BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – A regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Dr. Pamela Yeung, Chairman, at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA.

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

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 COMMENTS

Dr. Yeung stated that on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and Stafford County, she invited all runners and walkers to participate in the Stafford Hospital Spring Fever 5K, which was scheduled for April 15. She said that the race was one of five races that are a part of the Stafford Race series, founded by Stafford County to promote community engagement and wellness activities in the County, and information about all five races was available at the Stafford tourism website, www.tourstaffordva.com/staffordrace/series.

Dr. Yeung stated that proceeds from this event benefit the Stafford Hospital Foundation, and thanked Transurban, operator of the 495, 95, and 395 express lanes for their chief sponsorship of the 5K. She stated that members of the Board were very competitive in their hopes to draw the most participants from their respective districts to this race. She asked the public to please join in the support of the hospital and the community.

Dr. Yeung stated that in January, the County began a "What's in a Name" video series with the story behind the naming of the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center. In February, she was privileged to participate in a video about educator Ella Rowser, the namesake of the Rowser Building, for Black History Month. She said that this month's video featured an interview with Jeff Rouse, for whom the Rouse Center is named. She stated that there would be a new video every month to tell the history of Stafford, and these videos were accessible through the County website and social media pages.

Dr. Yeung stated that Stafford had received some excellent news that OmniRide recently came to an agreement with its bus drivers and the Stafford route had been restored. She gave thanks for the patience of everyone through this process. She said that more information was available at Omniride.com.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for Mr. Jeff Harvey.

Mr. Coen said that Mr. Harvey had been encyclopedic in his knowledge and incredible in his training of his department staff, allowing for very successful planning. He said that there was a high level of integrity that Mr. Harvey had instilled in his people, which came from his high degree of character. He said that Mr. Harvey's upstanding character had consistently been cited as an accomplishment by his peers in his 34 years of service to the organization, and he should be very proud of that. He stated that his mother had met Mr. Harvey years ago and was immediately and forever impacted by his kind demeanor and great character, which he felt also deserved recognition as a major accomplishment.

Mr. Coen read the proclamation for Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Jeff Harvey thanked the Board for his proclamation. He said that he began working in Stafford County when he was 24 years old and made his career dream come true. He said that at one of the first Board meetings he attended, a former Supervisor had asked what his career goal was, and he answered that his goal was to be the Planning Director of Stafford County, which he achieved and held as his job for 21 years. He said that the County had grown in population by almost 100,000 people during that time, and they had built many neighborhoods, shopping centers, and many other things that the Board and County could be very proud of. He said that he looked forward to seeing what happened in the future years of the County.

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Dr. Yeung asked if there were any additions or deletions to the regular agenda. Hearing none, she asked for a motion.

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

The Voting Board tally was:

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

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC - I (3 MINUTES EACH)

Mr. Coen read the protocol for public presentations.

1. Ms. Shannon Fingerholz of Fredericksburg, Virginia stated that when she took her daughter to school the other day, and when she was watching the teachers walk into the building, she noticed that the teachers each had multiple bags, including a purse, a lunch box, and large bags with supplies for classes. She said that there were materials such as comfort

items, math supplies, art supplies, and other items that the County would not pay for, in addition to workbooks, lesson plans, and materials to be graded.

Ms. Fingerholz said that other workers usually carried a purse and a briefcase to work, and she had never noticed before how much these teachers brought in from their own resources to take care of their children. She noted that she had received updated grades from her daughter's teacher as late as 10 p.m. at night, and she knew that they did not stop working even over the summer break. She said that the weight of all that the teachers carried was proof of how much they cared about the County's children.

2. Mr. Howard Rudat stated that he lived at 10 Haye Street. He said that about a month ago, a dog daycare was required to apply for a conditional zoning permit in order to build on a B-2 zoned parcel adjacent to the Nissan dealer on Richmond Highway. He said that instead of a dog daycare, there should be a children's daycare on that same site, but in that case, the Hills of Aquia would not have had a public hearing to voice their concerns about the noise coming from the daycare, nor would the public express their concerns about children running onto Richmond Highway. He said that this was because unlike a dog daycare, a children's daycare would have been built by right on that site, and the voices of the Supervisors and the public would have gone unheard.

   Mr. Rudat said that there was a commercially-zoned B-2 property near his house that had been vacant for 34 years. He said that when it was first zoned B-2 in 1989, there were 36 types of businesses that could be built there by right, and today, there were 73 types of businesses that could be built by right on that site. He said that it did not make sense for a decision made in the late 1980s about what businesses best suited that parcel, and Stafford writ large could still be relevant today. He asked if the Board was aware that a dry cleaner could build on that site and provide curbside delivery to its customers, but if they wanted a drive-thru window, a conditional use permit was required. He said that it made no sense at all that a dry cleaner could walk the dry cleaning out to a customer but could not hand it through a window.

   Mr. Rudat said that on the agenda today was Anne E. Moncure Elementary, and as discussed at the previous Board meeting, the property was rezoned to B-1, and a commercial developer made a fair offer to the Board to sell it, and it was sold. He asked which of the 31 B-1 properties the developer would build by right of that land. He said that the public, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors would have no voice. He said that allowing usage by right was a roadblock to the future of Stafford, and the only way that Stafford could reach its comprehensive goals was with a complete bottoms-up review and revision of the Stafford planning process.

   Mr. Rudat said that while the Supervisors may feel that they did not have the time, budget, or staff to undertake the task, he questioned what would happen if VDOT did not do the utility work when expanding Eustace to Shelton Shop. He answered that it would fail because it was the underpinning of how the road was built, just like zoning and permitting was the underpinning of growth for Stafford County. He said that this was doable, not overnight, but one step at a time, and the first step was revamping the zoning and permitting process to eliminate by-right building. He said that if they bypassed that first step, they would never achieve the future Stafford that they all envisioned and hoped for.

3. Ms. Nancy Rueter stated that she resided at 42 Boulder Drive, Stafford, Virginia. She stated that when her son was getting ready for school one year, he could not find trousers that were the right length. She said that she could have paid attention and planned ahead by shopping ahead a season when things were on sale, or sent him to middle school looking like he walked off the stage of Tom Sawyer. She said that she paid a lot for a new wardrobe. She said that there was a school crisis in Stafford in which they had not been investing in their precious asset of children. She said that the Board understood this, but she would repeat some points for the general public, as an informed public supported good decisions.

   Ms. Rueter said that in Stafford, there was a direct correlation between the year-to-year funding of the schools and the students' performance as measured by the state. She said that as the funding had declined, performance had declined. She said that this was because talented, seasoned teachers left, and qualified potential new hires chose other districts that provided better pay. She said that programs and staff positions that supported student learning were not funded, positions went unfilled, buildings were not built, and the learning environment was compromised as students were put into smaller spaces or more crowded classrooms. She said that over the next two years, the schools would put into place enough relocatable classrooms to fill an entire elementary school.

   Ms. Rueter said that each time she saw these statistics, it still shocked her. She stated that Stafford County's average income was $112,247, and they ranked 5th in their income in the 132 school districts, but their per-pupil expenditure was $10,763, at a rank of 118 out of the 132 school districts. She said that they had the money, but had not been investing in their children. She asked why, and said that why would the public care if it would only cost them more money. She said that it was the old phrase, "you get what you pay for." Not enough money for schools, weaker schools; weaker schools, people did not want to buy a home where the schools were not highly rated; property values fell, and good and strong companies would not locate there because the employees would not want to move there because of the schools.

   Ms. Rueter said that even if they did not have children in schools, there was still a community benefit of having good property values and an educated workforce. She said to the Board that she would be happy to go to any public hearings in support of them and in support of the public schools. She said that as the public understood the issue, she hoped that they would be supportive. She said in closing, let them not come up short this time.

4. Dr. Raymond Manfredi stated that he resided at 4445 Grouse Pointe Drive in the Rockhill District, formerly in the Hartwood District. He said that he owned two businesses, operated and managed several local non-profits, and was a parent of a child with autism. He said that he was present to support the School Board budget and would like to make some comments on that. He said that they should take into seriousness that pay raises for staff

must be a priority in order to retain and attract staff in a highly competitive market, and that they needed to fix the pay scale for para-professionals.

Dr. Manfredi said that 72% of the Stafford County School employees lived in Stafford County, but most of the teachers they lost went to Prince William County, and they must be competitive with that pay scale to ensure that their teachers could afford to live where they worked. He said that doing so would help with traffic issues as well. He said that Stafford County Schools dealt with a 13% inflation last year, and much of it was due to energy and fuel costs beyond their control. He said that the schools' proposed budget had a line item under operations to cover major maintenance projects, and the schools were asking for $2M-$5M to begin with, not including the millions of unfunded rehabilitation, replacement, and renovations projects still to be done.

Dr. Manfredi said that whereas now the Board of Supervisors provides 37.5% of the County budget to the schools, a few decades ago, the Board of Supervisors provided 67% of the school budget. He said that with the defunding, they witnessed test scores drop significantly, and the overall challenges that schools were facing were tremendous. He said that Stafford County Public Schools prepared their children and youth to be good citizens and fulfill jobs in the future. He said that priorities must be straightened and they must make the required investment in education.

Dr. Manfredi said that great schools attracted higher-income homeowners, businesses, and managed growth with a diversified tax dollar income to work with. He said that it was important to understand that the first thing a homeowner searched for was quality of schools, and a key point that a business looked for when locating their business was what the investment dollars the County Board was putting into education for the potential workforce the business may hire. He said that he urged the Board of Supervisors to support the proposed school budget in its entirety.

5. Mr. Matthew Shilts stated that he lived at 37 Serene Hills Drive. He said that over the last couple of weeks, he was able to do a few drives across the county, and was thinking about the problems back home. He said that he was also able to speak with some of the VDOT representatives during that time, and he was glad to find out that they were redoing the markings and rumble strips at the intersection of Hartwood Road and Route 17. He said that they were also going to fix the signage at that intersection, which he believed was one of four intersections that should be addressed in that same corridor.

   Mr. Shilts said that the next step was a Stafford County substation on Highway 17, with a small footprint, temporary at first, perhaps even leasing from a landowner along that corridor. He said that it could have a gravel driveway, small cement slab, and the largest roll-off building possible so that they could have clean facilities and store equipment in that area. He said that it did not need to be permanent, but they should at least get it up and running, because they were leaving money on the table with the 30,000 vehicles traveling up and down that corridor daily, as even a number as small as 0.003% of the vehicles was equal to 90 drivers per day who were speeding 12-15 miles per hour over the speed limit.

Mr. Shilts said that he wanted the focus to be on commercial drivers and overweight trucks, as well as anyone going 15 miles per hour above the speed limit, as that posed an unnecessary risk. He said $4.3M was on the table before entering into the highway safety program, and once entered, the fines could be doubled. He said that they absolutely should get into the business of monetizing public safety.

6. Ms. Kristin Maxson stated that she lived at 1816 Richmond Highway. She said that sometimes during work sessions, she could not hear Supervisors speaking, and she could barely hear the last speaker. She said that R23-104, the ranking survey of 10 items, which Crystal kindly gave her, and with notes on it to remember that specific day, was supposed to go into the local paper. She said that the local paper had listed only nine of the items, and the item missing was the Courthouse/Route 1 improvements. She said that she considered that as an intersection, and perhaps they excluded it because they did not fully understand that listing, but it was not in the paper.

   Ms. Maxson said that there was a new public notification committee formed thanks to Christine Barnes. She said that it was made up of Barnes, Bain, and Shelton, which was to help the zoning ordinances in regard to public notification requirements. She said that it was brought to the Board's attention in an item they were voting on that sometimes signs were taken away from where they were placed by individuals who were against sharing the information to the public. She said that it was not something that she herself had said, but was something that the Board mentioned as a liability, and she appreciated the Board being honest to the public and understanding that sometimes the public did not know.

   Ms. Maxson said that the signs needed to be placed where people were driving into a neighborhood, not into the very center or back part where they were building, because people would not see that, and she appreciated them taking that into consideration. She said that every meeting on the calendar was public, which she had asked the Board to confirm. She said that there was a major calendar with all meetings for the public to attend. She said that sometimes there needed to be more room.

7. Ms. Shannon Synclare stated that she lived on Windemere Drive in Stafford. She said that she was present to ask the Board to please provide lighted pickleball courts in the County. She said that she started playing a year ago when her cousin invited her to play, where they played at Hampton Oaks. She said that she and her 14-year-old son loved to play, but it was difficult to practice because those were private courts, so a resident must extend that invitation.

   Ms. Synclare said that there were not many public tennis courts, especially any that were marked for pickleball. She said that one on Embrey Mill Road was a full-sized tennis court and could only hold one group of people, so multiple groups could not play at the same time. She said that there was one in Seasons Landing, near Jason Lane, but it was in disrepair in that the net was broken and it was not marked for pickleball in any way.

Ms. Synclare said that they joined the YMCA on Butler Road, which had six well-lit courts and it was very fun to play there. She said that she and another parent took approximately 12 children ages 6 through 14 to play pickleball there, but the fee was $5 per person if the person did not have a membership. She said that she would like to bring more children there, but it became expensive. She said that if there were public courts, she could take a lot of kids to stay off their screens and encourage them to socialize.

Ms. Synclare said that teaching children pickleball was much easier than teaching them tennis, and it was a game suitable for seniors as well, so her entire family could play together. She said that after only a few weeks of organizing these pickleball events, the kids had been able to run the games themselves, which became very fun when multiple games were ongoing, allowing everyone to join the games. She said that she asked the Board to consider building pickleball courts with lights and bathrooms.

8. Ms. Alane Callander stated that she lived at 622 Lancaster Street in the Falmouth District. She said hats off to Jeff Harvey. She said that her comments began regarding Item 11 on the agenda, which was about the public safety memorial committee. She said that she observed at the last meeting that several Supervisors were clamoring to serve on this committee, and it appeared there was maneuvering to keep off a Supervisor who had expressed interest, and she could not help but think that some elected officials were looking forward to a photo-op for their campaign brochure.

   Ms. Callander said that they all recognized the sacrifices of public safety personnel, and their hearts broke when there was a tragic loss, as happened too often. She said that as her mother, who lost all of her wedding gifts in a house fire, would say "use the monies for the families left behind." She said that they had a beautiful multi-million dollar public safety building, which to her in itself was a monument to public safety personnel.

   Ms. Callander said that plaques could be erected there or benches could serve as monuments on the lawn. She said that at a time when their schools were putting up enough classroom trailers to fill a new elementary school, they must recognize that this, one of the wealthiest counties in the country in terms of household income, was failing their public schools.

   Ms. Callander said that a few decades ago, back when Mr. Harvey and she first met, the schools received up to 70% of the County budget, and today, the figure was around 37%. She said that the schools proposed a line item to cover major maintenance projects for the schools to achieve their necessary improvements would be $18M, but were only asking for $2-$5M at this time, as well as the unfunded millions in the rehabilitation and replacement projects that must be taken care of.

   Ms. Callander said that their rich County was headed down the path of poor districts with deteriorating schools whose maintenance was always deferred and delayed. She said that they should get real and provide the funding boost the schools needed to get inflationary needs as well as improvements in pay and infrastructure.

9. Mr. Jeff Adams, of Kellogg Mill Road asked the Board to please pass Item 12. He said that it would help with saving money in schools and utilities. He said that the purchase of development rights was a way to keep the school issues from increasing in magnitude. He said that as an incentive for passing Item 12, he pledged to not come to the 7 p.m. meeting because he would be at home celebrating if Item 12 passed.

   Mr. Adams said that he had spoken about Item 12 before the Board about a dozen times, and he knew that Ms. Baker would speak about it before the Board as she had many times. He said that Mr. Coen had been on the committee for many years, so he did not need further explanations. He asked the Board to please consider passing Item 12.

10. Mr. Al Watkins said that he lived on 12 England Lane in the George Washington District. He said that yesterday, around 200 climate scientists around the world released a report regarding the peril that their planet faced if drastic changes were not made quickly before even more natural disasters took place. He summarized that the time to act was now. He said that the was an advocate for teachers and all educators not only in Stafford but everywhere.

    Mr. Watkins said that he understood the trials and tribulations, the joys, the hardships, the successes, and the failures of working in their schools. He said that beyond that, he comprehended the similar situations that their deputies and especially their County firefighters and first responders were dealing with. He said that last year, their deputies received a 15% raise mid-year, which they absolutely deserved. He said that the County understood that it was difficult to retain and recruit people when there were greener pastures to the north.

    Mr. Watkins said that despite that increase being taken from temporary COVID-19 funds, it was now being carried forward in the regular budget because the need was there. He said that the need for the Fire and Rescue personnel required went above and beyond what was provided to the deputies, since they did not receive a mid-year pay bump last year for their tremendous service. He said that he knew the Board was making an effort to greatly improve compensation benefits and work additions for them as well.

    Mr. Watkins said that though GEICO was often mentioned in the County budget books as the largest employer, it was not really accurate, and it was time to recognize that the people working within their schools made up the largest employee group. He said that he had researched the history of compensation for their educators ad nauseum, especially how it related to the funding provided in the County budgets. He said that he had hoped that the proposed County budget from the County Administrator would break the streak of underfunding the needs of their schools, but as it currently stood, Stafford schools would continue to rank as one of their worst-funded divisions.

    Mr. Watkins said that everyone, including Mr. Vosburg and the Board, were aware that Prince William County competed with them and that they failed to compete with them on many levels. He said that much attention was given to Stafford's receipt of only 25% of the cost to compete, though in reality, being fully funded would assist much more than being just budget dust. He said that the impact was minimal compared to the decisions made by past Supervisors to maintain the low tax rate. He said that unfortunately for the Board, this was just the first part of what he hoped to bring before the Board in the evening session.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Vanuch - thanked Mr. Harvey for his dedication and service to Stafford County. She said that he had been a tremendous asset to the County and community, and they owed a lot to him. She said that they were sorry to see him move onto retirement, but it was well-deserved. She reported that as mentioned in the Chairman's remarks, the Spring Fever 5K would be taking place for Stafford Hospital on April 15. She said that she was recruiting members to join her district's team to run and walk in the race. She said that she was glad to see this event return, as it was a lot of fun for families and community members.

Ms. Vanuch said that she attended the DARE basketball game a couple of weeks ago where educators played against law enforcement. She said that the Sheriff's Office won the game over the educators, and she believed that there was a number of attendees at the game. She said that on a more serious note, she and staff were drafting a letter to provide an update on the Lake Arrowhead Service District and the dam repairs, with a goal of having that out in the early spring so that they were fully aware of all that had gone on in acquiring land and the work being done with the County and the state to repair the dams in Lake Arrowhead.

Ms. Vanuch said that a month ago, she asked the Public Safety Committee to look at the cost of public safety responses to I-95 crashes annually, and the three-year cost was a couple hundred thousand dollars in Fire and Rescue needs. She said that unfortunately, there was no pathway for reimbursement at the state and federal level, however, it was identified that there was an ordinance in state code that if the County adopted an ordinance that allowed them to gather reimbursement from DUI drivers, they could ask the courts to have the drivers pay the County as a reimbursement. She said that the ordinance would be brought back to the Public Safety Committee for review, and then it would be referred to the Board of Supervisors later in the spring.

Ms. Allen - congratulated Mr. Harvey on his retirement. She said that she appreciated Mr. Harvey's dry sense of humor, which she would miss. She said that his immense dedication and service to the County was well-noted, and she was grateful that he was able to work there for his entire career, which was an achievement that not many people had reached.

Ms. Bohmke - remarked that she had already signed up for the 5K, and she appreciated the other Supervisors' remarks on the event. She said that sign-ups before tomorrow were discounted, and there was a drop-down menu for each district. She congratulated Mr. Harvey, and stated that his stoicism paid dividends when she would ask him the same question many times, and he never made fun of her. She said that planning and zoning was the most complicated thing in the district, and there were many times when Mr. Harvey could have embarrassed her, so she appreciated his kindness. She said that she wished Mr. Harvey the best.

Ms. Bohmke said that she extended condolences to Ken and Ellen Chaffin, and Spotsylvania County Supervisor Lori Hayes on the loss of their son and her brother Jeff, who passed away from cancer. She said that they started Calypso Kennel in the Falmouth District in 1990. She said that Jeff was an accomplished professional dog-handler and formed an unbreakable bond with each dog that he loved showing and competing with. She said that he had some great achievements as a dog-handler. She said that one of his dogs was named "Edgehill Nautilus Calypso," who was nicknamed "Joe," and won things in 1993, then in 1994 was named "dog of the year" in Japan. She gave her condolences to his family and stated her appreciation of their business in Stafford County.

Ms. Bohmke said that advertised in the Freelance-Star was that they had received a large grant for forensic nurses at Mary Washington Hospital as part of their work with the hospital to provide 14-hour forensic nursing for people who were impacted by sexual assault. She said that it unfortunately was something that happened in their community and they did not want those victims to have to travel to northern Virginia or Richmond when they had been sexually assaulted, as the best place for them was in Stafford. She said that they were able to achieve a $750,000 grant, and she wanted to thank Empower House staff and Ms. Donna Krauss. She said that there were challenges in the way the grant must be written, and Ms. Krauss helped at a critical moment. She said that her actions immensely helped the hospital and everyone at Empower House, so she thanked her for that.

Ms. Bohmke said that a FAMPO meeting was held last night, and the River Crossing at Celebrate Virginia would be discussed at the May 17 FAMPO meeting at the VDOT headquarters for the Fredericksburg residency, at 87 Deacon Road. She said that the large building at the back had an auditorium where the event would be held.

Ms. Bohmke said that a farewell party was held for Lisa Crittenden who was with Hope House, also renamed Lois Anne's Hope House, where she had been for 10 years. She said that she affected unbelievable change with the people who came into Lois Anne's Hope House, and the people she worked with appreciated all that she taught them while there.

Ms. Bohmke said that there was a report received on the freight summit that she would put out on her Facebook page. She said that they knew that there were too many trucks in the region on I-95, and they were working with FAMPO on how to deal with the traffic, and they hoped that the northern River Crossing would help, but it would not answer all of their problems. She said that a new Wawa was coming near the intersection of Crane's Corner and Route 1 and Enon Road, and she would be putting out information on that. She said that transportation improvements had been approved by Smart Scale for that area, but many of the projects were in the deficit of inflationary costs.

Ms. Bohmke requested to pull Item 3 on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Coen – remarked that he had also signed up to participate in the 5K. He said that he initially was signed up to play at the basketball game, but he was not encouraged to do anything related based on previous basketball-related injuries on the same court. He said that regardless, he supported the recent game and event. He said that he and Supervisor English had communicated about attempting to do a substation on Route 17, so they hoped something would help soon. He said that many people were discussing what to do to allow pickleball to happen sooner than what was planned in the CIP.

Mr. Coen said that last spring break, he did not leave the County, but he also attended the forensic tour at Mary Washington with Supervisors Gary and Bohmke. He said that a few years ago during a ride-along, he experienced the great relationship between the deputies, hospital, and Commonwealth Attorney, and he got a fuller appreciation of the process and the involvement of partner agencies. He said that it could not be stressed enough how integral Ms. Krauss and Ms. Bohmke were in securing the grants.

Mr. Coen thanked the Sheriff for his ride-along, as well as Burt Collins and Chris Neuhard. He said that he observed the teams dealing with a dangerous situation, and he gave praise to the K-9 squads, drone squad, SWAT team, and the patrols for their professionalism. He said that in addition, he was able to see much of the newly-approved equipment in use. He said that he appreciated being able to assist with directing traffic.

Mr. Coen said that he also participated in a ride-along at the Falmouth District's Fire Station 1, and he would like to thank Scott Pilot, Dan Browton, Thomas Howe, Corey McCauley, Jason Kearney, Steven Jones, Jamie Kelly, Billy Kelly, and Michelle Shipman. He said that he got to experience the training of the firefighters this time, including trying on the gear and the tank. He said that he became aware of his limitations and was able to see what a strenuous activity the job was.

Mr. Coen said that this Board had discussed the mental health issues of their public safety personnel, including Fire and Rescue, as well as overtime, retention and hiring of personnel. He said that an excellent way to address these issues was to look at the schedule that the Fire and Rescue had to do, in particular the on-again off-again schedules they currently endured, and it was very taxing for the personnel to work multiple shifts in a row. He said that along with calls, the schedules took a huge impact on the employees physical and mental health.

Mr. Coen said that a concept called 24/72 would give the personnel more downtime between shifts, helping their physical and mental health and allowing them to spend time with their families. He said that such a schedule had been shown to assist with the health of the public safety personnel, and the schedule had been used in other communities. He said that it helped with hiring, retention, and overtime, and he politely asked the County Administrator to work with the Fire and Rescue personnel to change the schedule to something conducive to the service and quality-of-life of the department's personnel.

Mr. English - thanked Mr. Harvey for always helping him solve issues during his tenure on the Planning Commission, and for running such a great staff. He said that Richards Ferry Road was scheduled for 2025, meaning that sometime after July 4, widening and asphalt placement would begin. He said that this past week, there was also road work being done on Richards Ferry, so the bad sides of the road were fixed, but if any persisted he asked the public to please call him. He said that the widening of Kellogg Mill Road would begin next week. He said that the rumble strips at Route 17 and Hartwood Road were beginning tomorrow and were scheduled to be completed within the same day, and there were new signs installed there as well.

Mr. English said that Musselman Park had a meeting on March 8 and came up with two concepts, and while he was unable to attend the meeting, he understood that they would be presenting those concepts to the Parks and Rec Commission next month. He said that his constituents had requested trash drop-offs in certain areas of Hartwood, and he would like to understand what the potential cost effects were, perhaps with the R-Board.

Mr. English said that he recalled that constituents in Rockhill were also asking about the issue. He said that Randy Shocke passed away on Friday after a long illness. He said that Mr. Shocke was instrumental in the Crimesolvers of Stafford County, and they had served together for about 20 years. He said that Mr. Shocke's funeral would be on Tuesday, and he wanted to extend condolences to his family.

Ms. Gary - remarked that she signed up for the Spring Fever 5K, in which she would be running and walking, and the link to sign up was posted on her Facebook page. She said that she attended her first library trustee meeting, and they were moving forward with exploring options that were most appropriate for recording the meetings for transparency, as requested previously, and were still awaiting updates to the app that were promised by the company that CRRL utilized, with the intent of addressing parental concerns. She said that she would report back on the issue as it continued to progress.

Ms. Gary said that on March 14, she also attended the forensic tour at Mary Washington Hospital. She said that as a survivor of domestic violence, she could not thank Supervisor Bohmke, the Empower House staff, Mary Washington Hospital, and Ms. Donna Krauss for all of their hard work to secure the funding for the program. She said that she also attended the VRE Operations Board meeting remotely last Friday, as well as the financial committee on that same day.

Ms. Gary said that last night, she attended FAMPO, where there was a great exercise to assist in understanding how transportation and development worked together and how to do it better, including freight results. She said that she had been an advocate for funding VRE appropriately, and the third rail proposed to be installed would free up space for CSX to not share rails.

Ms. Gary thanked Mr. Harvey for all of his investment in the County, and in particular he had been incredibly helpful and responsive as she had learned the role of Supervisor and to navigate difficult situations in her own neighborhood.

Ms. Gary said that the constituent who mentioned pickleball in her public comment was her neighbor and knew that she took her niece to play pickleball, so she was eager to get pickleball courts installed so that Ms. Shannon could take more children to spend time together playing this sport. She said that her neighbor's daughter Ellie is awaiting a bone marrow match, so she asked people to visit bethematch.org to see if they were able to help Ellie or the thousands of other people awaiting a donor.

Ms. Gary said that she gave her condolences and prayers to the family of Jason Ortiz, who was six years old and recently passed away from leukemia, which she found out from her daughter when she came home from Stafford Elementary. She said that she wanted to acknowledge all of the emails coming in about schools. She said that she had responded to all emails, and there was a lot of information that she was trying to relay to people so that everyone understood what was being asked for.

Ms. Gary said that she had done her due diligence as best she could, but if people wanted to pay for the schools and pay the taxes, she was meant to represent the taxpayers, so if people would let her know what they wanted, she would support it. She said that in addition to her own children attending the schools, there were many reasons that behooved them to invest in their schools, including real estate and development.

Dr. Yeung - thanked Lisa Crittenden for all of the work that she had done over the past 10 years. She gave her condolences to Ms. Lori Hayes for the loss of her brother. She stated that she had been on the Department of Behavioral Health Development Services call to learn more about Governor Youngkin's program and what was being done in Stafford County. She thanked Captain Davis and Chris Neuhard for their work with the individuals and the compassion that they had. She thanked Mr. Harvey for all that he had done for the County and for indulging her questions posed to him from the dais.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Ms. McClendon stated that she had no report at this time.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Vosburg said that four informational items were in the Board packet. He said one was the monthly expenditure listing, the second was the Butler Road Study from transportation, which was presented at a committee. He said that the action lists from the CEDC Committee and the Infrastructure Committee were the final two information items included in the packet. He stated that they had received their first application for a data center, which was received a few weeks ago for Ms. Bohmke's district.

Mr. Vosburg said that they had their one-on-one sessions to work on presenting information and data to the Board, several tours of data center set up, and a joint session with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors set for next week on March 29 at 6 p.m. He said that meetings were already underway with the applicant, and they would likely be reaching out to other Supervisors to talk about that project.

Mr. Vosburg said that staff was heavily engaged in the process, which was new to Stafford County but not to Virginia, so there was a lot of material that could be gathered from the counties to the north. He said that they had the opportunity to get it right, which was their goal, and the engagement from Planning and Zoning, Utilities, Legal, and Community Engagement staff was very hands-on in getting the information to the Board of Supervisors. He said that while there was only one application received so far, they believed there would be others.

Dr. Yeung said that some of the districts in the County had been approached about data centers, and Ms. Bohmke had agreed to keep all of the Supervisors up-to-date on the information, so that the Board made the best decision for the community and County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve the Consent Agenda less item #3 pulled by Ms. Bohmke.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

ITEM 1. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE MARCH 7, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES.

ITEM 2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPOINT CAPTAIN LEE PETERS, III TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK AREA ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM POLICY BOARD TO COMPLETE THE CURRENT AND NEXT TERM ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2026.

ITEM 3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; RECEIVE CENTRAL RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL LIBRARY'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

Ms. Bohmke said that she expected more information to be included in the quarterly report from the library, especially because she had previously served on the Library Board. She said that there was not enough information about additional challenges being worked on, and the report did not indicate enough of the discussions or challenges the Board was having, especially when they were relatively, such as taking roll at a meeting. She said that taking attendance and recording the meetings for the public were very basic things to be included, and she would not stop asking about them until changes were made.

Ms. Bohmke said that Board members should also have an opportunity to make comments at any public meeting, and there was not any regional Board that did not take a recording of the minutes, and many of them were via video. She said that she was disappointed in those regards, but thanked Supervisor Gary for taking over serving on the Library Board.

Ms. Gary said that there was discussion about having comments from Board members and how to add that to the agenda at the past meeting of the Library Board.

Dr. Yeung said that she would like to see a plan for the cost decrease in reducing some of the reams of paper being used. She said that businesses could take advantage of the free paper to make copies.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve Item 3, the Central Rappahannock Regional Library's Quarterly Report.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

ITEM 4. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR AIR PURIFIER FILTERS.

Resolution R23-108 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION BUDGETING AND APPROPRIATING FEDERAL FUNDS TO THE SCHOOLS' GRANTS FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF AIR PURIFIER FILTERS

WHEREAS, Stafford County Public Schools (Schools) has received a federal grant administered through the Virginia Department of Health to reimburse the costs of COVID-19 supplies; and

WHEREAS, the School Board approved the award of a contract, subject to appropriation, for the air purifier filters in the amount of $411,202.40, and the Superintendent has requested the Board appropriate the funds via a memorandum to the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, there are no County costs or matching funds required to accept the grant, and all funds are budgeted and appropriated in whole dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that federal grant funds in the amount of Four Hundred Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Three Dollars ($411,203), administered through the Virginia Department of Health to reimburse the costs of COVID-19 supplies, be and they hereby are budgeted and appropriated to the Schools' Grants Fund.

ITEM 5. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS FY2022 YEAREND ENCUMBRANCES FOR FY2023.

Resolution R23-109 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022 YEAREND ENCUMBERED FUNDS FOR FY2023

WHEREAS, at the end of the fiscal year all prior year unspent appropriations lapse and the associated funds return to the fund balance of the General Fund or the fund they were originally appropriated and encumbered within; and

WHEREAS, the Board requires prior-year reappropriation to be reviewed under the standards of the Principles of High-Performance Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, the Board directed staff of the County and Schools to provide a year-end report of encumbrances over $50,000, which staff desire for reappropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Schools Superintendent has requested the Board to reappropriate the below unspent FY2022 to FY2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the FY2022 unspent encumbrance funds from the County's funds be and they hereby are budgeted and reappropriated to the funds, departments, and account lines said fund were within on June 30, 2022 in the amounts as follows:

Fund	**Amount**
Schools' Operating	$10,937,987
Capital Projects Fund	$13,782,817
Schools' Nutrition Fund	$885,143
Fleet Services Fund	$235,244
Grants Fund	$2,604,147
Total Reappropriation	**$28,445,338**

ITEM 6. CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; PETITION THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN STREETS WITHIN THE LIBERTY HALL ESTATES SUBDIVISION.

Resolution R23-110 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO PETITION THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS FOR LIBERTY HALL ESTATES SUBDIVISION, LOCATED WITHIN THE HARTWOOD ELECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 33.2-705, the Board desires to petition the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to include Liberty Hall Drive, Coffman Drive, and Loyd Drive within Liberty Hall Estates subdivision, as described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3, into the Secondary System of State Highways; and

WHEREAS, VDOT inspected these roads and found them satisfactory for acceptance into the Secondary System of State Highways;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) be and it hereby is petitioned to include Liberty Hall Drive, Coffman Drive, and Loyd Drive within Liberty Hall Estates subdivision, as described on the attached Additions Form AM-4.3, into the Secondary System of State Highways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an unrestricted right-of-way with necessary easements for cuts, fills, and drainage is guaranteed, as evidenced by Plat of Record entitled, Liberty Hall Estates, recorded among the land records of Stafford County, Virginia in Plat Map No. PM180000118 with Instrument No. LR180016830 on October 4, 2018; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator, or his designee, shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the developer, and to the VDOT Transportation and Land Use Director, Fredericksburg District.

ITEM 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; A PROCLAMATION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE JEFF HARVEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STAFFORD COUNTY.

Proclamation P23-16 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JEFF HARVEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO STAFFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Jeff Harvey came to Stafford County as a planner on January 9, 1989, with an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Urban Studies and a Master's Degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy with an Urban and Regional Planning Concentration, both from the University of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement on March 31, 2023, after 34 years working for Stafford, he will have served as a planner, senior planner, assistant director of Planning, and acting director of Planning in 2002. He ascended to director in 2003. He continues to serve in that position; and

WHEREAS, his colleagues describe him as dedicated, unflappable, strong, having a wealth of institutional knowledge, thoughtful, always ready to help and a bedrock of the organization; and

WHEREAS, during his time with Stafford County, Jeff Harvey took pride in innovation, working with the Board of Supervisors to find and practice new growth and stormwater management methods. Under his leadership, Stafford is only one of 12 Virginia counties to implement the Purchase of Development Rights Program and one of a handful of counties to practice the Transfer of Development Rights Program. He helped Stafford become the first county in Virginia to implement transportation impact fees; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harvey led Planning at a time when it oversaw the development of Embrey Mill, an acclaimed, beautifully planned community in Stafford; and

WHEREAS, among other accomplishments during Jeff Harvey's tenure, the Planning and Zoning departments merged, Stafford rewrote its Zoning Ordinance, Widewater Park opened, the Airport opened, Crow's Nest was created, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harvey championed excellent customer service and the constant reevaluation and modernization of delivering information to citizens and patrons; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harvey has remained positive and forward-thinking during his service under more than 40 Board of Supervisors members and seven county administrators; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harvey is the living embodiment of the organization's core values of proactive ownership, infinite possibilities, customer first, stronger together, ardent learners and, most of all, unwavering respect. His example has been an inspiration and benchmark to Stafford employees for 34 years and will be greatly missed when he retires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, on this the 21th day of March, 2023, that it be and hereby does honor and recognize Jeff Harvey upon his retirement after 34 years of service to Stafford County.

<u>ITEM 8. FIRE AND RESCUE; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR THE DRY FIRE HYDRANT GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY.</u>

<u>Resolution R23-119 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR THE DRY FIRE HYDRANT GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

WHEREAS, the Board has identified public safety as one of the County's top priorities; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Stafford County is not served by County hydrants for fire protection and dry hydrants provide a key component to fire protection in these rural portions of Stafford County; and

WHEREAS, repairs are needed to a dry hydrant located at 226 Southern View Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Forestry offers an annual grant program for the installation or repair of dry hydrants at no cost to the County; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for the grant application is March 31, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to apply for the Dry Hydrant Program through the Virginia Department of Forestry in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000) to provide funding for repairs to a dry hydrant on Southern View Drive.

<u>ITEM 9. PLANNING AND ZONING; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER GRANTING ACCESS TO AND USE OF UNIMPROVED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OFF OF COOL BROOK LANE FOR A PROJECT KNOWN AS SOUTHGATE SELF-STORAGE.</u>

<u>Resolution R23-79 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER GRANTING ACCESS TO AND USE OF A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY FORMERLY INTENDED FOR THE EXTENSION OF COOL BROOK LANE

WHEREAS, the right-of-way for Cool Brook Lane was dedicated to public use; and

WHEREAS, a portion of right-of-way for Cool Brook Lane located east of Queensland Drive has not been constructed to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements and has not been accepted in to the Secondary System of State Highways; and

WHEREAS, this portion of right-of-way for Cool Brook Lane is not currently planned to be constructed; and

WHEREAS, the owner of Tax Map Parcel No. 45-165 requests access to and use of a portion of the right-of-way for Cool Brook Lane the purpose of providing an access road to the parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to consider the owner's request and in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1800(B), the Board is required to hold a public hearing to consider granting such a request;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to advertise a public hearing to consider granting access and use of a portion of the public right-of-way formerly intended for the extension of Cool Brook Lane.

<u>Item 10. SHERIFF; AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOR THE 2023 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.</u>

<u>Resolution R23-121 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOR THE 2023

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Stafford County is eligible for grant funding in an amount up to $307,000 through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Law Enforcement Equipment Grant program to reduce violent crime and gun violence, which has disproportionately increased due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the grant application deadline is March 24, 2023 and the Criminal Justice Services Board will approve applications by May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office has identified equipment needs such as ballistic shields, ballistic riot helmets, ballistic SWAT helmets, a mechanical breach kit, communications headsets, additional sniper rifles, and the TRU Narc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer; and

WHEREAS, the funding for these projects totals $141,604 and no local match is required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that it be and hereby does authorize submission of an application to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice for the 2023 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Law Enforcement Equipment Grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; CONSIDER ESTABLISHING THE STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING ITS MEMBERS.

Ms. Donna Krauss, Deputy County Administrator, stated that there were some remaining questions about the structure of the committee. She said that the questions for the Board to consider were if the committee should include Board members, if the committee should include only Board members, and if no, if each district should have a representative based on their district, and if any other seats should be created on the committee, and if so, how many and if there was any specific criteria for these seats. She said that the Board's direction on those key questions would allow staff to create a resolution for the Board to consider.

Mr. English said that his intention was for two Supervisors and two alternates to create the criteria. He said that he did not want additional costs to be incurred from more Board members serving.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve the proposed Resolution R23-37, appointing himself and Ms. Bohmke as committee members and Ms. Vanuch and Mr. Coen as alternates.

Ms. Allen said that she had no issue with the membership, but there were other questions to be answered.

Ms. Krauss said that it appeared that the membership would only be Board members.

Ms. Allen asked if there would be any other members.

Ms. Vanuch said that the other members included in the resolution were Mark Doyle from Fire and Rescue and Captain Bice from the Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Krauss said that the resolution was from the previous Board meeting, before that was based on the Public Safety Committee's recommendation. She said that there was no resolution for this meeting, but it was included because it was historical and included in the previous Board package. She said that today, staff needed to understand what was needed to create the structure.

Ms. Vanuch said that the motion was including the other two listed names in the resolution in addition to the Board members named by Mr. English.

Ms. Krauss clarified that the committee would not only be composed of Board members but would include those two additional people who had already been working on the committee. She asked if the Board wanted there to be four main seats on the committee.

Mr. English said that Ms. Krauss was correct.

Ms. Allen asked if the alternates would only be for the Board or if the other side had alternates, because that must be included as part of the committee structure.

Dr. Yeung asked Ms. Krauss if she had the information that she needed.

Ms. Krauss said yes. She asked Ms. McClendon if based on what the Board had just stated the resolution could be utilized as in the Board package, because it was the format that they were trying to achieve.

Ms. McClendon said that as the motion had been stated with the resolution as the correct format, staff would be able to understand what the Board would like to do. She said that if the Board approved the resolution with the approved amendments, they could execute it.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R23-37 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL COMMITTEE AND APPOINT ITS MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Stafford County has a long history of service and excellence in its Fire and Rescue Department and Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to honor the dedication and sacrifice of these brave men and women who are integral to the success of Stafford's public safety mission; and

WHEREAS, the Fire and Rescue Department began as an all-volunteer service and the service of those men and women helped to establish the current combined career and volunteer system that provides excellent service to throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has a distinguished line of Sheriffs and Deputies who have helped build and shape the department as one of the leading sheriff's offices in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to honor those lost in the line of duty from both the Fire and Rescue Department and the Sheriff's Office and to honor their families, who also have made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to create a memorial to honor both volunteer and career public safety personnel to recognize their service and dedication to the County and to preserve their memory for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish the Public Safety Memorial Committee and appoint the Committee's membership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the Stafford County Public Safety Memorial Committee be and it hereby is established to initiate and oversee the process of developing a Stafford County Public Safety Memorial (Memorial); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall create a plan and proposal for the development of the Memorial that shall include its proposed location, criteria for honorees, preliminary design ideas, estimated costs, and strategy to raise the funds, and said plan and proposal must be presented to the Board for review and approval prior to implementing the plan, expending any funds, and entering any agreements; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appoints Supervisor Darrell English, Supervisor Meg Bohmke, Mark Doyle, and Captain Joseph Bice as members of the Committee, and Supervisor Crystal Vanuch and Supervisor Thomas Coen as alternates to the Board members sitting on the Committee. The terms of the Committee members shall be at the pleasure of the Board, except for the terms of Board members appointed to the Committee whose terms shall not extend beyond the terms of their elected position.

ITEM 12. PLANNING AND ZONING; CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) ADMINISTRATOR TO PROCEED WITH DEED NEGOTIATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR THE 2022 PDR APPLICATION PROPERTIES. PROPOSED RESOLUTION R23-81

Ms. Kathy Baker, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning, stated that this item was the purchase of development rights applications that they were currently working on with seven application properties from the 2022 round. She said that the applications had been evaluated and ranked based on the ordinance criteria, and the Agricultural and Land Conservation Committee voted to recommend easement acquisition based on the ranking criteria.

Ms. Baker said that easement acquisition was contingent upon available County funds and potential matching funds, and appraisals on each property would determine the amount of funds needed to acquire each assessment. She stated that $1.3M was currently available in PDR funds and $1.3M in matching state and federal funds would be used to leverage County funds. She noted that preliminary estimates indicated that they could fund all seven of the applications with this existing money if they were to receive matching funds for all of them.

Ms. Baker displayed a map of the County and stated that one of the seven properties was located in the Hartwood District, one was in the Aquia District, and five in the George Washington District. She showed a chart of the applications in order of ranking, with some distinctions within the rankings being property size, agricultural prime soils, management plans for water quality conservation, or cultural resources.

Ms. Baker said that the Harris property was 55.53 acres and had significant environmental resources on the property and on Spotted Tavern Road. She said that the committee asked on March 7 about what type of development was near all of the properties, and an aerial view showed that the Harris property had rural residential, forestal, and agricultural parcels surrounding it.

Ms. Vanuch said that the property next door to this parcel on the King George line was a proposed potential data center site.

Dr. Yeung asked if Ms. Baker would know that.

Ms. Bohmke said not necessarily.

Dr. Yeung asked if Mr. Harvey knew that.

Ms. Bohmke said that he may or may not. She said that as discussed at the committee meeting, the Board could renumber them if they so chose.

Ms. Baker said that was correct.

Ms. Bohmke said that she would like to make a motion to amend the numbering.

Dr. Yeung said Ms. Baker should finish her presentation.

Ms. Baker said that the Long property on Bethel Church Road was 67 acres in size and primarily forested with significant environmental features. She displayed the aerial view of the property in the agricultural area with rural residential developments in the neighborhood. She continued that the Bell property was 20 acres on Hollywood Farm Road was primarily pastureland with some wetlands and a pond, and was surrounded by adjacent farms, forestland, and rural residential.

Ms. Baker said that the Schenemann property on Brooke Road was 20 acres of forested land, nearer a more suburbanized area, as indicated on the aerial map which showed that it was about three miles from the urban services area. She said that the Ellington property was on Ferry Road, just outside of the urban services area, and was 57 acres in size. She said that there were multiple parcels shown on the map that were zoned A-2, with Ferry Farm and other neighborhoods in the vicinity. She said that the Pagnotta property was 35 acres off of Brooke Road, near the Crow's Nest peninsula, and also had rural residential development with Crow's Nest to the south.

Ms. Baker said that in the March 7, 2023 CEDC meeting, there was discussion about the proximity to the former power plant, which was approximately 2.3 miles east of the County line in King George County. She said that the Board could consider changing the order of ranking based on the cost, but they did believe that there was enough money at this time to move forward with all seven and apply matching grants.

Dr. Yeung asked if there were sufficient funds to cover all seven.

Ms. Baker said that they would not know until they completed appraisals, but based on prior appraisals performed on similar-sized properties, they estimated that it was around $2 million.

Dr. Yeung asked if the owners of the property would know the worth.

Ms. Baker said that the owners applied and were aware of the process, but would still own the land. She said that there would be a conservation easement over the land that would restrict future residential development.

Dr. Yeung asked if other uses would be restricted.

Ms. Baker stated that development of agricultural uses would be appropriate, as well as a residence for the owner, but any other type of development was restricted.

Ms. Gary asked if the Planning Commission had identified the area near the proposed data center as potential developable land.

Ms. Vanuch said that the County had not directed staff to look at that area.

Ms. Gary asked if that area was identified by staff as a potential site for a data center.

Ms. Baker said that planning staff had not done any work to find where data centers would be appropriate at this time.

Ms. Gary said that the Board had looked at areas along the power grid, but she did not recall this area as being a part of that analysis.

Dr. Yeung said that two districts had been approached for data center development, but they did not know what the locations were that were being considered.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve Resolution R23-81 with the following changes: put the Falmouth District property first because of its near vicinity to the Urban Services Area (USA), and because it had a dangerous curve on the road, so there was no reason to have residential housing there. She said that they should be looking at the parcels closest to USA because they could potentially build there the soonest. She said that then, number 5, number 7, and then begin back at the top and go down.

Ms. Gary made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Coen, to approve the proposed Resolution R23-81. She said that they could come back and look at these processes if the Board felt they needed to be changed in the future.

Mr. English asked for clarification that they were voting on the resolution as it currently read.

Ms. Vanuch said that there was time for discussion for this, but she felt that the preservation of the parcels closest to the Urban Services Area due to the transportation impacts of developments that were most likely to be built upon those parcels should be the priority. She said that the CEDC mentioned creation of new criteria because there were many questions about which properties were being chosen, versus the new land management conservation expert who would give specific guidelines for the Board in more efficiently using the program as was most beneficial to the community.

Ms. Vanuch said that she believed that they would be able to fund all seven properties, especially because numbers 5 and 7 were most likely to be developed. She said that the issues on Brooke Road would escalate if there were any developments in that area. She said that she believed the system was flawed in ranking the numbers.

Ms. Gary said that she agreed that the issue of the ranking system should be revisited after the vote.

Ms. Vanuch asked what the effects would be if the appraisals of the property changed after passing the resolution.

Ms. Baker said that they could go back and change that as they went forward, and this resolution would give the authorization to begin negotiating with the applicants and ordering those appraisals, so it would begin with three appraisals to begin with, but it would be a matter of time with the applicants and seeing how much funding was available. She said that the appraisal amounts must be known before applying for the funding.

Mr. Coen said that the Board had previously altered the ranking to prioritize conserving the most acreage with the least amount of funds. He said that if they were at a place where they could move forward with all seven, the argument was moot. He said that after appraisals and funding analysis, there were further steps in the process so that if they found that there were limited funds, they could reorganize the list based on other criteria.

Ms. Bohmke asked Ms. Baker when the information regarding funding all of the applications was received, because that information was not had at the committee meeting.

Ms. Baker said that was correct. She said that after the committee raised the issue of reordering the rankings, they looked at what potentially was possible based on prior appraisals of similar properties. She said that it was a rough estimate that there could be enough money, and they would not truly know until appraisals were completed.

Ms. Bohmke asked if they would only be doing the first three appraisals and then waiting for them to come in.

Ms. Baker said that they were waiting until direction was received to begin work, and it was possible that they could do all seven appraisals, as the County would be paying for them. She said that as they worked through them, it should be kept in mind that the closings on properties had to be refreshed and updated because they had to be done within six months of closing.

Ms. Bohmke said that she would support the motion but did not believe in moving forward with the rankings as stated. She said that it became precarious once ordering the appraisals.

Ms. Allen asked if candidates could at any point withdraw from the process.

Ms. Baker said yes.

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Baker if the motion could be amended to include appraisals on all seven properties.

Ms. Baker said that she did not require it to be written in the resolution, and staff could simply take the Board's direction.

Ms. Vanuch said that she was concerned that 5 and 7 would not be funded.

Dr. Yeung called for the vote of R23-81.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R23-81 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE DEEDS OF EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS ON VARIOUS PARCELS LOCATED WITHIN THE HARTWOOD, AQUIA, FALMOUTH AND GEORGE WASHINGTON ELECTION DISTRICTS; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE APPLICATION FOR MATCHING FUNDS THROUGH VARIOUS LAND CONSERVATION AGENCIES

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Board established Stafford County Code, Chapter 22A, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), to enable the County to acquire conservation easements voluntarily offered by property owners to serve as one means of assuring that the County's open space, agricultural and forest lands, and natural and cultural resources are protected and efficiently used; and

WHEREAS, the Board established a PDR Administrator to implement the program pursuant to Stafford County Code, Chapter 22A (PDR Program); and

WHEREAS, the Board established an Agricultural and Land Conservation (ALC) Committee to promote the PDR Program in cooperation with and under the guidance of the PDR Administrator; and

WHEREAS, a new PDR Program round for applications was initiated in July, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the PDR Administrator and ALC Committee reviewed seven applications submitted under the PDR Program and ranked the applications in accordance with the requirements and criteria established in Stafford County Code, Section 22A-6 as shown on Exhibit A to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the PDR Program currently has $1,322,545 available for the purchase of development rights on properties located in the County; and

WHEREAS, several agencies, including the U. S. Department of Defense, the U. S. Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation have matching fund application rounds available for land conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to apply for matching funds to leverage the County's PDR allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed the recommendations of the PDR Administrator and ALC Committee and determined that the seven applications be considered, in order of ranking as shown on Exhibit A to this Resolution, for the purchase of development rights under the PDR Program, subject to the appropriation and availability of funds through the County's PDR Program and various matching-fund programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good planning practices require adoption of this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Administrator be and she hereby is authorized to negotiate deeds of easement for the purchase of development rights on properties, in the order of ranking shown on Exhibit A, for a total amount not to exceed One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five Dollars ($1,322,545), with a minimum of One Million Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five Dollars ($1,322,545) reimbursable by the Commonwealth of Virginia or the United States Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consideration of the properties are subject to appropriation and availability of funds through the County's PDR Program and the availability of 50% matching funds through various matching grant programs; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the remaining applications under the 2022 PDR Program round that cannot be acquired with the existing PDR funds may be considered for future easement acquisition, as additional funds become available and as authorized by the Board.

Exhibit A
2022 PDR Program Round
Application Ranking

Rank	Applicant Name	Tax Map Parcel No(s)	Election District	Score
1	Harris, John and Cathy	25-38	Hartwood	189
2	AP Legacy (Janet Harris)	56-112A	George Washington	175
3	Long, William	56-126A, -127A, -130, and -161A	George Washington	125
4	Bell, Dan and Pam	60-56	George Washington	112
5	Schenemann, Robin and Pamela	47-21C	Falmouth	104
6	Ellington, David and Jill	55-77, -78, -82, -83, -84, -85; and 55E-1-17	George Washington	96
7	Pagnotta, Michael and Holly	40-24	Aquia	84

ITEM 13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; DISCUSS FORMER PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER ANNE E. MONCURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY, AND DISCUSS AND PROVIDE STAFF DIRECTION ON THE APPROACH(ES) TO TAKE FOR FUTURE USE OF THE PROPERTY.

Mr. Mike Morris, Deputy County Administrator, stated that at the previous Board meeting, he gave a brief summary of the proposal received for the Moncure property, and had included all six proposals received since December 2019 in the background report. He said that staff requested direction on how the Board would like to move forward on the former Moncure school. He said that the several options included pursuing a rezoning, accepting a previous offer received, issuance of a new RFEI, conduct a town hall or some other community engagement process to solicit input on how to use the building, or land bank and hold onto the property for future use.

Ms. Allen said that none of the commercial offers had been acceptable, and her intention for the property was to make it a community space, so she preferred it be converted into a trade vocational school or a community center that gave access to activities. She noted that pickleball courts could be included as a part of renovating the property. She said that unless the commercial offers changed, she would not waiver from that.

Ms. Gary said that she also had been unimpressed with the commercial offers brought forward, and she did not believe the community would support the offers either. She said that they needed the funds, so if they could sell it for a reasonable prices, she was in favor of that, but otherwise she would agree with Supervisor Allen's comments that the space should be something useful for the community.

Ms. Vanuch said that a rezoning process should begin in order to prevent a residential rezoning. She said that all other information could be worked out as it was rezoned, and part of the reason they had not received lucrative commercial offers on the property was because of the rezoning process, which could be costly and lengthy. She said that most of the uses that people had mentioned were already allowed as uses under the B-1, and there would still be a public hearing because they were selling public land. She said that for any particular B-1 use, she was hesitant to leave a property zoned residential.

Ms. Vanuch said that the Commonwealth Attorney had recently asked her to view the drug treatment facility in Stafford County, but the County did not have one. She said that the Commonwealth Attorney informed her of the mental health-related funding opportunities from Governor Youngkin and encouraged the Board to write a letter with the delegation and Sheriff's Office about the impact of drug abuse in their County, because he thought the County would do well in securing a location for a drug treatment facility. She said that she mentioned the site, but she was unsure if a better parcel of land was available. She said that this item would be added as new business in the future in order to discuss the funding that would soon be available.

Ms. Bohmke said that the parcel had not performed as well as previous Boards had anticipated, and the future was even more uncertain. She said that she would prefer to have the land collect revenues, be taxed, and to have a commercial business there. She said that she was not averse to a mental health facility being on the site with the RACSB being involved. She said that she was unsure if it was the best location for that use, but there was a certain mental health epidemic affecting the country and especially the youth.

Mr. English said that he agreed that the rezoning process should begin, and there should be community input for this piece of property.

Ms. Vanuch said that she was on the zoning committee with Supervisors Coen and English, and everything they had discussed was under the B-1 uses, including community facilities, vocational schools, and recreational facilities. She said that everything that the Board could potentially agree on was applicable for B-1 and outside of residential.

Mr. Coen said that the land had been an issue for previous Boards as well. He said that the zoning should be moved toward commercial use because the residential use was problematic.

Dr. Yeung said that being opposed to residential use for this parcel was being opposed to housing for firefighters, nurses, and teachers. She said that the greater area's workforce should be able to live in the area, and while she would not support solely residential use, she would support a mixed-use development if there was appetite for that. She said that she agreed with Ms. Bohmke that mental health issues were very prevalent, and the building used to be a school, so it had potential for educational- or youth-based services in the future, as well as mental health treatment.

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. English, to bring the item back at the next Board meeting with a proposal to rezone the Anne E. Moncure site to B-1.

Ms. McClendon asked if staff could potentially have more than two weeks to bring back that proposal to the Board.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the following meeting, April 4, would give adequate time.

Mr. English asked Ms. McClendon if the property could be restricted to a type of profession such as teachers.

Dr. Yeung said that the number of rooms could be restricted.

Ms. McClendon said that the County was not in the business of renting property, so they would work with a developer to convey the property, or some other type of entity to manage it, and could deal with some particularities at that time. She said that several restrictions were in place with regard to concerns about room type and use. She said that the question was broad, but knowing that some things could be done while not running against federal fair housing rules would be a concern.

Ms. Gary said that she appreciated the idea of rezoning, but it took some of their ability away as individual Supervisors to decide things. She said that the rezoning may include developments that the Board approved of, but there was still potential for the property to be rezoned by the purchaser of the property into something that the individual Supervisors would not approve of even after the rezoning to commercial use. She said that she lauded the attempt to create a rehabilitation facility, but was unsure if this property was the correct parcel for the use.

Ms. Vanuch said that the Board still had to approve the contract of the purchaser of the property, as they were the seller.

Ms. Gary confirmed that was accurate.

Ms. Allen asked if the item could be brought back after the budget season, sometime in May.

Ms. Vanuch said that it must be referred to the Planning Commission as the beginning of the process, which then took 100 days before returning to the Board.

Mr. Coen said that it was a 100-day turnaround, which was a long process.

Dr. Yeung called for the vote.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Items 14 and 15 were continued at the 7 p.m. meeting.

RECESS

At 4:57 p.m., the Board recessed to the Joint Board and School Board Meeting for the School Board to Provide School Board's FY2024 Budget Request in the ABC Conference Room.

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Yeung called the evening session to order. She noted that Mr. English was absent from this portion of the meeting. Ms. Gary gave the invocation and Ms. Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Coen read the protocol for public comment.

1. Mr. Don Gray stated that he lived at 35 Denison Street in Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22406, and as a taxpayer, he wanted to properly fund education. He said that he did not have anyone in his family in the school system as a student or an employee, but he was willing to see appropriate increases in property taxes to pay for this. He said that he wanted to ensure that salaries were competitive to reduce turnover and stabilize the education environment. He said that he wanted to ensure that their schools were maintained properly and that schools were built to address population growth and the use of modular classrooms was minimized.

2. Ms. Jo Knight said that she lived at 103 Nautical Cove, Stafford, Virginia. She said that she was present because she observed the meeting earlier about the Anne E. Moncure school status. She said that she sent a letter to the Board, which she asked to be made part of the record. She said that anything put in that school would create more traffic, and the pickleball courts being discussed could be placed on school property or at Smith Lake, where a property existed that could likely not be used for anything else.

   Ms. Knight said that the drug facility that was referenced was not nearly as easy to get there as the Board discussed. She said that there was a private entity under contract for one in the County, and that private entity brought more revenue, and was handled more expeditiously without as much cost to the school system. She said that the drug facility found a property in Prince George County, but recent news headlines indicated that the public was very opposed to having people addicted to drugs in the area.

   Ms. Knight said that private entities were in competition with hospitals, and hospitals did not necessarily want this. She said that the person who made that offer was an octogenarian, and his decision was seen as his legacy to the County, because he was getting his affairs straight. She said that he had offered to support this, taking it out of the County's hands, and in her letter, she indicated how this person would work with the schools. She said that additionally, it was something needed very badly and that there was a dire need for these businesses.

3. Ms. Molly Denham stated that she was present to advocate for the County schools. She said that she had heard multiple times from multiple County members that they wished people would get more involved in the schools by coming to Board meetings, work sessions, town halls, School Board meetings, listen-and-learns, and joint sessions. She said that she had been doing so for the past year and found it exhausting. She said that she was an owner of two businesses, was a single parent during the week, with Girl Scouts, piano lessons, dinner demanded every night, and her doctor asked her to find 30 minutes to exercise when it was impossible to do so.

   Ms. Denham said that she said all of this to explain to the Board how upsetting it was to have to advocate in front of them for something that seemed to her, as a layperson, a basic necessity category. She said that she was upset to feel the need to attend the meetings in-person and virtually and advocate for the schools as if they were some sort of extravagance.

Ms. Denham said that she was unsure of how others felt, but she felt that she used the power of her vote to put people such as the Supervisors on the Board and the School Board to take care of the schools and these issues along with all of the other necessities of the County. She said that she found it ridiculous to have to beg for dollars for the school.

Ms. Denham said that she had heard all of the arguments about how budget dollars were precious and that decisions were tough, and while she did not doubt it, that was the job of the Supervisors. She said that she did not discount that decisions were hard, but that was why they voted people to the positions the Supervisors held. She said that if there was not enough money in the budget for necessities, the County would have to do what other families with not enough money did, which was to find it elsewhere. She said that whether it was through increasing taxes, changing how local businesses paid to the community, or attracting new income, she did not care, but she wanted something done.

Ms. Denham said that the Board had put the schools in such a state of disrepair and let them languish for so long that they had no choice but to find additional income for the extra things like basic infrastructure. She said that she would like to see the community come to these meetings to advocate for things like pickleball courts and other ways to improve the community, but unfortunately it was not reality.

Ms. Denham said that she knew the Board worked hard with little in the way of financial compensation, but there was a lot of talk about the schools and not enough action. She said that they had put their hats in the ring and asked the public to vote them in, and they had been voted into the position to perform a job, and as a voter, she expected them to do it but without her following along at every meeting to be sure it was done. She said that until then, she would continue to participate in these meetings and remind the Board how important the schools were and continue to request they find the funds to support them.

4. Mr. Keith Lockett stated he lived at 240 Revell Road in Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22405. He said that he was present as a 40-year County resident and taxpayer to comment on why it was so important to establish a tax rate that treated the requested FY24 school budget not like a cost of doing business like other County operating costs, but instead treated the school budget request as an annual investment contribution, much like a 401K retirement investment.

   Mr. Lockett said that unlike a retirement investment in which the return was expressed as a percent of the total investment, as a percentage, the return on the school budget was the contribution of having a top-rated school system increase the growth and prosperity of the County. He said that he understood that the Board of Supervisors had a difficult job studying tax rates and balancing income from tax revenue from expense demands that competed for those tax dollars, but the only way to get away from this annual school budget conflict was to treat the annual school budget request fundamentally different from other County budget demands.

Mr. Lockett said that the school budget should be treated as an investment in sustained growth and prosperity of the County where the school Superintendent said "if I receive X as requested in the budget, I will return Y expressed as tangible, quantifiable improvements in factors such as student test scores, teacher retention, student teacher ratios, and diversity." He said that that determined school ranking, and this type of return on investment or objective-based budgeting helped to mitigate what could often be a contentious conversation between funding providers like the Board and those often opposed to raising taxes, and School Administrators who were attempting to deliver the best education possible.

Mr. Lockett said that this budget approach also helped with accessibility and accountability because both the funding providers and the funding executors knew in advance what they had signed up for, and reduced the angst with funding providers that the money provided was now going down an increasing black hole. He said in closing, as a taxpayer, he did not like paying higher taxes any more than politicians liked raising them, but he could accept higher taxes as long as he knew where his tax dollars were going and what to expect the return on those dollars to be.

Mr. Lockett said that treating the FY24 school budget like an investment instead of an expense provided the opportunity to explain to taxpayers such as himself what return they could expect from their tax dollars being invested in the schools, even if they no longer had children in the schools. He said that by treating schools as an investment rather than an expense, from a practical and pragmatic perspective, he submitted that should they show a school system in the top 10 in the state, he would show a thriving and prosperous County.

5. Mr. Cliff Heinzer stated that he lived in Aquia Harbor. He said that tonight, he was speaking as the Political Action Chair for the Stafford Branch of the NAACP. He said that he asked the Board tonight to fully fund the requirements of the schools, meaning an advertised rate of at least 1.15. He said that a decade-and-a-half of prosperity had dropped the performance of Stafford schools from the top 20th percentile in Virginia to the current 67 out of 131. He said that however, Stafford was the sixth highest jurisdiction in Virginia in terms of household income, so there was question as to why they were near the bottom 15th percentile in per-pupil spending.

   Mr. Heinzer said that they could not wish away the labor market, and Prince William County paid its educators more, and if they did not match that, they would continue to hemorrhage teachers. He said that without better schools, they would not attract the kind of employer who would be able to hire the skilled workforce already present in Stafford and be able to contribute more to the tax base, reducing the burden on residents. He said that weak schools suppressed property values, which was difficult to see in the current bubble real estate market, but they would find out what it meant soon enough.

   Mr. Heinzer said that he would like to remind everyone that they must build on the investment of past generations. He said that the school that he was educated in was in a neighborhood with homes that were not half the size of the homes in Stafford County, and the cornerstone of the school was laid in 1936, certainly if they could be building schools in the middle of the Great Depression, they could meet the needs of their schools now.

Mr. Heinzer stated that this was about their children and the future that they would build for Stafford. He said that Fairfax County had currently set the compensation for its Board of Supervisors at $125,000 or above. He said that while they were not that large, they were larger than Alexandria, and should be compensating elected officials appropriately and provide them with the staff support that they needed.

6. Ms. Michele Wickman stated that she was a resident of Garrisonville and a mother of two children in Stafford schools. She said that she knew that many of the decisions she would discuss were decisions made by people other than the sitting Board members and was not meant to finger-point but was meant to illustrate how deep the hole was that they were trying to climb out of. She said that she had taught in Stafford for eight years, meaning that she had been coming before the Board for about seven years.

   Ms. Wickman said that she had not developed the courage yet during her first year and was pretty overwhelmed having gone from being a stay-at-home mom for eight years to a single mom in a full-time teaching position. She said that being in that tough position was what made her begin paying attention to what was happening with school funding, and she was appalled when she learned that despite being one of the most affluent counties in the state, Stafford ranked in the bottom 15% for school divisions in per-pupil expenditures, and the salary scales had been frozen for six years.

   Ms. Wickman said that back then, she had 31 middle school students in her Algebra 1 classroom, which at the time was a lot, but there was talk of schools being built and rebuilt, so hopefully some of that crowing would be alleviated. She said that she would be lying if she did not acknowledge that there had been some positive change. She said that after no pay increases for years, educators' salaries had begun to creep up, particularly in the past several years, but because they took so long to begin making changes, they were still well behind competing school divisions to the north, making it far too tempting to leave.

   Ms. Wickman said that she and many of her colleagues worked two jobs, and despite working two jobs, she still lived paycheck-to-paycheck. She said that she was still here because she loved Stafford schools and still believed that they could do better. She said that the problem was that they had to get ahead of things like this, because real change required small changes over time. She said that they had to have a plan, and from her perspective, there was no plan. She said that eight years later, despite massive growth in Stafford and roughly 4,000 new students, equating to approximately five new elementary schools, they had not built one single additional school.

   Ms. Wickman said that it was not uncommon for middle school and high school classrooms to have 38 students or more. She said that high school 6 would open in two years at capacity because they needed seven, and they were still in the bottom 15% for per-pupil expenditures. She said that these were critical problems, and if they did not make big changes, they would be catastrophic ones. She said that she knew that schools and educators did not have a monopoly on need in the County; their firefighters and first responders were facing similar issues of low pay, critical staffing vacancies, and a need for more facilities.

Ms. Wickman said that their infrastructure had some serious flaws and she knew that these were not easy decisions, but they needed a plan, and needed actionable steps toward resolution. She said that some of those steps were already laid out for the Board, and all they had to do was make the right choice. She said that the tax rate could be set as high as necessary in order to prioritize school funding, which she said as a property owner.

Ms. Wickman asked for the firefighters and first responders to receive the pay they should have received in January. She said that most of the Board members were playing with cards that had already been dealt. She said that some of them shared responsibility for the current circumstances, but every one of them had the opportunity to turn the tide. She asked what legacy they wanted to leave.

7. Ms. Fran Larkins stated that she lived at 40 Battery Point Drive, Stafford, Virginia. She said that she had no children in the Stafford County Schools but was a taxpayer and saw what the lack of investment in their schools was doing to their property values and to the general reputation of Stafford as a place to work and to live. She said that their priority in Stafford County must be to invest in their public schools, and as a taxpayer, she was willing to do her part to get this done.

   Ms. Larkins said that she had heard recently about problems with working with the Virginia state legislature, and that a lot needed to change. She said that there were new districts for Senate and House districts in the County, and she urged the Board to work across the aisle, and while it was up to the legislators to come to them as well, they should reach out to them and let them know what their priorities were. She said that it was not all on the Supervisors' shoulders, and if they needed help reaching out to their state legislators, they should let the citizens know and they would lobby in Richmond for what was needed.

8. Ms. Stacey Bertotti stated that she resided in the Garrisonville District. She said that she and her family had lived in Stafford County since 2007, after choosing to move to Stafford for the schools, and this year, their oldest child would be graduating from North Stafford High School, the world's greatest high school. She said that throughout the years, she had been heavily involved in their daughter's education, and she had been in the schools as a volunteer as well as a substitute teacher.

   Ms. Bertotti said that she had seen tremendous change, which was not always positive. She said that that many teachers went north because they could not afford to live on the salary given in Stafford, and they continued to underfund the schools and would lose even more teachers to the County north of them, and in essence, would not have a school district. She said that they had to stop focusing on Spotsylvania and look at Prince William County.

Ms. Bertotti said that it was the Board's responsibility as a new Board, and it should be their narrative. She said that it was time that they funded the schools properly and not just enough to keep the lights on. She asked the Board to give the students, staff, and faculty the pride back that they so desperately needed and deserved by stopping the overcrowding, stopping the trailers, and by building schools. She said the Board should not be afraid to raise taxes.

9. Ms. Juliet Schweitzer stated that she was a resident of the Aquia District and had three students at Brook Point. She said that she was a skier and loved the cold weather. She said that when she was on the mountain, she heard a loud rumble, and saw it was an avalanche. She said that she did not ski quickly to safety, and thought to herself, she would slow roll it, take her skis off, and walk down the mountain.

   Ms. Schweitzer said that that was exactly what they were doing in Stafford, where there was a thousand-pound snowball rolling down the proverbial hill, where instead of fully funding the School Board, they were slow-rolling projects slowly in increments. She said that unfortunately, this meant that schools did not get built and the budget did not get funded. She said that thus, the can was kicked down the road. She said that it was time to stop. She said that her daughter worked summer camp at Drew, and the daily roach count was between 40 to 50 per day.

   Ms. Schweitzer said that she substituted last year in a middle school math class that had 35 students when they were supposed to only have 26 students. She said that the music teacher at Stafford Elementary did not have a music room, and he pushed around a cart to each class because they were so overcrowded. She asked if they did not think that these things affected their teachers' morale every day.

   Ms. Schweitzer said that the high schools were overcrowded and plagued with fights. She said that Stafford County needed to do better, and they could do better. She said that she was not certain that they had to raise taxes, and she could not tell them how to get schools funded. She said that that was the Board's job. She said that she knew that there were many other departments that needed funding as well, including the firemen and the police. She said that at the end of the day, it came down to this: they needed to fund their schools.

10. Mr. Al Watkins stated that he resided at 12 England Lane in the George Washington District. He said that he would highlight certain points from the presentations that he had sent via email to the Board this afternoon. He said that Superintendent Taylor had phased in a five-year plan for teacher salary scale that was very forward-looking, but if they combined the two scales together as part of his presentation, in FY28 the Stafford salaries would still fall thousands of dollars below what Prince William was offering from next year, and Prince William obviously would have a higher scale in four years.

    Mr. Watkins said that the Prince William's pay for next year was $6,000 higher than Stafford's and in the eighteenth year, a teacher at Prince William would make $20,000 more than in Stafford, and in year 31, at the top of the Prince William scale, when full VRS was available, a Prince William teacher would make over $50,000 per year more than in Stafford County. He said that comparing careers in Prince William to that in Stafford using VRS calculations, a Prince William teacher averaged over $50,000 per year going into the VRS.

Mr. Watkins said that finally, in Prince William for a 17-year career, they had made $500,000 more than a teacher in Stafford would have been able to. He said that some of the charts that could be seen showed that the Stafford tax rate had averaged 13 cents per 100 less than Prince William for the last 18 years, and Prince William could also spend $1000 more per year for the last 15 years on their operating costs. He said that everyone knew what they needed to do, and they obviously needed revenue in order to accomplish that.

Mr. Watkins said that he was glad that he was not in the position that Mr. Vosburg and the members of the Board found themselves, where the only conceivable way to properly fund their schools, deputies, Fire and Rescue, and the rest of the County employees was to strongly go beyond what had been done in the past.

Mr. Watkins said that he urged them to not follow the same collective path as the County Supervisors who came before them, and the opportunity to break that chain was now by setting a new trend and make potential employees jump at the chance to work in Stafford. He said that they should run the risk of averse opinions from community members who were upset at paying higher taxes and help them understand why it was important. He said that they had had 15 years of County government determined to keep the taxes low and it was time to finally end that streak. He asked the Board to please make sure that they followed up and had a chance to see those presentations, which he urged them to do because they would learn a lot.

11. Ms. Clarissa Quinn stated that she read that most of the Supervisors had children of their own, and she herself had two children in middle school and two in elementary school. She said that she was involved in the PTO for both schools and had seen Dr. Taylor dedicated to their kids, families, teachers, and students. She said that she was a former teacher when they lived in Hawaii, and became a stay-at-home-mom.

    Ms. Quinn said that she was very concerned about the teachers who kept leaving the County, including one of the schools' principals. She said that she had had to explain to her children that change happened, but she wanted to see positive change. She said that her heart was with special education, and she did not appreciate seeing special education teachers being forced to leave, and that there was a lack of special education teachers when she personally knew of so many parents whose children needed the special education programs.

    Ms. Quinn said that she was present to advocate for those families and friends of hers who were struggling and who wanted to be able to take their children to school and know that it was okay and that they had a good teacher. She said that she would love to return to teaching but couldn't do so with the current concerns she had.

12. Ms. Kristin Maxson stated that she lived at 1816 Richmond Highway. She said that she was delighted that people had the courage to come up and speak, especially for the first time. She said that in 2017, the last Board meeting had an announcement that the Board was being sued seven different times by seven different parties. She said that it was this type of action that took away from money that should go to the schools, and it was not the teachers who were suing. She said that the information of legal jargon is not shared by the public or to the public, so one of the most difficult things for the public to understand was where the money was going and what the issues were.

    Ms. Maxson thanked the Board for any hint of whatever they shared with the public even if it was not direct facts. She said that she was in front of the building on March 7, when a lot of important meetings were occurring, including the economic development meeting. She said that there was a sign in front of the building that advertised the "economic development voting and tourism." She said that she inquired inside the building about the meeting was being held, but the staff said that there was no meeting there, so she showed the person the photograph of the schedule. She said that she would suggest that the departments know where the meetings were being held and actually help the people understand the information that was important to them.

    Ms. Maxson said that on the agenda today was R33-61 Tax Map 45, and there were 20 liens on this property from more than 20 years ago, and the plat said that it was not reviewing the information about the deed. She said that she wanted to notify the Board that they should look into it if they were interested, because it may cost the taxpayers something in later years. She asked if anyone understood slide 2, which had the "key assumptions and findings" of the utility meeting today at 1 p.m.

13. Ms. Shannon Fingerholz stated that she was a resident of the Hartwood District. She said that it was the fault of the Board of Supervisors, School Board, community members, and families. She said that it was all of the adults' fault, but the children were paying the price. She said that the children were receiving specialized services in hallways, had physically crowded classrooms, played "what is that dripping from the ceiling?" and had to know which sinks and toilets did not work.

    Ms. Fingerholz said that every day, they asked the teachers and staff to do more with less time, less resources, less space, and less pay. She said that they could not support a child's need on excuses or promises of next year. She asked how they would cover the salary and expenses of two new schools if they could not find a way to fully fund what they had now. She said that she did not want to hear stories of the past anymore, either from last year or the last decade, because they had all screwed up and thought it would get better next year. She said that she did not pay attention to the entire picture and assumed for far too long.

Ms. Fingerholz said that she was here now and could continue to learn and advocate for elementary 19 and for the School Board's budget. She said that the Supervisors were all here now too, and she asked what they would all be brave enough to do. She said that they wanted to be there to make a difference and fix things, which everyone knew was not easy and would hurt, but there were not as many angry people as there would be glad people. She said that they could do these hard things, and the kids in their community were worth it.

Ms. Fingerholz asked the Board to stop fighting with the School Board and each other and to stop blaming old decisions. She said that she told her child that what was great about decisions was that if they made one that did not work out that well, they could make a new one. She said that she had a can that contained their children, their childhood experiences, their knowledge, and their future. She asked which of the Supervisors would like her to put the can back in the road where they could kick it down a little further, and which of them would like to be brave enough to take this can and carry it with good stewardship and priority that their conscience and their community expected.

14. Ms. Sarah Taylor said that she lived in the Falmouth District. She said that she did not have anything prepared. She said that she left school at 5 p.m. after helping her club members make Senegalese jollof rice and Yassa chicken so that they could celebrate Senegal culture and learn about it when they met after school. She said that she was leaving the meeting tonight to go to the store to buy breakfast foods so that she could celebrate with her second block class successfully reading Romeo and Juliet, even though they had only been in the country for a year or two. She said that the extra time that she gave to her students and to her community was an investment that she did not necessarily expect to see the results of immediately.

    Ms. Taylor said that education was a long-term game, meaning that they had to invest now to see gains in the future. She said that failing to invest year after year meant there was generational loss of those gains, which was being experienced currently. She said that the work session with the School Board where they reported on the test results and breaking it down by demographic, the results of underfunded schools showed that marginalized students paid the steepest price when there was no funding.

    Ms. Taylor said that if a Supervisor ran on a platform of equity, as being pro-school, or solicited the support of the NAACP or the SEA for their seat, it was time to support the schools so that the students received the support that they needed. She said that she had been a teacher for 21 years, and if she were teaching in Prince William next year, she would make $27,517 more dollars, which was the price of a brand-new car that was earned within one year.

    Ms. Taylor asked them to stop treating the teachers like they were expendable, because when teachers constantly walked out the door and every year there were brand-new teachers or long-term substitutes in those seats, they did not have the experience to build relationships with students, and all that they could depend on was referral and discipline, which also disproportionally affected marginalized students.

15. Mr. Bart Randall stated that he was a resident of the Garrisonville District. He said that from 43% in 2011 to 38% right now, he did not know how one would run a household budget like that, much less a County budget. He said that many of the Supervisors were not there when that happened, performing their jobs and taking care of their families. He said that the sitting Board members now were in the middle of a problem that had a tough solution. He said that when he told his kids they could not do something, he would say that they were not trying hard enough, and should try harder, because there was nothing they could not do. He said that teachers told children that in schools as well, and the lesson applied here.

    Mr. Randall said that they did not need to talk about median income, because it was publicly available information. He said that the median income was $120,000 per year, and paying $100 extra to help their children was a small price to pay. He said that in the County Administrator's budget, the debt service was the interest they paid on their credit cards, and continued to go up. He said that people used their credit card for normal, everyday purchases, and no one used a credit card to pay for car payments. He said that however, that was how the County paid for most things. He said that the budget website stated that the debt service was over $40M every year, and he did not understand why the tax rate did not include any percentage to be put toward the debt service.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

ITEM 14. UTILITIES; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CDM SMITH INC. FOR AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES.

Dr. Yeung said that Item 14 would be moved to the April 4 Board meeting.

ITEM 15. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; DISCUSS A REQUEST TO LEASE A PORTION OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT DUFF MCDUFF PARK FOR THE RIVERE ECOLOGICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN PROJECT.

Mr. Mike Morris said that in early 2022, Rivere approached the County about the possibility of leasing 60 acres for this $20M research center in the botanical gardens at the Duff Green Farm, adjacent to Duff Green Park land. He said that the request went before the CEDC in 2022, and the presentation was made by Reveire at that time, and the committee requested the applicant return with answers to their 17 questions. He said that they returned in September 2022 to answer those questions and have further discussion.

Mr. Morris said that they had also indicated at that time that they had purchased the property adjacent to this parcel, the Mary Washington Foundation property, which was approximately 14.9 acres that they would use for the ecological center, and the 60 acres would be for the botanical garden located on Duff Green Park property. He said that the CEDC did not recommend positively or negatively, but asked that this discussion be moved to the full Board. He said that Rivere reduced their request for acreage to 33 acres and met with the Parks and Recreation Commission in October, November, and February.

Mr. Morris said that the Parks and Recreation Commission had significant discussion and questions that were answered in the February 16 meeting. He said that the Commission voted against leasing the land at Duff Green Park to Rivere, and the item now stood before the Board for discussion and direction. He said that Rivere was asking the Board for an option to lease 33 acres at Duff Green Park, including the ecological center on the purchased 14.9 acres, with a nature garden and play area consisting of about 9.5 acres.

Mr. Morris said that an aerial view of the property was displayed on the screen with portions outlined. He said that in the Board materials, there was a letter from Rivere requesting an MOU be drafted to give them the option to lease the 33 acres plus the 9.5 acres, and in exchange, they would raise money, and at the time they raised 50% of the anticipated $20M needed, they would request a lease agreement be entered into at a maximum of three years to raise those funds.

Dr. Yeung asked if there was a report of the Parks and Recreation Commission denial of the request.

Mr. Morris said that it was in the Parks and Recreation minutes.

Dr. Yeung said that it was not in the Board materials.

Mr. Coen asked if the southern parcel numbered 58C-2-6A was the purchased land. He said that it was where the ecological center would be, and they were asking for an MOU to do the fundraising for the botanical gardens that was 32.33 acres. He said that part of what they were doing was raising funds for the County to do the play area for children on the 9.51 acre parcel.

Mr. Morris said that was correct. He said that it would be everything south of what was the access road at this present time.

Mr. Coen said that this item was to begin the process of the MOU, which would give the applicant a time period in which they could raise the funds to do said project, and then it would return to the Board for further details.

Mr. Morris said that Mr. Coen was correct, and it would return for the actual lease agreement.

Ms. Bohmke asked Mr. Morris and Mr. Brion Southall, Director of Parks and Recreation, when strategic planning of the uses of the County was done in the department, had they utilized all of the programs that constituents wanted them to such that this was excess land.

Mr. Morris said that a Parks and Recreation Master Plan had been completed as part of a park utilization study in 2017, and that study revealed that there was a shortage in multiple types of amenities in parks. He listed playgrounds, ballfields, dog parks, event spaces, and a variety of other things.

Ms. Bohmke said that pickleball could be added to the list.

Ms. Bohmke clarified that the County was deficient in what needed to be provided to the public. She said that because the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes were not a part of the agenda package, she would ask Mr. Morris to share why they voted 6-1 against.

Mr. Morris said that he had not attended those meetings, but Mr. Brion Southall could address that.

Mr. Brion Southall, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the minutes from the February meeting at their meeting last week. He said that their concerns were mainly about the property, in that if the property were given away in the future in five or 10 years and they needed more fields for facilities, they would have to purchase that property again, which would result in a deficit.

Ms. Bohmke said that she had read the business plan of this company and could not fully endorse the business plan as being substantial and resilient. She said that if the Board chose to move in this direction, it was premature, and because they had a deficit of land in the County for facilities they wanted to put in, she could not personally support it. She said that the expensiveness of the land would be problematic for her.

Mr. Coen asked if the purpose of the MOU was to allow the entity to lease the land from the County, so they would not be selling the land to them.

Mr. Southall said that they would not be selling the land but would be giving them total use of it and the County would lose the use of it.

Mr. Coen said that they would not have to buy land back if it was never sold in the first place.

Dr. Yeung said that she was unsure if she had received an answer about the 7.62, deep water access for the ecological center. She said that she did not know if she had received an answer about what was disrupting the ground, and she would like more information on the topic in order to conserve the natural resources of the County as well as the future design of the County when developing land.

Ms. Allen asked if the applicant had discussed the length of the lease during the preliminary discussions. She said that her only concern was that it was not in perpetuity.

Mr. Southall said that they had not gotten into that level of detail, but he said that it would be longer than a five-year lease.

Ms. Allen said that giving a lease in perpetuity was essentially giving the land away, and she did not want semantics to play out in the contract but to be straightforward.

Ms. Michael Manchester stated that she was the director of Rivere. She said that there was a question about access to water, and currently the land was in agriculture, so the inputs were vast as far as habitat destruction. She said that their intent was to have best management practices to restore the habitat to the area. She said that they would be doing research that would look at the river and improve it by collecting the data and getting it to the Department of Environmental Quality to use in making necessary changes with the river.

ITEM 16. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2023 TAX RATES, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 COUNTY BUDGET, AND FY2024-FY2033 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP); ISSUING THE FY2024 VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL AUTHORITY GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT; AND AMENDING AND REORDAINING THE COUNTY CODE TO INCREASE THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS TAX RELIEF PROGRAM.

Dr. Yeung clarified that this item was a vote to advertise the rate and was not to set the rate. She said that the advertised rate was the maximum rate that could be set, and it could also be lowered depending on the Board's action on April 18.

Ms. Andrea Light stated that Dr. Yeung was correct. She said that this item was a vote to advertise the public hearings for the FY2024 budgets, the CY2023 tax rates, the CY2023 Fire and Emergency Services Levy, the expansion of the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program, the FY2024-33 Capital Improvement Program, and the FY2024 Virginia Public School Authority Issuance.

Ms. Light said that the FY2024 proposed budget included an approximate $43.2M or 12% operating increase. She said that the increase provided for staffing of 13 people for the Sheriff's Office at a cost of $2.8M, 16 staff for Fire and Rescue at a cost of $2.4M, and six general government positions at a cost of $465,748. She said that the budget included $4,470,382 of debt service increase for schools and inflationary costs of almost $570K.

Ms. Light said that the budget did not include department identified increase in operating costs of $7M or 3.2 cents on the tax rate. She said that there was a number of general government positions that were not funded that cost approximately $2.2M or 1.0 cent, and public safety unfunded positions from Fire and Rescue of 16 positions at $2.2M or 1.0 cent and eight Sheriff positions at $1.8M or 0.8 cents.

Ms. Light said that the school operating increase was $11.7M and did not fund at the Superintendent's proposed budget or at the School Board's adopted budget. She said that it would require for the Superintendent's budget, a 3.7 cent increase, and for the School Board's budget, a 16.8 cent increase.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that there was a County Administrator budget, Superintendent budget, and the School Board's adopted budget. She asked if these tax rate increases included the school and Administrator requests.

Ms. Light said that that was correct. She said that the County Administrator's proposed budget was a 9-cent increase, and the Superintendent would add a 3.7 cent increase and the School Board's would add 16.8 cents.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the School Board had included the $500M in new school infrastructure under CIP needs that had been previously identified in fall 2022.

Ms. Light said no. She said that there were a number of projects that the schools asked for in the CIP that were not able to fit within the current debt capacity. She said that they would look at those as a part of the March 28 budget work session to see how to put them into the CIP or if the Board had any changes to what was discussed in December when the CIP was reviewed.

Ms. Light continued that there had been some adjustments to the proposed budget, including a decrease in school debt service of $344,000, which was because the County went out for a VPSA standalone issuance, which was just completed after the budget was proposed, so there was a more conservative approach to what that debt service would be. She said that in revenues, the increased costs of the Elderly and Disabled Relief was assumed to be $600,000, and the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office returned a much more precise analysis of $485,000 in revenue.

Ms. Light said that the slide displayed the expenditures included in the County's Five Year Financial Plan. She said that she wanted to provide this in context to what they would be deciding today. She said that in the plan, in order to fund this Five-Year Plan, the tax rates went up to $1.11 in CY2028. She said that she had highlighted the green area on the bottom of the chart to show the increase in both school and County debt service. She said that the school debt service was primarily from Elementary School 18, 19, and the beginning of the Hartwood Rebuild, and High School 6.

Ms. Light said that the County debt service increase was primarily related to the advent of the courthouse. She said that the debt service did not include anything for transportation, and the fire levy pulled the debt service out of the general fund, so that was not included. She said that important to note was the school operating transfer, which went up $9M to $10M on average every year, and the Superintendent's plan went up about $50M per year. She said that they were not aligning the County's Five-Year Plan with the needs of the schools.

Ms. Light said the history of the advertised rate compared to the adopted rate was displayed on the slide. She said that this reemphasized that the advertised rate set the upper limit for the tax rate. She said that the Board could go below that as they adopted, but they could not go above that without having an additional public hearing, which in turn may impact the timing of personal property and real estate tax billings.

Ms. Vanuch asked for clarification about what an assessment year was and why that moved the numbers up and down.

Ms. Light said that in CY2022, an equalized rate would have been about 78 cents, and the Board adopted something above an equalized rate when they adopted 85 cents. She said that because the assessments went up so high, the values went up so high that the tax rate could come down, which would create the equalization.

Dr. Yeung said that some counties left both of them the same and some constituents may be confused about why they balanced it in Stafford, but they were able to do that.

Ms. Vanuch said that Mr. Mayausky compelled them to, and it was now a law.

Ms. Light said that the proposed budget would be 94 cents, including the Superintendent's budget would be 97.7 cents, and including the School Board budget would be $1.145. She said that the impact on a median assessed property would be $347 for the proposed budget, $491 for the Superintendent's budget, and $1,139 for the School Board budget.

Ms. Bohmke asked if this tax was separate from the Fire and Rescue levy.

Ms. Light said that was correct.

Ms. Bohmke said that for every one penny that they moved the tax rate, it generated $2.2M.

Ms. Light said that was correct.

Ms. Light continued to state that the personal property tax rate was proposed in the budget at $4.99. She said that the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office was continuing to review those vehicle valuations that were dropping back to pre-CY2022 rates. She said that there was a large increase last year in vehicle prices because the supply went down during COVID-19. She said that the Board responded by bringing down the tax rate from $6.10 to $4.50, and what was assumed was that they would receive an additional $6.4M in revenue from personal property, and part of that would be increased to help fund transportation at about $3.1M, and some was just from natural growth.

Ms. Light said that over the past ten to 15 years, they had seen about a 3% growth in the valuation of their personal property. She said that they recommended outside of the proposed budget that the Board advertise this tax rate at $6.10 with the effective rate of $3.05. She said that the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office would continue to do the analysis to see what that tax rate had to be to hit $6.4M, which would allow the Board the flexibility to be able to adopt up to that rate.

Dr. Yeung asked if this happened during COVID-19 when used car sales were rising very high and people could not afford new cars because there were no microchips available to make them, so all people had to rely on used cars.

Ms. Light said that was correct. She said that other counties were discussing how their valuations were declining 20% to 30%, so it was a Commonwealth-wide issue.

Mr. Coen asked if Ms. Light could update the Board on what their peers were doing so that they knew if they were in line with their rates.

Ms. Light said that tax rates for all other funds were service districts supported by taxes and proposed at a flat tax rate. She said that the Fire and Emergency Services levy was discussed earlier at the work session. She said that there were assumptions of a 3-cent levy across the five-year period, which provided all funding for the capital funds that were necessary to build out Fire and Emergency Services buildings, provide apparatus, and to fund their debt service.

Ms. Light said that also reviewed earlier today were the tax rate considerations to support the Five Year Financial Plan for the Fire and Rescue levy, which indicated that between 1 and 3 cents, they were able to achieve funding parts of the Five Year Financial Plan. She said that at one cent, they could cash fund one of the three replacements of ambulances, at two cents they could have two of three, and at three cents, all three of three could be funded. She said that they could cash fund the replacement of apparatus, which was between $1M and $2M annually and was currently being funded by master lease funds. She said that they could reduce from the general fund, which had been proposed, to almost $2.8M of debt service would be paid out of the fire service levy.

Mr. Coen said that earlier today, Ms. Vanuch brought up that on the item that said "funds for debt service for Aquia and Rockhill" would either be paid from the fire levy or the general fund.

Ms. Light confirmed this.

Mr. Coen said that if they did not do the fire levy, they would have to raise the tax rate up to $2.8M that had to go back in the general fund or cut $2.8M out of somewhere else, or just not buy the requested equipment.

Ms. Light said that there was option 1 and option 2, and the $2.8M could be referred to as sunk costs, or costs that the County would be incurring because of decisions made for apparatus and station 14, so those would be going forward whether it was in the Fire and Rescue levy or the general fund. She said that Mr. Coen was correct that if the fire levy was not approved that it would go back into the general fund. She said that the impact of the Fire and Rescue levy on a median assessed property in the County would be $115.

Ms. Light said that the budget proposed to expand the Elderly and Disabled tax relief, which would provide up to 50% of the County real estate taxes up to $3,500, an increase from $3,000. She said that the impact of this reduction was $115,000. She said that estimated in the proposed budget, it would be about $600,000, which would be an increase in revenue if the Board continued to adopt this.

Ms. Light said that the CIP was included in the Board materials. She stated that this ten-year balanced program met as many of the needs of the County schools, transportation, and utilities that were within debt capacity. She said that the schools included the remaining funding of Elementary School 18 and High School 6, along with Elementary School 19, Hartwood, Drew Middle School, and other projects. She said that the County projects included the Fire and Rescue projects that was previously discussed as part of the proposed fire levy, transportation projects, and utility projects that were presented at the budget work session earlier in the afternoon.

Ms. Light said that the Virginia Public School Authority issuance was $33M to support Elementary School 18 with $23.2M and 3R projects with $6.6M. She said that this did not add up to exactly $33M because there was flexibility within the price in the case of it being sold at a premium or a discount so that the $23.3M and $6.6M were met without any limitations.

Ms. Light said that staff was seeking the Board's approval of the advertisement of a public hearing for the FY2024 Budget, the 2023 Tax Rate, the 2023 Fire and Emergency Services Levy, the expansion of the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program, the FY2024-33 Capital Improvement Program, and the FY2024 Virginia Public School Authority Issuance. She said that in the packet provided online, all of the individual resolutions that supported each of these actions could be accessed, and that would be before the Board for adoption on April 18.

Ms. Vanuch asked if each rate would be voted on separately.

Ms. McClendon said that it was the Board's discretion to decide whether to make separate motions or as one motion.

Dr. Yeung said that the tax rate was being advertised and not set, so the rates could be voted on as a single motion.

Ms. McClendon clarified that the matter would have to be made time sensitive in order for the Board to vote on it today.

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen, to make the matter time sensitive.

The Voting Board tally was

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

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by to approve R23-73 with advertisement of the following tax rates: real estate at $1.145, personal property at $6.10, and Fire and Emergency Services tax at $0.03.

Ms. Gary thanked the members of the public who spoke at the meeting. She said that this item was an advertisement for the rate and gave more opportunity to inform the public about the numbers and what they meant. She asked those in attendance to discuss this with their community so that the Board could serve them to the best extent possible. She said that this was an investment that was overdue. She said that this was a unique opportunity for those who had argued over matters in the past to work together and find lasting solutions to the issues in the community.

Ms. Allen said that she would vote in favor of advertising the rates that Ms. Gary motioned for, noting that it would not be setting the rate as such. She said that as much as the schools needed the money, the County government needed it equally as much, because the County government had been severely understaffed for the past 10 years, including the transportation department's meager annual funding of $9M. She said that she refused to have Widewater, Brooke, and White Oak not have a standing Fire and Rescue crews.

Ms. Allen said that she concurred with the member of the public who raised the issue of the debt service, as she too felt that the debt service should be lowered while meeting the County's needs. She said that being conservative currently was not the right way to go, and the Board would ultimately find what the correct number was, but they must begin chipping away at the giant crater of debt that was in front of them. She said that playing it safe would be putting them further behind, so she would support the advertised rate as it was.

Mr. Coen said that consistently a higher rate had been advertised than what was ultimately decided upon, as historical data showed. He said that this was a large hill that they had to climb. He said that as inflation rose, he felt that the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief was of utmost important to senior citizens. He said that the fire tax should be advertised as presented. He said that he had the idea a few months ago to take Fire and Rescue items out of the CIP through a bond or through the fire tax, which would give room in the CIP to build the schools earlier.

Mr. Coen said that it was that the public give their opinions on these budgets and education on the individual budgets should be ongoing in the next month before they were adopted. He said that they would also know more about what available state and federal funding the County would have in the next few weeks. He said that there were many needs in the County that must be met, so it must continue to be assessed. He said that however, there were other impacts that the public should give their input on, including the water and sewer fees and personal property tax.

Ms. Bohmke said that they had raised taxes over the last few years, and due to Henrico County never equalizing their tax rate, there was legislation related to it. She said that she was a supporter of education and had lived in Stafford County for 26 years. She said that she had never been on a Board where every member agreed so prematurely on this being the correct tax rate, especially when this proposed tax rate was the highest in history. She said that she had voted for tax increases but could not support a 32 cent tax increase because it was ludicrous. She said that she agreed that people needed raises, but the wish list must be reduced.

Ms. Vanuch said that if there was serious concern about funding schools, there would have been a more serious bond referendum conversation. She said that she asked at the off-site meeting if the Board could have a work session on the bond referendum, which they held, but it was dumbed down to only include the same information from the off-site meeting. She said that even at a 32-cent tax increase, it was not building all of the schools requested by the School Board.

Ms. Vanuch said that education to the community was essential, because the current Board may prioritize items in the CIP, but when new Board members joined, they could deprioritize building those schools. She said that if it was tied to a bond referendum, the Board had to build those specific schools, so she would have much preferred a different path to have been taken in this process. She said that due to this, she would be voting against the increase. She requested the Board attempt a different direction that tied the hands of the Board to doing what the public was asking the Board to do rather than constantly changing.

Ms. Vanuch said that the current problems of the budget were due to past Boards changing priorities and taking new schools away, and she had significant concern about that. She said that no one had yet said that they were voting for a 32-cent tax increase, and there was a false narrative that they were supporting it. She said that a much stronger message to the community would have been support of a bond referendum that tied specific new school builds that dealt with the capacity issues.

Ms. Gary said that she would support the budget if she continued to hear that it was the desire of the public. She said that she would make the difficult decisions required of her position even if listening to people was uncomfortable.

Dr. Yeung stated that this was the advertised rate and was not setting the rate. She said that this information should be clearly relayed. She stated that she agreed that they could not move on 6.10 because they must fund transportation, County staff, the Sheriff's Office, and some type of equity in the school system. She said that the school staff should be better paid, and they needed better-educated students. She said that by doing so, the students would make more money and put more into social security, increasing property values. She said that for these reasons, she would be voting for the advertised rate as presented.

Dr. Yeung called for the vote.

The Voting Board tally was

Yea:	(4)	Allen, Coen, Gary, Yeung
Nay:	(2)	Bohmke, Vanuch
Absent:	(1)	English

<u>Resolution R23-73 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2023 TAX RATES, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 COUNTY BUDGET, FY2024-FY2033 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP); ISSUING FY2024 VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL AUTHORITY GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT; AND AMENDING AND REORDAINING STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SEC. 23-57 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" TO INCREASE THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS TAX RELIEF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Virginia Code requires and the Board desires to hold public hearings to consider adopting the CY2023 tax rates, FY2024 County budget, FY2024-FY2033 CIP; issuing

FY2024 Virginia Public School Authority general obligation debt; and amending the County Code to increase the elderly and disabled person tax relief exemption; 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 21st day of March, 2023, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to publish notice and advertise public hearings to consider the following:

- Proposed CY2023 tax rates pursuant to proposed Resolution R23-74, with a real estate tax rate of $0.94 and fire and emergency medical services levy rate of $0.03, all for advertisement purposes only;
- Proposed FY2024 County budgets pursuant to proposed Resolution R23-75;
- Proposed FY2024-FY2033 CIP pursuant to proposed Resolution R23-77;
- Proposed issuance of Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) general obligation debt pursuant to proposed Resolution R23-78; and
- Proposed Ordinance O23-11 to amend and reordain Stafford County Code Sec. 23-57 to increase the elderly and disabled persons tax exemption.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM 17. CAPITAL PROJECTS UTILITIES; CONSIDER THE CONDEMNATION AND EXERCISE OF QUICK-TAKE POWERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 342-06 PRESSURE ZONE UPGRADE PROJECT; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R23-61 (TMP NO. 45-127F); PROPOSED RESOLUTION R23-69 (TMP NO. 45-127A).

Ms. Jamie Robinson, Land Acquisition Specialist in Capital Projects, stated that the project related to this item had an estimated construction date of May or June 2023, and the easement alignment for the project required easements from 14 properties. She said that staff was able to obtain the needed easements from 12 of those properties, however, two properties remained outstanding, which were Tax Map Parcel numbers 45-127F and 45-127A. She said that both of the properties were owned by Harry T. Hurley, and staff had engaged in negotiations with the property owner through his counsel for about a year and a half, with the first offer being made in June 2021.

Ms. Robinson said that to date, no agreement had been reached regarding the negotiated purchase price for the easement interest, thus both parties had reached an impasse in negotiations. She said that staff continued to work with the property owner through his attorney to reach an agreement on the price, however, staff recommended approval of R23-61 and R23-69, which authorized the use of the County's quick-take powers to secure those easement interests and keep the project on schedule.

Ms. Allen asked what the fiscal impact was if the County did not utilize quick-take powers.

Mr. Bryon Counsell, Director of Capital Projects, stated that if the project were delayed, they would find additional inflation. He said that there was a bid on the project and they were looking to begin construction as soon as possible, and without having the rights to the property, the project would be delayed, resulting in potential rebidding of the project, costing more time and more inflation.

Dr. Yeung opened the public hearing.

Mr. Coen read the protocol for public comment.

1. Ms. Susan Depp stated that she lived at 8 Baldwin Drive in the Hartwood District. She stated that she would like to hear from the applicant's attorney, but as they had not presented to the Board yet, she would point out that the property's current owner was not a Stafford resident nor a Virginia resident, nor did she believe that he ever had been. She said that the Sunrise Lake Memorial Cemetery fiasco turned into a tax fraud case where the owners ended up going to jail, and this gentleman received the note on the property.

   Ms. Depp said that he was stuck with it and had been battling with the County for a couple of years beginning when the County first offered him $10,000 and he instead wanted more than $300,000 for the easement along his property line. She said that it was an easy decision to pay him the now-$18,000 cost, although she would rather he receive nothing. She said that it was best to pay him now as it would only cost more in the future.

2. Ms. Kristin Maxson stated that she lived at 1816 Richmond Highway. She said that she reviewed all of the paperwork. She said that she was on the fence about time decisions, because when one did not know information, one did not know whether to go right or left. She said that all she knew was that there were 20 liens on this property, and she believed that the previous speaker's comments were rightfully stated, as she too believed something fishy had been going on.

   Ms. Maxson said that she had personally experienced a false lien on her property that had nothing to do with herself. She said that there was a plat in the packet that clearly said that they did not review the deed or the information behind this, so if they felt comfortable, they should take their action, but she did not know. She said that she wished the Board safety every day and every day she prayed for the Board. She gave her blessings and thanks to the Board.

Dr. Yeung closed the public hearing. She asked if there was further discussion on the matter.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve Resolution R23-61.

The Voting Board tally was

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

Resolution R23-61 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONDEMNATION AND EXERCISE OF QUICK-TAKE POWERS TO ACQUIRE A PERMANENT WATER EASEMENT ON TAX MAP PARCEL NO. 45-127F, LOCATED WITHIN THE HARTWOOD MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board identified completion of the 342-06 Pressure Zone Upgrade (Project) water line upgrades as a critical part of the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved the acquisition of the easements necessary for the completion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Tax Map Parcel No. 45-127F (Property) consists of approximately 65.825 acres of land owned by Harry T. Hurley (Property Owner); and

WHEREAS, due to the design of the Project, the Board must acquire 63,506 square feet of permanent water easement, 21,004 square feet of which is exclusive water easement, 38,443 square feet of temporary construction easement, and 21,396 square feet of temporary access easement on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the fair market value for the required areas of the Property, together with damages, if any, to the remainder of the parcel is Ten Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars ($10,464), based upon a 2022 appraisal; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through staff, made bona fide but ineffectual efforts to purchase the affected area of the Property by offering said fair market value on behalf of the County to the Property Owner; and

WHEREAS, the terms of purchase cannot be agreed upon, and the County's staff was unsuccessful in negotiating a final settlement with the Property Owner, but will continue to work with the Property Owner to attempt to reach an acceptable settlement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1903(B) and 15.2-1905 (C), the Board conducted a public hearing on March 21, 2023, to determine the necessity for condemnation and exercise of quick-take powers, and has carefully considered the recommendations of staff and the public testimony, if any, at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board declares its intent to use its condemnation and quick-take powers to enter and take the above-referenced permanent water easement, temporary construction easement, and temporary access easement, on the Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that it be and hereby does find that public necessity exists for the Board's ownership of permanent water easement, temporary construction easement, and temporary access easement on Tax Map Parcel No. 45-127F (Property) for construction of the water line upgrades related to the 342-06 Pressure Zone Upgrade (Project); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board determines, notwithstanding the Board's bona fide offer of Ten Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars ($10,464) as just compensation for the permanent water easement, temporary construction easement, and temporary access easement, including damages, if any, to the remainder of the Property, that the Board and Harry T. Hurley (Property Owner) cannot agree on the terms of purchase and settlement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board declares its intent to condemn and exercise quick-take powers to enter upon and immediately acquire 63,506 square feet of permanent water easement, 21,004 square feet of which is exclusive water easement, 38,443 square feet of temporary construction easement, and 21,396 square feet of temporary access easement on the Property for the construction and operation of the Project, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1903(B) and 15.2-1905(C); and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Attorney, or her designee, to file a Certificate of Take (Certificate) among the land records of Stafford County, and authorizes the County Administrator, or his designee, to sign the Certificate and to deposit Ten Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars ($10,464) with the Clerk of the Stafford County Circuit Court, for the Property Owner's benefit, before entering and taking possession of the permanent water easement, temporary construction easement, and temporary access easement, in connection with the quick-take condemnation process on behalf of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors in accordance with the law.

Ms. Allen asked if Mr. English had raised any concerns about this item.

Ms. Vanuch said that he had not stated anything prior to the meeting and she could not recall anything that he would find issue with.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve Resolution R23-69.

The Voting Board tally was

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

Resolution R23-69 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONDEMNATION AND EXERCISE OF QUICK-TAKE POWERS TO ACQUIRE A PERMANENT WATER EASEMENT ON TAX MAP PARCEL NO. 45-127A, LOCATED WITHIN THE HARTWOOD MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board identified completion of the 342-06 Pressure Zone Upgrade (Project) water line upgrades as a critical part of the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved the acquisition of the easements necessary for the completion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Tax Map Parcel No. 45-127A (Property) consists of approximately 35.327 acres of land owned by Harry T. Hurley (Property Owner); and

WHEREAS, due to the design of the Project, the Board must acquire 65,892 square feet of permanent water easement, 21,335 of which is exclusive water easement, and 17,513 square feet of temporary construction easement on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the fair market value for the required areas of the Property, together with damages, if any, to the remainder of the parcel is Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-One Dollars ($8,361), based upon a 2022 appraisal; and

WHEREAS, the Board, through staff, made bona fide but ineffectual efforts to purchase the affected area of the Property by offering said fair market value on behalf of the County to the Property Owner; and

WHEREAS, the terms of purchase cannot be agreed upon, and the County's staff was unsuccessful in negotiating a final settlement with the Property Owner, but will continue to work with the Property Owner to attempt to reach an acceptable settlement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1903(B) and 15.2-1905 (C), the Board conducted a public hearing on March 21, 2023, to determine the necessity for condemnation and exercise of quick-take powers, and has carefully considered the recommendations of staff and the public testimony, if any, at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board declares its intent to use its condemnation and quick-take powers to enter and take the above-referenced permanent water easement and temporary construction easement on the Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that it be and hereby does find that public necessity exists for the Board's ownership of permanent water easement and temporary construction easement on Tax Map Parcel No. 45-127A (Property) for construction of the water line upgrades related to the 342-06 Pressure Zone Upgrade (Project); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board determines, notwithstanding the Board's bona fide offer of Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-One Dollars ($8,361) as just compensation for the permanent water easement and temporary construction easement, including damages, if any, to the remainder of the Property, that the Board and Harry T. Hurley (Property Owner) cannot agree on the terms of purchase and settlement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board declares its intent to condemn and exercise quick-take powers to enter upon and immediately acquire 65,892 square feet of permanent water easement, 21,335 square feet of which is exclusive water easement, and 17,513 square feet of temporary construction easement on the Property for the construction and operation of the Project, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1903(B) and 15.2-1905(C); and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the County Attorney, or her designee, to file a Certificate of Take (Certificate) among the land records of Stafford County, and authorizes the County Administrator, or his designee, to sign the Certificate and to deposit Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-One Dollars ($8,361) with the Clerk of the Stafford County Circuit Court, for the Property Owner's benefit, before entering and taking possession of the permanent water easement and temporary construction easement, in connection with the quick-take condemnation process on behalf of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors in accordance with the law.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:49 p.m., Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to adopt Resolution CM23-07 to authorize closed session.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution CM23-07 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for (1) discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcements have been made of the business's interest in locating its facilities in the County, and (2) the acquisition of public property, which is a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, where such discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(3), (A)(5), and (A)(8), such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 21st day of March, 2023, that it be and hereby does authorize discussion of the above matters in Closed Meeting.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING – SEC. 2.2-3711 (A)

At 9:23 p.m., Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to adopt Resolution CM23-07(C) to certify the Closed Meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution CM23-07 (C) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2023

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 21sth day of March, 2023, adjourned into a Closed Meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify, on this the 21st day of March 2023, that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 p.m., Chairman Yeung adjourned the March 21, 2023 Stafford County Board of Supervisor's meeting.

Randal E. Vosburg
County Administrator

Dr. R. Pamela Yeung
Chairman

Cheryl D. Giles

From:	Anne Salas <annehsalas04@gmail.com>
Sent:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 6:53 AM
To:	Monica L. Gary; Cheryl D. Giles; Meg Bohmke; Pamela Yeung; Thomas C. Coen; Tinesha O. Allen; Darrell E. English; Crystal L. Vanuch
Subject:	PRIORITY: Fund Stafford County Public Schools!

March 21, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Yeung, Vice Chairman Coen, and Honorables Allen, Bomke, English, Gary, and Vanuch,

I have been a Stafford County Resident since 2001 and a Stafford County Public School (History) teacher since 2019.

Adequately funding schools must be a top priority in Stafford County. I have no doubt that you all understand the immeasurable value of education on a population and why it is the most valued and sought after resource worldwide.

Have you surveyed the families that are moving into Stafford County (and buying $600,000+ homes) if they want sub, average, or above average schools? In truth, I've never met a parent who wants anything less than exceptional schools for their children. Schools that nurture future successful citizens who proudly claim they hail from Stafford County, Virginia where the opportunities they enjoyed in school laid the foundation for their passions and grew their talents.

Unless you fund the needs of our schools and listen to our duly elected School Board, we will be the county known for having the lowest paid teachers in understaffed and structurally run down schools where modules sitting on school grounds tell the story of your predecessor's poor planning for the exponential growth Stafford County is currently enjoying.

I invite you to visit schools, especially ones that are struggling to adequately respond to the needs of the post COVID student body. Students are influenced by social media and highly motivated to destroy school property (with repairs funded by taxpayers), abuse school staff, and disrupt instruction for the majority of students. Schools are not adequately staffed to properly address these problems and the deterioration of the school environment is cause for staff loss every year.

I invite you to talk to some teachers in your respective districts. They are working over 55 hours a week attempting to keep up with the workload and responsibilities assigned to them. Every teacher I know loves teaching; they love time in the classroom sharing their knowledge with their kids. Ask a business process reengineer to assess the situation; they will easily conclude that each teacher has more work than hours in the day/night/weekend. This is a problem solved with more staff to share the workload. It is dishonest to pretend that everything needed to support our students can be done with the resources that we currently have.

I'm truly sorry that you are in the position of making unpopular decisions such as raising taxes on the citizens of Stafford County. We need strong leaders to make logical and responsible decisions. We are counting on you to adequately fund our schools NOW.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kaitlyn
Last-Name = James
Address1 = 2000 Admiral Drive
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 3pm
Written-Comment = My name is Kaitlyn, and I have resided in Stafford County for five years. My daughter started at SCPS in 2021 at Hampton Oaks Elementary. From the time my daughter started in Stafford School's, I am formerly an after-school bus driver, a current PTO Vice President in our Elementary School, and the current secretary of the School Board's Transportation Advisory Committee. During my time in these roles, I have experienced many issues in our school system that I feel are important to address. As a bus driver, I have picked up at a school that was on fire with students outside, I have experienced students talking about not having water in the schools, and sometimes, as the driver, I was not able to pull into schools because the lack of space at the school per the amount of buses that need to pick up. As a PTO leader, I have attended a meeting with other leaders and our School Board to discuss issues and find solutions. I heard school after school present various obstacles, each different than the other. I can honestly say, I am impressed by their hard work, and fully support the budget that our School Board has presented for FY24. They took issues of every degree, and created a plan that backs our school's, our principal's, our teacher's, our parent's, our County. As a single-parent household in Stafford, I am doing everything in my power to improve our children's experiences in the school's. My ask of our Board of Supervisors, is that each of you join me in elevating Stafford by approving the School Board's proposed budget. I have spoken on many important issues that need fixed, but none more important than funding the education of our youth. Thank you all for your service.
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 138.88.118.226

Julia E. Holmes

From:	noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent:	Monday, March 20, 2023 1:20 PM
To:	Cheryl D. Giles
Cc:	Julia E. Holmes
Subject:	Speaker Card

First-Name = Linda
Last-Name = Juggins
Address1 = 2 Juggins Road
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22556
Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 3pm
Written-Comment = Plans for Old Anne E Moncure Elementary School" site. What are they? Concern about the congestion that is already in area. School in good shape is there nobody that would be able to use the existing building as offices etc .
Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak
Client IP = 198.179.158.10

officemgr@aquiarealty.net

Subject: FW: Offer on former Moncure Elementary
Attachments: STAFFORD COUNTY TO NORTHSTAR MONCURE ELEM.pdf

From: officemgr@aquiarealty.net <officemgr@aquiarealty.net>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:19 PM
To: 'pyeung@staffordcountyva.gov' <pyeung@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'tcoen@staffordcountyva.gov' <tcoen@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'mgary@staffordcountyva.gov' <mgary@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov' <mbohmke@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'tallen@staffordcountyva.gov' <tallen@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'denglish@staffordcountyva.gov' <denglish@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'cvanuch@staffordcountyva.gov' <cvanuch@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'rvosburg@staffordcountyva.gov' <rvosburg@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'mmorris@staffordcountyva.gov' <mmorris@staffordcountyva.gov>; 'dkrauss@staffordcountyva.gov' <dkrauss@staffordcountyva.gov>
Cc: 'Jo Knight' <joknight@aquiarealty.net>; 'JAMES BRACCO' <emgarage@aol.com>
Subject: Offer on former Moncure Elementary

At the last Board of Supervisor's meeting, I understood that the Board plans for the former Moncure Elementary School had not come to fruition. The original understanding for liquidation of this property was to maximize the benefit for the school system. There were high hopes that the sale would offset the costs for the new Moncure Elementary School. The highest offer to date after placing the site on the market in CoStar was $5,000,000.00 which would not touch the construction costs of the new school. All but one of the contracts would create large impact on traffic. That offer was for a Trade School supported by a Trust.

Supervisor Allen was very supportive of a "Technology, Trade/Vocational School" that would be private but support the Stafford County Schools at this location. I still have in hand an offer that was made in 2022 that 2021 the prospective Buyers will still honor for the purchase of the property for this use. The purchase offer was for $1,100,000.00 cash price. This offer was presented in March 2022 and I was later advised by Michael Smith, the interim County Administrator at the time, that the Board has decided to delay any decision on the sale of the Old Moncure site until later during the year. Again, this offer still stands if the County is interested. The longer the school remains dormant, the more it deteriorates.

With these trade schools being educational institutions in high demand in this County throughout the Country, providing an alternative to the traditional college degree programs, and at the same time are much more affordable and faster to complete, more and more students decide to enroll in these schools. Offering the programs to high school students as well will advance these students to excel and gain employment in these trades and other avenues at a quicker pace. This proposal is for a Trust to fund setting up the existing Moncure School for a Trade/Vocational school with periodic tuitions paid for some qualifying students from the Trust. They also would accept applicants from businesses who desire certain training for their employees and also work with the County in conjunction with students. There will be considerable flexibility from an expert in setting up and handling these schools.

These Buyers are not in this for any profits, they truly want this to be a legacy for the residents of Stafford County. The Trust would not only pay the $1,100,000.00 purchase amount and the cost to renovate and establish the school now but also help support this school over the years. Public schools also take longer and cost a lot more than when something is done than on a private basis. The Purchaser's plan would be to have the school operating in less than a year. Additionally, this should generate far less impact traffic than any other use that would be there with a private buyer.

The Purchaser's team has previewed the property from top to bottom and find that it will be satisfactory with extensive and expensive renovation for this purpose. Together, we have also met with Supervisor Allen and other County officials and she was very excited with the idea. The others representing the County with whom we had been speaking also appeared to be highly in favor of this idea.

Again, the Purchaser has stated that his offer can still stand at this time.

In summary of why this private arrangement would be superior:

- Off and running at a far faster pace than a public venture
- Providing a much needed school alternative to a college degree.
- A plus for the government coffers (School, County, State)
- Far less traffic impact than other uses.
- Quickly strengthening existing and new business in the County.

We all should be in agreement that this would be an incredible opportunity for the residents of Stafford County. To enable this Trust, as well as bring support to the school system, businesses and Stafford County, this decision should not be delayed. Any higher priced purchase will bring the greater traffic impact and other far greater long term negative impact to the County.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. My cell is 540-287-3264.

Thank you.

Jo

Jo D. Knight
GRI, CRS, CRB, CREA
Principal Broker
AQUIA REALTY, INC.
REALTOR Hall of Fame
REALTOR Emeritus
FAAR REALTOR Icon
(540) 659-2192 Office
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Zillow® 5-STAR AGENT

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fredericksburg Area Builders Association
"Building A Better Community"

REALTORS®
LAND
INSTITUTE

As of July 2012, Virginia Real Estate Laws changed regarding the way REALTORS conduct business. Before a real estate agent can provide any substantive real estate service, they are now required to have a signed brokerage agreement. You may read more about it by clicking the following link: https://www.scribd.com/document/97556866/Your-Realtors-Role-2012

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