



**AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE
POCAHONTAS LANDMARK CENTER AT 4290 ANDERSON HIGHWAY IN
POWHATAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS ON
September 19th, 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, County Administrator
Tom Lacheney, County Attorney
Will Hagy, Deputy County Administrator
Mike Ciriello, Planning Director
Megan Heatwole, Director of Parks and Recreation
Danny Smith, Captain
Melissa Lowe, Human Resources Director
John Wood, IT/GIS Director
Roxanne Salerno, Economic Development Manager
Megan Carroll, Social Services Director (Virtual)

Constitutional Officers Present: None

Guests Present: Tom Diehl, BarryDunn

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Invocation

Mr. McClung 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

Chairman Byerly motioned to **approve** the agenda as amended.

Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 5-0

MOTION PASSED

6. County Administrator Updates

Mr. Schardein introduced Ms. Caroline Davis, the Recreation Coordinator, and Ms. Jackie Wilkins, the Economic Development Assistant. The Board welcomed them.

7. 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.

[Carl Schwendeman, 1727 Teresa Lane](#), asked if the grant used for Richmond Regional could be used to build sidewalks near the Middle School.

[Mike Oliver, 4372 Three Bridge Road](#), spoke in support of the County moving forward with a community center.

[Eleanor Delaney, 950 Cedar Green Drive](#), spoke about her positive experience connecting with other senior citizens in the community. She spoke in support of a community center.



Citizen from Scottville neighborhood, spoke in support of a community center. He noted the importance of social opportunities for senior citizens.

Donna Wild, 1544 Palmore Road, spoke in support of a community center.

Margaret Wong, said that the senior citizens of Powhatan County need some attention. She urged the Board to move forward with the community center.

Fran Carlton, 2219 Rosson Road, said the community center was a great concept to provide activities and social opportunities to citizens of all ages. She suggested that the Board approve the project instead of spending money on a feasibility study.

Michael Harris, 4234 Three Bridge Road, spoke in support of a community center.

Betty Ashmore, 3065 Lower Hill, expressed concern about the need for more urgency in creating a community center. She spoke in support of a community center.

Keith Badger, 2936 Edith Lane, said the County could use the War Memorial Building to build a community center.

Cody Wales, 3053 Maple Lake Road, said that he and his partner would greatly benefit from a community center that provides opportunities for senior citizens to interact.

Simon Wong, expressed his support for the Community Matters program. He presented the Board with research and data supporting a community center. He noted that one in five citizens are above the age of 65 in Powhatan County.

Chairman Byerly closed the public comment period.

8. New Business

- a. **Resolution R-2023-31 Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to accept a Community Center Feasibility Study proposal.**



Mr. Schardein gave a brief overview. Mr. Hagy gave an update on the community center feasibility study that reviewed the concept timeline, the April 17th workshop, RFP drafts 1&2, and the request for quotes. He also presented a timeline that projected the study would conclude in April 2024, and the Board would review the results in May 2024.

Ms. Carmack asked how the Board could proceed toward creating a community center today. Mr. Hagy said that there were several elements within the Berry Dunn proposal that the County should include no matter which approach they choose. He added that the feasibility study would be important to determine the next step. Mr. Cox said that the Board should focus on the unmet needs of the community and the best ways to satisfy them. He spoke in support of moving forward with the feasibility study. Ms. Carmack said that she believes the community center should be a stand-alone center. She pointed out that partnering with the YMCA would require that the County pay taxpayer dollars for a building they do not own. She stated that the community center needs to be run and facilitated by the County of Powhatan. Mr. Cox pointed out that a partnership model could be more cost-efficient than having full-time employees. Mr. McClung said the feasibility would greatly benefit the County during the planning process despite the clear demand for a community center. He spoke in support of moving forward with a community center. Ms. Carmack said that she wanted to modify the resolution to ensure that the County would create a community center. Mr. Lacheney advised the County to go back to procurement if it decides to eliminate the needs assessment and the feasibility study. Mr. Schardein agreed that a strong foundation is important for lasting success. Ms. Carmack said she supported doing a proper assessment, but she did not want the project



to take years to complete. Mr. Williams spoke in support of conducting an analysis to ensure that the County serves its community in the best way possible.

Mr. Williams said that the County could partner with other facilities and still maintain control. Chairman Byerly agreed that an analysis is necessary. He spoke in support of a community center owned and operated by the County. Mr. Cox said he would support what the County Administrator and staff had put together. Chairman Byerly expressed the importance of acting methodically.

Ms. Carmack motioned to **approve** the proposal with the modification that any future studies are based on a County owned/operated building.

Chairman Byerly seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 3-2

MOTION DENIED

Mr. Williams motioned to **approve** the proposal as presented and move forward with a community center.

Mr. McClung seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 4-1

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 Byerly opened the public comment period.

[Kenneth Hatcher, 3617 Trenholm Road](#), said a community center is feasible. He urged the Board to gather concrete information on the project, like location and cost.

[Carl Schwendeman, 1727 Teresa Lane](#), suggested that the County build a restaurant and/or senior housing next to the community center through a developer.

[Mike Oliver, 4372 Three Bridge Road](#), expressed concerns about a partnership with the YMCA. He spoke in support of a county-owned and operated community center.

[Christina Smith, 2721 Pilkington Road](#), suggested that the County seek federal funding for the community center.

[Bill Donati Jr., 2008 Anderson Highway](#), said there is no guarantee that spaces in the fire department buildings will open up for public events.

[Steve Hancock, 2670 Walker's Ridge Turn](#), thanked the Board for their work. He agreed that the Board should conduct a needs assessment for the community center.

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

10. **County Administrator Comments**

None.

11. **Board Comments**

Mr. Cox noted that the County has hired a grant writer.

POWHATAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING
September 19th, 2023



12. Closed Session

Mr. Lacheney led the Board into a closed session.

Ms. Carmack motioned to **enter** into a closed session.

Mr. Cox seconded the motion.

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

VOTE 5-0

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Lacheney led the Board out of a closed session.

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

VOTE 5-0

MOTION PASSED

13. Adjournment

Chairman Byerly adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 PM.

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

**Mike 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	
Karin M. Carmack	Aye

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