BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 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, October 18, 2022 in Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford VA.

ROLL CALL – The following members were present: Crystal L. Vanuch, Chairman; Pamela Yeung, Vice Chair; Tinesha Allen (arrived at 3:30 p.m.); Meg Bohmke; Thomas C. Coen; Darrell E. English; Monica L. Gary.

Also in attendance were Randal E. Vosburg, County Administrator; Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney; Cheryl Giles, Deputy Clerk; Julia Holmes, Assistant Deputy Clerk; various staff members; and other interested parties.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Ms. Vanuch said that she would like to thank, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the community, the Sheriff's Office and especially the Crime Prevention Unit for holding a wonderful National Night Out last Tuesday. She said there were thousands of attendees and was possibly the largest turn-out ever. She said the night genuinely celebrated what made their community special and brought out the best in everyone. She said there were many moving parts to managing the event and she was grateful to the Sheriff's Office for the excellent job they did. She said to plan to join them next year on the second Tuesday in October.

Ms. Vanuch said on behalf of the Board, she would like to congratulate Union Bell Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary. She said the church was in Supervisor Coen's George Washington District, and he would be presenting a proclamation at the church's anniversary event. She thanked Union Bell for its dedication to serving the Stafford County community over the last 100 years and the significant impact this church had on the lives of so many people. She wished them a happy anniversary.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Ms. Vanuch said October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She said she wanted everyone watching or listening to this meeting to know that if they were being abused, Stafford County cared about them. She said the National Domestic Violence Hotline number is 1-800-799-

SAFE (7233). She said she wanted everyone to understand that this was something that would happen to 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in their lifetimes. She said abusive behavior went beyond physical abuse. She said if someone was belittling them, isolating them, controlling their finances, or intimidating them, those were all signs of abuse. She said more could be found on www.thehotline.org. She said today, Susan Sigmon, a court advocate for Empower House, and Chris Rooney, a member of the Empowerhouse Board of Directors, would accept a proclamation on behalf of the victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Ms. Sigmon and Mr. Rooney for joining them today, and she read the proclamation recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Ms. Susan Sigmon said she was one of the court advocates with Empowerhouse. She said Empowerhouse had served the planning district in Stafford County for about 47 years, and their services were all free and confidential. She said they were so appreciative of Stafford County and their partners in the community who took a stand against abuse, family violence, and the message that abusers would be held accountable.

Ms. Sigmon said they were grateful for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance program, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, and for all of their allied professionals in the community who took a stand and recognized what a plague it was with families in the community, coworkers, family members, friends, and with people they knew. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for recognizing October as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month as well. She said they appreciated all the community support and thanked everyone.

Mr. English asked staff from the Sheriff's Office, Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and Victim Witness Group to come up to the dais for a group photo.

Proclamation Recognizing World Polio Day

Ms. Vanuch said that October 24 was World Polio Day. She said she would like to invite up to accept the proclamation, from the Stafford County Rotary Club, Sandy Duckworth, Governor Rotary District's 7610 through 2002 and 2003, Cherice Taylor, President of Stafford Rotary Club, Jake Almborg, past president of Stafford Rotary Club, Don Duckworth, International Committee Chair of the Stafford Rotary, Donna Almborg, Youth Committee Chair for Stafford County Rotary, and from the North Stafford Rotary Club, Rene Laws, District 7610 Governor-elect, Roberta Schreiber, North Stafford Rotary Public Relations Chair, and Tracy McPeck, President-elect.

Ms. Vanuch read the proclamation recognizing World Polio Day.

Ms. Duckworth thanked the Board of Supervisors and the Chairman. She said it was important, as was pointed out in the proclamation, that there was now a case of polio in New York in which the person became paralyzed. She said polio was only a plane ride away, so everyone needed to be vaccinated, and people could opt out, but children under five in the United States had been vaccinated since 1979 or prior to that when the United States was declared polio-free. She said they wanted to be careful and get vaccinated.

Ms. Duckworth said she wanted to thank the Board of Supervisors, because this was the fifth or sixth year that the Board of Supervisors had declared World Polio Day in Stafford County on October 24, and no other jurisdiction had done that in the state of Virginia, but they now had led the way for other jurisdictions and she appreciated it. She said last year, for the first time, the entire state of Virginia, under Governor Northam, declared the entire state Polio-free Day on October 24. She said people were beginning to get the message and they thanked them for their leadership.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Ms. Duckworth.

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Ms. Vanuch asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mr. Vosburg responded that there were none.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(6)	Bohmke, Coen, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	Allen

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC - I (3 MINUTES EACH)

Ms. Vanuch read the protocol for public presentations.

1. Ms. Shannon Fingerholz of the Hartwood District said she brought her daughter to the Board meeting two weeks ago. She said her daughter loved Ms. Yeung's dress and Ms. Gary's hair. She said her daughter also noticed that there was not a lot of listening by some people, some people walked around and looked at their phones, which was interesting because she also did not pay attention when they talked to her. She said it was a good lesson for her daughter to see what it was like when someone was not paying attention. She said it was nerve-racking for people to come up and speak, and while it may not be difficult for

the Board members, it was for others, and they usually only came up to speak if they were very angry or cared deeply about something.

Ms. Fingerholz said the Board of Supervisors would soon be having a seven-on-seven meeting with the School Board, and she wanted the Supervisors to bring open hearts, minds, and ears for what the School Board had to offer. She said the reason they were coming at the Supervisors hard was that the community had been coming hard at them. She said schools were important to the community, as were firehouses and other public safety necessities. She said there was not a choice between public safety and schools because they were of equal importance to the community.

Ms. Fingerholz said that it was important for the Board of Supervisors to give audible yays and nays for votes, because visually impaired community members could not see the screen for the voting board. She thanked the Board.

2. Mr. Cliff Heinzer greeted the Board and said he first wanted to talk about schools. He said they could not allow the growth of the student body to overwhelm their classrooms. He said they needed more schools. He said they understood in some cases that what they were experiencing was a consequence of unfortunate state restrictions on what could be done to restrict development or what they could do to ask for proffers. He said that did not relieve them of the responsibility to keep their schools strong.

   Mr. Heinzer said he did not want to forget those who were probably the least appropriately compensated considering all they did for the County, which were the Supervisors he was currently addressing. He said their pay must be addressed as well. He said they must also remember their custodial workers in the schools, who kept the schools clean and safe. He said they did an experiment in outsourcing which resulted in egregiously low pay, poor working conditions, and now retaliation against the workers who had spoken out.

   Mr. Heinzer said their custodial workers were once Stafford school employees and they needed to make them so again. He said that it was very important they remember their custodial workers should not be paid less than what they could earn at a fast-food restaurant or box store on Garrisonville Road just because English was not their first language.

   Mr. Heinzer said that he had received reports from early voting, and the perception that was growing among his volunteers was currently that the County's interventions may indicate a partisan bias. He said they were also getting reports from an organization that was not either of the County committee's that their canvassers had engaged in voter harassment, which was of concern. He said his suggestion was that after the election, they got all the stakeholders together to discuss how they might make it better next year when there was not one race but 17. He thanked the Board.

3. Ms. Juliet Schweider said she resided in the Aquia District. She said on Thursday, she just finished helping with the muffin cart. She said as she was pulling out of Brooke Point, two sheriff cars came whipping around, followed by an ambulance, and she texted her children to ask them if they were okay. She said she knew they were not allowed to have phones in school, but school was almost over, and she learned there had been a big fight. She said she got another text that the sheriff caught the kids. She said then her kid said they would send her a video when they got home, followed by another text from her other child that said they already had the video. She said this happened within three minutes, but fortunately for them, they had the Sheriff's Department who got there quickly and took care of the matter.

   Ms. Schweider said this happened a lot in their schools, and they needed their SROs. She said as a mom, she appreciated their SROs were there for the kids. She said they had five very large high schools, and they needed them. She said they knew the Sheriff's Department paid for those SROs, and while some people had a residual distrust of the police, the community knew that they needed them and were important members of their community. She said while Richmond had increased pay for state troopers, they needed to increase their pay to keep them around and could not lose Sheriffs or SROs because they were a part of the community. She said they had difficult jobs, and now they were not competing. She asked the Board how they were going to do it all, because this was a time when they needed them.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there were any other members of the public who wished to speak.

4. Ms. Alane Callander, 622 Lancaster Street in the Falmouth District. She said the Board heard from her from time to time about her ideas about community planning, and it occurred to her this morning that she had strong feelings on this topic because she grew up in a well-planned community, so she had seen how it could be done. She said the community she knew would never build a subdivision without considering and planning for where the children would go to school and how they would get there. She said the elementary schools were close to home and they walked via sidewalks. She said the middle and high schools provided bus service, including activity buses for students who attended after-school activities.

   Ms. Callander said it helped that the School Board had taxing authority, and the School Board regularly sought the input of the citizens regarding school funding by having bond referenda. She said the citizens wanted good schools and supported the referenda. She said she knew the Board of Supervisors was meeting with the School Board today in an executive session to consider the financial needs of the schools, which were grossly underfunded for the several new schools that were needed immediately. She said they should put it out to vote to the citizens. She said for years now, the Board of Supervisors had sweated over how many pennies to add to the tax rate for fear of being accused of raising taxes.

Ms. Callander said the revenue they brought in was not enough to keep up with school construction needs, teachers' salaries, etcetera, and the schools even made the unfortunate decision to contract out the custodians. She said that was a mistake, and she hoped they figured out a way to bring them back on board as valued County employees. She said she wanted to remind the Board that there was a time when their schools were the recipients of 70% of the County budget, back at the time when their school system led the region.

Ms. Callander said then, the Board of Supervisors was taken over by anti-tax folks, as well as Supervisors who did not fully appreciate the importance of providing excellent education. She said while she must say that excellent schools that attracted well-paying employers, excellent schools produced good citizens who gave back to the community, you pretty much get what you planned and paid for. She thanked the Board.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there were any other speakers. Seeing none, she moved to the next item on the agenda.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Gary – remarked she attended her regular meetings over the past few weeks, which included the PRTC and FAMPO. She said CPMT did not meet this month and that FAMPO was going forward with a study that would provide guidance on potential public transit expansions and the addition of multi-use paths to improve present and head off future congestion in Stafford County and other localities. She said the projections were out to 2050 as she recalled. She continued that she attended the National Night Out, and she was happy to share that her youngest daughter, Monica Jr., overcame her fear and actually climbed the rock wall.

Ms. Gary said on a more solemn note, she received a phone call last week regarding a separate matter in which she was informed that Ms. Ruth Hamm had passed on in June, which she had been unaware of. She said that Ms. Hamm was a light in the community, and when they met at Mount Hope Baptist Church during her husband's deployment, Ms. Hamm was immediately a source of hope and comfort to her during that time. She said while she had passed in June, she could not let the opportunity pass to recognize such a great and faithful woman from their community and from one of the oldest families in Stafford. She said she gave her condolences and prayers to the Hamm and Whiting families.

Ms. Gary thanked the Aquia District Cub Scout pack 578 Arrows of Light for inviting her to speak in fellowship with them. She thanked them for their wonderful questions and for sharing their concerns. She said lastly, she was holding a town hall next Wednesday to hear from Brook Road folks about how recent repairs were holding up there, as well as listening to questions and concerns and giving updates on other things she had been working on. She said that would be held at the County Building at 1300 Courthouse Road in the Activities Room. She said she would put up signs to help folks find it. She said the information would be on her Facebook page as well as shared with communications to inform the district.

<u>Ms. Yeung</u> – remarked that they recognized World Polio Day, and Ms. Vanuch mentioned that it was 99.9% eradicated since 1988 and that they had two countries that remained, which were Afghanistan and Pakistan. She said similarly, she wanted to mention that they did not have to leave their guard down for COVID-19 and that this was similar in that they must be vaccinated, and if one did not believe in getting vaccinated, if they felt they had been exposed, to cover their face with a mask to make sure others did not get the disease.

Ms. Yeung said last week, she also attended National Night Out, where she met many Sheriffs, Fire and Rescue personnel, and citizens. She said that in addition to wanting raises, many of the employees desired affordable housing. She said one of her goals was to have affordable housing in Garrisonville, and hopefully her colleagues agreed that there needed to be affordable housing in Stafford so their young people could live and work in Stafford.

Ms. Yeung said she went to two farmers' markets this Sunday—one at Stafford marketplace and the second in Rock Hill. She said that she knew a vendor who had a storefront in Princess Anne and who wanted to work in Stafford, so she would like to request for the Board to look into their SBA efforts to see if they could do something to help their small businesses to be able to stay and grow in Stafford. She said she planned to go to the next small business meeting on November 9, when the location is announced.

<u>Ms. Allen</u> – apologized for being late. She said she recently started her job in the Stafford Hospital cardiology unit as a nurse. She said on Brent Point Road, the gravel portion had been hard-paved, as VDOT confirmed over the weekend. She said she wanted to recognize Sgt. Burgess for putting together National Night Out and its continued success.

<u>Ms. Bohmke</u> – remarked that there was a small National Night Out in a neighborhood in southern Stafford, and it was well-attended, but unfortunately, their firetrucks were busy that evening, so

they did not have an opportunity to come out, but the Sheriff's Department, along with McGruff, was a huge highlight for the children. She said she and Anthony Toigo had an important regional meeting with partners north of Stafford, composed of Supervisors, Directors, and Commissioner Smith, who worked for Governor Youngkin in the Behavioral Health Department.

Ms. Bohmke said that Commissioner Smith was doing listening events throughout the Commonwealth and had met with every community service board throughout the state. She said as they knew, in their region they were 40% down in therapists at Rappahannock Community Services Board. She said it was very difficult to meet the needs of people when they did not have the therapists. She said it was not just an issue in their locality and was an issue throughout the Commonwealth. She said they had serious staffing needs, and one of the main reasons they wanted to meet with the Commissioner was talking about the staffing crisis in state hospitals, private hospitals, community services boards, outpatient programs, and preventive care programs. She said that they were doing a phenomenal job of looking at how to proceed in the future.

Ms. Bohmke said that people were detained at a hospital for up to three days, and unfortunately, their law enforcement officers had to sit there with them because they had no state hospital beds that were available. She said the state was well aware of the issues and had done a phenomenal job in gathering the information they needed to make a decision on how to move forward, and what impacts the General Assembly would have to have in this next session so that they could figure out as a state how they would move forward so they could get the needed care and service to the people in the community. She said this was a legislative priority as well.

Mr. Coen – remarked that he wanted to recognize Union Bell and its 100th anniversary. He said he had the great pleasure of being at that church several times, and they were a phenomenal force for positive elements in their County, so it was great to honor them. He said they should do what they could to honor local churches and make sure they know they were appreciated. He continued that to honor their bylaws, he attended the Fredericksburg Regional Business Alliance the night prior, and as a part of their bylaws, they updated the members with what they did, and he could forward their agenda and minutes to the Board members if they desired. He said they had their annual audit, which went very well, and then had a discussion about how the recession was hurting other businesses throughout the region and causing a slowdown in not only construction and housing, but in other areas such as retail.

Mr. Coen said he recently saw an article about Germanna expanding their campus on 610 and farther up on Route 1. He said a few nice elements about this was that they were expanding their nursing program, and if Covid-19 had taught them anything, it was the importance of medicine and nursing in the community. He said many seniors last year were going into nursing because of the need for people to deal with Covid-19. He said it was great for this to be situated in Stafford rather than Locust Grove. He said he also wanted to recognize that in the language for Germanna using the campus at Abberly the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and staff wisely put in that if they did not use that for a campus for the community college, it reverted to the County.

Mr. Coen said one of the biggest things they were facing currently was purchasing land for future schools and other needs, so the fact that Germanna decided to go to these other locations and gave 25 acres to the County in a prime location, which in discussion with the School Board, was sort of in the area they felt they needed an elementary school site. He gave kudos and great praise to Ms. Bohmke and the other Board members and staff for doing that great forward-thinking on their part.

Mr. English – thanked Fire and Rescue for the response to a water rescue in Mooney Lake. He said the response time was 7 minutes and they rescued three people from the lake that day. He said everyone came out safe and he wanted to thank the Fire and Rescue team for that. He said he also wanted to mention that they had a volunteer, Jennifer Purcell, who volunteered for the Sheriff's Office since July 2017, and she had put over 700 hours in with the Sheriff's Office. He said she was now leaving for South Carolina and he wanted to wish her well and thank her for saving the County a lot of money with her 700 hours of volunteer work.

Mr. English said he wanted to ask if staff could look into making some sort of property tax relief for volunteers. He continued that Stafford schools were rated the best system in the region.

Ms. Vanuch deferred her comments.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Ms. McClendon said she had no report at this time.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Vosburg said that the new practice under the bylaws of including the action list from the committees could be seen listed; there was one from CDEC and one from Infrastructure. He said the normal monthly expenditure list was attached, and in the Board's additional handouts, they gave updated capital projects summary reports. He said to refer to the new handout for that. He said there would be a brief report given by Kim Herman.

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ms. Kimberly Herman, Budget Manager, greeted the Chairman and members of the Board. She said today she would provide an overview of the FY2023 first quarter general funds revenues and expenditures. She said as of September 30, 6.3%, or $21M, had been collected in revenues to date. She said that property taxes were approximately 70% of revenues collected for the operating budget. She said the billing for property taxes would not happen until November.

Ms. Herman said there had also been little activity in the consumption taxes to date, which were approximately 15% of the projected revenue. She said with the current economic conditions, they were closely monitoring consumption taxes. She said that sales and use taxes overall had been the same as last year for the first two months of collection. She said that August 22 was less than August 21 by 2.7% for the first decline in monthly revenue since 2010 for sales and use tax.

Ms. Herman said that the meals tax and cigarette tax were currently above projections. She said that recordation taxes had seen a decrease, and this was a trend they saw with higher interest rates. She said the consumer utility taxes continued to be a year-over-year declining revenue. She said at the beginning of the year, there were slight reductions, and they would continue to watch that as the year went on. She said that on the expenditure side, there currently was a decrease in vacancy savings. She said that vacancy savings were increased to help balance the FY23 budget; they continued to watch this.

Ms. Herman said on a positive note, health insurance had a slight savings. She said that inflation continued to be high, especially energy. She said adjustments were made in FY23 to account for the inflation of these budgets and were being monitored. She said they were also watching fuel budgets. She said fuel costs in Stafford were approximately 1% above the state average. She said the Board had a fund-balanced reserve of $1 million to set aside for swings in expenditures. She said if needed, these could be budgeted and appropriated by Board action. She said that just as citizens adjusted their spending, they at Stafford monitored theirs and adjusted as necessary.

Ms. Herman said as they started the FY24 budget process, they could expect to see increases. She said currently, they were projecting capital construction would have a 15% inflation factor in FY24 that could impact projects. She said the high school was now anticipated at $183 million for inflationary costs only. She said there was also a possibility of effects on Hartwood Elementary School rebuild and transportation projects. She said more information would be provided on this in November regarding updated costs. She said they would also see an increase in debt service since the first major issue of high school number six was anticipated in FY23 and debt service would follow.

Ms. Herman said the library's FY24 budget request was approximately $1.2 million in new funding from localities. She said this could impact Stafford by approximately $462,000. She said the jail was starting its budget process and looking at a step plan like public safety so that they could reduce compression and retention pressures. She said the cost was approximately to be $2 million and it was unclear how it may translate into their budget request. She said they also needed to cover the cost of positions that were funded at mid-year in the FY23 adopted budget.

Ms. Herman summarized that without the property tax data, it was difficult to capture a full financial picture. She said they were currently seeing increased consumption tax in some areas. She said they needed to be mindful that in 2010, they saw a 4.8% year-over-year decline in sales tax. She said that in the past, Stafford had weathered these financial storms better than most, and they continued to be cautiously optimistic.

Ms. Allen asked why the taxes were down or if the reason remained unknown.

Ms. Herman said that when she spoke to Ms. Andrea Light, she stated that there was still some effect on the decrease of landline use, and the efficiency of LED lighting and cost-efficiency.

Ms. Allen asked about solar.

Ms. Herman said solar would be another example that could affect it, because if people had solar power, they did not pay taxes on that.

Ms. Allen asked how much they received in a year from utilities.

Ms. Herman said she did not know currently but could get that information to Ms. Allen soon.

Ms. Allen thanked Ms. Herman.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Vanuch said that Ms. Yeung indicated she would like to pull Items 10 and 11 from the Consent Agenda. She asked if she could have a motion to approve the Consent Agenda minus Items 10 and 11.

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

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Item 1. County Administration; Approve October 4, 2022, Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

Item 2. County Administration; Approve September 27, 2022 Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.

Item 3. Capital Projects Transportation; Authorize the County Administrator to Provide a Letter of Support for a Growth and Accessibility Planning (Gap) Technical Assistance Grant from the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Development.

Resolution R22-272 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A GROWTH AND ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING (GAP) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA OFFICE OF INTERMODAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, developing a safe, comprehensive, and connected network of multi-use trails and sidewalks is a priority for the County identified in our Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, staff is seeking technical assistance with developing a multimodal plan to explore and prioritize opportunities to improve walkability and bicycle access within and between the Urban Service Areas in Stafford County by connecting residential areas with activity centers throughout the County, with a focus on the potential for shared-use paths and trails to be located within major utility easements; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) will provide up to $100,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 funding through their Growth & Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program to conduct multimodal planning within existing or planned Urban Development Areas or Growth Areas; and

WHEREAS, there is no requirement for matching County funding in order to be awarded funding through OIPI's GAP program; and

WHEREAS, staff is seeking to submit a funding application for up to $100,000 in technical assistance from the Growth & Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program for this multimodal planning effort; and

WHEREAS, a letter ensuring local support for the assistance is required as part of the application process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this day the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to provide a letter of support for an application for the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment's Growth & Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program for up to $100,000 in technical assistance to help explore and prioritize opportunities to improve walkability and bicycle access within and between the Urban Service Areas in Stafford County.

Item 4. Commonwealth's Attorney's Office; Budget and Appropriate Asset Forfeiture Program Funds to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Resolution R22-268 reads as follows:

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM FUNDS TO THE STAFFORD COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, through the Commonwealth, the Department of Criminal Justice Services Asset Forfeiture Program provides funding to localities based on the submission of assets obtained through criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney requested appropriation of asset forfeiture funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 in the amount of $16,000; and

WHEREAS, these funds are classified as restricted revenue and may only be used by the Commonwealth's Attorney in accordance with the guidance of the Department of Criminal Justice Services Asset Forfeiture Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that Asset Forfeiture Program funds be and they hereby are budgeted and appropriated as follows:

Fund	**Department**	**Amount**
General Fund	Commonwealth's Attorney	$16,000

Item 5. Community Engagement; Proclamation Recognizing National Night Out.

Proclamation P22-11 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN HOSTING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON OCTOBER 11, 2022

WHEREAS, the National Association of Town Watch sponsors a unique nationwide community awareness and crime prevention program annually, entitled "National Night Out" that began in 1984; and

WHEREAS, this event provides an opportunity for Stafford County to join forces with thousands of communities across the country in promoting relationships between the community and police to enhance the prevention of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Stafford County Sheriff sponsored a main event locally at Stafford Marketplace, and smaller events were held in five neighborhoods this year; Woodlawn, Courthouse Manor and Augustine North, which held their events in August and Clearview Heights and Garrison Woods, which held their events in October; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford Marketplace event was a time of celebration and fellowship with community organizations, County entities, citizens and businesses all participating to help encourage citizen engagement in the community; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County continues to strengthen public and private relationships with residents and businesses alike through community outreach programs such as National Night Out; and

WHEREAS, we commend the work of all staff, volunteers and local sponsors who worked tirelessly to make this event the best it can be;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that it be and hereby does recognize and honor the Stafford County Sheriff's Office as well as the many partnering neighborhood organizations who hold National Night Out for our community.

Item 6. Community Engagement; Proclamation Proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Proclamation P22-33 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, in 2021, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, nearly 77,456 survivors received hotline services, 30,731 adults and children of domestic violence received advocacy services and 6,287 adults and children received shelter services culminating in 237,983 nights of shelter provided; and

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in seven men have been victims of severe physical violence (e.g., beating, burning, strangling) by an intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, one in 15 children is exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence. Children exposed are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution and commit sexual assault crimes; and

WHEREAS, victims of intimate partner violence lose a total of 8 million days of paid work each year; and

WHEREAS, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $8.3 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and discrimination based on physical ability, nationality or other factors help to perpetuate domestic violence and make finding safety even more difficult for some victims; and

WHEREAS the County of Stafford joins with others across Virginia and the nation in supporting victims of domestic violence, as well as local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide who are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and sending a clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in Stafford County; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence impacts 10 million people yearly, but it can be prevented. Preventing domestic violence requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions, and systems – to transform our communities; and

WHEREAS, during October, in the County of Stafford, Empowerhouse, Stafford Commonwealth's Attorney Office, Victim Witness Assistance Office, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, victim-serving organizations, system partners, community organizations and allies come together to unify and support those working to end violence, support survivors, raise community awareness of the devastating effects of domestic violence, honor and support those that have survived, and mourn those we have lost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford Board of Supervisors, on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the Board be and hereby does declare October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Stafford County and continue to pledge to end the violence.

Item 7. Community Engagement; Proclamation Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Union Bell Baptist Church.

Proclamation P22-34 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF UNION BELL BAPTIST CHURCH

WHEREAS, Union Bell Baptist Church will mark its 100th Anniversary on October 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the church structure and building were first erected by the late Reverend George Ray and pastored by Reverend William T. Tyler. The initial members were Lucy Carter, Angie Ray, Mary White, Easter Washington, Grace Greer, Nannie Barnett, Maggie Griffin, Silas Ray, John Taylor and Joseph Boxley; and

WHEREAS, eleven pastors have served the church over the last 100 years, with Reverend Clarence E. Mays serving currently. Under Reverend Mays' leadership, the church has a vision of following Christ's greatest commandment of loving one another to help heal the community; and

WHEREAS, Union Bell's ministry to the community has dramatically improved the lives of individuals, adults, children and families in Stafford County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford Board of Supervisors, on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the Board be and hereby does recognize the momentous occasion of Union Bell Baptist Church's 100th Anniversary.

Item 8. Community Engagement; Proclamation Recognizing October 24, 2022, as World Polio Day.

Proclamation P22-35 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 24 AS WORLD POLIO DAY

WHEREAS, Rotary International, founded in 1905 and whose motto is "Service Above Self," launched the PolioPlus efforts in 1985 and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988, billions of children have received the gift of a polio-free life, and currently, only two countries remain where the polio virus is still endemic in 2022: Afghanistan with two cases and Pakistan with 22 cases; and

WHEREAS, polio is still only a plane ride away, as exemplified by the recent case of Paralytic Polio found in an unvaccinated adult in Rockland County, New York, apparently brought to the United States by a visitor from another country who had been immunized against polio with a live vaccine; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for polio, it can be prevented by the inactivated polio vaccine now used worldwide and as part of the U.S. routine childhood program, with about 93% of toddlers receiving at least three doses, according to the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, despite the tremendous progress made toward eradicating polio, recent events have shown that as long as the Polio virus exists anywhere, it remains a threat to children and adults everywhere, demonstrating that we must not let our guard down until we have indeed eliminated the last vestige of this terrible disease; and

WHEREAS, Rotary members have contributed more than $2.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting three billion children in 122 countries with more than 20 million people walking today who otherwise would have been paralyzed; and;

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional $50 million per year, which will be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional $100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than $10 billion to the effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this 18th day of October 2022, that it be and hereby does proclaim October 24, 2022, as World Polio Day in Stafford County;

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that Stafford County, Virginia, commits to the continued fight for a polio-free world and encourages all citizens to join in this fight.

Item 9. Community Engagement; A Proclamation Recognizing October 9 through 15 as Fire Prevention Week.

Proclamation P22-36 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 9 THROUGH 15 AS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS, Stafford County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all of those living in and visiting our county; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires caused 2,580 civilian deaths in the United States in 2020, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 356,500 home fires; and

WHEREAS, smoke alarms sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger in the event of a fire in which you may have as little as 2 minutes to escape safely; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, Stafford residents should be sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke alarms and knows how to respond; and;

WHEREAS, Stafford residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, Stafford residents will make sure their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms meet the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Stafford first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Stafford residents that are responsive to public education measures are better able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape," effectively reminds Stafford County that it is essential to have a home fire escape plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this 18th day of October 2022, that it be and hereby does proclaim October 9-15, 2022, as Fire Prevention Week throughout Stafford County.

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Yeung to address Item 10.

Item 10. Economic Development and Tourism; Award a Local Level Incentive Economic Development Grant Using ARPA Funds to Merritt-Ari, LLC and Authorizing the County Administration to Enter in to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stafford Economic Development Authority and Merritt-Ari, LLC.

Ms. Yeung said Item 10 was related to ARPA dollars and the sewer extension. She said she would abstain from this vote. She said she knew the decision had already been made by a previous Board in July 2021, where additional details that were not before the Board now, and therefore she would abstain. She said she also saw they mentioned there would be 14 future houses that would be sewage development, and she wondered why the homes were not included in there, but that information was unavailable, and she also wondered why the development was not paying for itself and why the EDA was involved. She said they needed to look into the relationship between the EDA and this development. She said she could not vote for or against it.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Ms. Yeung for her comments. She asked if there was a motion to approve R22-62.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve proposed Resolution R22-62.

Mr. Coen said he was the only person on that Board at the time who voted against it, and his concerns at that time were that it would lead to future residential growth, and he also did not understand why the developer was not paying for this. He said he was in an awkward position where the first vote involved a lot more money than this, and they were already going in this direction. He asked if someone on staff could explain, besides inflation driving up the cost, why they were using money for something that the developer in theory could pay for.

Ms. Gary said she wanted to echo those sentiments, although she supported it now. She said there were things that happened in the past that shouldn't have, and she attempted to openly work with developers now to ensure they knew the things they needed. She said she hoped they would do better as they went forward and worked toward that.

Ms. Bohmke said it appeared that there were questions about this transaction.

Ms. Bohmke made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Allen, to defer the item to gather more information.

Ms. Vanuch said that the rules indicated they must take a vote on the substitute prior to the motion on the floor at the time. She asked if there was any discussion on the substitute motion. Hearing none, she asked for a vote on the motion for deferral. She asked if the next meeting was suitable.

Ms. Bohmke said she would like to defer it until the next meeting.

Ms. Vanuch said that would be the November 1 meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Yeung to address Item 11.

<u>Item 11. Finance; Authorize the Advertisement of Public Hearings to Consider the Issuance of FY2023 Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) General Obligation Debt and the Incresae of The FY2023 Budget by Over One Percent, to Support the Construction of High School #6.</u>

Ms. Yeung said she would like to know why they were not adding the elementary schools in this financial item. She said it appeared the reason they were only including High School #6 was because the elementary school projects were not far along enough in this process, but she thought they should add the two elementary schools that the school system wanted to add since they had blueprints for them and because they were critically needed.

Chief Financial Officer Jon Munch said that Ms. Yeung was correct. He said one of the biggest reasons they would not issue that was because when they issued debt on a tax-exempt basis, they had arbitrage rules they had to follow, and that necessitated being able to spend the money within 24 months of borrowing it to utilize the interest on the bond proceeds on the project. He said they were simply not there yet in conversations with Mr. Fulmer at schools to issue that debt right now.

Ms. Bohmke moved, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve proposed Resolution R22-277.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R22-277 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ISSUANCE OF FY2023 VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL AUTHORITY (VPSA) GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT AND AN INCREASE IN THE FY2023 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Virginia Code requires and the Board desires to hold public hearings to consider the proposed issuance of fiscal year (FY) 2023 Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) general obligation debt, which would be used toward the construction of High School #6; and

WHEREAS, if the additional VPSA bonds are issued in FY2023, the FY2023 budget would increase by $44,500,000, necessitating a public hearing as required by the Virginia Code to consider increasing the budget by greater than one percent; and

WHEREAS, at such public hearings any member of the community may attend and state his/her views;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to publish notice and advertise public hearings on the proposed issuance of Virginia Public School Authority general obligation debt and the proposed increase in the FY2023 budget by greater than one percent.

Item 12. Fire and Rescue; Receive Fire and Rescue Monthly Report.

Item 13. Fire and Rescue; Authorize the County Administrator to Execute Contracts to Provide Uniforms, Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment for the Department of Fire and Rescue.

Resolution R22-262 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE UNIFORMS, SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

WHEREAS, the County contracts with multiple vendors to provide firefighting uniforms, supplies, and equipment related to the Department of Fire and Rescue (Department); and

WHEREAS, the current contracts for uniforms, supplies and personal protective equipment have expired or will expire soon, and the County issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) No. 22-022-3220-SB-R, to solicit qualified vendors to provide uniforms, supplies and personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Department selected up to three vendors per brand amongst two categories: uniforms and personal protection equipment, that were determined to provide the highest discount off selected brands and manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, annual expenditures on the contracts are estimated to be up to or exceed \$200,000, which is available in the Department's operational budget, subject to annual Board budget and appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to execute contracts for two years with five optional one-year renewal terms with the following vendors to provide uniforms, supplies and personal protective equipment on an as-needed basis for the Department of Fire and Rescue for the brands and manufacturers listed on the Invitation to Bid No. 22-022-3220-SB-R official bid tabulation, which conforms with the following:

Awarded Category	Vendor
A: Uniforms, Clothing and Footwear	• Read's Uniforms LLC • North American Fire Equipment Company, Inc., dba NAFECO • Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. • Galls, LLC • Southern Police Equipment Company, Inc. • Unifire, Inc. • CW Williams and Company LLC • American Uniform Sales, Inc. • Atlantic Emergency Solutions
B: Personal Protective Equipment	• Read's Uniforms LLC • Atlantic Emergency Solutions • Blue Ridge Rescue Suppliers • North American Fire Equipment Company, Inc., dba NAEFCO • Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc. • Galls, LLC • Southern Police Equipment Company, Inc. • Unifire, Inc. • CW Williams and Company LLC • American Uniform Sales, Inc. • Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each contract is authorized in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) annually; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that subsequent renewal costs shall not increase by more than the percentage of new hires and employees requiring equipment or supplies, unless modified by a duly-authorized contract amendment.

Item 14. Information Technology; Authorize the County Administrator to Approve Expenditures with Shi International, Corporation for Commercial-Off-The-Shelf Software and Related Services.

Resolution R22-236 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES WITH SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP. FOR COMMERCIAL-OFF-THE-SHELF SOFTWARE AND RELATED SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Department of Information Technology (IT) purchases various commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software to provide IT solutions for everything from document development, such as Adobe or Microsoft products, to network security; and

WHEREAS, COTS software is designed to be implemented easily into existing systems without the need for customization, providing readily available solutions to support a variety of IT-related projects and operations; and

WHEREAS, the County may purchase various types of COTS software and other related services through the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) contract #VA-0180917-SHI with software reseller, SHI International Corp.; and

WHEREAS, the expenditures for new and existing COTS software purchases is not anticipated to exceed $250,000 for the remainder of the contract term, which expires in September 2023; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for these purchases in the General Fund and the Utilities Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to approve expenditures with software reseller, SHI International, Corp., for the purchase of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software and related services in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000), unless amended by a new duly executed contract.

Item 15. Planning and Zoning; Request the Planning Commission to Develop Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendments for Solar Facilities and Energy Storage.

Resolution R22-297 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND COUNTY CODE REGARDING STANDARDS FOR SOLAR FACILITIES AND ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, solar energy is an emerging industry with growing demand throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, there are common land use issues and potential impacts related to solar facilities that may be considered by a locality depending on the characteristics of each individual site and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan includes general goals and recommendations related to the development and location of solar energy facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan does not address specific land use guidelines for evaluation of solar facilities and energy storage facilities; and

WHEREAS, solar facilities and energy storage facilities are permitted in various zoning districts pursuant to Stafford County Code; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County Code does not contain specific regulations related to location, siting and design of such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish Comprehensive Plan criteria and Zoning Ordinance regulations to address mitigation of potential impacts to residents and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board recommends that the Planning Commission develop proposed amendments for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that public necessity, convenience, general welfare or good zoning practices requires adoption of such amendments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the Planning Commission be and it hereby is requested to develop draft amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance for location, siting and design of solar energy facilities and energy storage facilities, and provide its recommendations to the Board for consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission shall substantially complete its review and analysis and report its findings back to the Board for consideration by January 17, 2023.

<u>Item 16. Planning and Zoning; Request from the Developer of Embrey Mill the Dedication of School and Library Sites in Accordance with Preferred Conditions.</u>

Resolution R22-275 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE DEDICATION OF PROPERTY FROM THE DEVELOPER OF THE EMBREY MILL NEIGHBORHOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROFFERED CONDITIONS, LOCATED WITHIN THE GARRISONVILLE ELECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2013, the Board adopted Ordinance O13-22 with proffers entitled "Embrey Mill Revised Proffers," dated December 14, 2012 (Proffers), which amended proffered conditions for the Embrey Mill neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Proffers stipulate that the applicant shall dedicate two school sites and one library site to the Board, after the same are requested for dedication by the Board; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Proffers, Section 3.a., the two school site dedications are also contingent upon mutual approval by the Board and the applicant of an alternate design for the site, as the proffered proposed School Elevation is no longer a viable option; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Proffers, Section 19.a., the library site shall be used for a library or other appropriate public use, and said dedication is also contingent upon the applicant's prior approval of the building architecture for the library and site design; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to request the dedication of the sites and to consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the developer of Embrey Mill for the building architecture and site design of the future public uses on the property pursuant to the Proffers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that it be and hereby does request dedication of proffered school and library sites from the developer of the Embrey Mill neighborhood, in accordance with the proffered conditions accepted with Ordinance O13-22 (Proffers); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board expresses its desire to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be entered into with the developer of Embrey Mill to provide mutually agreed upon building architecture and site design for the school and library sites, as required by the Proffers.

Item 18. Utilities; Authorize the County Administrator to Approve Expenditures with Carter Machinery Company, Incorporated for the Lake Mooney Water Treatment Facility Controls Modernization.

Resolution R22-269 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES WITH CARTER MACHINERY COMPANY, INCORPORATED FOR THE LAKE MOONEY WATER TREATMENT FACILITY CONTROLS MODERNIZATION

WHEREAS, generators and associated parts at Lake Mooney Water Treatment Facility ("Facility") are obsolete and require replacement; and

WHEREAS, the generator controls of the medium voltage transfer load management with tie (XLM-T) switchgear also need to be upgraded; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution R22-260, the Board ratified the County's contract with Carter Machinery Company, Incorporated, Rider Agreement No. 22-054-5030CO, for generators, related parts, equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved expenditures in the amount of $500,000 and a total contract amount of $652,369; and

WHEREAS, additional expenditures are needed for the remainder of the contract term, ending January 29, 2023, which are anticipated to exceed 25% of the previously approved total contract amount, necessitating further Board action; and

WHEREAS, some funds are available in the Utilities Enterprise Fund and due to the critical nature of the project, staff anticipated use of Fiscal Year 2022 carryover funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to approve additional expenditures with Carter Machinery Company, Incorporated for the Lake Mooney Water Treatment Facility controls modernization in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Seventy-Six Dollars ($327,076), for a total contract amount of $979,445, unless modified by a duly-executed contract amendment.

<u>Item 19. Utilities; Authorize the County Administrator to Approve Additional Expenditures for Instrumentation and Controls System Engineering, Inc. for Professional Electrical Services.</u>

<u>Resolution R22-270 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROLS SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Department of Utilities requires additional professional electrical services due to replacement and upgrades in electrical services at Smith Lake and Lake Mooney Water Treatment Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of electrical control panels, soft start and automatic transfer switches for pump station generators are also required to allow for the automatic transfer of a power supply from its primary source to a backup generator when it senses a failure or outage in the primary source; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution R22-250, the Board ratified the County's contract with Instrumentation and Control System Engineering, Inc. (ICSE), Rider Agreement No. 22-036-5030CI, for professional electrical services; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved expenditures in the amount of $250,000, and a total contract amount of $415,993; and

WHEREAS, additional expenditures are needed for the remainder of the contract term, ending on January 11, 2023, which are anticipated to exceed 25% of the previously approved total contract amount, necessitating further Board action; and

WHEREAS, funds for the professional electrical services were budgeted for in Fiscal Year 2023 and are available in the Utilities Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to approve additional expenditures with Instrumentation and Controls System Engineering, Inc. for professional electrical services for the Smith Lake Water Treatment Facility and Lake Mooney Water Treatment Facility in an amount not to exceed Six Hundred Thousand Dollars ($600,000), for a total contract amount of $1,015,993, unless modified by a duly executed contract amendment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 20. Planning and Zoning; Consider Time Limit Extension Requests for Zoning Reclassification and Conditional Use Permit Applications (Project Known as Belmont Park).

Mr. Harvey said that this item was a continuation of an item from the last Board meeting. He said the developer for Belmont Park had made significant modifications to their application. He said specifically, their project proposal included apartments as well as a retirement community in addition to commercial and office space. He said the new concept plan showed commercial and office space toward the front of the project along Route 17, several pad sites that could potentially have drive-thru restaurants or a gas station, as well as building a large indoor sports complex.

Mr. Harvey said the back part of the project would now be an industrial park. He said due to these major shifts in the application, it was required they review from VDOT. He said in talking to the applicant yesterday, the applicant indicated that the revised fiscal impact study would be available potentially to the County this Friday and they should have information to VDOT for a re-review of the traffic study very shortly.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Mr. Harvey. She said she would defer to Mr. Coen for any comments or questions because this project resided in his district.

Mr. Coen said he had no questions and was prepared for a motion.

Ms. Gary asked if when they came back with the fiscal impact projection if they could see it alongside the original before the plans changed.

Mr. Harvey said certainly.

Mr. Coen moved, seconded by Mr. English, to approve proposed Resolution R22-257.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R22-257 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION GRANTING TIME EXTENSIONS FOR RECLASSIFICATION APPLICATION RC20153236 AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION CUP20153240, PURSUANT TO STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SECS. 28-162, "REVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS" AND 28-185, "CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT"

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2020, the Board adopted Ordinance O20-13, which established time limits for zoning reclassification and conditional use permit (CUP) applications; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County Code Secs. 28-162(h) and 28-185(b)(2) specify that any zoning reclassification or CUP application still pending more than eighteen (18) months from the date such application was filed shall be administratively closed by staff due to inactivity but an applicant may request in writing, prior to such deadline, that the Board grant a time extension; and

WHEREAS, such request by the applicant must contain a definitive time for moving forward with or withdrawing the application; and

WHEREAS, the Belmont Park LLC applications (RC20153236) and (CUP20153240), were filed on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, extension requests were granted for the Belmont Park LLC applications on February 15, 2022, pursuant to Resolution R22-36, extending the applications to August 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2022, the Belmont Park LLC applications requested an additional extension to May 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that time limit extensions for the Belmont Park LLC, applications, pursuant to Stafford County Code Secs. 28-162(h) and 28-185(b)(2), are appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that the additional time limit extension requests, pursuant to County Code Sec. 28-162(h) and Sec. 28-185(b)(2), for the Belmont Park, LLC reclassification application RC201653236 and condition use permit application CUP20153240, be and they hereby are granted and extended until May 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 21. County Administration; Consider Request to Use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Sheriff's Office And/Or Other Public Safety Related Pay Adjustments

Ms. Donna Krauss, Deputy County Administrator, greeted the Board of Supervisors. She said she had staff available to answer questions if they came up throughout the presentation. She said she wanted to draw the Board's attention to the add-on items that were in their folder. She said they had to make a correction to a few slides, and those were in the packet as well as additional information that was requested related to turnover rates and information related to overtime pay and premium pay for general government and Sheriff's Department sergeants and first sergeants. She said that was included in the add-on folder.

Ms. Krauss said that today, they would continue the discussion as a follow-up to the work session, requesting that staff come back with several scenarios related to the public safety pay scale in an effort to ensure retention and recruitment. She said that staff would ask the Board to provide direction on that information.

Ms. Krauss said the key points they would ask about were whether they wanted to adjust the pay scale, who they wanted to include in the adjustment, such as Sheriff's uniformed, E911 operators, and Fire and Rescue, and if the Board wanted to consider bonuses as a part of this process and effort, and the funding sources. She said they went through each of the scenarios and provided the Board funding revenue to accomplish the goal the Board desired, options for them to consider related to ARPA, ongoing expenses, and excess revenue. She said the other key question for the Board would be when they wanted to implement the changes.

Ms. Krauss said that as the Budget Manager had stated earlier, they had confidence that the meals tax would continue to exceed their budget by approximately $1M in FY23. She said if they chose the ongoing revenue as a source of funding, they would continue to monitor that, meals tax, and revenues as a whole to ensure that they were at or above budget. She said that Ms. Herman also said that in August, there was a decline for the first time in two years, so it was something to monitor.

Ms. Krauss said they continued to work with their consultants on the use of ARPA. She said in their last discussion, they talked about revenue replacement, which was $4.7M, and also discussed a retention incentive that was in the final rule. She said retention assumed a maximum of 10% of salaries. She said they had Finance compare each pay grade with that of the Virginia State Police pay scale, and they felt comfortable to recommend at this time that those in the Sheriff's Office in grade P9 and below, which included Deputy Sheriff I, Field Ops, Sergeants, and below, would qualify for that 10%, which was approximately $700,000.

Ms. Krauss said they also had excess revenues in FY23 of approximately $2.2M that could be used, but she must reiterate that this was one-time funding. She said they would not be comfortable with that number until their external auditor completed the audit, which would be around mid-December.

Ms. Krauss said there were several scenarios she would go through.

Ms. Vanuch commented that they would ask questions at the end of the presentation.

Ms. Krauss said that the staff created an implementation schedule for each scenario so that the Board could have some money associated with this. She said that the dates were January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2023 and 2024 for the sliding scales, and bonuses on January 1, 2023. She said the Sheriff's Department included all uniformed E911 operators, exempt employees were battalion chiefs and above in Fire and Rescue, and lieutenant and above in the Sheriff's Department. She said non-exempt were captain and below for Fire and Rescue and first sergeant and below for the Sheriff.

Ms. Krauss said the first scenario was 5% and a $2500 bonus. She said all employees on the public safety pay scale would cost $2.5M or just over one penny on the tax rate. She said a bonus would be just under $1.3M. She said for the January 1 implementation, there would be an ongoing cost of $1.2M and the bonus total of $1.2M combined would be a total of $2.5M.

Ms. Krauss said on the bottom, a chart was provided that broke down revenue sources and provided an option for how the Board may consider funding the cost, but it did not include natural step increases that were built into the public safety scale that were done on an annual basis. She said the tax rate indicated in the chart was based on the per-penny rate for the entire year. She said this did not assume the use of any other revenue source. She said it could be seen that FY23-24 funding could be ongoing meals tax of $1M, and $1.5M in revenue. She said the chart at the bottom would be consistent on each scenario discussed.

Ms. Krauss said the next slide was correct in the Board's add-on package.

Ms. Vanuch asked if it was correct on the screen.

Ms. Krauss said yes. She said that the scenario was for 8% and a $2500 bonus. She said this scenario was consistent with the personnel, with a total FY23 cost of $3.2M. She said the revenue suggested for FY23-24 was ongoing, ARPA revenue replacement and retention. She said the corrections were to the tax rate of the slide previously submitted. She continued that the next scenarios had sliding scales. She said this included exempt employees, which aligned with the Board's request to consider first sergeant and below at a full implementation, and lieutenant and above on a sliding scale.

Ms. Krauss said they assumed 50% of the increase in January 2023 and the remaining 50% in January 2024. She said at a 5% raise, revenue could include the use of ongoing revenue. She said ARPA retention and revenue replacement was $700,000, as she had mentioned, and then finally supported by taxes in FY25. She said these scenarios included the Sheriff and E911 operators, and she had information related to Fire and Rescue available at the Board's request.

Ms. Krauss said the next scenario was an 8% increase for non-exempt on the sliding scale. She said this would have a 3% increase compared to the last slide.

Ms. Vanuch said they did not want Ms. Krauss to have to go through this for each slide.

Ms. Krauss said the next was 10% for a total of over $2.5M. She continued that a 15% increase for a sliding scale was provided, and the total was more than $3.8M. She said the final scenario was a 20% increase, which was a little over $5M in cost. She said the staff was looking for direction from the Board on what they would like to do with any adjustments to the pay scale, who they wanted to include in. that adjustment, if they wanted to consider bonuses, and the funding sources for doing this. She said that if the Board decided to do bonuses, that required a public hearing, so they would need to consider that as they moved forward for timing.

Ms. Vanuch thanked Ms. Krauss. She asked to see the last slide in order to see the questions. She said it was important that all their first responders and County employees knew how valued they were. She said she spoke for the entire Board that there had been public and private conversations about the pay scale challenges, and she could say that every Board member valued the hard work that the first responders and all staff did. She asked if the Board wanted to keep the adjustment to pay scale and included employees. She clarified that today they were voting on what they wanted to come back for action at the November 1 meeting.

Ms. Gary said she wanted to speak to the adjustment including the different departments. She said because they were already very tight with the many needs they had, they should try to figure out how to retain their deputies and make sure they were cared for while they competed with localities and the state. She said she appreciated everyone who had discussions about the future, but for the moment she felt they should only include deputies.

Ms. Vanuch asked if Ms. Gary was including 911 operators.

Ms. Gary said that she felt comfortable including the 911 operators but was neutral on that position.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. English asked if Ms. Gary was asking to take out the Fire and Rescue.

Ms. Gary said that for this time, she wanted to focus on Sheriffs.

Ms. Vanuch reiterated that Ms. Gary was looking to take out Fire and Rescue and focus on deputies and 911 operators.

Ms. Allen said her opinion was that staff worked very hard to provide a public safety pay scale, so to adjust if they were going to take future actions to fix it in the future, to solely do one branch of public safety was a disservice to the effort to get them to this place. She said if they addressed public safety, it should include all of public safety and not only one department. She said she was not in favor of only looking at the Sheriff's Office, because then they would have to go back and further adjust Fire and Rescue later on, which would have an impact on budget and revenue, so she would rather do it all at once instead of in parts.

Ms. Gary said she wanted to clarify that she wanted to look at the Sheriff's Department and how to bring Fire and Rescue up to speed, it would make sense to look at a pay scale to bring them to similar compensation. She said she did not want to not look at it. She said she was unsure if she was clear.

Ms. Vanuch said Ms. Gary was talking about getting the Fire and Rescue scale in the future during the budget process.

Ms. Gary said yes. She said she did not know what kind of work went into that process, and while it may not be able to be done quickly, it did need to happen.

Ms. Krauss said that if the Board were to pull out the Sheriff and they wanted to do something in January, they could look at realigning the scale during the budget process. She said it was an internal function and took work but was doable.

Mr. Coen said he would like to see the information related to the pay scales when this information came back in November.

Ms. Krauss said that whatever methodology the Board chose, they would like to see the end results of the steps included.

Mr. Coen said he did not need to look at every single person's step, but if the dollar would be different, it would make a huge difference. He said it inferred that if they went for a certain option at this price point but were not including step increases—in theory, they were saying they were not getting a step increase. He said he wanted the information in the future. He said the argument would be that later, they had not implemented step increases. He said the other thing he asked for was information about their peer communities in Northern Virginia, because when he saw the news, they talked about bonuses, so he needed to see what others were doing.

Mr. Coen said the bonus for Arlington was said to be for new hires and not retention. He said in all of the things being thrown out, he did not know it was clear what they were aiming for. He said there was a different mindset for retaining employees versus attracting new hires. He said he needed to see that in a clearer pathway. He said he did not know the dispatcher issue was only about a pay increase. He said he did not know if bumping them up a certain amount from $40,000 would be enough. He said they had not done an analysis or study, and he wanted to find a solution that would not need to be readdressed.

Mr. Coen said it was an ongoing issue that should be addressed. He said splitting the pay scale was something that made him uncomfortable, and while they may be able to get to it in the budget process, there was breaking news that the Governor was going to ask legislators for more money for state police, so they could be forced to address that later in their own budget process. He said he was uncomfortable with not knowing what the state was going to do about this.

Mr. English said he did not think the bonuses made a difference.

Ms. Vanuch said they were not on that question yet. She asked if Mr. English wanted to include only the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. English said yes.

Ms. Yeung said she did not have a comment on this issue.

Ms. Bohmke said she had been doing a lot of work on this. She said it was a challenging discussion and she felt the Board had a productive work session. She said everyone on the Board had a tremendous amount of respect for all members of the Sheriff's Department, Fire and Rescue, and general government. She said they were all well-respected and operated with nothing but the utmost professionalism. She said it was a challenging time for law enforcement not only in Stafford but throughout the nation, and the only time she could recall when they increased compensation was when they had a 911 dispatcher crisis a few years ago when the Sheriff came to them and said it was an emergency. She said she was looking at two different things, one of which was the 911 workers.

Ms. Bohmke said she met with the Sheriff Office and his staff today, and she left a handout on everyone's desk. She said in her honest opinion, they were already in a crisis at that office. She said that they could never meet their minimum staffing. She said their 911 workers and what they had to do as far as operating on the desk, was something she could never do. She said they had to operate the law enforcement radio, Fire and Rescue radio, and take 911 calls, which were all listed in the job description.

Ms. Bohmke said not every locality required that; Prince William and Fairfax did not. She said that Spotsylvania, King George, and the City did. She said that people had to have a much better skillset to be a 911 dispatcher in Stafford County. She said it was true multi-tasking, and they rotated staff so that they stayed fluent and current in all the different categories. She said the dispatchers were underpaid, and there was a worksheet from the work session last week about the average compensation in their peer localities. She said she felt they needed to do something for them as a standalone.

Ms. Bohmke said she did not believe that bonuses were going to solve anything. She said she did not feel prepared to waive their by-laws and vote on this because she liked to look at all the data and be very deliberate and strategic in her decision today. She said they had more information coming in from the state, were watching what their other localities were doing, and she did not think they needed to rush and be the first to make a decision. She said she believed the first sergeants and sergeants needed additional compensation. She said she did not believe they were in a crisis situation with them right now, but she did not want to be in a crisis situation, so they did need to be proactive. She said at this point, she would like to set the Fire and Rescue Department aside, although they went hand-in-hand, to solve the law enforcement issue currently.

Ms. Vanuch asked if Ms. Yeung would like to address these items.

Ms. Yeung said she did not have a comment on the adjustments. She said to the point of the adjustment scale, she would not want to separate the two departments out and keep public safety as an entire department. She said that based on the questions she asked the Sheriff's Office, it was evident the 911 dispatchers were the ones who were leaving and were the ones who were underpaid. She said she was the one who brought up the bonus, and she thought that most of the states and other localities were doing that.

Ms. Yeung said if they were thinking about doing a good-faith effort for their public safety, they could provide bonuses and do something for the 911 dispatchers, but she would like to wait for the budget to be deliberate, responsible, and to ensure they did good work on this funding process. She said she would like to look at public safety as a whole and especially at 911 operators, and to retain good employees they should make a good-faith effort to provide a bonus, but she was unsure of what the bonus looked like. She said other states and localities would do the same, and they should take their time and not rush into it.

Ms. Vanuch said she had three Board members who commented they wanted to keep all of the public safety together on any changes they did to the scale and three Board members who wanted to take action on the Sheriff's Office side. She said she would side with the option of taking action on the Sheriff's Office now. She said she also documented that Board members mentioned bonuses, with Ms. Bohmke being against bonuses moving forward, Mr. English also a no for bonuses, Ms. Yeung a yes for bonuses, and she did think that Ms. Allen said anything about bonuses.

Ms. Allen said she had not thought about the question. She said she understood the need to retain and attract new people, such as at Mary Washington's hospital, where some people were being awarded $10,000 bonuses, but they were still missing 500 people. She said she was unsure what the answer was. She said she would rather do a comprehensive study to figure out if the bonus could be put into the salaries instead of being given as a lump sum.

Ms. Allen said as it related to the 911 operators, she did not know how much a bonus would help as opposed to just bringing their pay up to scale. She said that job was so high-stress that a one-time bonus may not alleviate much, especially if it was taxed as a lump sum versus if it was given in paychecks over time. She said she was not in favor of the bonuses from a tax perspective and that the money should be reinvested in other programs such as training or paid time off.

Mr. Coen said he agreed with Ms. Allen. He said when they were first doing a bonus for County employees, he brought up that people would lose a good portion of the bonus on their taxes, which came true. He said that what often happened was that if there were two additional incomes on top of one's regular income, it would put one into a higher income bracket. He said that was something that when they looked at the pay scale before, a Supervisor brought up the fact that it might push someone into a tax bracket in which they brought home less money.

Mr. Coen said if they were to do bonuses, they would have to know that—because if they were not getting much money or if it hurt their actual take-home pay, it did not make much sense. He said he tended to be against the bonuses idea. He asked if the Sheriff and 911 operators were being funded together or alone, because Ms. Bohmke said she thought that was something different.

Ms. Vanuch said that Ms. Bohmke was referring to deputies and 911 operators together. She said the same was true of Supervisors Gary, English, and herself. She asked Mr. Coen if he was a no for bonuses.

Mr. Coen said that was right.

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Gary to continue.

Ms. Gary said she agreed with what Supervisor Allen had articulated. She said she wanted to take an opportunity to look into paid time off as well as ensuring that people could actually take time off, because she had heard it was very difficult to accomplish along with many other things right now.

Ms. Vanuch said that was a no for bonuses, and she was a no for bonuses as well as she would rather adjust it in the pay scale. She said it was 6-1 on no bonuses and looking at doing anything through the pay scale. She said the next question was about the funding source, which was difficult to get to without going through what the percentage was that they wanted to bring back for November 1, and also the implementation. She said she would refer to slides 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, which showed the different percentages of increase. She asked if the Board was accommodating to come back at the November 1 meeting with the 8%, 10%, 15%, and 20% come back so those options were available to the Board.

Mr. English said yes.

Ms. Gary said yes.

Ms. Bohmke said she would like to include the 5% as well.

Ms. Vanuch said that for 5, 8, 10, 15, and 20, Mr. English was a no, Ms. Bohmke was a no, Ms. Gary was a no, herself was a no, Ms. Yeung was a yes, Mr. Coen was a yes, and Ms. Allen was a yes.

Ms. Allen said she was fine with all being included.

Ms. Vanuch said that on November 1, the 5, 8, 10, 15, and 20 percentages would be coming back before the Board. She said the next question was about implementation. She said they had only talked about the sliding scale for January 1. She said there may be Board members who would not vote on the pay scale adjustments, but she would like to know if they were okay with giving staff direction that the change of implementation would be January 1.

Ms. Yeung said no.

Ms. Vanuch said she understood.

Mr. Coen said he did not think it was prudent when they knew the Governor would be doing something in January and February. He said he was a no.

Ms. Allen said she always maintained to do this in the budget process, so by rationale, that would fall after the 1st.

Ms. Vanuch said there were three nos.

Mr. English said it was January 1.

Ms. Gary said she was fine with January 1. She said she did her ride-along, which was informing her decision on this, and believed they should do this as soon as possible.

Ms. Bohmke said that at this juncture, given the information she had, she would look for January 1. She said if additional information came up, her decision could be swayed. She said if the state came back with a 5% or 10% for additional deputy compensation, the number would only move up, so they would still be in the same place they were in right now. She said until they had further information from the Governor's Office, she could not make a final decision. She said she was unsure if she would be voting on November 1 because she wanted to wait and see what additional information came out.

Ms. Vanuch said she agreed with the January 1 date, so the general consensus was for that date, but if something groundbreaking came up, it could potentially change. She said the last question was about the funding sources. She said she thought that keeping all the funding sources on the table and spelled out, having the numbers for each of the ongoing, to tally up so they could keep track of the numbers. She asked if everyone was okay with keeping that open.

Ms. Allen asked for clarification.

Ms. Vanuch said they were not going to decide how to pay for it right now and were going to keep all the options on the table for funding.

Ms. Allen said she did not agree with having the capital projects reserve. She said that was not an option.

Mr. Coen said he agreed with Ms. Allen. He said they had too many capital projects to worry about. He said he had apprehensions about much of it, but they could bring things back and see what they looked like. He said they needed to be sensible and think longer-term to see how it would impact things. He said they saw some taxes going down and fuel going up, so that may dwindle their reserves. He said he was very apprehensive about how this was going through.

Ms. Allen said she had further questions for Ms. Krauss.

Ms. Vanuch asked if that could be done after the Board meeting because they had to leave and get to the next item. She said their consultant was at the meeting to present legislative information.

Ms. Allen said these were important questions and the public should understand why they were being asked.

Ms. Yeung said she was against having capital and ARPA.

Ms. Krauss asked what Ms. Yeung said.

Ms. Vanuch said she was against capital and ARPA.

Mr. English said he was open to all options.

Ms. Gary said she would like to hear the questions.

Ms. Vanuch said they were separate from this.

Ms. Gary said she needed to understand this better and did not know that she could respond to this.

Ms. Bohmke said she definitely did not want to use the Capital Reserve under any circumstances, and she would consider ARPA.

Ms. Vanuch said the general consensus was not looking at Capital Reserves but at all other funding options presented today.

Ms. Allen asked what date they got the information about their debt service and capacity and if it was before November.

Ms. Bohmke asked Ms. Allen to restate the question.

Ms. Allen said that shown in the presentation was information about debt service.

Ms. Herman said their debt service increase would hit in FY24 for High School #6 and the borrowing would happen in FY23.

Ms. Allen said that went out soon.

Ms. Herman said she believed they were working on the package currently.

Ms. Allen asked if there was an idea of when it would be done.

Ms. Herman said Mr. Munch was putting together the package to find out when they would do the borrow.

Ms. Allen asked if it would be before or after November.

Mr. Munch asked if Ms. Allen was asking if the debt service on High School #6 was going to be known by November 1. He said he could probably get an estimate but they would not know for sure at that point. He said they were looking at issuance in late January or early February, so they would have no idea what interest rates would be at that time.

Ms. Allen said that was all she asked. She said her second question was if they knew when their transportation master plan was nearing completion.

Director of Capital Projects Bryon Counsell said they should start seeing formulation of a draft report in the early spring.

Ms. Allen asked if there was any preliminary data available about potential costs for budget and revenues.

Mr. Counsell said for projects coming out of the master plan that there was no way to tell and they were still collecting all the data to analyze how their system was working, and then they would start looking at problem areas and their solutions, followed by developing projects. He said that was when the cost estimates would come out.

Ms. Krauss asked Mr. Coen if she understood correctly that they were to come back with the five scenarios and the numbers for all five scenarios, including the steps. She said the step plan was a complicated per-person factor, so they would have to calculate it, and she asked if a ballpark range was acceptable.

Mr. Coen responded that a ballpark was fine, because it made a difference to have the step increases that affected the overall amount.

Ms. Bohmke said she wondered if the presentation could be brought back with information on each scenario slide about where it would put them in comparison with their peer localities.

Ms. Krauss said they could use the data currently available. She said Mr. Coen mentioned Arlington, and they would do their best to get up-to-date information, but a lot of localities, when they called, they were doing what Stafford was doing. She said the information would be provided.

Ms. Vanuch said that if they knew they were looking at a specific percentage, that information could be provided.

Mr. Coen said to include when they would be making their decision.

Ms. Krauss said they would do their best to get that information.

<u>Item 22. County Administration; Discuss Stafford County's Overall 2023 General Assembly Legislative Program.</u>

Ms. Vanuch asked Mr. Toigo how he wanted to proceed.

Mr. Toigo said he would briefly brief the Board on the program, and any feedback they could give him off the dais, and it would come back as unfinished business on November 1.

Ms. Vanuch said they would make sure they had time set aside to go through this at that point because they would not have such a hard deadline.

Mr. Anthony Toigo, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, said he would present the 2023 General Assembly Legislative Program for Stafford County. He said this was a document presented to the Board every year, comprised of legislative initiatives and positions that the Board approved annually. He said it was reviewed firstly by the Board's legislative committee, which was done on September 15, and fully aligned with the Board's upcoming draft strategic plan, as had been the practice in prior years. He said the 2023 session was a 45-day session beginning January 11, 2023, which was a short session.

Mr. Toigo said Virginia had a two-year budget process, which meant that it was traditionally a non-budget year. He said there was a budget surplus in the state budget, but revenues were always competitive at the state levels, especially with funding requests. He said that major factors to consider for this coming session were the split-party control of the two chambers in the House and Senate, economic conditions would be critical, and redistricting was looming. He said that redistricting had been completed, but the first session after redistricting would be the 2024 session, so legislators would be eager to show they could get things done. He said in terms of budgetary actions, the Governor typically presented his budget amendments to the money committees in December, so they should know more then, but right now he was discussing proposals.

Mr. Toigo said that as he mentioned, the program was large, with multiple positions and initiatives, and in the program itself, the Board designated top initiatives, or the items most impactful to the County and most urgent that they must commit the bulk of their lobbying efforts toward. He said the list was larger this year than it had been in past years, and three of them were repeat items. He said the initiatives that remained from the past year were state reimbursement for disabled veterans tax relief, public day school funding, and state recordation tax distribution amendments.

Mr. Toigo said the new additions to the list were strengthening Virginia's behavioral health system, school protection officers, which sought to create the class of school protection officer in state code and for people to be trained in-house as school security with limited duties, cost of competing funds adjustment, which was number one on their schools' list, and Stafford received a quarter of the full COCA adjustment, a salary adjustment Northern Virginia got recognizing a higher and highly-competitive labor market. He said the last was school infrastructure funding, which was a request to say they wanted the General Assembly to commit more resources and funding to school infrastructure.

Mr. Toigo said the General Assembly took action last year to create the School Construction Assistance Program to fund $450M in total for schools that were unable to pay and had older infrastructure. He said the DOE had not released grant guidelines to date for this program and was expected to do so tomorrow at the Board of Education meeting, so he would let the Board of Supervisors know what he learned.

Mr. Toigo said in terms of amendments to the 2023 program, he would defer this in the interest of time. He said the items on the left of the slide had been restructured and moved from one strategic priority to a new one and were items they retained. He said the additions were some that he had already covered, such as school protection officers, timbering regulations as a returning item, sports and entertainment venues and a position saying that if the state decided in favor of large sports venues such as for an NFL team, Stafford would want them to consider the regional transportation impacts that affected them.

Mr. Toigo said lastly, seized animal advertisement was an item the Sheriff had brought forward because under state code, they must print advertisements if livestock go missing and people did not claim them. He said the Sheriff's Office believed it was archaic and they should update that simply to include notes being posted in courthouses, in papers, or on social media.

Mr. Toigo said most of the deletions had been because of a lack of traction, and that could be discussed if there were any questions. He said for the next steps in the proposed schedule for legislative committee, bi-weekly was when they met in the conference room. He said there were three meetings tentatively scheduled and they could add more. He said they were hoping to schedule the Delegation Dinner for December 8, but that would be brought back to the Board. He said the next step was to return for unfinished business on November 1 with edits. He said they also had their VaCO conference coming up, and once the program was adopted, they would work with their consultant to take care of prefiling.

Ms. Gary said they had discussed the RTA and the deletion, as well as having to find something and what it looked like, perhaps bringing it to FAMPO, so that they could go forward with the bridge, for example, if that got traction.

Mr. Coen said the various operations and schemes being done to recruit for state troopers were affecting communities across the Commonwealth. He said he was curious if there was a way they could make it clear in their legislative packet that if they were going to keep doing things like that, they needed to protect localities. He said the language was that they wanted to get people from other states, but it affected people locally.

Ms. Julia Hammond of Eckert Seamans stated that the concern had been heard by the Governor's Office, which was referenced in his announcement yesterday, and while the press release was light on details, one of the items was that instead of only recruiting for state police, it would be state police and local law enforcement to include Sheriff's Offices and that the pay changes and raises were meant to try and help everyone, but the devil was in the details. She said the Governor announced his budget in December, so requests for their budget items, to an extent they could get them included in his budget by Thanksgiving, and then he made a big announcement in December.

Ms. Vanuch said they did a staffing analysis, and she believed the state owed them 90 positions based on their population that should be paid by the Comp Board from the state. She said them providing those deputies with the $30M for the localities would be most beneficial because they would be giving extra head counts and the positions would be paid.

Mr. Vosburg said he committed to the School Superintendent that they would include the schools' priorities, which came over and were in their packet. He noted that the first two had multi-million-dollar implications in a positive way for the County.

Ms. Vanuch asked if it was COCA.

Mr. Vosburg said that was one of them. He said there were other significant items there that he wanted to bring to their attention.

Ms. Bohmke asked Ms. Hammond if there was anything the Board should be aware of when going into the new session.

Ms. Hammond said right now, the biggest thing was how the Governor planned to suggest spending not only the surplus but the remaining federal dollars that the state and budget held back. She said there was a lot of money to be spent, and one of the ways he was thinking about spending it was through tax reform, which sounded good for citizens but made it difficult when there was a list of initiatives that cost a lot of money. She said she would ensure Mr. Toigo updated them on how the Governor planned to do that. She said the Governor gave his budget in December and then the General Assembly quickly made it their own, so items sometimes stayed and sometimes left, so working with their delegation and in particular, having a positive delegation dinner on the 8th would help them go a long way in spending what little money they would receive.

Ms. Yeung said that Mr. Vosburg had mentioned COCA. She said it did not gain traction, and she knew people were excited, but it should not be at 100%, because there was a balancing act, so she would like to know the opportunity to get there.

Ms. Hammond said they would do that on the 1st.

Ms. Vanuch said the Board would adjourn to attend their joint meeting with the School Board at Brook Point to address their Capital Improvement Plan and that they would be back for their 7:00 p.m. public hearing.

RECESS

At 4:53 p.m., the Board recessed its meeting until the evening session

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

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing the Efforts of the Community and the Sheriff's Office in Hosting National Night Out on October 11, 2022.

Ms. Vanuch said she earlier mentioned the National Night Out, which continued to grow and be an amazing event for the community. She welcomed First Sergeant Mangin, Sergeant Burgess, and Deputy Frank Shannon to accept a proclamation in recognition of the hard work and dedication that it took to run the event. She said any other law enforcement officers who wished to join them should approach the dais as well.

Ms. Vanuch read the proclamation.

Sgt. Burgess thanked the community and deputies. She said they could not do this without the community, including the vendors, the Board of Supervisors, and the Sheriffs.

Presentation Of A Proclamation Recognizing October 9 - 15, 2022 As Fire Prevention Week In Stafford County

Ms. Vanuch stated a little fun fact was that last year, 2,580 people died from home fires, and there were 356,500 house fires in the United States. She said the community should practice prevention and preparation for fires at their homes just as they did for weather emergencies.

Ms. Vanuch said Stafford County Fire and Rescue (SCFR) Deputy Chief Andrew Milliken and Public Information Officer Katy Brady were present to accept a proclamation for Fire Prevention Week. She explained Fire Prevention Week was held October 9 through October 15 to raise awareness of the value of planning and prevention. She said for more tips, residents can visit Home Fire Safety at www.redcross.org.

Ms. Vanuch read the proclamation for presentation.

Mr. Andrew Milliken thanked the Board for recognizing Fire Prevention Week. He said this year was the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week. He said they had been busy at community events and at schools. He said they had reached thousands of individuals about fire safety measures, such as having an escape plan in case of a fire.

Band Together To Fight Hunger - Drum Majors Presentation

Ms. Vanuch explained every year, bands from the County's five high schools banded together to hold the event, Band Together to Fight Hunger. She said over the last 11 years, the event had helped to provide over 300,000 meals to the community. She said it was being held this year on November 1 at 7 p.m. at Mountainview High School, and admission was one non-perishable item.

Ms. Vanuch explained that 100% of the proceeds went to the Fredericksburg area foodbank which served the community. She said the Band Together to Fight Hunger Facebook page had more information and ways to donate money.

Ms. Debbie Pickerel, Coordinator of Band Together to Fight Hunger 2022, introduced the drum majors of the five high school bands for the 12th annual Band Together to Fight Hunger. She said County band leadership included Emma Board, Drum Major at Brooke Point High School; Liberty Grant, Color Guard Captain at Colonial Forge High School; Sydney Shore, Drum Major at Mountainview High School; Josh Novak, Drum Major at North Stafford High School; Claire Jacob, Drum Major at Stafford High School; and Lidia Zampone, Drum Major at Stafford High School.

Ms. Emma Board invited each of the Supervisors to join the bands on Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. for the 12th Annual Band Together to Fight Hunger. She said in the case of rain, the event will be held Monday, November 7. She stated gates opened at 5:30 p.m., so there was plenty of time to drop off donations and enjoy dinner while waiting for the performances to begin.

Ms. Liberty Grant said that Band Together to Fight Hunger was an exciting showcase of talented musicians from the five County high schools. She said it was the only event of the year to hear and see all five high school marching bands in concert and give back to the community at the same time.

Ms. Grant explained that the event supported the Fredericksburg Regional Foodbank which serviced the counties in which the students, faculty, and support staff resided—Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Locust Grove, and the City of Fredericksburg.

Mr. Sydney Shore said admission to the event was free with a non-perishable food donation. He said monetary donations were always gladly accepted. He said monetary donations could be made by mailing a check made out to Band Together at Mountainview High School or through the online donation page. He said the link for the donation page could be found on the Band Together to Fight Hunger social media pages.

Mr. Shore said that in the past 11 years, the event had provided 300,000 meals for citizens in the area. He said the goal for that year was to provide over 45,000 meals.

Mr. Josh Novak said the Fredericksburg Regional Foodbank was the storehouse for the food and other products collected which were then distributed to local food pantries and other programs in the communities. He said they were seeing more of their neighbors than ever—parents lost work or had a reduction in hours, children went to bed on empty stomachs, and retired seniors were unable to afford groceries.

Mr. Novak said they could help if the community banded together to fight hunger. He said last quarter, the foodbank distributed 1,642,687 lbs. of food which served close to 20,000 neighbors. He said by collaborating with the foodbank, they could reach more people in need through their many partnerships and business connections. He said they were able to touch so many lives just by giving back for one night.

Ms. Claire Jacob said after the on-field presentation to the Fredericksburg Regional Foodbank, attendees would be treated to the grand finale where all of the bands would band together to fight hunger. She said more than 400 high school band students would play together on the field. She said they would also honor military families and students, as November was Military Family Month.

Ms. Jacob said a newly commissioned work written specifically for the event, an arrangement of all the military service songs and the first to include the Space Force, would be played in honor of military service members. She said military musicians in the community had been invited to celebrate along with SCPS graduates currently serving in the military music ensembles.

Ms. Lydia Zampone said the need in the community was real. She encouraged the Board to join the bands in the campaign to fight food insecurity in the community with monetary or non-perishable food donations. She thanked the Board for its time and continued commitment to the band programs.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Vanuch stated the rules for public comment.

1. Ms. Nancy Rueter said she would speak to the School Board CIP. She said schools were her passion. She mentioned the school redistricting because there were not enough schools, relocation, classroom shuffling, and trailer use. She encouraged the Board to support the School Board's CIP. She said the County needed six new schools just to accommodate the future growth over the next 10 years.

   Ms. Rueter said the Board should fund Elementary School #18 and #19. She said Elementary School #18 was 11 years overdue. She said the cost for Elementary School #18 was about $58M and impacted about 1,000 students. She said Hartwood would only impact 400 students and cost $64M. She hoped the Board would follow the School Board's recommendation.

Ms. Vanuch closed the public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 23. Planning and Zoning; Consider a Request for a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Comprehensive Sign on Tax Map Parcel No. 29-70K Pursuant to Stafford County Code Sec. 28-123 (G) (Project Known as Embrey Mill Town Center South Comprehensive Plan).

Mr. Harvey said the conditional use permit was pursuant to the zoning code which allowed a developer to consider a tradeoff with the County. He said the tradeoff was if the developer needed to have a taller or bigger sign than allowed by the code, they could undergo a conditional use permit process. He said the benefit to the County was that the County could impose conditions that stipulated the size, location, and style of the signs.

Mr. Harvey said the conditional use permit would allow a comprehensive sign plan in the Garrisonville district. He said the property was roughly 20 acres in size and was zoned Planned Development 2 (PD-2). He said the applicant was Ed Peete of North Stafford Associates represented by Leming and Healy.

Mr. Harvey said the property was located essentially one block from I-95 near the Courthouse Road exit. He said there was frontage along Courthouse Road, a major thoroughfare in the County, and there was frontage along Austin Ridge Drive and a collector road known as Sunflower Drive.

Mr. Harvey said there was commercial zoning on either side of the property to the east and the west, and there was some agriculturally zoned property across the road. He said there was currently construction going on with new buildings for the project.

Mr. Harvey said the Generalized Development Plan showed 15 buildings. He said in the Board's background report, there was a large portfolio of design standards for the wall signs, the free-standing signs, and artistic murals.

Mr. Harvey said in the PD-2 category, each property could have its own free-standing tenant sign. He said since 15 buildings were proposed, there could be 15 potential signs. He said the applicant also wanted to have shopping center signs. He said there were three locational signs proposed. He said there would be an increase in the number of free-standing signs compared to the allowed amount in the code, however, there were other restrictions that would make the conditional use beneficial to the County.

Mr. Harvey explained the applicant requested the signage be comparable with what was allowed in the commercial and office zoning districts. He said the commercial and office zoning districts allowed for larger wall signs and taller free-standing signs at greater square footage.

Mr. Harvey said the applicant proposed 1,145 square feet of free-standing sign area, slightly more than permitted in PD-2. He said the PD-2 district was intended to be a neo-traditional community. He said Embrey Mill had narrow streets, houses had garage entrances, and the main focus of the street was the front of the house. He noted the community had several playgrounds and town greens. He said it was intended to have a more condensed and quainter feel than a typical commercial area.

Mr. Harvey said the location of the site was near the interstate and more highway oriented compared to what would be seen in a town center. He said if the applicant were to proceed under the full commercial standards, they could have almost three times as much signage as requested.

Mr. Harvey said wall signs would be permitted up to 200 square feet as allowed in the B2 and office zones, and under the PD-1 standards, they were limited to 100 square feet. He said though the wall signs would be larger, the total square footage would not be beyond what would be allowed in the PD-2 zoning ordinance.

Mr. Harvey said individual wall sign sizes would not be defined in the design standards to give the applicant some flexibility, but they would be capped at a total square footage. He said all of the free-standing signs would have to compare to an overall color theme and style and there was a commitment to a stone base for the signs.

Mr. Harvey said artistic murals were proposed for the project. He said traditionally, artistic murals were considered to be artwork, not signs, but since they were included as part of the overall proposal, they would be contained in the conditional use permit conditions which stipulated the general location and context in which the artwork could be found.

Mr. Harvey said signs would be located over the tops of sections of buildings and over doorways. He said the conditions stipulated the minimum and maximum square footage for the facades. He said staff noted the benefit to the County was a coordinated sign package across the entire shopping center so businesses would not have conflicting signs. He said staff believed since the commercial area was near an interstate, the design standards were compatible because they allowed larger signs which were needed when traveling on a higher-speed roadway.

Mr. Harvey said the Comprehensive Plan recommended the area for mixed-use development. He said the proposed project would be a mixed-use area with commercial and residential uses. He said staff believed the architectural designs proposed by the applicant met the recommendations in the neighborhood design standards. He said they believed it was compatible with the existing and planned uses along that corridor of Courthouse Road.

Mr. Harvey noted the signs had no impact on public facilities. He said there were several conditions with the permit. He said they specified the design standards. He noted the height of the free-standing signs would be limited to a maximum of 25 feet, compatible with the PD-2 zone. He said most signs would be 15 feet, but two signs would be about 25 feet tall because of the ground elevation relative to the roadway.

Mr. Harvey said staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit with conditions pursuant to Resolution R22-216. He noted the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval. He said he was able to answer questions.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the applicant would present.

Mr. Harvey said the applicant was present.

Ms. Megan Winston said she represented the applicant. She said Mr. Harvey had done a thorough presentation, but she was able to answer any questions.

Ms. Vanuch asked what would be built at the site.

Ms. Winston said she could tell them who had signed leases. She noted the locations of AutoZone, Chipotle, Jersey Mikes, Starbucks, AT&T, a pizza place, McDonald's, Wawa, Panera, Popeyes, Mary Washington Healthcare, Impact Dental, Mason Dixon Cafe, Shawl Halal, a vegan bakery, a Nashville-hot chicken place, Anytime Fitness, and a potential daycare.

Ms. Yeung noted there would be one site for a restaurant.

Ms. Winston said they were happy to have any tenant on the site.

Mr. English asked what would be in building 10.

Ms. Winston explained they did not have a lease signed for building 10.

Ms. Yeung said she had met with North Stafford Associates and discussed the coming development and her concerns about the signs. She noted she no longer had concerns. She noted the layout of the area was beneficial for the signage.

Mr. Coen clarified that the wall signs would look different from the free-standing signs and be designed for the business logos.

Mr. Harvey responded there would be a similarity across the whole shopping center. He said the design standards book contained a lot of information diagraming the style.

Ms. Vanuch opened the public hearing.

Ms. Rachel Adams said she lived on Cranes Corner Road and that she was the project manager for Embrey Mill. She said she supported approval.

Ms. Vanuch closed the public hearing.

Ms. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve proposed Resolution R22-216.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R22-216 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (CUP) FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SIGN PLAN ON TAX MAP PARCEL NO. 29-70K, PURSUANT TO STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SEC. 28-123(G), LOCATED IN THE GARRISONVILLE ELECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, North Stafford Associates, LC submitted application CUP22154344 (Application), requesting a conditional use permit for a comprehensive sign plan on Tax Map Parcel No. 29-70K, located within the Garrisonville Election District; and

WHEREAS, the Application was submitted pursuant to Stafford County Code Section 28-123(g), which permits the approval of a comprehensive sign plan after a CUP is issued by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board carefully considered the recommendations of the Planning Commission and staff, and the public testimony, if any, received at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the criteria in Stafford County Code Sec. 28-185 and finds that the request meets the standards of the Zoning Ordinance for issuance of a CUP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 18th day of October, 2022, that a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to application CUP22154344 (CUP) be and it hereby is approved with the following conditions:

1. This CUP allows a comprehensive sign plan on Tax Map Parcel No. 29-70K (Property) pursuant to Stafford County Code Sec. 28-123(g).

2. Signage, including freestanding signs, wall signs, and wall murals shall be consistent with the number, type, and no greater than the maximum square footage identified in the exhibit prepared by BCT Design Group, entitled "Embrey Mill Comprehensive Signage Package" (Signage Package), dated June 24, 2022.

3. Signage may be permitted in accordance with the commercial and office zoning district (B-1, B-2, B-3, RBC, RC, SC, and HI) standards, with the following exception:

    a. Multi-tenant freestanding signs shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height.
    b. Individual tenant freestanding signs shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height on Lot G and the Courthouse Road frontage of Lot F, as shown in the signage package, and shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height on all other lots.

4. Any replacement of signs shall be subject to the same square footage limitations established in the Signage Package.

5. The location of the freestanding signs identified on each lot on the Signage Package may be adjusted to allow for optimal visibility, in consideration of required landscaping and avoidance of any site distance or other easements.

6. All freestanding signage shall utilize stone materials for the base as depicted in the Signage Package.

7. The signage on the Property shall maintain a consistent architectural aesthetic upon initial installation and upon any future stylistic changes or rebranding.

8. To ensure longevity of wall murals, measures should be incorporated where appropriate, including but not limited to, applying protective UV coating/sealant over painted murals.

9. All other signs on the Property shall comply with county code standards.

10. This CUP may be revoked for violations of these conditions or any applicable federal, state, or County code, law, ordinance, or regulation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:34 p.m., Chairman Vanuch adjourned the October 18, 2022 Stafford County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Randal E. Vosburg
County Administrator

Crystal L. Vanuch
Chairman