



**AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE VILLAGE BUILDING AUDITORIUM, AT 3910 OLD BUCKINGHAM ROAD IN POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON APRIL 18, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.**

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**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  
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney  
Charla Schubert, Finance Director  
Thomas Vo, Budget Manager

**Constitutional Officers Present:** Brad Nunnally, Sherriff

**Guests Present:** None

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Byerly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. McClung led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Invocation**

Mr. Williams led the invocation.

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

Chairman Byerly made a motion to add Resolution R-2022-12 to the agenda under new business.

Michael W. Byerly, Karin M. Carmack, Steve W. McClung, Bill L. Cox, and David T. Williams voted AYE.

**VOTE 5-0  
MOTION PASSED**

**5. Formal Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Byerly made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.



Michael W. Byerly, Karin M. Carmack, Steve W. McClung, Bill L. Cox, and David T. 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.

[Stephen Barham, 3492 Richard's Run](#), asked how the Board could hold a budget workshop when the tax rate is undetermined. He asked the Board to consider this.

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

7. **Appointments to Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc.**

**a. Social Services Advisory Board (One Appointment)**

Mr. Smither gave a brief overview. He stated that Ms. Worsham and Ms. Wood had applied for the position. Mr. McClung made a motion to appoint Ms. Sherry Worsham to the Powhatan Social Services Board. Ms. Carmack seconded the motion.

Michael W. Byerly, Karin M. Carmack, Steve W. McClung, Bill L. Cox, and David T. Williams voted AYE.

**VOTE 5-0  
MOTION PASSED**

8. **New Business**

**a. Resolution R-2022-12**

Mr. Schardein gave a brief overview. He explained that the County recently received a grant through the community funding program for the education trail project in Fighting Creek Park. He suggested applying to use the money to fund additional bathrooms. Mr. Cox asked if Mr. Schardein knew the time frame for awarding this grant. Mr. Schardein stated that he was unsure but that the last grant was awarded within about a year.

Ms. Carmack made a motion to approve resolution R-2022-12. Chairman Byerly seconded the motion.

Michael W. Byerly, Karin M. Carmack, Steve W. McClung, Bill L. Cox, and David T. Williams voted AYE.

**VOTE 5-0  
MOTION PASSED**



## 9. Workshop Discussion

### a. Discussion of Proposed Budget Advertisement

Mr. Smither gave a brief overview. He stated that the Board must decide which budget they will advertise in advance of the May 3, 2022, public hearing. Mr. Cox clarified that the budget public hearing is separate from the public hearing for the tax rate. He asked why the Board should be worried about advertising this now. Mr. Smither explained that to adopt a budget on May 10, it must be advertised on April 27. Mr. Cox stated that there is more time to finalize a budget and that he is not in favor of finalizing the budget tonight.

Chairman Byerly stated that tonight is a great night to continue discussing the budget because it is scheduled at a time that allows more of the public to attend and voice their opinions. Mr. Williams agreed that this is an excellent opportunity for the public to voice their opinions and suggested that the Board reflect on these opinions after the meeting instead of making any decisions tonight. Mr. McClung clarified that no additions can be made once the budget is voted on, only deductions. Mr. Williams expressed some confusion about the decisions made with the School Board Office. Mr. Smither confirmed that the funding the School Board got from the state increased by about \$50,000.00. Mr. Williams explained that he would consider that when deciding the budget. Ms. Carmack agreed that there is some concern regarding the amount of money the County is transferring to the schools. She asked Chairman Byerly how he proposed that the Board analyze the appropriate transfer amount. Mr. Williams agreed with Ms. Carmack's concern. He stated that he would be asking the schools to explain precisely how they would make their budget work. Mr. Cox stated that he believes Mr. Smither could provide some guidance in deciding the appropriate budget for the schools because he had to analyze and award an increase in the previous year. Mr. Smither explained that the administration had projected what they thought the School Board budget would grow to with a five percent cost of living raise. Chairman Byerly explained that because the state has not finalized its budget, the Board knows there will be funding coming from the state but isn't sure of the number yet. He asked how much state funding the School Board received in the previous year. Mr. Smither stated that last year they had calculated a state revenue adjustment of about \$200,000.00 after the fact. Chairman Byerly asked Mr. Williams if he was asking what the School Board could do in terms of less than the projected budget. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Vo what would happen if there was a year where the projected growth did not occur. Mr. Vo stated there is a lot of fluctuation and adjustment throughout the process. Mr. Williams asked what the rate adjustment they had to make for this year was. Mr. Vo stated that they do not consistently rate adjustments in every category, but they had looked at revenue adjustments that needed to be made. Mr. Williams asked if it is true that expenditure is going up at a higher rate than revenues. Chairman Byerly stated that there is no scenario in which there are higher expenditures than there are revenues. Mr. Cox explained that he is concerned that the model showed that the schools were going to incrementally increase the amount of the budget that they consume over a ten-year period. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Cox for expressing his concern. Chairman Byerly confirmed that it is unlikely that the budget for the schools will increase. Mr. Cox asked what Mr. Vo's hypothetical calculation of the composite index would be in 2023 if the numbers stayed the same. Mr. Vo stated that he did not have the number, but he would get back to Mr. Cox. Ms. Carmack asked how the Board should develop a plan or financial model that would mitigate the type of growth that everyone is

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concerned about. Mr. Smither stated that this is not the County's unique problem, and he believes the state model is flawed.

Mr. Cox stated that the Board has been ignoring the steady growth in the operational surplus that goes to the capital maintenance reserve fund. He also explained that it has recently leveled out at about \$800,000.00/yr, which he believes is too much. He asked if they should work that concern into the budget and, if so, how should that be done? Mr. Smither explained that it is not wise to incentivize a school board or any government body to spend every dime just because they have been awarded that amount. Chairman Byerly stated that it seemed clear that some of the members of the Board did not believe \$2.1 million was an appropriate amount to award the School Board, and he asked what the Board felt would be a reasonable amount.

Mr. Cox stated that he believed it was too soon in the discussion to propose a specific amount that is appropriate. He asked where compression fits in given the size of the raises that the Board is giving now. Chairman Byerly stated that it was up to the Board to decide whether 3% or 5% would be appropriate. Ms. Carmack proposed that the Board entertain the idea of basing raise percentage of off yearly salary. Mr. Cox explained that COVID-19 makes it challenging to compare one year's salaries to the next. Mr. Williams stated that he is not convinced that there should be a strategy to incentivize the School Board. He said that although he does not believe the exact number will be proposed tonight, further discussion will allow the Board to agree on an appropriate amount in due time. Ms. Carmack stated that the Board needs to look at raises and compression pay. She asked the Board what they thought about the 5% versus the 3% in the budget last year. Mr. McClung stated that compression pay is more critical than raises. Chairman Byerly agreed that compression is an issue. He asked what Powhatan County's starting pay is for a deputy. This was expressed to be \$44,900.00. Ms. Carmack stated there should be raises in the County and that they should address compression to ensure their competitiveness in the job market. Mr. Cox stated that the reason surrounding counties can afford to provide raises is that they have a better balance in terms of how they look at the money they have and how they will use it. He expressed interest in creating this same type of balance within Powhatan County. Ms. Carmack asked Mr. Cox to explain what he means by balance. Mr. Cox explained that there should be a balance between what the County gives back to its employees and what it gives back to its citizens. This means that to maintain a better balance like surrounding counties, the Board should consider giving money back to its citizens.

Mr. McClung stated that he would like to know how the real estate market in surrounding counties compares to theirs. He urged the Board to remember that most of their revenue comes from the real estate market compared to other counties with a more significant business presence. Mr. Cox asked the Board to move on to the topic of the contingency fund. He wondered why this fund went up by \$200,000.00. Ms. Schubert stated that they did not know the VRS rate when they had created the budget initially, which caused it to increase by 1.9% once the proper information was available. Mr. Cox asked why these funds could not go into the community development budget. Ms. Schubert stated that these funds are not related to community development. In the future, she will create another line in the budgetary schedule to make it more transparent that these categories are separate.

Mr. Cox asked to look at the County Administrator's budget, and he was curious about funds for a project not on the presented sheet. Ms. Schubert explained that this new project is not included on the



sheet because it would be using funds from unspent bond proceeds that are already appropriated in other projects. Mr. Cox reminded the Board that this is not the only way they can spend this money, and for this reason, he believed the sheet should include the funds. He went on to ask why the Board was using ARPA funds to fund Ms. Carmack's pet project. Ms. Schubert stated that it is considered an appropriate way to use the funds.

Mr. Cox requested that a review of last year's discussion to move the assessment function from the commissioner to the county administrator be held at the April 25 meeting. Mr. McClung clarified that it had been a 5-0 vote to move the assessment office. Chairman Byerly accepted Mr. Cox's request to review the previous decision to move the assessment office. Ms. Carmack suggested that Mr. Cox be less combative with his tone during the discussion period to create a better dialogue between members. She also expressed that she wanted the Board to consider making a senior center but that she would not die on that hill.

Mr. Williams read the email from a Board of Senior Connections member. He stated that Board needed to hear from its seniors before embarking on the effort to create a senior center. Ms. Carmack stated that she is in favor of gathering data and information from the County's citizens before making any solidified decisions. Mr. Williams expressed confusion about the decision to fund the project with ARPA funds. Ms. Carmack stated that the Board has some allowable discretionary funds that can be spent that are not listed on the CIP. She proposed that the senior center be taken off the budget and placed on the CIP while more information is gathered. Mr. Williams mentioned his multiple requests to have a workshop discussing the possibility of bringing specialized transportation to Powhatan County. Chairman Byerly explained that the Board has reached out to the representative for special transportation and is actively trying to plan a time for her to present at a meeting. Mr. Cox clarified that the senior center project is a part of the CIP at this time and is not currently included in the operating budget. Ms. Schubert explained that moving the project into the budget would not change because the funds are coming from unspent funds leftover from completed projects. She explained that the project needs to be in the CIP to use the bond proceeds, but it does not need to be advertised in the budget because it will cause no increase or decrease in the budget.

Ms. Carmack made a motion to advertise the proposed budget at \$109,908,958.00 as presented. Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

Michael W. Byerly, Karin M. Carmack, and Steve W. McClung voted AYE. Bill L. Cox and David T. Williams voted NAY.

**VOTE 3-2**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**10. 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.

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Stephen Barham, 3492 Richard's Run, stated that if no one can find waste in the government and school budget, something is being done wrong. He expressed his support for the idea of removing the duty of conditional revenue from the County Administrator.

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

**11. County Attorney Comments**

There were no County Attorney comments.

**12. County Administrator Comments**

There were no County Administrator comments

**13. Board Comments**

There were no Board comments.

**14. Adjournment**

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 PM.

**ATTEST:**

Ned Smither, County Administrator  
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Michael W. Byerly, Chairman  
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

**Recorded Vote:**

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