



AT A BUDGET 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 FEBRUARY 23RD, 2023, AT 3:00 PM.

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

Board of Supervisors Absent: None

County Staff Present: Bret Schardein, Interim County Administrator
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney
Charla Schubert, Finance Director
Thomas Vo, Budget Manager
Johnny Melis, Utilities Director
John Wood, IT/GIS Director
Jeff Searfoss, Captain
Will Hagy, Deputy County Administrator (Virtual)

Constitutional Officers Present: Brad Nunnally, Sherriff
Jamie Timberlake, Commissioner of the Revenue

Guests Present: Carl Brown, GettingGreatRates.com President

1. Call to Order

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McClung led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Mr. Cox led the invocation.

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

None.



5. Formal Approval of Agenda

Ms. Carmack motioned to **approve** the agenda as presented.

Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

Chairman Byerly, Ms. Carmack, Mr. McClung, Mr. Cox, and Mr. Williams 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 Byerly opened the public comment period.

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

7. New Business

a. Social Services Shelter

Mr. Schardein gave a brief overview.

Mr. Williams asked if the remodeling would be for a certain number of people or just one person or family. Mr. Schardein explained that the goal is to maintain a flexible layout that allows them to house multiple families if needed.

Mr. Cox expressed concern about the logs that Mr. Schardein provided. He stated that he has no issues moving forward, granted it supports the creation of a Social and Domestic Violence program.

Chairman Byerly stated that he is in support of the project. Mr. Schardein added that the Board would receive updates on the project.

b. Utility Rates Schedule Study

Mr. Schardein gave a brief overview. Mr. Melis and Mr. Brown gave a presentation. Mr. Brown explained that the water utilities are farther behind in being fully sufficient to fund the water system than the sewer rates. He added that he would like to see the County reduce the level of subsidy as it continues to grow into the utilities and raise rates next year on an



inflationary basis. He also went over important assumptions & details, basic user data, operating costs/net income, CIP, residential users' bills, operating/coverage ratios, affordability, financial capacity indicators/reserves, how to adopt water/sewer rates, etc. Ms. Carmack asked Mr. Brown to clarify the growth model and where that growth is predicted to come from. Mr. Brown explained that he did not figure residential growth; customer growth was tested at 5.77%.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Brown if he included debt in his calculations, and Mr. Brown stated that he included a share of the Richmond CIP of about \$17,000.00. Mrs. Schubert noted that the debt is estimated to reach zero in 2038, but the County had its own debt on top of the share of the Richmond CIP. Mr. Brown stated that he would include the missed debt in his model. Mr. Williams said he would like a cheat sheet to cross-reference the County's progress easily. Ms. Schubert mentioned that any collected money that goes over the budget is put into a capital project fund for utilities. Mr. Brown noted that about 40% of the County's sewer customers are within The Village.

Mr. Cox asked if the rate structure would encourage or discourage use, and Mr. Brown explained that generally, people would try to use less volume if the bill goes up.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Brown if he adjusted the current rates as he predicted future years. Mr. Brown explained that he did not.

The Board agreed that the information presented is a necessity but requested that debt services and the number of new customers be included in the model and

c. FY24 Budget Discussion

Mr. Schardein and Mr. Vo gave a brief overview.

Mr. Cox mentioned that the distributed model produces different results than the one-on-one meetings. He asked for the model that goes with the County Administrator's proposed budget.

Mr. Schardein noted that the draft is based on a tax rate of 75 cents. He added that the tax relief is modeled on personal property for personal vehicles. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Schardein to send the tax relief options to him.



Mr. Williams asked about the personal property budget, and Mr. Vo explained that the total personal property budget is \$12.7 million before any relief at the current tax rate.

Chairman Byerly asked about the conservative collection rate, and Mrs. Schubert explained that they are basing it on 95% for personal property and 97% for real estate.

Mrs. Schubert mentioned that there are no health insurance increases.

Chairman Byerly and Mr. Williams expressed concerns about the regrades and pay and comp plan.

Mr. Williams stated that he did not know if the County could do everything proposed in the preliminary budget. He added that he would like to see a consultant's recommendations.

Chairman Byerly stated that he believed the County and School System should work towards having the same health care coverage. Mr. Williams agreed that he would like equal benefit programs for all classes of employees. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to hear from the HR department if they plan to recommend regrades. He added that he would like to ensure that all positions fit into an organizational structure that benefits the mission of each department.

Ms. Carmack asked if the major operating requests are similar to the positions that will be looked at, and Mr. Schardein confirmed this.

Chairman Byerly stated that the Board needs to consider senior citizens and their situations on fixed incomes. He clarified that the Board must decide the tax rate by April 3rd at the latest and have a public hearing on March 27th.

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 Byerly opened the public comment period.

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

9. County Attorney Comments

None.

10. County Administrator Comments

POWHATAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 23rd, 2023



None.

11. Board Comments

Chairman Byerly mentioned that the 25th is Amnesty Day for the Anti-Litter Council held at Fighting Creek Park. He also noted that there is an event for Black History Month at Greenbrier Church at 3 PM.

12. Closed Meeting

Mr. Lacheney led the Board into a closed session.

13. Certification of Closed Meeting as authorized by the Code of Virginia

Mr. Lacheney led the certification of a closed meeting as authorized by the Code of Virginia.

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

VOTE 5-0

14. Adjournment

**Bret Schardein, County Administrator
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors**

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

Recorded Vote:

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