

**VIRGINIA:**

A meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Thursday, April 25, 2019.

Members Present: Jason D. Bellows, Chair

Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair

Jack D. Larson, Board Member

William R. Lee, Board Member

Robert S. Westbrook, Board Member

Staff Present: Don G. Gill, County Administrator

Brian D. Barnes, Planning/Land Use Director and  
Environmental Codes Compliance Officer

Crystal Whay, Clerk to the Board and  
Building/Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Bellows led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, referred to the meeting room and stated that there were no portraits of any African-Americans. He stated that there were two portraits in the lobby. He stated that one portrait was of Armistead Nickens, who was the first African-American elected official in Lancaster County. He stated that the other portrait was of Dr. Morgan E. Norris, Sr. He stated that he thought both of those portraits should be moved to the meeting room.

Bob Smart, a District 1 citizen, stated that he had been asked by a number of people to present signatures that had been collected on a petition for a public referendum on any public school infrastructure appropriation. He stated that, to date, they have collected 663 signatures and they were still receiving them. He stated that number represents over ten percent of the typical voter turn-out during elections and they have collected signatures from all five districts. He stated that they were aware that the request for a public referendum on this matter must come from the School Board, but they thought it was important to let the Board of Supervisors know that there is a strong desire

in the community for such a public referendum. He stated that he would leave a copy of the signatures with the County Administrator.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Public Safety Telecommunications Week Resolution

**DECLARING APRIL 14-20, 2019 AS PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, dedicated Public Safety Communication Officers serve the citizens of Lancaster County by answering their requests for law enforcement, fire or emergency medical services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Communication Dispatcher is the first link between the citizen and the emergency responder; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of both citizens and emergency responders is dependent upon the highly trained and skilled Public Safety Communication Dispatcher; and

**WHEREAS**, the role Public Safety Communication Dispatchers play in ensuring public safety occurs behind the scenes and is seldom recognized; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Safety Communication Dispatchers serving the County of Lancaster exhibit professionalism, efficiency and compassion during the performance of their essential duties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Public Communication Officials has designated the second week in April to recognize Public Safety Telecommunication Officers;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors hereby declares the week of April 14<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in honor of the men and women of Lancaster County who serve that critical role in the protection and preservation of life and property.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to Adopt the Public Safety Telecommunications Week Resolution.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye

Mr. Bellows presented the resolution to the dispatchers in attendance.

2. Broadband Authority Update

Cassie Thompson, the Chair for the Broadband Authority, stated that the Center for Innovative Technology has notified them that they are revising their procedures and they will not be supporting the survey instrument until mid-summer. She stated that the Broadband Authority plans on addressing this issue at its next meeting.

Mrs. Thompson stated that the Broadband Authority was waiting to hear if they will be approved to receive the Telecommunications Planning Grant that they applied for in February.

Mrs. Thompson stated that, since the Board of Supervisors designated the Broadband Authority as its agent for gathering information from Atlantic Broadband, they have asked them for mapping details and other questions, which will be mailed out tomorrow.

Mrs. Thompson stated that the Broadband Authority's website should be live by the end of April. She stated that they plan to do outreach to all of the Broadband Authorities in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. She stated that they are finding that not all localities have a designated group, so their outreach will also include County Administrators.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Carter White, Assistant Northern Neck Residency Administrator, referred to the passing of both Frank Pleva and Robert Harper and stated that their deaths were shocks to the community. He stated that VDOT has experienced a huge loss with the death of Robert Harper and he will be greatly missed. He stated that he was present with Chris Basye, who was second in command to Mr. Harper. He stated that Mr. Harper's position is being advertised.

Mr. White referred to the upcoming County-Wide Clean Up Day and stated that VDOT appreciated it.

Mr. Larson asked about VDOT's grass cutting plans.

Mr. White replied that they will begin mowing in either late May or early June. He stated that they have sprayed grass retardant on the primary roadways this year, which helps to slow the growth rate.

Mr. Larson stated that he would hope that VDOT could mow shortly after the County-Wide Clean Up Day, so that there would be less litter to be cut up by the mowers.

Mr. White stated that grass mowing will be done in-house this year.

Mr. Larson asked how many cuttings were scheduled for this year.

Mr. White replied there would be two cuttings and possibly three.

Mr. Bellows referred to the grass retardant and asked if it had been approved to not be hazardous to the waterways.

Mr. White replied that he was confident that the retardant had been approved to be safe. He stated that there were many environmentalists working with VDOT.

Mr. White stated that VDOT would like to hold a public hearing for the Secondary Six-Year Plan at next month's regular meeting. He stated that they needed the Board of Supervisors' approval, so they can advertise the hearing.

Mr. Palin made a motion to hold a public hearing on the VDOT Secondary Six-Year Plan at next month's regular Board of Supervisors' meeting.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Bellows stated that he had been presented a petition concerning the turnlight at the Harmony Grove intersection. He stated that he wanted to present the petition to VDOT on behalf of ten businesses in White Stone. He stated that the business owners are concerned about the continual traffic problem that is associated with the Harmony Grove light. He stated that a blinking turn light installed there would help with the continued line of traffic that builds up and goes over the bridge, then through White Stone and Kilmarnock. He stated that, supposedly, a study was being done there, but he did not know what had happened.

Mr. White stated that it was the first he had heard of a study there, but he will make sure the petition gets to the right department.

Dr. Westbrook asked about the criteria for placing reflectors on the center line of the Norris Bridge and stated that he crossed the bridge recently at night and would have greatly appreciated having reflectors for more visibility.

Mr. White stated that he would pass that information on to their traffic engineers.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **1. Proposed FY 2020 Public Schools Budget (Excludes Capital Improvement Items)**

Mr. Bellows stated that the Board would take public comment on the Proposed FY 2020 Public Schools Budget.

Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, stated that he was in support of the proposed school budget and thought that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board had worked well together during the joint meetings. He stated that the school budget has an increase of about \$200,000.00, but that was a small increase. He stated that seventy percent of the proposed budget was for instruction. He stated that it was a tight budget and he was surprised that the schools can do everything they do with those funds.

Bill Warren, a District 3 citizen, stated that he wanted to echo what Mr. Costello had just said. He stated that the proposed school budget is tight and he thought the process had gone well. He stated that the increase for the budget was \$259,000.00 and it represents a 1.5 percent increase. He stated that the inflation rate for the United States in 2018 was 1.9 percent, so the proposed budget increase is actually less than the inflation rate. He stated that the budget also includes a nice salary increase for the teachers.

Mr. Warren referred to a handout of the Northumberland County School Board budget advertisement and stated that it was an example of how he still thought that Lancaster County was not funding the schools as much as it should.

Mr. Warren stated that the recent unfortunate decision to release the School Superintendent has caused a considerable amount of instability in the school system. He stated that it was a general consensus among the teachers that he has talked to that a higher turnover rate can be expected among teachers than has been in the past. He stated that this proposed budget needs to be approved at the level that it has been presented and give the teachers the increase that they deserve.

Linda Coye, a District 4 citizen, stated that she would like for the Board of Supervisors to reject the proposed school budget and send it back to the School Board with a mandate that they fund the teachers' salaries on the same pay scale as the West Point schools. She stated that she thought that Lancaster County should pay its teachers more than the surrounding counties of Northumberland and Middlesex and put them in line with the West Point pay scale. She stated that this would make Lancaster County's salaries competitive with the rest of the state.

**CONSENSUS DOCKET**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to approve the Consensus Docket and recommendation as follows:

1. Minutes for the March 14<sup>th</sup> Budget Work Session, March 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with the School Board, March 26<sup>th</sup> Work Session with the Volunteer Fire Departments and March 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

**CONSIDERATION DOCKET**

The Board considered the following item on its Consideration Docket:

1. Approval of April 2019 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for April 2019 in the amount of \$281,108.23 and invoice listings for April 2019 in the amount of \$733,254.44\*.

\*Loan Payment - \$32,207.00  
\*Capital Improvements - \$164,105.84

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye

Robert S. Westbrook                      Aye

**BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Bellows stated that the Board needed to consider setting a date for adopting the school budget. He stated that they had to wait at least one week from today and be adopted before May 15<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on the date of the meeting.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to set the Adoption of the Proposed School Budget for Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Larson referred to the appointments section of the Board's books and stated that he suggested that the Group Home Commission, on page six, be struck from the list of boards and commissions. He stated that the County had not had a group home for as long as he could remember.

Mr. Gill stated that the Bridge House still exists and is located at the end of DMV Drive in Kilmarnock.

Mr. Larson stated that when he and Mr. Gill spoke about it before, it was thought that the Bridge House no longer existed.

Mr. Gill stated that, after that conversation, he did some research and found that the Bridge House is still in existence.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to bring some information to the Board about the Bridge House at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Gill replied that he would.

Mr. Larson stated that he would like to know if the Bridge House was serving the County's youth, as it had in the past, and does it have the same mission statement as before. He stated that it is not in the County's budget and he would like some of the details.

Dr. Westbrook referred to page five of the appointments section in the Board's books and stated that the Hills Quarter Development Authority is still listed and he did not think it was around anymore.

Mr. Gill stated that, it was his understanding, that to remove an authority takes some formal action. He stated that he would ask the County Attorney about it.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had sent an email about what Tazewell County is doing by installing cameras for litter violators. He stated that he would like to see this discussed during budget talks. He stated that it does no good to pick up the trash when people continually litter and they needed to get some teeth in the littering laws. He stated that he would like to appoint someone to come back to the Board with some facts and costs and see what their options are concerning the cameras.

Mr. Lee stated that he was trying to find out through Sheriff McCranie if Tazewell County was getting convictions for littering.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they also needed to find out if their legal system would support this. He stated that a conversation needed to happen with the clerks and the judge.

Mr. Palin made a motion to appoint Mr. Lee to continue the anti-littering initiative by researching the possible installation of cameras.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Lee referred to the County-Wide Clean Up Day and stated that a lot of groups were starting around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. He stated that he has received a lot of response from the community. He stated that he was going to give a list of the roads that will be worked to Mr. Gill because he has volunteered to pick up the trash bags. He stated that Dr. Westbrook will also be picking up bags that day. He stated that there will be groups throughout the County picking trash up that day.

Mr. Bellows referred to the Kilmarnock Refuse Site and stated that the parking lot needs attention. He stated that it has gotten steep between the dumpster sites.

Mr. Bellows referred to the Windmill Point Boat Ramp and asked if there were any updates on the paving there.



Mr. Gill replied that the contractor that had submitted the lowest bid was very busy, but once he knew a date, he would let the Board know.

Mr. Larson asked if there was an update on the Nuttsville Convenience Center.

Mr. Gill replied that Donald Brown, the Solid Waste and Recycling Supervisor, had informed him that a berm had been placed around the compactor to see if that would keep liquids from traveling down to the building. He referred to the entrance at the site and stated that the same contractor who will be paving the boat ramp area will also be paving at this site.

Mr. Larson referred to the compactor at the site and stated that you can see holes in it and something needs to be done.

Mr. Gill stated that the County does not own the compactor and they have let Waste Management know of the condition. He stated that the compactor at the Regina site had been refurbished and he would check to see if the Nuttsville compactor could as well.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Gill referred to a notice about a change in the conflict of interest laws and stated that he had provided it with the Board's materials. He stated that the law was passed this year and on-line training will have to be completed by elected officials by December 31, 2019. He stated that more information would follow.

Mr. Gill stated that, during the last couple of budget sessions, there was discussion concerning the County's fuel contract. He stated that the last fuel contract that he could find was from 2008. He stated that he would like for the Board to make a motion to authorize the County Administrator to advertise a RFP for a fuel contract.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to advertise a RFP for a fuel contract for the County.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Gill stated that last year they had learned that the County's contract with the auditor, Robinson, Farmer and Cox Associates, had expired and they entered into a one-

year contract with them to get through the year. He stated that the auditors needed to come back in June to do some more work and he would like for the Board to authorize the County Administrator to advertise a RFP for audit services.

Mr. Larson made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to advertise a RFP for audit services for the County.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Gill stated that there had been recent discussion about short-term rentals in the County and possibly having different firms look into that. He stated that he has done some research and found a good website called Air DNA. He stated that site monitors the four main groups, including Air BNB. He stated that someone can put in a location and it will let you know how many active rentals are in that location. He stated that the site has a fee for its monthly service. He stated that he did get a free trial period and he learned that county-wide there were 81 active rentals and 59 of those are in town limits. He stated that leaves 22 that are in the County's jurisdiction. He stated that they have 10 people who have voluntarily signed the registry, so that only leaves 12 that they don't know about. He stated that was a manageable number that staff can handle. He stated that the most prevalent company nation wide for compliance issues and monitoring short-term rentals is called Host Compliance. He stated that the site provides definitive addresses and will send notices to comply and they guarantee a positive net return on the investment. He stated that he plans to meet over the phone with them and get a quote. He stated that, given the limited number that the County has so far, he was not sure that was the way to go. He stated that another company he had found was called STR Helper, but he had not received a response from them yet.

Mr. Gill stated that Mr. Bellows, Dr. Westbrook and he attended a meeting on Monday regarding the possibility of creating a regional airport authority around Hummel Field in Topping. He stated that Hummel Field is currently owned by the County of Middlesex and there is a possibility of acquiring more land to extend the runway and accept larger aircraft. He stated that it was decided at that meeting for everyone to go back to their boards to see if there was an interest in keeping the discussion going. He stated that there are 64 planes at Hummel Field now and 22 of those are owned by Lancaster County residents. He stated that they are looking at the possibility of the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Middlesex and Mathews being in the authority. He stated that his point in bringing up the issue is to get a feel from the Board on how

they would like to proceed. He stated that, based on some of the information he has seen, this could be an economic development driver for Lancaster County.

Mr. Bellows stated that he agreed that it could be a good economic development driver for the County. He stated that he had attended the meeting and what they are trying to do is get a designation change and qualify for an 80/20 match. He stated that because the owner of the land for the runway extension would be donating it, the twenty percent local match could be covered with that. He stated that there could be a possibility that the localities could start the authority with essentially no costs initially.

Dr. Westbrook stated that there were statistics from the state that pointed out the economic activity that centers around an airport. He stated that he would be in favor of further discussions.

The consensus of the Board was to continue to have discussions concerning the expansion of Hummel Field and an authority associated with it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye