns responded that they normally issue them once the Board adopts and appropriates a budget and would like to issue the contracts by the next week after this meeting.

The board further discussion was held on the topic of the budget.

Mr. Byerly went over his numbers for his budget proposal and how he derived those numbers which are very close to Ms. Carmack's proposal.

Mrs. Schubert reminded the Board that a decision needs to be made so it can be publicized to meet the code requirement for the next hearing.

Mrs. Carmack made a motion for an 8% reduction from the County transfer from the general fund making the budget \$21,500,000 that will be transferred to the school's budget from the County. Mr. Byerly seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called for a roll call vote.
Mr. Schardein conducted a roll call vote:

Mr. Williams No
Mr. Nordvig No
Mr. Byerly Aye
Mr. Cox No
Mrs. Carmack Aye

VOTE 3-2
MOTION Failed

Mr. Williams made a motion to move forward with the 90% of the level funding transfer in addition to working with the school board on different scenarios to see what it would look like for them if there was a reduction of 8%, 5%, or 2%. He proposed that the remaining 10% will be acted on during the June 29th meeting when they are scheduled to adopt the budget. Mr. Nordvig seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called for a roll call vote.
Mr. Schardein conducted a roll call vote:

Mr. Williams Aye
Mr. Nordvig Aye
Mr. Byerly No
Mr. Cox Aye
Mrs. Carmack No

VOTE 3-2
MOTION Passed

Mrs. Carmack made a motion for quarterly appropriations beginning FY 21. Mr. Nordvig seconded the motion.

David T. Williams, Larry J. Nordvig, Michael W. Byerly, Bill L. Cox, Karin M. Carmack voted AYE

VOTE 5-0
MOTION Passed

- 8. 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 Williams opened the Public Comment period. Speakers were as follows:

Mr. Jim Carver commented virtually thanking the Board for their hard work on the County budget and for their prudent approach.

Mr. Mike Asip, 3673 Old Buckingham Road. Mr. Asip acknowledged the Board for the challenging decision to cut the transfer by 10% as well as their willingness to listen to the school board about the impacts that budget cuts would make for them. The Superintendent had said that further cuts would cause loss of positions available for employment. Mr. Asip asked the Board to be aware of those possible loss in positions and stated he is appreciative of the window they have allowed for opportunity with the school board to see the possible effects that cutting the budget could do for them. As a citizen, Mr. Asip shared his concern about the public schools of Powhatan sliding during this recession. He understands that sacrifices need to be made but reminded the Board that the Powhatan public schools are in the bottom quartile of all school divisions in the Commonwealth.

Seeing that there were no more speakers, Chairman Williams closed the public comment period.

- 9. County Attorney Comments**

Mr. Lacheney had no comments.

- 10. County Administrator Comments**

Mr. Schardein provided information about COVID-19. The county was showing 23 cases, and currently at the staff level they are working on a reopening plan.

- 11. Board Comments**

Mr. Nordvig asked Mr. Schardein if he had the latest unemployment numbers for the County. Mr. Schardein stated he had not looked at them yet. Mr. Nordvig stated that the Board did not cut the schools budget but set forth a proposal with a plan to further discuss the remaining 10% at a later time.

Mr. Cox made comments about the current times they are in and stated that he has found no good news about what is to happen. He estimated that the amount of people out of work will continue to climb. With all of that said, Mr. Cox stated he was happy with the approach they took tonight in their decision and was happy to support it.

Mr. Byerly stated his appreciation to the school board and their efforts. He wanted to remind people watching that there is wifi on buses in the western part of the county, along with hotspots being provided by the Library and the schools.

Chairman Williams thanked Mr. Nordvig for his comment of clarification on the motion made today about the budget for the schools. He stated he is extremely proud of his staff, the schools, Mr. Schardein, and this Board for all the hard work they are providing during the current situation. He reminded everyone that they take very seriously their citizens tax dollars and they understand how scarce the tax dollars can get. Although not all of them were in agreement tonight, they are all in agreement about working together. He ended his comment by congratulating the Board on their hard work. Chairman Williams made the public announcement that the Board will be holding a Closed Meeting On May 27th for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the county administrator position.

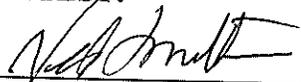
12. Adjournment

Chairman Williams closed the meeting at 8:28pm.



David T. Williams, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Ned Smither, Clerk
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Recorded Vote:

<i>David T. Williams</i>	Aye
<i>Larry J. Nordvig</i>	Aye
<i>Michael W. Byerly</i>	Aye
<i>Bill L. Cox</i>	Aye
<i>Karin M. Carmack</i>	Aye