

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2022

CALL TO ORDER – A regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Crystal Vanuch, Chairman, at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford VA.

ROLL CALL – The following members were present: Crystal Vanuch, Chairman; Pamela Yeung, Vice Chairman; Tinesha O. Allen; Meg Bohmke; Thomas C. Coen; Darrell English; Monica Gary.

Also in attendance were Frederick J. Presley, County Administrator; Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney; Cheryl Giles, Deputy Clerk; Julia Homes, Assistant Deputy Clerk; various staff members; and other interested parties.

Chairman Vanuch noted that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and visitors to the Government Center may notice blue pinwheels, which are to bring awareness to this month. She stated that the Social Services Department works very hard to strengthen families that are struggling to prevent child abuse and neglect, and it's important for families and communities to work together to protect children and produce thriving families. She said that if anyone suspects that a child is being mistreated, they should contact Stafford County at 540-658-8600 to speak with Social Services.

Ms. Vanuch said that the Sheriff's Office had notified the County of recent scamming attempts, stating that numbers continue to rise, and last year alone, victims in the United States were scammed out of \$5.6 billion. She stated that juveniles and the elderly are being targeted the most, and a new driver might get a call, text, or online message from someone claiming to be a deputy. She said that the scammer impersonates an officer who has seen a juvenile driving badly and asks for money so their parents won't be notified. She stated that elderly people get a call claiming that a close relative is in jail and needs money, and the scammer offers to come and pick them up. She said that these are just a few of the current scams circulating, and Stafford has a great article on the front page of the County's website that gives tips and tricks for self-empowerment to avoid scammers.

Ms. Vanuch stated that the County's annual flushing of the entire water system has begun, and the purpose of the flushing is to ensure a high level of disinfection of all County water mains. She said the whole effort should be complete by May, and residents may experience a slight odor or taste of chlorine in their water and should contact the Utilities Department if they have any questions.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Recognizing April 10–16, 2022 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Stafford County

Ms. Vanuch asked Lieutenant Brian Jacobs, Suzanne Stanley, Nick Fonseca, Madison Bartsch, and Nick McDaniel to approach the dais. She stated that these employees work in the Emergency Communications Center and are the talented and highly trained personnel who are available 24/7/365 to help people when they call 911. She said that April 10-16 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and these men and women would accept a proclamation on behalf of fellow telecommunicators. She thanked them for their experience, expertise, and compassion. She read the proclamation and presented the recognition to the group.

Ms. Vanuch introduced Deputy County Administrator Donna Krauss and said she was filling in for the County Administrator today.

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Krauss stated that there were two changes to the Consent Agenda: authorizing a day of holiday pay for Good Friday (April 15), and an adjustment to correct the resolution number for Item 18 related to the turf fields and an adjustment to the total amount, which Ms. Light would cover when she does her presentation today.

Mr. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC - I

Ms. Vanuch read the protocol for public presentations.

1. Ms. Margaret Lowry of 608 Tacketts Mill Road, Stafford, stated that she is a resident of the Rock Hill District, and she said she hoped it would be her last meeting if things went favorably. Ms. Lowry stated that she worked 47 years in public education because she cares about preparing students to be leaders of the future, and that's why she was before the Board to ask them to support funding for artificial turf fields at North Stafford and Colonial Forge high schools in the summer of 2022. She stated that this parity issue cannot be pushed

back again, and Proposal R22-20 is listed on their agenda as Item 18. She thanked them for working with the School Board to find and create funds so this proposal can be funded for the needed turf fields.

Ms. Lowry stated that adding artificial turf for North and Forge would open possibilities for Stafford to host Virginia High School League state tournaments—which means financial gains for the County. She said after Spotsylvania added artificial turf to all five of their high schools, they were selected to host the VHSL Field Hockey State Tournament last fall. She said before they look for quality playing surfaces, they also selected Spotsylvania to host the State Spring Jubilee in 2022 and 2023, which includes boys' and girls' soccer and lacrosse, and also to host softball and baseball. She emphasized that this brings revenue to that County for restaurants, motels, businesses, and school concession stands. She noted that North and Forge spend more than \$20K a year on grass seed, fertilizer, paint, and aeration for stadium grass—which doesn't include the thousands of dollars they spend to rent turf fields for practices and games. She said this was a financial investment that would reap many benefits for the high schools and the County as a whole.

Ms. Lowry thanked the Board and mentioned that Carol Lysher was the field hockey coach who won the championship years ago for North Stafford.

2. Ms. Carol Lysher of Fredericksburg addressed the Board and said she was present to ask for their support to fix the parity issue of the stadium turf fields among County high schools, and she would not be fighting for North and Colonial Forge were it not for the parity issue. She said if all the County high schools had grass stadium fields, she would not be advocating for artificial turf. She emphasized that this is truly a parity issue within the community, and if they don't fix it now, she isn't sure when they will. She noted that three high schools have it and two don't, which has made it the "haves and have nots" for the last eight years.

Ms. Lysher stated that the point of parity is not for dominance or luxury—just equal footing—and the grass stadiums are the opposite of that and reflect lack of equity, which is not fair to students at North and Forge who practice on grass and have to compete on turf. She said the opposite is the turf teams and their parents, who do not look forward to coming to play and cheer at the County's grass fields. She said the entire Stafford community would be so proud if all the County competitors had turf and all five high schools had a level playing field. She noted that the stadium competition field has become the center of pride for all the athletes and students who have their home competitions at a highly revered space.

Ms. Lysher said the ongoing teamwork between the Board of Supervisors and School Board makes it a win for student athletes, and she asked Supervisors to vote yes to award the contract for synthetic turf fields for installation this summer. She thanked the Board and said that these speaking opportunities have given her a better appreciation of both boards' work.

3. Mr. Mark Coleman of 1701 Dunes Street, Fredericksburg, said he is athletic director at North Stafford and was speaking on behalf of both North Stafford and Colonial Forge. He added that he is a resident of Fredericksburg. Mr. Coleman said that Ms. Lowry had mentioned the financial impact on the schools themselves, which is \$20K+ each year spent on materials and resources to care for the fields. He said that Stafford County has three other schools with the turf fields—and every school in the region, as well as those in Northern Virginia, has turf fields now.

Mr. Coleman said that a friend in Frederick County told him that artificial turf fields were the norm now, not a special amenity, and they also hear that from other schools. He stated that the norm in the classroom is technology has been adapted to as the times have changed, and these times have also changed but they have not adapted to them in the athletics and events world. He noted that 15 years ago, turf fields were a luxury, and that's no different from the academic impacts of things like smart devices. He also stated that they have had to move several events over the last few years, which has meant a loss of \$12K to support the performing arts.

4. Ms. Maya Guy of the Aquia District stated that she is on the School Board but is speaking for herself and her family only, not for the School Board. Ms. Guy said that she doesn't fully comprehend the set tax rate and the Board's options, but she is here to ask them to reverse course and fully fund the proposed school budget. She stated that it is "not awesome" in the schools and classrooms right now, and there are a lot of issues, and while not everything can be fixed with money, these are issues that occur when schools are chronically underfunded—which Stafford schools have been for well over a decade.

Ms. Guy said that she and the schools have presented a lot of data to them before, but she's not sure if it ever resonates, as Stafford schools are 118 out of 132 municipalities for funding. She noted that they are supposed to be the 16th richest county in the United States. Ms. Guy stated that they do not have enough educators in every class, with math classes are combining with over 50 kids, and this is due to underfunding. She stated that she hoped those who haven't supported their budget would look at it differently, noting that the 5% raise from last year should just come from the school budget.

Ms. Guy stated that she had visited a school with Ms. Gary the previous week, and that school still has asbestos. She said that while it's covered, it's not good enough for her kids—or anyone.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Allen wished a happy Ramadan to those who observed it. She stated that Dominion has started to do their tree line maintenance in Widewater, and she asked residents to contact her if they noticed any issues so she could share them with Dominion.

Ms. Bohmke recognized the 911 responders and said she was thankful for them, as it was a tough and very stressful job.

Mr. Coen deferred his comments.

Mr. English thanked Hartwood Elementary School and said he had been invited by Mr. Raska and his staff to an event for STEAM, with the students presenting different projects. He said that Mr. Raska had given him a tour of Hartwood Elementary School—and in terms of parity, having a school that's still on water and septic is unacceptable.

Mr. English stated that there was a "Dateline" episode recently that featured a suspect who killed two women and dropped them off on I-95 right here. He commended Ryan Fitzgerald and Sandra Parks and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Mr. English also mentioned that there would be a drive-through rabies clinic on April 16th from 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. in front of the County Building. He also said that the grand opening of Sheetz on Courthouse Road would be April 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Gary said that she has been reading the abundance of emails regarding turf fields and the budget, and she will support this to the best extent possible, as this impacts families and their everyday lives. She thanked Mr. Coleman for pointing out the impact on the arts, and she said she looks forward to the \$20K spent on field maintenance on things like the arts, as they need to support items beyond academics. Ms. Gary reported that VDOT started work today to try to alleviate the standing water on Brooke Road and would be working through next week.

Ms. Yeung stated that she had voted for turf fields when she was on the School Board and feels that teams have a place to play where they can train and develop the skills needed to compete in college. She noted that the School Board had spent about \$170K on the septic system at Hartwood Elementary, adding that Drew Middle School had mold and asbestos inside where students are

every day. Ms. Yeung said they are feeling the pinch in space at the elementary school level, but they also need a new middle school for real equity.

Ms. Yeung said that she had attended the Infrastructure Committee meeting, and there was a Community and Economic Development meeting, and she and her colleagues had talked about the County's infrastructure needs. She stated that they talk about all the needs that they have and balance that with the taxes that individual communities entrust them to spent wisely, to take care of their infrastructure.

Ms. Yeung reported that she had attended the Office of Youth Services meeting on March 17, and they need support so that they can take care of the County's youth. She said that she had attended the Rappahannock River Basin Commission meeting on March 23, where several Delegates were present, and they received updates from the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Governor's FY22 priorities, and an update on the stream and rain gauge project, as well as the Fredericksburg bankside trail project. She said she had attended a GWRC meeting on March 28 with Ms. Bohmke and Mr. English, and they had voted on the 2050 long-range transportation resolution at FANPO.

Ms. Yeung stated that there had also been several Board budget meetings.

Ms. Vanuch commented that accurate information is critical to the public, and she stated that the Celebrate Virginia/RBC zoning/getting rid of a park were confusing to her—and the Board has no information on that. She stated that they are doing nothing to rezone nor do they have a backroom deal, and she is really disappointed in a former Planning Commissioner who would allege that things happen that way. She said that they only do public business in public, with the County Attorney present, and they can only go into closed session on litigation and personnel matters, or for negotiation on an actual building like a fire station.

Ms. Vanuch said that she was going to be asking Deputy County Administrator Mike Morris and Jeff Harvey to put some facts together on what is allowed in the RBC zoning categories, what is not, and what the current proposals are for that area and what is not happening. She stated that Supervisors could put it out on their social media and publicly, as she was sick and tired of people who don't understand land use putting things out on social media and confusing the public.

Ms. Vanuch stated that the second piece of misinformation stems from tonight's public comments, as the Board last year did fully fund the superintendent's budget—with one of the highest amounts of money transferred to schools from Stafford County, and the teachers did get a 5% pay raise. She emphasized that it is really important for facts to be presented accurately.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Ms. McClendon had no report.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Ms. Krauss pointed out the Strategic Plan update was for information only.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ms. Vanuch mentioned that all County employees would have off next Friday, and public safety would have their eight hours of holiday pay. She said that the Board was appreciative of all their efforts this year.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to adopt the Consent Agenda with the referenced additions presented.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung

Nay: (0)

Item 1. County Administration; Approve March 22, 2022 Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session: CIP and General Fund Review Minutes.

Item 2. County Administration; Approve March 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session: CIP And Project Status Minutes

Item 3. County Administration; Approve March 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

Item 4. County Administration; Approve March 8, 2022 Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session: Utilities, Transportation and Other Funds Minutes.

Item 5. County Administration; Approve March 1, 2022 Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session: General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Follow-Up Minutes.

Item 6. County Administration; Approve February 22, 2022 Board of Supervisors Budget Work Session: General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Minutes

Item 7. County Administration; Authorize the Appointment of Ms. Tinesha Allen to the Military Installation Resilience Policy Committee.

Resolution R22-97 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT TINESHA O. ALLEN TO THE

MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCY REVIEW (MIRR)
POLICY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission is leading a Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) Project for military facilities in the Northern Virginia Region; and

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Fort Belvoir, and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall are participating military installations; and

WHEREAS, natural and man-made events impact military installations and their surrounding localities; and

WHEREAS, conducting a resiliency review of these military installations may reduce impacts to the installations themselves and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County is to be a participating member in the MIRR Project and must identify a member of the Board to represent the County on the Policy Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that it be and hereby does appoint Tinesha O. Allen as the County's representative on the Military Installation Resiliency Review Policy Committee.

Item 8. County Administration; Appoint Mr. Floyd Bundrant to the Utilities Commission Representing the Garrisonville District for a Term Ending December 31, 2025.

Item 9. County Administration; Recommend to the Circuit Court the Appointment of Mr. Abraham Panjshiri as a Member of the Board of Zoning Appeals Filling the Garrisonville Seat.

Resolution R22-78 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE
STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2308 and County Code Sec. 28-341, members of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) shall be appointed by the Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, County Code Sec. 28-341 authorizes the BZA to consist of seven members and two alternates; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Karl Dean Larson represented the Garrisonville District and resigned from his BZA seat effective January 13, 2021, leaving an unexpired term for the Garrisonville seat through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to recommend appointing Abraham Panjshiri, who has indicated his willingness to be appointed for the district and term so provided;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that

NAME	DISTRICT	EXPIRATION DATE
Abraham Panjshiri	Garrisonville	December 31, 2022

be and he hereby is recommended for appointment as the member for the Garrisonville District for the term stated above, to the Stafford County Board of Zoning Appeals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator, or his designee, shall provide a copy of this Resolution to the Circuit Court.

Item 10. Capital Projects Transportation; Authorize the County Administrator to Apply for the United States Department of Transportation's R.A.I.S.E. Grant to be Used for the Enhanced Development of a Transportation Master Plan for Stafford County.

Resolution R22-92 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR R.A.I.S.E. GRANT FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ENHANCED DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN FOR STAFFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021) authorized and appropriated \$1.5 billion to be awarded by the United State Department of Transportation (USDOT) for grants under the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program for FY 2022 under National Infrastructure Investments; and

WHEREAS, this appropriation stems from the program funded and implemented pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and is known as Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program; and

WHEREAS, funds for the FY2022 RAISE Transportation Grants program (RAISE Grant) are to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact; and

WHEREAS, in addition to capital awards, USDOT will award at least 5 percent of available funding, or \$113.75 million, for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for RAISE Grants, to include planning and preconstruction activities that do not result in construction of a capital project; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Transportation Master Plan would generate multimodal accessibility projects that meet the merit criteria for the RAISE Grant; and

WHEREAS, the federal share of project costs for which an expenditure is made under the RAISE Grant program may not exceed 80 percent unless the project is located in a rural area; and

WHEREAS, all projects, including planning projects, have minimum award amounts and the minimum award for rural projects is \$1 million; and

WHEREAS, applications for RAISE Grants are currently being solicited and are due by April 14, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that the County Administrator, or his designee, be and hereby is authorized to apply to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) for funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Transportation Grants program for the development of the County's Transportation Master Plan, and planning and pre-construction activities.

Item 11. Capital Projects; Authorize the County Administrator to Execute Additional Contracts to Provide on-Call Professional Engineering Services for Utilities Construction Projects.

Resolution R22-100 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR UTILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the County contracts with multiple engineering firms to provide architectural or professional engineer services related to various County construction projects on an on-call basis; and

WHEREAS, the current contracts for on-call engineering for utilities projects have expired, and pursuant to Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 22-004-5001-SP, the County solicited proposals from qualified firms to provide on-call engineering services for seven categories of utilities projects:

Category	Project Types
A	Water Distribution/Transmission and Wastewater Collection/Transmission
B	Water and Wastewater Pumping
C	Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities
D	Water Storage
E	Dams and Impoundments

F	Geotechnical Engineering and Materials Testing
G	General Engineering Services

; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluated the proposals received and determined the most qualified firms for all categories; and

WHEREAS, contracts with several firms were authorized for execution pursuant to Resolution R22-59 on March 1, 2022, and Resolution R22-88 on March 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, negotiations have been completed with additional firms, and contracts are ready for approval and execution; and

WHEREAS, individual projects or task orders that meet or exceed \$200,000 will require Board approval, and the sum of all projects during the contract term shall not exceed the sums set forth in Virginia Code § 2.2-4303.1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to execute contracts for one year with four optional one-year renewal terms with the following engineering firms to provide professional, on-call engineering services for utilities projects in the designated categories:

Project Categories	Awarded Firms
B- Water and Wastewater Pumping	• Gannett Fleming, Inc.
D- Water Storage	• Gannett Fleming, Inc.
E- Dams and Impoundments	• Gannett Fleming, Inc.
G- General Engineering Services	• J2 Engineers, Inc.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that aggregate costs of the contracts shall not exceed the sums set forth in Virginia Code § 2.2-4303.1, as amended, and individual projects or task orders are authorized up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), unless modified by a duly-authorized contract amendment.

Item 12. Community Engagement: A Proclamation to Recognize April 10- 16, 2022. As National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Stafford County.

Proclamation P22-05 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 10 - 16, 2022, AS
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
IN STAFFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require a response from the Sheriff's Office and Fire and Rescue personnel; and

WHEREAS, when an emergency occurs, the prompt response of deputies, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety of Stafford County deputies and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from individuals who call 9-1-1 or telephone the Stafford County Emergency Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact County citizens have with emergency services, and they are ready to take a call 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are the single most vital link for Stafford's deputies, firefighters, and paramedics by monitoring their activities via radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, the public safety telecommunicators of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires, and emergency treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are more than a calm and reassuring voice at the other end of the phone contributing daily to the public safety needs of the community; they are the "unseen first responders" serving the public in countless ways; and

WHEREAS, each Stafford County public safety telecommunications officer has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their duties by providing a timely and quality response to those who have experienced emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, on this the 5th day of April, 2022, be and hereby does recognize and honor its public safety telecommunicators and their dedication to the citizens of Stafford County.

Item 13. Community Engagement; Proclamation Recognizing Stafford County's Citizens Assistance Volunteers

Proclamation P22-06 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING STAFFORD COUNTY'S CITIZEN ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, one foundation of a decent and just society is the willingness of its people to work together for the common good through volunteers joined together to help those in need; to give their time to recreational and cultural programs; to historic preservation; and to contribute their time and talents to local government; and

WHEREAS, citizen volunteers provide switchboard, reception, and ombudsman services at the George L. Gordon Government Center, and in the past year, assisted walk-in customers and processed phone calls, all with the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this year, citizen volunteers donated 13,323 hours in response to requests for data entry support, traffic and transportation services at the Sheriff's Office; clerical and reception support in the Courts; assisting at special events; coaching basketball, cheerleading, football, and volleyball teams; and providing immediate response and assistance during local weather events; and

WHEREAS, members of this group have served for more than 10 years, with some exceeding 20 years; and

WHEREAS, citizen volunteers are the heart of Stafford's ability to serve its citizens, and their willingness to return and serve during the end of the Coronavirus epidemic is greatly appreciated; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County is grateful today and every day for the support of its many citizen volunteers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that it be and hereby does honor and recognize all Stafford County's citizen assistance volunteers.

Item 14. Planning and Zoning; Receive and Accept the Board of Zoning Appeals 2021 Annual Report.

ADD-ON. County Administration; Authorize a Day of Holiday Pay on Friday, April 15, 2022 in Observance of the Good Friday Holiday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 15. Human Resources; Consider Adopting Changes to the County's Emergency Closing and Leave Policy

Director of Human Resources Shannon Wagner said she had previously presented the Board with a brief summary of proposed changes to the County's Emergency Closing Policy, and this was just a follow-up to that.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen to approve proposed Resolution R22-89.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Resolution R22-89 reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE REVISED STAFFORD COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES EMERGENCY CLOSING AND
LEAVE POLICY UPDATE**

WHEREAS, inclement weather or other emergency situations will occasionally make it unsafe for employees or the public to come in to County facilities, which results in a determination to close County operations until the circumstances are expected to improve; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Department of Human Resources Emergency Closing and Leave Policy (Policy) establishes procedures and clarifies expectations for staff during these emergencies, and outlines appropriate compensation for non-essential employees who do not need to report to work and essential employees who are expected to work during hazardous conditions; and

WHEREAS, amendment to the Policy would reduce confusion and duplicative information and create and define key terms like “liberal telework” to allow greater productivity during mild to moderate emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the revisions to the Policy also allow the County Administrator to designate an emergency outside of normal operating hours in order to provide additional compensation to individuals who have to work during a situation where the County would not need to close;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this 5th day of April, 2022 that the amended Stafford County Department of Human Resources Emergency Closing Policy, as last revised April 5, 2022, be and it hereby is approved and adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that complementary amendments to the Stafford County Department of Human Resources Leave Policy, as last revised April 5, 2022, are also approved and adopted.

Item 16. Human Resources; Authorize the County Administrator to Execute a Contract with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Following the Joint Request for Proposal (RFP) on Health Insurance for County and Schools' Employees.

Ms. Vanuch said that they would have a brief presentation.

Ms. Andrea Wilson stated that as part of their due diligence process, every six years, the County goes through an RFP process and partners with Stafford County Public Schools to go out to bid

for this, and this process started back on August 2021. She said they went through the review process, and on February 23, Aon presented to the Board a full overview of what the RFP results were. She said at this point, the Cost Relief Pharmacy Program was the only thing that came out of that, with them wanting to see a list of the prescriptions in the program—and that is included in the Board package, with highlights including selected drugs for a variety of things. She said it was a long list, and staff tried to summarize it down so they could see it.

Ms. Wilson said at this point, staff is recommending that the Board authorize the County Administrator to execute a contract with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for health benefits. She stated that on March 22, the School Board had approved awarding the contract to Anthem.

Mr. English asked if they had looked into the hearing aids and the public safety and utilities.

Ms. Wilson responded that there is a discount as part of the Anthem plan, and they reached out to the provider who does voluntary benefits, and they have not been able to identify a special hearing aid program to add to the portfolio at this time.

Mr. English asked if staff could look into something like a discount program with COSTO.

Ms. Wilson stated that staff could pursue that.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the cost-sharing plan to employees was going to be the same, so they would be paying the same amount from year to year.

Ms. Wilson confirmed this, adding that there may be a slight increase in the dental premiums of 3.3%—but medical, vision, and prescription was all staying the same.

Ms. Vanuch asked if they had done the evaluation of the prescriptions employees were using and if the copays were equal on the new plan.

Ms. Wilson confirmed that the copays were remaining the same on the new plan.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve proposed Resolution R22-79.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Vanuch asked the Board if they were okay with moving Item #18 before Item #17 because there were guests in the Chambers that were waiting to hear about the turf fields . The Board agreed to discuss Item #18 before Item #17

Item 18. Budget and Management; Consider Budgeting and Appropriating Funding for Artificial Turf Fields at Colonial Forge and North Stafford High Schools.

Ms. Andrea Light reported that R22-90 was before them today to provide turf fields for Colonial Forge and North Stafford high schools, which are the only two schools that do not have them. Ms. Light said at their last meeting, the School Board did approve the contract for turf fields at these schools in the amount of almost \$2.9 million. She stated that in the background report, she had inadvertently left off a contingency that they had requested, bringing the full amount to \$3 million—with that contingency being only about 3.7% of the whole project.

Ms. Light stated that as proposed, the funding option the schools and County have worked on together would provide for use of VPSA interest, the County's capital project funds (unspent projects), and use of prior year fund balance from both the schools and the County. She said the Board had also asked staff to bring back some options with proffers, and there are proffers available if the Board chooses to use them, and all proffers have been programmed into the FY23-32 proposed CIP for Elementary School #18.

Ms. Light reported that Whitson Woods currently has no proffers collected, and they are projected to have those in FY22-23; as what happened with the Mountain View fields, the Board approved the use of a loan from the County's capital projects reserve, which was paid back when the proffers were received. She noted that this had happened in 2014 or 2015, with the funds paid back in 2021.

Ms. Light stated that Winding Creek has only about \$280K available, with the remaining to be collected between 2022 and 2024. She said for the North Stafford High School projects, the capital projects reserve would have to provide an amount of \$1.2 million, to be repaid by those two proffers as they become available. She stated that Colonial Forge has both Liberty Knolls and Westgate proffers available to them now, and those have been collected and are available for the Board's use.

Ms. Light added that staff also recommends that the Board consider this time-sensitive to meet all construction times for fall sports to begin.

Ms. Gary asked what they would have to do with the CIP if they used the proffers, as both proffers have been programmed into the proposed CIP for Elementary School 318. She asked what that effectively did and whether the total of the proffers had been programmed into that.

Ms. Light explained that this \$3 million has been programmed into Elementary School #18, so they would have to use either bond funding or an alternative cash funding to be able to do the elementary school as proposed.

Ms. Allen asked how much \$1 million bond made them pay in interest, and how much Elementary School #18 would cost the County in debt capacity.

Ms. Light responded that it was approximately \$80K.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to deem this item time sensitive.

Ms. Bohmke said she had a conversation with the superintendent today and does not take waiving their bylaws lightly, but schools are out the end of May and they need to get moving on this quickly. She stated that in this particular case, two weeks does make a difference, and that's why she is supporting it.

Ms. Gary stated that her colleagues know that she doesn't think it's time sensitive, although it is important, and in the scope of things she doesn't understand why they are rushing it. She said that she thinks it make sense to wait, and there are a lot of issues such as elementary schools with sewage in the hallways and asbestos in the walls. She stated that she understands the use of the word "parity" to mean something different, and she just doesn't give this the weight that others do; they will get to it in due time, but to her that isn't right now.

Ms. Allen said that she agreed with Ms. Gary that this isn't time sensitive, and North Stafford has an arts wing where students have to leave the building to enter back into the classroom—which is more of a safety issue than students being on a turf field. She stated that she has family that went to North Stafford and endured that, and it is a more time-sensitive issue than playing in sports after school. Ms. Allen said that Elementary School #18 was on their CIP, and they had grave reservations taking it from that school to use it for turf because they're going to have to figure out how to adjust their debt and afford the school they don't have the \$3 million for.

Ms. Vanuch said we have a motion on the floor to make this time sensitive. Please cast your vote.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(5)	Bohmke, Coen, English, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(2)	Allen, Gary

Ms. Vanuch noted for public transparency that it required a two-thirds majority, and they did meet that to be able to move forward. She asked if there were a motion on the floor for moving forward.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve R22-90, using the proffer funds.

Ms. McClendon asked Ms. Light if the proffer funds were already listed in the resolution presented to the Board today at the dais.

Ms. Light responded that they've just been presented in the presentation, so they would be amended afterwards.

Ms. Vanuch asked a friendly amendment to Ms. Yeung's motion to approve R22-90 to utilize the proffer funds presented as Option B in today's presentation.

Ms. Yeung agreed.

Ms. Bohmke asked if there were an additional friendly amendment to add the contingency in of \$108,226, which she recommends come out of the General Fund/Schools/Capital Projects reserve.

Ms. Light clarified that the \$3 million in whole covers that, as the \$2.9 million is what the contract is for, and the \$108K above that would be for contingency—so it comes to \$3 million in total, which should be what the resolution is for.

Ms. Bohmke said that if they have \$1,445,887 times two, they still need \$108,226 out of another pot of money.

Ms. Light clarified that the amended resolution before them should be at \$3 million, and the presentation wasn't amended to be that but should have been.

Ms. Bohmke said she didn't have that resolution.

Mr. Coen stated that in his folder, along with the add-ons, was R22-90; on the backside of that, the resolution says, "...that \$3 million be and hereby is budgeted and appropriated as follows."

Ms. Bohmke said she had that too, but this indicates all the reserve funds—not the proffers.

Ms. Vanuch stated that she had asked for a separate resolution in last week's work session to utilize the proffer funds so this was clear. She expressed her disappointment that they didn't have that and had the current confusion, so they really need to understand what the motion needs to be to fully fund this so they don't come up short.

Ms. Light stated that the resolution for the proffer funds needs to be \$1.5 million for North Stafford and Colonial Forge out of proffers; North Stafford would need to be prefunded at \$1.2 million because of lack of proffers there, and they would be repaid those back to the General Fund reserves. Ms. Light suggested that they work up this resolution and bring it back to the Board so they can see it and have it clear later in the meeting.

The Board agreed to that approach.

Ms. McClendon said they needed a motion to lay this on the table.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. English, to lay R22-90 on the table.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(6)	Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(1)	Allen

Item 17. Planning and Zoning; Discuss the County Zip Code Boundaries to Change the Mailing Address from Fredericksburg to Stafford in the 22405 and 22406 Areas. Requested by Supervisor Coen.

Mr. Jeff Harvey stated that he was before them to discuss ZIP codes in the County, stating that they currently have four geographic ZIP codes: 22554 and 22556 for Stafford, and 22405 and 22406 for Fredericksburg. He explained that ZIP codes are regulated by the U.S. Postal Service and typically describe the area in which they're serving, as well as the post office serving that area. He said that the postal service for its purposes has a primary name associated with the postal service area; however, the primary name is not necessary contingent upon whether or not you get mail.

Mr. Harvey stated that people in the 22405 and 22406 ZIP codes can use Hartwood and Falmouth, and possibly even White Oak, as names on their correspondence. He noted that the postal service will deliver based on the address and the ZIP code—not necessarily the area it's been identified in. He stated that Supervisor Coen has brought up the fact there have been a number of issues over the years, especially with policies or taxation requirements imposed by the City of Fredericksburg on its residents and businesses.

Mr. Harvey said at times when there are chain businesses that operate within Stafford and surrounding localities that are in the Fredericksburg ZIP codes, sometimes they impose the city requirements on County residents, even though the Supervisors have not authorized that. He noted that the most recent example was the plastic bag tax the County implemented, as there were stores in the County that were charging customers that tax, but it was not a legal requirement in Stafford County, and the Board is not collecting that revenue.

Mr. Harvey stated that the consideration for the Board would be whether or not to adopt a future resolution requesting the postal service to change the primary area name for the 22405 and 22406 ZIP codes to Stafford instead of Fredericksburg.

Ms. Allen asked what it would be called on people's address.

Mr. English said it would say "Stafford."

Mr. Harvey clarified that the proposal would be to change 22405 and 22406 from "Fredericksburg" to "Stafford" as the primary; people can still use "Falmouth" and "Hartwood" in the address and still get mail, but the issue was trying to get the postal service to change the primary area designation.

Mr. Coen said their main post office in Hartwood was not even Fredericksburg, and besides the plastic bag tax, they had a visit from the Governor and invited people from the city to come but didn't notify this Board because it said "Fredericksburg." He stated that this causes consternation, and he has been pushing for this since he got on the Board because he has pride in Stafford—and they are not the City of Fredericksburg. He said that he has gone from writing "White Oak" to "Stafford" because he is not Fredericksburg and doesn't want to be considered as that.

Ms. Bohmke stated that she was glad Mr. Coen brought this up and totally agreed with him, and the other issue they have with this is where people vote. She said that Mayor Greenlaw of Fredericksburg had sent her numerous notes saying that people were in Stafford County and didn't know where to vote and thought they voted in the city, and the mayor asked Ms. Bohmke to get in touch with them.

Ms. Bohmke said from an economic development standpoint, they were trying to bring dollars to the County or the City, and when everything says the city, people think that includes us across the river. She stated that they need to clear this up, and when she moved here 25 years ago and there were four merit scholars in south Stafford, the national news said they were from the City of Fredericksburg—but they were from Stafford County Schools.

Ms. Yeung asked if they wanted to change this before the voting cards go out or after.

Mr. Harvey responded that the U.S. Postal Service has the final say, so this would be Stafford County asking them to make the change, with no guarantee that they would agree to it and no confirmation of what their timeline would be, as they would need to change all their computer systems to reflect the correct area name. He noted that it was unlikely that this would happen before the voter cards go out.

Mr. English stated that he would like to get more public input on this, to give them time to change what they needed to, with at least a six-month leeway for the change if the post office approves it. He said he agreed with everything that other Board members had said, and he had received emails from people saying not to do it.

Mr. Harvey said if the Board were successful in convincing the postal service to change the area designation, the Planning and Zoning Office would send out a letter to the property owners to make them aware that the address has changed. He noted that there were approximately 25,000 buildings in those two ZIP codes, with an initial estimate that it would be fairly expensive to send notices out to everyone, which would be a funding consideration.

Ms. Allen stated that when she talks to people in the south part of the County, they typically say they live in Fredericksburg, which she thought was odd since the address says "Stafford." She asked if they would be doing a communication piece to educate people, as a lot of people with the Fredericksburg mailing address say they live there, not Stafford. She stated that a lot of people may even purchase property in the south, thinking that they live in Fredericksburg. She also asked if this would have an impact on property values if developers were telling people they live in Fredericksburg.

Mr. Harvey said that if the Board directs staff to proceed, they can move forward with communications on this. He said he wasn't sure if it affected property values, and he thinks that what affects people moving to an area is the schools their children will attend—and generally speaking, Stafford schools are well-regarded.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Mr. Coen for bringing this forward and said it was something she had been asked when she was campaigning for Supervisor, which she wanted to address after COVID subsided. She said that she has heard stories where deputies have shown up at houses and find out people have called the wrong place for help, so this would create more transparency. She stated that she is confident that Fredericksburg gets economic development opportunities that really should be Stafford, and she would do whatever she could to support it. She agreed with Mr. English that she would like to hear from constituents for full transparency and understanding of why this is being moved forward. She asked what Mr. Coen would like to do for next steps.

Mr. Coen stated that Mr. Spence could put it on the County's website to let the public know that the Board is considering it. He said they don't need a public hearing on this, as it has to come back as New Business.

Ms. Vanuch said that perhaps the Board could ask after the tax rate vote meeting to have Mr. Spence put this item on the website and do some surveys to do community input and put this out on social media, then plan to bring it back to the Board at the end of May as Unfinished Business.

Mr. Coen said that was fine, as they had to wait for the postal service anyway, and this way the public had plenty of time to give input.

Director of Community Engagement Andrew Spence stated that he was happy to proceed as the Board desired and could even do a video with Ms. Vanuch and Mr. Coen to at least explain what the survey was about and what the goal of this effort was.

Ms. Allen suggested that they also do a poll.

Mr. Spence said that it wouldn't be a scientific poll but could at least provide feedback.

Ms. Yeung asked if they had touched base with the post office yet to see about a timeline.

Mr. Harvey responded that they haven't yet because they weren't sure about the Board's direction, but they would start engaging the postal service if the Board passed the resolution.

Mr. English said that they needed to get something from the post office before they went public with it.

Ms. Vanuch stated that the federal government requires an official resolution, and they can communicate to the public that they are just asking the postal service to do that.

Mr. Coen commented that Mr. Toigo had communicated or looked at other instances where this has happened, so he has already done some of the background work on this.

Item 18. Budget and Management; Consider Budgeting and Appropriating Funding for Artificial Turf Fields at Colonial Forge and North Stafford High Schools.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Yeung, to remove R22-90 from the table.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(6)	Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(1)	Allen

Ms. Vanuch stated that the former motion was to approve R22-90 using the proffer funds in Option B presented before the Board. She asked Ms. Light for a quick review.

Ms. Light explained that the resolution as amended would provide for proffers from Liberty Knolls in the amount of \$975K and Westgate in the amount of \$525K to support the turf field at Colonial Forge High School in the total of \$1.5 million; proffers from Winding Creek in the amount of \$280,487 are currently available today; the remaining proffers would be from Whitson Woods in the amount of \$411,920; and \$808,223 from Winding Creek. She stated that those would be fronted for now by capital projects reserve and paid back as proffers were received, providing \$3 million in funding for the schools' capital project fund in support of the turf fields at North Stafford and Colonial Forge high schools.

Ms. McClendon suggested withdrawing the original motion and making a new one for the resolution, and she asked the Board to allow staff to include some reimbursement language; typically, when we have to reimburse ourselves when we prepay proffers, we put reimbursement language in there. So, if that is included in the motion, you can add that after the fact.

Ms. Yeung withdrew her former motion, and Mr. Coen agreed.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve R22-90 as presented with reimbursement language for the funds the County is fronting for the proffers.

Ms. Gary said there seemed to be an option to backfill what they're taking out of the CIP if they move forward, and she said she wanted to get this done but it was a matter of prioritizing. She said that she would like the \$3 million set aside from excess County fund balance for Elementary School #18 and discuss it at their next work session. Ms. Gary stated that she would support this in good faith, as she did not believe her colleagues would like to negatively impact elementary school students.

Mr. English thanked the Chair for bringing forward the use of proffer funds, and he agreed with Ms. Gary about the more critical needs at the elementary schools.

Mr. Coen stated that in January, he came up with an idea of how to fund this, but the schools were not inclined to approach it that way. He said that he reached out to athletes and coaches in different sports to get their input, and they said the difference in turf versus grass is the speed of the game—

so not training on turf is a disadvantage. He stated that the idea of turf arose when he was on the Planning Commission, at which time he had great consternation about doing it. He said that this is a different time and situation now, and he thanked Ms. Lowry and Ms. Lysher and other speakers for their efforts.

Mr. Coen commented that he never liked the word “parity” because not every school has the same programs and amenities, and he has been to schools where alumni will build something like a weight room or press box—and if that happens, he wondered if that meant every school would now have to do one. He said that he understands that there are other issues that have taken precedence, but he and Mr. English have been dealing with this since 2014. He said that he hoped the school system would take him up on his idea of a fund so that companies and individuals can do things for certain programs.

Ms. Allen stated that she doesn’t have an issue fundamentally with turf fields, but she does have an issue with them having greater needs at North Stafford that they haven’t been addressed for years. She said that people have been calling for the fine arts wing to be addressed, but it still hasn’t been, and it bothers her a little bit that it hasn’t gathered any traction. She stated that she hoped that fine arts get resolved sooner than later, Drew Middle and Elementary School #18 got resolved sooner than later.

Ms. Bohmke said that she has been a big supporter of turf fields, her kids played on them, and for a long time Stafford High School didn’t have a turf field—it was her predecessor, Supervisor Stinson changed the Leeland Station proffers and moved that turf field up, making it one of the first in the County. She stated that there were a few other transactions where Supervisors added the turf fields into proffers. Ms. Bohmke emphasized that she tried to look at what was in her district and how to help her true constituents—but her other job was looking at the entire County, and she saw how these turf fields have helped and improved the way students operate and act at these other high schools.

Ms. Bohmke said that back in 2010, one of the best girls’ field hockey teams—Cox High School from Virginia Beach—had to play on one of Stafford’s grass fields, and they walked up and commented on the grass. Ms. Bohmke noted that Stafford had won, and the fact that field hockey had been brought up to Spotsylvania for VHSL was amazing, because it used to be that teams had to go to Virginia Beach. Great opportunity for us to bring economic development dollars here.

Ms. Bohmke commented that she had read an email from a parent at North Stafford that said for Senior Night they couldn’t be on their own field at their own high school, they were at another field at a park. She stated that you want to be at your own school for Senior Night in your own environment, and she is a huge proponent of athletics because kids are learning much more than

just the sport—they learn how to be a better person and look people in the eye and shake their hand, and how to carry themselves. She agreed that performing arts were just as important.

Ms. Yeung stated that this is about equaling the playing field so that students can be better in their sport. She said that she had voted for this when she was on the School Board, and she agreed with Mr. Coen that it would be good to have private funds for projects like this. She stated that they should look at Drew Middle School and the elementary school next, as well as the arts wing at North Stafford.

Ms. Vanuch commented that there may be some confusion about how the proffer funds were being used, and she explained that this was money dedicated from subdivisions that could expand access and field access. She said that allowing more people to play and more games to be played allows them to utilize the proffer funds, and they did have to do some budget maneuvering, so that money was essentially allocated to the CIP; instead of taking it out of the additional revenue received this year, that money is cash that doesn't have to be used on these fields because they are taking a "loan" from their capital projects. She emphasized that it didn't take away from the elementary school and would be able to reallocate the funding they would have spent on the fields to the elementary schools, by using capital reserve funds to frontload the proffers for the turf fields. She noted that this was how Mountain View's turf fields were done.

Ms. Vanuch said that if Ms. Lowry and Ms. Lysher had not come to the Board and raised this issue, the Board would not have made this a priority—so for anyone out there thinking that one or two women can make a difference, they are so wrong. Ms. Vanuch stated that they should really be proud of themselves for their action, as they attended Board meetings and School Board meetings, as well as using Facebook and getting the community involved. She said that was true community activism and gave them a round of applause.

Ms. Bohmke commented that she didn't want people to be concerned about Drew Middle School and the asbestos there, as the only worry about asbestos is during the removal process. She said that Drew Middle and Hartwood Elementary are old schools, and they are trying to address those needs but she did not want parents to be alarmed that they were sending their children into schools that were unsafe and unhealthy.

Ms. Gary stated that she was not presently concerned for the safety of children, but they do have rebuilding needs.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve R22-90 as presented with reimbursement language for the funds the County is fronting for the proffers.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (6) Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (1) Allen

Resolution R22-90 reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE PROFFERS TO PROVIDE
ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS AT COLONIAL FORGE AND NORTH STAFFORD
HIGH SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the School Board has requested funding to provide for Turf Fields at North Stafford and Colonial Forge High Schools, which are the only two high schools in the County that currently do not have these fields; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has approved a contract with FieldTurf USA contingent upon the budget and appropriation of funds in the amount of Two Million Eight Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Dollars (\$2,891,774) and contingency of One Hundred Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars (\$108,226); and

WHEREAS, proffers are available from Liberty Knolls West in the amount of Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$975,000) and Westgate in the amount of Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$525,000) to support Colonial Forge High School; and

WHEREAS, proffers are available from Winding Creek in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$280,487) to support North Stafford High School; and

WHEREAS, proffers are projected to be collected from Whitson Woods in the amount of Four Hundred Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$411,290) and from Winding Creek in the amount of Eight Hundred Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$808,223) to support North Stafford High School; and

WHEREAS, County Capital Projects Reserve funds can be used and repaid by the future collections of the Whitson Woods and Winding Creek proffers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) in proffer funds, as noted from the developments above, be and they hereby are budgeted and appropriated as follows, to provide artificial turf fields at North Stafford and Colonial Forge High Schools:

Fund	Purpose	Amount
General Fund	Transfer to Schools' Capital Projects Fund	\$3,000,000

Schools' Capital Projects Fund	Artificial turf fields at North Stafford and Colonial Forge High Schools	\$3,000,000
--------------------------------	--	-------------

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in anticipation of the receipt of the proffer funds from the developments referenced herein above, funds shall be provided from the County's Capital Project Reserve Fund, which funds shall be reimbursed once the applicable proffer funds are received.

Item 19. Budget and Management; Consider Appropriating ARPA Funds to Support the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth.

Ms. Krauss reported that the County received a request from the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth, and she and Ms. Yeung sit on that commission. Ms. Krauss said that at one of their meetings, that board directed the executive director to make this request to all the localities that supervise the commission. She said that FAB moved it forward, and they had requested additional information regarding the CARES grant process and wanted to know what they had awarded in that process.

Ms. Krauss asked Office on Youth Executive Director Davy Fearon to provide information, stating that he had put together the request. She said the funds are for a substance abuse contract for therapy, and the other request was related to a van, with a third request for computers to expand classroom size for the youth. She said that another concern at FAB was whether the other localities don't provide funding, and she outlined in the background report that if they only funded portions of that, the substance abuse therapy services would only go to Stafford youth; that cost is broken out in the background report. She noted that the vans and computers would be used by all of the youth.

Ms. Vanuch noted that this would be coming back for a vote on April 19, and she asked Mr. Fearon if he wanted to provide information on the other localities.

Mr. Davy Fearon stated that he did not have much information from them but had attended their Board of Supervisors meetings as well and made his appeal. He said that he felt those localities would support it because it is for the kids served, and he confirmed for Ms. Vanuch that he did not know when those localities would be taking a vote.

Ms. Vanuch asked if he could get that information to the Board prior to the next meeting, because if they had it on an agenda and did plan to support it, he would know the process by which it would be brought forward in their budget, ARPA funds via resolution, etc.

Mr. Fearon agreed to provide that information.

Ms. Allen said that Ms. Krauss noted, if the other localities don't supply as much money to the program, the money Stafford earmarks would serve just those kids. She asked how that was tracked.

Mr. Fearon explained that they schedule intake appointments for substance abuse services, and it would definitely be made clear what the availability of therapists would be and that Stafford County residents would receive those services; others would have a different fee scale.

Ms. Bohmke asked how they can dictate that only Stafford kids would be served, as that didn't seem right to her.

Ms. Krauss explained that they are currently referring the kids out to get those services, and historically, the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board has provided those in house through an MOU—but they are having staffing shortages, so there is a very long wait list. She said that part of the discussion at the commission level was whether they could contact their own therapist in the community, with a certain number of hours to provide those services more quickly. She said that often when these referrals come in from the juvenile justice system, waiting for that has an impact. She said that if they were going to do that for Stafford, the other jurisdictions are still referred out to the Community Services Board or other therapists, but they would be doing this in house and could get those services to Stafford citizens more quickly.

Ms. Yeung thanked Mr. Fearon for being here and said she appreciated the work his agency did. She said that this organization was a passion for Mr. Snelling, and she was trying to do the best she could to fill those shoes.

Mr. Fearon thanked the Board for their support and funding.

CLOSED MEETING

At 4:37 p.m., Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to adopt proposed Resolution CM22-11 to authorize closed session.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
No:	(0)	

Resolution CM22-11 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for (1) consultation with legal counsel and briefing by staff members pertaining to pulling the securities for a specific development, which is probable litigation, where such consultation or briefings in open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture of the Board, (2) consultation with legal counsel pertaining to *Grove, et al. v. Stafford County Bd. of Zoning Appeals, et al.* (CL22-875), where such consultation or briefings in open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture of the Board, and (3) discussion concerning the County Administrator position.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and (A)(7) such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that it be and hereby does authorize discussion of the above matters in Closed Meeting.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING

At 4:55 p.m., Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to adopt Resolution CM22-11(C) to certify the closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(7)	Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
No:	(0)	

Resolution CM22-11 (C) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE
STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED
MEETING ON APRIL 5, 2022

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 5th day of April, 2022, adjourned into a Closed Meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act provides for certification that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with the law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify, on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that to the best

of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING AFTER ACTION

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to approve proposed Resolution R22-105, appointing Michael T. Smith as Interim Stafford County Administrator and Clerk of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
No: (0)

Resolution R22-105 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL T. SMITH AS INTERIM STAFFORD
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CLERK OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, the Board has received and accepted the resignation of County Administrator Frederick J. Presley, effective April 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint an Interim County Administrator and Clerk of the Board to fill the duties of the position until a permanent administrator can be selected; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to employ and contract with Michael T. Smith to fill the position and Mr. Smith has agreed to accept the position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 5th day of April, 2022, that it be and hereby does appoint Michael T. Smith as the Interim County Administrator and Clerk of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, effective April 20, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. (Effective Date); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the Effective Date, Mr. Frederick J. Presley shall no longer be Stafford County Administrator but shall remain employed by the Board in a consultative role through the end of his Employment Agreement with the Board, as last amended February 8, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that before the Effective Date, on Monday, April 18, 2022, Mr. Smith shall begin a paid transitional employment period, but shall have no power or authority to act until the Effective Date provided herein; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman is hereby authorized to execute an employment agreement with Mr. Smith on behalf of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, consistent with the terms discussed with the Board in closed session.

RECESS

At 4:56 p.m., the Board adjourned its meeting until the evening session.

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Vanuch called the evening session to order. Ms. Bohmke gave the invocation and Ms. Yeung led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Recognizing April 1–7, 2022 as Local Government Education Week

Mr. Coen stated that April 1–7, 2022 was considered Local Government Education Week, and he asked Camellia Genovese, Sean Meese, Jacob Jenkins, Brady Nash, and Gave Mauer to come up to the dais. He said that these students take part of many activities in Stafford County, and they are going back to 3rd grade tours post-COVID, which brings them in to learn about County government; they are also going back to having Student Government Day, where they have 17 students from each of the high schools coming to the courthouse, with some doing rotations, some serving as Board members, and having a mock Board meeting. He said that the topic for the mock meeting topic will be whether Stafford should try to get the Washington Commanders to have a football field and stadium here.

Mr. Coen said that Stafford has a terrific program with Youth Engaged in Stafford (YES), which allows high school juniors and seniors to serve on boards and commissions. He said that Amelia Genovese is on the Telecommunications Commission; Brady Nash is on the Rappahannock Area Services Board, and they get to provide input and have a say. He commented that it's really great that they have a process for this, and Superintendent of Schools Thomas Taylor was present at the meeting tonight. Mr. Coen said that the School Board has citizen advisory committees, and a Colonial Forge student was on one of the commissions, which was a great way for young people to give input on local government.

Mr. Coen read the proclamation and presented a recognition to the student group.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were none presented.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 20. Budget and Management; Consider the Proposed Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Tax Rates

BUDGET AND TAX RATES

Ms. Light stated that she would review all of the items together, noting that this was part of the County Administrator's proposed budget. She said that the real estate rate is proposed at 88.5 cents, which would be a \$13 million increase to revenues. She stated that through many of the budget work sessions, the Board has worked with staff to look at reducing that tax rate even further. She said the fire tax was advertised at 6.6 cents, and vehicles and other personal property tax were advertised at an effective rate of \$2.75. She noted that all of the service district rates were reduced so they could meet their minimum requirements for the year.

Ms. Light stated that when they talk about the tax rate, they're looking at a budget-to-budget rate of 83 cents; if the Board adopted the tax rate at 83 cents, it would provide \$182 million in real estate tax revenue. She said that in FY22, the real estate revenue was \$182 million—so 83 cents is really what the equalized tax rate is, and it does distribute the tax burden across the value of real property. She noted that there would be taxpayers who end up paying more because their assessments increased more than others. Ms. Light noted that it does account for increase in new construction and tax relief, and there is a \$12 million reduction to the FY23 proposed budget at the 83-cent rate.

Ms. Light reported that all funds this year are \$182.8 million as proposed in the County Administrator's budget, and this fully funds the Superintendent's budget but does not fund the School Board budget; they asked for an additional \$3.2 million, \$2 million of which would be for infrastructure, and \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million would be to help fund classroom supplies. She said that this budget increases staffing by 47 positions across the County, 30 of which would be considered public safety. She stated that it meets regional obligations and continues to support regional partners, as well as providing increased funding for transportation projects so they can fully fund the transportation bond projects. She noted that this was a reduction of \$12 million to the proposed budget.

Ms. Light reported that the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) resolution authorizes a sale in issuance of VPSA bonds but does not create an obligation of the Board. She stated that this was \$145.7 million, which authorizes all the construction funds for High School #6, the mechanical systems phase one at Drew Middle School, and replacement of mechanical system at Park Ridge. She said that approving the VPSA resolution did not bind the Board to a decision, these projects, or this dollar amount. She stated that the School Board and school staff will bring forward a VPSA application in the fall or the spring or both, and that's when the Board will make the decision on the dollar amount and those projects.

Ms. Light reported that meals and transient occupancy tax are proposed to increase, with the meals tax going from 5% to 6% and providing \$2.5 million in additional revenue; transient occupancy tax will increase from 5% to 7%, providing another \$766K in revenue. She said that these actions would allow the Board to make decisions that would help spread the tax burden among those who visit Stafford County and those who use the roads and services.

Ms. Light stated that the water and sewer rate recommends an increase of 2.5%, which aligns with the financial policies of the Utilities Department, that it increased at least 75% of CPIU. She said that this helped support operations, maintenance, and 3R; the increase per month ranges from \$1.47 to \$3.77.

Ms. Light said that these were the items for the public hearing, and she offered to answer questions.

Ms. Allen asked what the tax rate would have been if they had done incremental increases over the last two to three years.

Ms. Light stated that it would depend upon those assumptions. She said that in their budget last year, the tax rate was at 97 cents, and they assumed that those rates would increase 6.5%—but they actually increased 21%, so the tax rate could drop and still garner the same amount of revenue.

Ms. Allen asked what number the County would be looking at next year if the Board didn't adopt this proposed tax rate.

Ms. Light responded that they would likely be looking at a 6-cent increase based on the five-year plan, so that continues with adding deputies to the staff and starts to bring in the High School #6 service costs, which would really start coming in FY24.

Ms. Allen said if they were going to go with the effective rate of 83 cents, they would have to increase next year's rate by 6 cents at a minimum. She asked what they would be looking at next year if they adopted the 88.5.

Ms. Light responded that the incremental increase would still be 6 cents unless the Board took the 88.5 cents and reduced some of the proposals, then put that money toward capital. She said if the Board wanted to fund a portion of High School #6 out of real estate revenue, for example, they could say that a penny is dedicated to High School #6.

Ms. Allen said that at a bare minimum, they would still need to do 6 cents in addition to whatever they decided to share potentially to make up that revenue.

Ms. Vanuch said they had held multiple work sessions, but she would ask a few questions to provide transparency for the public, as most people don't watch these meetings.

She asked if at any point there had been discussion of not fully funding the superintendent's budget.

Ms. Light responded that she did not believe they had discussed that in a work session.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there has been anything proposed to take away from that budget.

Ms. Light responded that there had not been.

Ms. Vanuch asked what Ms. Light felt was the general consensus of the Board in terms of what staff could be looking at for a raise.

Ms. Light answered that it would be something closer to 4%–5%, which was what they were looking at with comparative jurisdictions. She said they were all put in a chart that was provided to the Board, with that range appearing to be more common with those. She noted that the School Board was looking at a 5% increase for all non-teacher positions, so that would provide parity as well.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there had been any conversations about the Board not funding the \$23 million of the teacher pay compression scale.

Ms. Light said that there had not been, as the Board had not made any choices to reduce the superintendent's budget.

Ms. Vanuch stated that as a taxpayer, she gets a property assessment, and the average assessment had gone up 24% this year. She asked what rate the Board would need to set so the average taxpayer wouldn't see an increase in what they pay the County for real estate taxes.

Ms. Light responded that it would be 83 cents, so that would give the same budgeted amount as what was projected in the 2022 budget.

Ms. Vanuch commented that anything lower would be a tax reduction, and anything higher would be a tax increase; they could project to pay the same amount in their assessments in general if the Board voted on the 83-cent tax rate.

Ms. Light confirmed this.

Ms. Yeung asked what the percentage of individuals out of the entire population were paying into the real estate tax, versus renters, etc.

Ms. Light responded that she did not have that information, but it was higher than other jurisdictions, with a large population of 100% disabled veterans who are tax exonerated.

Ms. Yeung commented that they want roads, infrastructure, businesses, and good schools here. She said they want to make sure that both school and local government employees are paid, and she asked what rate would be sufficient to cover that.

Ms. Light stated that the County Administrator's proposed rate was 88.5 cents, which supports all increases in his budget and all changes in service levels.

Ms. Yeung asked what it would be at 85.5 cents.

Ms. Light said that it would reduce some of the increases and affect the raise, which is currently proposed at 6.5%, due primarily to the cost of inflation. She stated that they would look there and look at some of the positions that were requested, as well as some of the new services requested, and look at how they can pare those down. She said that they would be looking to provide the same level of operation and gold service standards citizens are used to, with less funding.

Ms. Yeung said that would mean public safety, fire and rescue, infrastructure, roads, and schools.

Ms. Allen asked what the average tax bill increase would be at 88.5 cents.

Ms. Light responded that it's about \$450.

Ms. Allen asked how that was paid.

Ms. Light replied that it's paid in two different bills—June and December—and most people pay that through their mortgage. She said that they don't see that as closely, but the Treasurer's Office has set up a payment plan for those who don't pay their real estate taxes or personal property through their bank, so it could be paid incrementally if that helped your budget.

Ms. Allen stated that her second question was regarding the veterans' tax exoneration and how much they are losing to that, as well as what that represented on the tax rate.

Ms. Light responded that they are anticipating about \$14.5 million in exonerations for tax relief for 100% disabled veterans, with about \$2 million of that for senior tax relief. She said that Stafford is very fortunate to have military personnel who come here and retire and stay, and that includes a large population of disabled veterans, who do not pay real estate tax or personal property on their first vehicle.

Ms. Allen asked what that equated to in terms of pennies on the tax rate.

Ms. Light stated that it is 6.6 cents, and the program is state mandated, so the Board cannot change any of those requirements; it is also not reimbursed by the state, so it is an unfunded mandate.

Ms. Bohmke said for the personal property rate proposed at \$5.49 this year, Board members voted last year for \$6.10, and they have lowered that now. She noted that there had been an anomaly in the market where used cars held their value, so personal property taxes collected were greater than what the County expected. She asked what the effective rate would be for personal property this year.

Ms. Light responded that to bring the personal property rate equalized to what the proposed budget is, which is about \$3.6 million above, is \$4.77. She noted that this is at 100%, but they do the calculation at 50% and have an effective rate of \$2.75 at a \$5.49 tax rate.

Ms. Allen asked what it would be if they lowered it to get the same amount of money.

Ms. Light clarified that the \$4.77 would get them to the \$3.6 million budget increase, and she confirmed that this would help with CIP projects—and a true equalized rate would be an additional 29-cent reduction in that rate.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

1. Ms. Cindy Lamb, a former Supervisor, residing at 41 Wood Landing Road in the George Washington District addressed the Board and said there were countless hours and lots of expertise that go into the budget process. She said the Board members were not economists

and were elected for other reasons, so experts were hired to help—but what she sees does not reflect that. Ms. Lamb said that she wanted to take them back to the 2000s, and the Board has not mentioned concern for inflation. She stated that in 2008–2010, they lowered the tax rate in the face of that, but their peers didn't, and the result was obvious. She said that neighboring localities have schools and infrastructure, and they need to go back and look at history, which they did not do in their budget sessions. Ms. Lamb said that if they do that and talk to economists, they will realize that they won't be prepared for the future at the rate they are proposing.

Ms. Vanuch stated that the County Attorney indicated that they would need to do individual public hearings, and they needed to stay on message with what was being advertised.

2. Ms. Michelle Wickman of 305 Bentley Court stated that she is a homeowner in Hampton Oaks, the parent of two kids in SCPS schools and is a teacher at North Stafford. She said that she is a homeowner and is asking them to set the rate as high as it needs to be, despite the fact her assessment went up by \$65,000 this year—because she knows that's what they need to do. She stated that the slope of their revenue should be increasing to match the slope of their growth; those lines need to be parallel, but they're not. She said that their income did not keep up with their expenditures, and as elected officials, their job is to balance pleasing constituents with what needs to be done—and the latter should be the priority. She stated that Stafford has been growing at a tremendous rate, and they are building houses but are not building schools, nor are they bringing in the necessary businesses to generate revenue. She said that she doesn't want to pay more taxes any more than the next person, but she wasn't sure where the money was going to come from if they keep proceeding this way. She said that wherever they set the tax rate, it had better generate enough revenue to meet the needs in this County. She said the infrastructure is broken, and there is no good reason why they can't fully fund the school budget request every single year. She stated that if they don't generate the necessary revenue to cover more than just the bare necessities, Stafford County is living paycheck to paycheck. She said as a teacher in this County, she can say that it's a stressful way to live.
3. Ms. Kathy Butler of 1124 Lakeview Court, Stafford, addressed the Board and said she is the SCA president and a resident of the Rock Hill District. Ms. Butler stated that Stafford County is currently ranked 118 out of 132 school divisions in per-pupil expenditures, and considering Stafford has one of the highest median incomes in the country, they should all agree that they can do better. Ms. Butler said that this all points to the fact that Stafford does not prioritize spending on grades K-12 compared to other localities in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Butler asked the Board what they would do if she told them Stafford's SOL scores had them ranking 118 out of 132 school divisions. She said that would be a dire emergency to figure out how they can raise test scores. She stated that every day, they talk with members who are asking whether the pay raise would happen, because if it isn't, they're leaving Stafford County. She said it isn't about retaining and recruiting the best educators—it's about programs for students that deserve the very best. She said they can do more and owe it to students in the future, and she is asking the Board to set the tax rate at the advertised 88.5 cents so they can accomplish the goals set out in the superintendent's budget. She noted that she would be emailing them a copy of the rankings with the figures when she got home later and said they could reach out to her with any questions.

4. Ms. Kathryn Koch of 29 Fireberry Boulevard, Stafford, addressed the Board and stated that she is a resident of the Garrisonville District. Ms. Koch stated that this is the worst time to ask constituents to pay extra taxes, with rising costs in food, gas, and housing. She said that she is speaking for everyone in the County, as there are some struggling families out there. She stated that she is a disabled military veteran and does not want them to take away the exoneration or target veterans. She said that people realize that schools need funds and teachers need pay raises, but the extra line items need to be revisited and scrutinized. She stated that \$23 million is a lot to ask, and constituents would like to know where the money is going. She said that she supports teacher pay raises, and it has always been a battle—which should be automatic and not debated for our teachers. She added that if the school takes 62% of the County budget, constituents want to know where that money goes before arbitrarily agreeing to more tax increases, as they also needed to pay for police and fire. She said that the County wants to hire more administrative staff, but her answer is "no" at this time; if people have to tighten their belts, so should the County, and they should use the staff they already have to their fullest capacity. She added that if people are not doing their jobs, they should be replaced, but there should not be additional staff at this time.

Ms. Koch stated that they need funding for schools and infrastructure, but three tax increases, a new fire tax, and a utility user fee increase are unacceptable. She said that residents may be more amenable to tax increases if they go back to developers to share the costs, and transportation impact fees have not been increased in 12 years. She stated that water and sewer tap fees have not been increased in more than 11 years, and she asked why the tax burden was being put on individuals when developers were walking away with record profits. Ms. Koch implored the Board not to raise their taxes until they seek alternatives from developers and audit where funds have been going. She also asked for them to fight SB1373 passed in 2019 by Governor Northam, which did away with proffer money that could now be used in the County.

5. Ms. Angela Pitts of 9 Cobham Court stated that she is a homeowner, parent, and former Stafford County teacher, and she would like to appeal to the Board to fund the budget with the advertised tax rate. Ms. Pitts said that she did watch the budget meetings and understood the complexities, but there is an endemic issue here with underfunding schools—and it is showing in declining SOL scores, low teacher retention rate, and per-pupil expenditures of neighboring counties. She stated that although this is a hard time with record inflation, it is important that the schools get the attention that they need and are fully funded; she felt that most citizens feel this way.
6. Ms. Juliet Schweiter of 6 Regal Court addressed the Board and stated that she is a huge fan of schools and substitutes there. She said that students have learned nothing in distance learning and people should have been fighting to keep them in—not out—of schools. She stated that they have a mess on their hands, are losing good teachers, and students are running amuck. She said that they need to figure out how to get rid of dead-weight teachers and how to keep the good ones. She said that the County wants more administrative staff, but they need to look at whether there is more work or if people aren't pulling their weight. She stated that merit was a good thing, and she didn't understand why the schools had eight or nine equity officers; they need to have equity in the classroom so students can learn to count. She asked why they were hiring a "restorative justice expert," as principals need to be addressing discipline. She said that they have a lot of extra things in the schools, and perhaps they don't need to fund all \$23 million. She asked that they go back and look at the schools' budget and the County budget. Ms. Schweiter said that they need to keep the tax rate lower, and they need to tighten their belts and will still be able to do what they need to do.
7. Ms. Alane Callander of 622 Lancaster Street in the Falmouth District stated that staff had recommended going down to a lower rate, and she believes that 83 cents as an equalized rate is too low. She stated that the needs in the County are tremendous, and a lot of people come up and worry themselves over a little bit of a tax increase because they hate the word "taxes." She said that they don't just need a school or two, they need several, as well as renovations. She said they need fire and rescue facilities and so on, and they need to be realistic and quit kicking the can down the road.
8. Ms. Sarah Taylor of Fredericksburg stated that she has been a teacher for 20 years, 11 of which were at North Stafford High School, and she is relieved to hear that the staff part of the budget isn't at risk—but teachers don't just leave or stay because of pay, they leave or stay because of the situation they are in, and infrastructure is part of that. She said that most of the schools are near or over capacity, and the ones that aren't are projected to be over capacity in the next few years, which is draining for teachers, as is losing colleagues at

such a high rate. Ms. Taylor said that a big part of the problem with test scores is due to a lack of resiliency, because they were already at the edge of their abilities. She emphasized that they were already stretched thin and over capacity on what they could deal with, and past their capacity to make do with less. She noted that all the other school systems near them have bounced back—but Stafford didn't and would continue to see the consequences of that.

Ms. Taylor quoted from the *Free Lance Star*: "Stafford County Public Schools was ranked 64th of 132 school divisions statewide; however, in 2013, Stafford students were performing better than 87.5% of all other school systems in Virginia. One can and should expect some year-to-year variations, but a 36% plunge in less than a decade is a steep and inexplicable decline." Ms. Taylor said that it was not inexplicable—you get what you pay for.

9. Mr. Cliff Heinzer of 316 Ironside Cove in Aquia Harbor stated that the economy is probably not going to get much better than it is now, as there is an inflation issue but also record-low unemployment and higher wages. He asked what they were waiting for to address some of the County issues, because it would be even harder at the next downturn. He stated that there were many problems with the schools, and currently at Park Ridge, they are bussing children out of their neighborhood because they don't have the classroom capacity due to residential development expansion without putting school infrastructure in. He stated that they also need road improvements, along with parks and greenspace that will be needed to support the growing population, and he doesn't see how that can be done on the 88.5-cent rate or reducing it further. He asked when they would focus on things or whether they weren't really focused on making Stafford as livable a community as it could be.

Mr. Heinzer said that he had also not heard discussions of how they were factoring in inflation, because if it is going to be a continued issue, the budget should parallel that—and he wasn't sure if "revenue" was measured in real dollars or constant dollars. He noted that the reality is that residential development doesn't pay for itself, and they need to attract commercial development in business and enterprises to help bear the tax burden; to get the best businesses to do that, they need good schools—and 64 in rank isn't going to cut it. He asked what their plan was to get the schools where they needed to be, with a 6th ranking in income and 64th in schools. Mr. Heinzer wished them wisdom in their deliberations but said that it wasn't going to get any better than it is now.

10. Mr. Al Watkins, 12 England Run Lane, Fredericksburg, stated that he is a resident of the George Washington District and wanted to address the tax rate and budget. Mr. Watkins

said that he is a retired teacher now living on a fixed income, and he has concerns about the proposed 88.5-cent tax rate. He stated that his concern was not that it was too high, but that the Board might seek a much smaller rate in light of inflation. He said if that were the case, he asked that they reconsider and not elect a low tax rate that does a disservice to the community with budget cuts to essential services and already short-changed school division. He stated that if a portion of residents were adversely affected financially, they should make every effort to lessen that impact, especially on the elderly.

Mr. Watkins stated that as a newly constructed Board, this group of Supervisors is facing their first budget season, and this was a great opportunity to right the ship and chart a course towards addressing the major needs of the County as a whole. He said the schools needed to be fully funded, and whatever way they come together to address that, they need to make sure the tax rate generates enough to fully fund the schools and lessen the other burdens on the growth of the County. He noted that last year, 18% of staff left SCPS employment—and turnover may be even worse this year. He said that it was nearly impossible to fill open positions everywhere, and to attract and retain educators, pay is always the main issue, but working conditions are quickly rising as a concern. He added that the proposed teacher pay scale implements some very nice increases but still pales in comparison to their neighbor to their north.

Mr. Watkins said that he's been told to never compare Stafford to Prince William County schools, but everyone does and must—and every educator have to make a life decision as to what's best for themselves and their families. Mr. Watkins noted that Stafford teachers reach \$70K in their 21st year; in Prince William, they would achieve that in their 10th year. He said that if not fully funding the schools' budget, the implications will be far worse than that, and educators will not stay when facing realities, whether they love their position or not. He stated that the current CIP does not address the needs of the growing school population, and the County cannot afford to wait until 2029 for the next elementary school. Mr. Watkins agreed that Stafford is a fine place to work and live, and the opportunity to improve conditions lies with this Board.

11. Ms. Christine Jones of 30 Wild Oak Lane in the Aquia District stated that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome, and in August 2022, she will have worked for SCPS as an elementary school counselor for 20 years. She stated that in those years, the mental health needs of students have grown exponentially—and that has nothing to do with COVID, which just revealed what has been swept under the rug for so many years. She said the mental health needs of students are overwhelming, demanding, and mentally and physically taxing. She stated that they are in desperate need of more staff in each building to fully support students, and what they have

now is not enough—nor is it sustainable. Ms. Jones implored the Board to fully fund the School Board budget and set the tax rate higher, because people have been doing more with less for so long that there's now nothing left.

The Chair closed the CY2022 tax rate public hearing.

Item 21. Budget and Management; Consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 County Budget, FY2023-FY2032, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), And Issuance of FY2023 Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) General Obligation Debt.

The Chair opened the (FY) 2023 County Budget, FY2023-FY2032, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), And Issuance of FY2023 Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) General Obligation Debt public hearing.

1. Ms. Juanita Shanks of 6904 Xandu Court, Fredericksburg, addressed the Board and thanked them for their support of Failsafe-ERA, which provides reformative strategies to families impacted by incarceration. Ms. Shanks said that the programs provided help remove barriers these individuals face when they reenter society, and their Right Road reentry program is evidence-based, cognitive behavioral, skills-building model that addresses their behavior and challenges them to change their thought process. She stated that the program is accomplished through individual case management services, as well as small-group coaching, emotional intelligence, resiliency, and job training. She said the program also provides educational and employment opportunities, limited housing support, and trauma-informed mental health intervention and treatment.

Ms. Shanks stated that last year, they served 265 formerly incarcerated citizens, and 40 family members, all from Planning District 16; of that 265, 65 were residents of Stafford County. She said they have expanded services to form a Criminal Justice Task Force of community leaders to address the General Assembly legislation, which is going to release thousands of inmates back into their communities on July 1, 2022—which could be anywhere from 4,500 to 14,000 inmates—in addition to releases coming from the regional jail. She thanked the Board for their support of the Failsafe budget request and stated that if they do not provide individuals with adequate training and resources, that exacerbates the multiple challenges that accompany reentry.

2. Ms. Ann Kloeckner of 500 Lafayette Court, Stafford, stated that she is executive director of Legal Aid Works, which has been serving Stafford County since 1973. She thanked them for the opportunity to speak and their previous support, noting that Legal Aid is asking for level funding and understands the need to balance a tight budget. Ms. Kloeckner

stated that their full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney cover five counties and 15 courts in this planning district; they represent low-income people who need an attorney for civil matters such as domestic violence protective orders, unemployment benefits that have been illegally denied, and landlord, tenant, and foreclosure matters. She said they are the only agency providing this service, and in Stafford County, there are 6,171 eligible low-income persons who could qualify.

Ms. Kloeckner stated that they are an outside agency that behaves like an inside agency by helping County governments by taking the strain off of the social services safety net by lifting clients out of poverty with enforceable court orders of child and spousal support, as well as unemployment benefits—all of which clients would not have one without legal intervention. She said they help the County court system run efficiently by helping those who can't afford an attorney, and those unrepresented litigants slow the system down considerably. She added that they also aid law enforcement by working with victims of violence to secure enforceable protective orders.

Ms. Kloeckner said the pandemic intensified the difficulties faced by the poorest residents of the County, and it was hard to shelter in place when you're being illegally evicted or foreclosed upon. She stated that Legal Aid advocates set up mobile outreach projects that targeted the General District Court in Stafford when there were skyrocketing eviction dockets, offering free legal advice and assisting with rent relief applications. She said that without this assistance, many more Stafford constituents would've become homeless. She stated that for them to provide good constituent services, she asked that they refer them to legalaidworks.org for information about their rights and the agency's intake process a reality.

3. Ms. Michele Wickman of 305 Bentley Court stated that she is a resident of Hampton Oaks, with two students in Stafford schools, and she is a teacher at North Stafford High School. She said that accommodating for growth in the CIP is her biggest concern, and they need to start building schools or it will keep forcing redistricting. She stated that High School #6 is long overdue and is already budgeted for, and the smartest item to put next would be rebuilding Drew Middle School; swapping its location with Rising Star would eliminate the need for a land purchase and kill two birds with one stone. She said that it also makes financial sense for them to invest in a package of elementary schools instead of planning them individually.

Ms. Wickman said she would also like to make a plug for the North Stafford fine arts wing because it is a relatively low-cost item that is long overdue and could be easily funded with savings from under-budget or long-time projects. She stated that schools need considerably

more funding for maintenance and repairs, and currently they only have \$1.5 million dedicated for 3R projects annually—which is very low and needs to be more in the \$15-20 million range. She stated that she appreciates the effort the Board has made to work with the School Board, and she knows they understand the rationale behind Dr. Taylor's request. She said that every line item in that budget is put together by people who are experts in education, and she hoped they were not questioning what they were asking for, as she was not. She said that it has become unfortunately common for people in the education profession to be asked to do more with less, and their per-pupil expenditures in Stafford are embarrassing. She said they are far behind neighboring regions and among the lowest in the state for years, and this is the eighth year she has come before them with this issue. She stated that she is doing everything in her power to accommodate this—and she's asking them what's within theirs to change this course.

Ms. Wickman said if they wanted to enact positive change around here, they should start investing in schools and start getting their per-pupil expenses "out of the toilet." She asked what kind of legacy they wanted to leave in Stafford and what kind of impression they wanted to make on legislators—because it starts now with their decisions on funding. She said that regardless of their history on the Board, they all have the opportunity to reverse the unfortunate trend they have been stuck in, and they can start by fully funding the entirety of what the School Board asked for, not just what Dr. Taylor presented.

4. Ms. Shannon Fingerholz of 19 Cardinal Forest Drive in the Hartwood District stated that the 2040 Strategic Plan barely focuses on K-12 education, and this morning she saw something that brought her to tears. She explained that she was in the elementary school drop-off line and saw an adult caregiver yank a young child out of a car to get him to school; he was visibly frustrated. Ms. Fingerholz said that the principal stepped in to diffuse the situation and get the little boy inside the school. She said that this made her think how they are making improvements for children, and while they may think they're not responsible for what happens in the child's home, they do put that responsibility on teachers to keep an eye out for those children. She said if they keep being overcrowded and keep putting kids in these schools, it would get easier and easier to get lost in the wash. She stated that the first thing kids need is to be noticed, and it is often where they get their food, shelter, comfort, validation, and love.

Ms. Fingerholz emphasized that these teachers are strapped, have been strapped, yet they still make it work—but the County needs to stand up behind the teachers and give them what they need to protect all the little children in the school system. She said that if they don't build these schools, they will end up in the County's courthouses, which is not where they want them to be. She stated that they need more than just what's in an annual budget—

they need to be proactive (like the website says), which they are not, and build the new schools.

5. Ms. Amy Reiser of 13 Westhampton Court in the Garrisonville District said she was before the Board today to ask that they appropriately allocate funds to the schools. She said that due to the lack of school buildings, her children were now being taken out of a school they can walk to and moved to another. She stated that instead of facing the true issue of why schools are overcrowded in Stafford County, they continue to piecemeal together solutions that do not benefit teachers or students. She said the reality of the overcrowding is that the County needed new elementary schools on both the north and south ends years ago. She stated that they live in a continuously growing County with homes constantly being built, with many of those homes having children that will need schools.

Ms. Reiser said the constant redistricting will solve nothing when they have no place to put them, and continuing to shuffle them around is doing a disservice to all of them, especially since these moves will not be a permanent solution by any means. She stated that the schools would continue to be full, and teachers deserve to have realistic class sizes, with incredible teachers leaving Stafford just to go a few miles north to Prince William—where they can make more money, have smaller classes, and still be relatively close to home. She implored the Board to fund the schools, build new schools, and hold the developers accountable, as well as paying teachers what they deserve. She stated that they want the County to grow in a positive direction, and without funded schools and awesome educators, the only direction is down.

6. Ms. Michelle Hedrich, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Fredericksburg expressed gratitude for the Board's past funding support. She said that the Stafford CARES grant was critical to their operation during the pandemic, and they sincerely appreciate Stafford's commitment to supporting them during the pandemic, as well as County staff like Ms. Krauss who took on added responsibility for managing the grant process. She said that Big Brothers had asked the Board of Supervisors to approve their funding request to help local children achieve their full potential, as the organization helps them realize educational success, build their futures, and strengthen the community. She stated that this funding would help them continue to enroll children and volunteer mentors, conduct background checks, and train mentors; they create and support meaningful mentoring experiences that provide access to opportunities that every child should have. She said they partner with the Stafford County schools to provide mentoring for students who need additional support to meet learning standards, with e-mentoring during the pandemic. She said that BBBS was recognized and honored by the School Board last year, and the power of a mentor can change a child's life.

Ms. Hedrich said that one parent indicated that the program has impacted her daughter's life as "a lifesaver," with her Big Sister always there to celebrate the good and help her with the bad, helping her get through a lot of teenage situations. She stated that the Big Sister lets the girl know that she's loved, valued, and can do anything she put her mind to. Ms. Hedrich stated that the Surgeon General issued a public health advisory in December regarding youth mental health, stating that the pandemic had exacerbated unprecedented stressors young children already face—with BBBS serving those who already live in adverse situations who experience elevated levels of trauma as families experience lost income and COVID-related health and mental health issues. She said that the past two years have highlighted the importance of meaningful relationships in the community, and their program is more vital than ever.

Ms. Hedrich stated that she is retiring after 11 years as executive director and recently received a call from her former Little Sister, who was matched with her Big Sister 40 years ago. She said that her Little Sister told her that her Big Sister was the reason she went to college and had a successful career helping others; her Big Sister was also by her side last year when she had a life-threatening health issue, and she called BBSS to thank them. She asked that anyone who would like to be a mentor should be directed to BBSSFred.org, and she thanked the Board for their support of children—as they work together as defenders of potential.

7. Ms. Anne Adams of 210 Kent Avenue in the George Washington District stated that most everyone saw their home assessments increase this year—but they all need to share in funding their County. She said they heard earlier that their proposed tax rate of 88.5 cents would fully fund the school and County budgets, and they need to fund the majority of SCPS educators, most of whom live here; they need an educated citizenry; and they need to show today's schoolchildren that this Board supports their futures and sees them as a priority.
8. Ms. Iretha Lowery of 120 Tyson Court in the Hartwood District stated that she is just getting involved, but she knows they need new schools and has been called to pick up her kids early because there is sewage in the hallways; they cannot drink the water from the fountains; and schools have stacks of totes because teachers have no storage. Ms. Lowery said she would like for every Board member to take a tour of every elementary school so they can see firsthand what's going on and might make a different decision. She stated that Mr. Coen had made the comment of having pride in the County, but seeing the condition of the roads and schools does not give her pride—it makes her frustrated, and she knows that Stafford County can do better. Ms. Lowery stated that it's great to see the Board excited

about the turf fields and sports, but she would like to see them excited about education and wanting better for their teachers. She said that the children are the future, and this gives her pride and makes her excited.

Ms. Lowery stated that she appreciated Ms. Gary's comment about sewage in the school hallways, and she wants to try to fix it. She said that Mr. English had said "don't waste your time" looking at repairs, because they are going to build a new school and tear Hartwood down. She said that she will work to find money to build a new school, and she encouraged other parents watching this to come to these meetings and start getting involved.

9. Ms. Alane Callander 622 Lancaster in the Falmouth District said that she was before them to support the departments and community agencies that serve the citizens who are most hurting and are most in need of a helping hand from County government. She urged them to make sure the taxes they pay are actually used to benefit citizens through better schools, emergency services, transit, food for the hungry, mental health services, legal services, the invaluable services provided by the library system, etc. She asked that they make sure that County departments led by constitutional officers aren't getting non-essential extras that would be better allocated to areas of critical need—which are many.

Ms. Callander said there is a new position in the Planning and Zoning Department that she strongly supports because it will help build the tourism industry in the County and impact quality of life in a positive way: the Cultural Resource Officer. She stated that they are suffering the consequences of not keeping this person on County staff, and rather than indiscriminately stripping history-rich lands and artifacts to build mega-warehouses that bring in tractor-trailers that clog I-95, they need to do more thoughtful economic development. She said regarding the CIP, she watched the last School Board meeting, and the stories about overcrowded schools, children leaving neighborhood schools, and facilities needing repair or rebuild were all very disturbing to hear. She stated that they are known as being a County of high income, but they have no income tax and rely on real estate tax too much.

Ms. Callander stated that until they get more support from developers, the business community, and state and federal sources, there aren't enough means for building the new schools or acquiring the land for the schools—and they have to squeeze the real estate taxes as much as they can. She said the CIP was very telling, and they are in trouble. She said they know they don't have enough public buildings, as reflected in the fact they don't have enough places for election-day polling precincts.

10. Mr. Cliff Heinzer of 316 Ironside Cove in Aquia Harbor stated that in addition to some of the maintenance issues already highlighted in the schools, they also do need to consider the long-term legacy issue— asbestos, which would have to be factored into the budget. He said that the County is deficient in recreational facilities, which are as important as getting turf onto high school fields. He stated that he also wanted to ensure the Board was adequately addressing public safety needs, which were highlighted when they had the snowstorm in January. He said that they were also concerned about the under-compensation of the Board and wanted them to consider at least getting it to parity with other localities, as they put in a lot of time and sacrifices.
11. Mr. Joshua Cole of 1138 James Madison Circle in the Falmouth District stated that he was before them to join others in encouraging full funding of the school budget. He said that they want to make sure that regardless of ZIP code or language, all students need to have a chance to thrive in schools that serve as resources for them. Mr. Cole said that some policymakers in Stafford have chosen penny pinching over investing in students and the County's collective future, and they have fallen behind their neighbors. He stated that catching up on giving teachers the resources they need to succeed means that local policymakers need to be bold as they propose a budget that meets needs and keeps them competitive.

Mr. Cole said that Stafford spends about 83% above the required local effort by the state, but the average across the state is 105% above the baseline. He stated that there is a near consensus that money matters with educational outcomes, especially for children that face more barriers to learning. He said that this is clearly seen in SOL and graduation results, where a child's race, English learning, or economic disadvantages become all too predictive of their outcomes. He noted that Stafford had some of the biggest disparities in the state, and they should share a collective state in making sure the next generation of workforce is highly educated and prepared for the evolving economy. He said by leaving entire groups behind through inadequate school funding, they are sabotaging their future and the competitiveness on the County. He noted that Stafford's mission statement mentions "progress," which means developing to a higher, better, or more advanced state—and he encouraged them to consider whether they were making progress as they made their decisions.

The Chair closed the FY2023 County Budget, FY2023 Budget Appropriation, FY2023-2032 CIP, and FY2023 VPSA public hearing.

Item 22. Budget and Management; Consider an Ordinance to Increase the Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes.

The Chair opened the increase to the meals and transient occupancy taxes public hearing.

1. Mr. Carlos Bratton of 37 Bloomington Lane in Stafford, Griffis-Widewater District, said he was speaking on behalf of the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center. He said that he is a County resident, is a former Marine, and is doing well. He said that there is nowhere to go to find history on Stafford County, and they need to be able to provide that for the community. He stated that he wants to promote positivity in Stafford, and they need the resources to be able to do that, and they need to be able to foster the core identity. He said the average person does not have his educational background, such as a master's in economics, and they need to provide those opportunities for people—including funding Stafford County Public Schools—and they must not let other localities promote Stafford's history for them.
2. Ms. Sue Henderson of 110 Old Landing Court in the George Washington District said she is executive director of the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center, noting that Stafford is one of the most historic counties in the United States. She said that the County contains a vast array of nationally significant prehistoric and historic sites. She stated that in 2017, they began efforts to consider new approaches to telling their story, including consulting with state-level museum experts, hosting community learning sessions, reorganizing governance systems to better represent the historical community. She said that part of these efforts has resulted in engaging a more diverse representation of volunteers and focusing on administrative infrastructure to prepare for a permanent museum.

Ms. Henderson said that people who live in Stafford County have said they want a vibrant community with amenities, a sense of place, and an identity they can call their own. She stated that a high-energy museum would motivate residents and visitors to explore Stafford's rich and historical environmental locations for multi-generational experiences. She said that strategically providing a unique venue that focuses on existing community heritage assets serves to increase tourism and ensure local tourism dollars remain in the area. She said that this is an intentional hub-and-spoke approach, allowing the center to closely work with existing tourism destinations and encourage deeper engagement on those sites. She stated that the potential for this to be transformative is real, if it is envisioned beyond a traditional museum experience and leverages key assets unique to Stafford County.

She said that identifying a location and funding stream for the museum will also implement one of the Board's three-year priorities as specified in the 2040 Vision Statement and Strategic Plan. She said the museum needs to be modern, efficient,

lively, and integrated with other attractions and County endeavors. She said that it also needs to be about the people and interesting events that occurred here—not just dates and dry facts. She said from tobacco to amphibious warfare, Stafford County spans more than 400 years of significant contributions in the building of this nation; the stories of the people who created it are what the museum will tell.

Ms. Henderson encouraged the Board to support the meals and transient occupancy tax to allow their vision for a funding stream for the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center to be realized.

3. Ms. Gayle Thyrring of 971 Coriander Lane in the Garrisonville District said she was here in support of increasing the TOT by 2%, with part of that increase going to the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center. She said that 1% of this revenue flow, along with fundraising, would allow the museum to come to fruition, operate, and flourish. She said that she has lived and worked here since 1995, including 20 years in the school system, ending her career as an elementary school principal. Ms. Thyrring said she has been a board member for the museum since she retired in 2017, and their story is that Stafford is “the county that built the nation.”

Ms. Thyrring said that she has noticed in her tenure on that board that people want a museum that is high-energy, innovative, flexible, collaborative, and meaningful to all ages and groups of people. She stated that they want a museum dedicated to educating adults and students in a way that’s different from the traditional museum—looking outside the box for ways to do that so it can continue to grow and be meaningful in the future. She said that she sees students who are looking for ways to build the social life and economy of Stafford County for themselves and their families, and she has worked with local experts with the knowledge and willingness to support their creation and growth of a museum and cultural center. She stated that in many ways, she feels they have given up their history and sacrificed it to the north and south of Stafford, but they can and should showcase those things unique to the County. She emphasized that their museum can be a local destination and a stop along the way for travelers, and it can bring Stafford history alive for citizens, families, students, and visitors. She thanked them in advance for their consideration of the increase in the TOT and support of the center.

4. Mr. Harry Crisp of 1465 Kings Highway in the George Washington District said that he has been the treasurer of the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center since 2016, and they greatly appreciate the County’s past support. He said that their past investment has been carefully spent, such as the staffordmuseum.com that features a virtual museum

featuring Stafford's history from the beginning to the present. He said that in 2021, murals with a Stafford history theme were developed and installed in 11 County schools; 10 more will be installed in 2022.

Mr. Crisp said that additional investments were being planned to achieve a visible presence in the community, to focus on Stafford's history and to underline the need for a museum. He said they are also partnering with cultural and service organizations, including both Stafford Rotary Clubs, the NAACP, the Education Foundation, and the regional libraries. He said that it's estimated the museum activities touched over 70,000 individuals in 2021 through programs, education, social media, and other activities. He stated that they are already having a significant impact on the community without even having a building yet.

Mr. Crisp stated that they have also achieved organizational stability through their merger with the Stafford Historical Society, which will enable them to speak as one voice for the historical community. He said that the center has a mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the diverse history of the County to build an understanding of the past and its connection with the present. He said to make this happen, a thoroughly researched business and financial plan has been created to build transparency and responsible financial management for the future. He said they know they will have to do significant fundraising, which is a major element of their business plan. He said that it is their vision that the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center will be an institution that tells a compelling story that leads from the very beginning to the present, and projecting to the future—one that fills their minds with stories of how the County and the country came to be.

Mr. Crisp urged them to pass the ordinance to increase the TOT and meals tax and fund the museum.

5. Mr. Scott Harris of 11108 Polaris Court in Fredericksburg stated that he is a Spotsylvania resident but is also executive director of museums for University of Mary Washington, one of which is Gari Melchers home and studio in Falmouth; he is also president of the Fredericksburg Museums Council. Mr. Harris said that he has been involved with the Stafford Museum and Cultural Center for a number of years, serving previously as a board member and as an advisor. He said that in that length of time, he has seen a real increase in the energy, determination, and productivity of taking this long-held dream and making it a reality—one that takes stories of the past and tells them in ways that engage and excite people today. He said that the increase in the TOT would help provide a sustainable, stable funding base on which the museum can build

and become a useful community asset and supporter of economic development through tourism. He said that he urged and hoped the Board would support that increase. He also pointed out that Stafford is a community that does not have its own museum, whereas Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania do, and he hoped the County would recognize that it's time to join the community of museums in the local area, state, and nation.

6. Ms. Alane Callander stated that she is a resident of 622 Lancaster Street in the Falmouth District and is glad to see the museum people out, noting that she enthusiastically supports the proposed increase in the meals and TOT tax—as they need to raise revenues from people who travel into the County. She said that before tonight, she had heard from a constituent that it would negatively impact the homeless people who stay in hotels, but they could use a portion of revenues raised to support that population in the region, as it is a very serious problem.

The Chair closed the increase to the meals and transient occupancy taxes public hearing.

Item 23. Budget and Management; Consider Increase to the Water and Sewer Rate.

The Chair opened the increase to the water and sewer rate public hearing.

There were no speakers for this item.

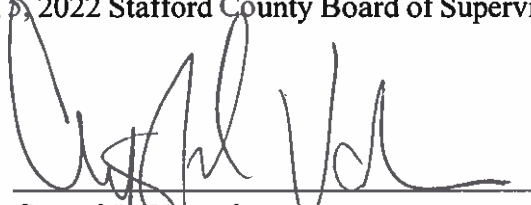
The Chair closed the water and sewer tax rate public hearing.

Ms. Vanuch stated that the Board would be voting on all of these items at their April 19 meeting, at the 7 p.m. session. She said that people can still speak and would just need to do that at the beginning of the meeting, which is done early and is outside the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:52 p.m., Chairman Vanuch adjourned the April 5, 2022 Stafford County Board of Supervisors meeting.


Frederick J. Presley
County Administrator


Crystal L. Vanuch
Chairman

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 4:17 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Gayle
Last-Name = Thyrring
Address1 = 971 Coriander Ln,
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Ordinance O22-09 - Increase Meals and Transient Occupancy Tax
Written-Comment = I plan to speak at the meeting
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 74.96.255.4

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Daniel

Last-Name = Palmer

Address1 = 112 Cotton Blossom Ct

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate

Written-Comment = I ask the board to adopt the full advertised real estate property tax rate of \$.885/\$100 assessed value. While I recognize this will result in an average increase of approximately \$400 for county residents, it will also help ensure our public school system has the funds needed to provide the best education for our county's children.

I implore the Board to adopt the .885 tax rate and adequately fund our public school system.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.171.109.195

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Leah

Last-Name = Baskett

Address1 = 16307 Don Verne Dr.

City = Woodford

State = VA

Zip = 22580

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-65, R22-66, R22-67, R22-68 - FY23 County Budget, FY23-FY32 CIP, FY23 VPSA

Written-Comment = I work as an ELA teacher here in Stafford at SHMS. I have been with the county for 6 years at this point. A major issue occurring is a lack of buildings and a lack of personnell to adequately prepare students for the future. Our classes are overcrowded with not enough support for students who require accomodations for Special Education or ESOL. Not only do we need the salary to be competitive, building new schools needs to be a priority. Currently I am preparing students for a career in the 1990s: I am severely limited in keeping students engaged when they use their Chromebooks because the county does NOT have funding for teacher oversight in the digital realm as we can in the physical classroom. Students have no issue bypassing filters, etc. to get off task and are not having consequences for doing so. Purchasing a digital monitoring program where teachers could access a students Chromebook immediately, freeze it, and make students responsible for their behavior in the digital classroom. We need the tax rate set as advertised to bring this county up to the promise it has toward its children and families.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 38.73.227.117

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Renee

Last-Name = Shelley

Address1 = 13 Rocky Way Dr

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-65, R22-66, R22-67, R22-68 - FY23 County Budget, FY23-FY32 CIP, FY23 VPSA

Written-Comment = I cannot be present in person to speak.

At this time I, respectfully, ask the board to consider the needs of our schools. Specifically, we need to act swiftly to fund a raise to retain teachers and staff. We also need to consider the overcrowding in place throughout the county. My student's elementary school classroom is currently is at 30 students and building throughout the county has far exceeded our resources within the county.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 38.73.233.147

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sarah

Last-Name = Helwa

Address1 = 1906 Woodlyn Drive, Apt 202

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22401

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate

Written-Comment = The advertised tax rate of 88% is what the County Supervisor used to plan the BoS projected budget. If they set the tax rate lower, they will not generate the revenue to fund their own budget! Bottom line, we need them to keep the tax rate up. Otherwise we're just growing without generating revenue to compensate (this is the same issue we've had for). Setting it below the advertised rate doesn't make sense when the county has so many areas that need funding.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 38.73.227.123

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:44 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jennifer

Last-Name = Dunkel

Address1 = 18 St Davids Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate

Written-Comment = Please sign off to approve this new tax rate for 2022. As a SCPS school employee we need to better fund our schools which in turn will help our communities. Our staff need better compensation, our students deserve better. We are one of the richest counties in VA, but our schools and infrastructure doesn't show it. Homes keep getting approved and built and there's not enough seats for them. There maybe open schools, but you have to remember the programs (LS, Autism, multi disabled, etc) each school offers take up full classrooms, so say only 5-10 kids are in a classroom that would normally hold 30. No one wants to pay more in taxes, but our tax money needs to prioritized to the schools in my opinion. Thanks for your time.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 38.73.227.101

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Casey

Last-Name = Clark

Address1 = 75 Beagle Rd

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak at 7pm in support of funding the school budget and prioritizing building new schools.

Client IP = 173.71.209.72

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Michele
Last-Name = Wickman
Address1 = 305 Bentley Court
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate
Written-Comment = I will be speaking at the meeting.
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 174.66.101.229

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Michele

Last-Name = Wickman

Address1 = 305 Bentley Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-65, R22-66, R22-67, R22-68 - FY23 County Budget, FY23-FY32 CIP, FY23 VPSA

Written-Comment = I will be speaking at the meeting.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 174.66.101.229

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 3, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sue
Last-Name = Henderson
Address1 = 110 Old Landing Ct
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22405
Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Ordinance O22-09 - Increase Meals and Transient Occupancy Tax
Written-Comment =
Plan-to-speak = Intend to speak publicly.
Client IP = 72.86.43.7

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Michelle

Last-Name = Hedrich

Address1 = 325A Wallace St

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22401

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Public presentation in person on April 5th, 2023 by Big Brothers Big Sisters Executive Director

Plan-to-speak = Public presentation in person on April 5th, 2023 by Big Brothers Big Sisters Executive Director

Client IP = 72.86.43.88

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = John

Last-Name = Stevens

Address1 = 5 Walter Circle

City = Falmouth

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Written-Comment = My wife and I have been residents of Stafford County for over 40 years. We are now retired. I am totally opposed to the County Administrator's proposed tax increases. For once in my lifetime I would like to see a local budget cut. There is too much waste in most departments. Thank you.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 208.96.180.169

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = Carlos
Last-Name = Bratton
Address1 = 37 Bloomington lane
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm
Written-Comment =
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 174.206.97.42

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = David

Last-Name = Abbou

Address1 = 12 Lakeside Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate

Written-Comment = Before you vote on the FY2023 real estate tax rate, here are some facts to consider.

My home's taxable value increased 24% in the latest real estate assessment. Even with reducing the current real estate tax rate of 97 cents to the proposed effective rate of 88.5 cents, my real estate tax bill will increase dramatically, and so will everyone else's in Stafford County. While soaring inflation for everything from gasoline to groceries is taking its toll on us, the potential real estate tax increase will compound the issue even more. And yet, the proposed Stafford County FY23 budget is poised to increase over \$31M from last year's budget with us homeowners and citizens paying most of the bill as usual.

The County will realize over \$13M more than last year from real estate tax increases alone if the effective tax rate is approved. Yet another \$2.5M in real estate revenue will come from new residents moving into the County. Other proposed increases associated with water/sewer, hotel taxes, and meal taxes will generate approximately \$4.3M over last year, while personal property taxes will yield an additional \$3.6M over last year despite the personal property tax rate being lowered. Also, the BoS has advertised for a "fire tax" which is really an additional real estate tax, and that's estimated to generate \$14.5M if approved. The tax hits just keep coming relentlessly.

With all these additional tax increases ready to impact us, it would be detrimental to increase our real estate taxes over last year's, especially with the negative impacts of soaring inflation and the pandemic affecting the economy. These negative impacts were even highlighted in Stafford County's own FY23 proposed budget presentation, and they serve to underscore my position that this is NOT the time to impose additional tax increases upon us.

Increasing fees upon developers for their applications, permits, reviews, transportation impacts, and having them pay for the utility infrastructure will generate more revenue to fund future County budget increases. In addition, the County should eliminate any exemptions that were granted to developers in the past. The BoS must pursue these alternatives to ease our future tax burdens.

In closing, please consider adopting the lowered tax rate of 78 cents to reduce some of the financial impacts upon Stafford County homeowners and citizens during these difficult times. Thank you.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 108.48.108.136

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = Melissa
Last-Name = Rivera
Address1 = 5 Chadwick Drive
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-64 - Calendar Year 2022 Tax Rate

Written-Comment = I implore you to approve the advertised tax rate of 88% and fully fund the budget for Stafford County Public Schools for next year. I have been a resident of this county for the past 10 years and I have seen the number of houses grow enormously and in that same time period we have had no additional schools built to compensate for the number of families with students. I do recognize Anne E. Moncure Elementary was a re-build that added more seats at the elementary level, but that is simply not enough. We need another high school NOW. We need for Drew middle school to be rebuilt NOW. We need a fix for Hartwood Elementary School NOW. We need more elementary schools NOW. It seems that somewhere there has been poor management or community planning with regard to the influx of new construction with NO new infrastructure in the form of funding for schools to be built and that is a grave disappointment to the families and students of Stafford County. It is shameful that our per pupil expenditure is one of the lowest in the Commonwealth of Virginia. PLEASE do not fail the children and staff of Stafford County any longer, make this right and vote to fully fund the budget and keep the advertised tax rate of 88%. Thank you for your time.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 174.66.101.141

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

First-Name = Angela
Last-Name = Pitts
Address1 = 9 Cobham Ct.
City = Stafford
State = Virginia
Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 5, 2022 Resolution R22-65, R22-66, R22-67, R22-68 - FY23 County Budget, FY23-FY32 CIP, FY23 VPSA

Written-Comment = As a concerned citizen and parent, I urge you to fully fund our schools with the highest allowable tax rate (.885) so that we can raise salaries of teachers and staff and stop the high rate of staff attrition. Our schools have been underfunded in recent years and our children and families continue to pay a far higher price than the money we stand to keep in our pockets if you pass a lower tax rate.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 76.123.18.225

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = Jessica
Last-Name = Johnson
Address1 = 2074 Aquia Drive
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = I'm unable to attend due to work but want to encourage the BOS to fully fund Stafford County Public Schools. We need to build schools to catch up to our growth, stop the constant redistricting and address the issue full on, and fund teacher pay to keep our most precious resource, our teachers. Be bold. Choose education.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 70.110.16.142

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = Cynthia
Last-Name = Smith
Address1 = 308 Huckstep Ave
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Dear Supervisors,

My name is Cindy Smith and I reside in the Rockhill District. I have lived in Stafford for over 22 years. I have watched as fully funding the Stafford County Public School System has become less and less of a priority. I encourage you to fully fund the financial request of the school board. Thank you for your consideration.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 38.73.227.93