

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 4, 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, April 4, 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 said that that the Board would be holding public hearings for the FY2024 budget this evening at 7:00 p.m. She thanked the public for participating and engaging in this process, as they were integral to the decisions that the Board would make next week. She said that today they would be recognizing Local Government and Education Week. She said that she was very proud of their efforts to educate and engage their students in how local government functions. She said that there were several programs that provided for the community, tours for third-grade students to see the water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as hosting a Student Government Day for juniors and seniors.

Dr. Yeung said that they also coordinated the Youth Engagement in Stafford (YES) program, which allowed students to participate with Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions. She said that Stafford also hosted a quarterly virtual Blu academy, a resident education class to help citizens learn about the working Stafford County government. She said that information on all of these programs may be found on the County website. She said that she wanted to wish everyone who celebrated Easter a happy resurrection, and anyone celebrating Passover or Ramadan to have a good day. She said that Stafford County government was open on Friday, April 7, or Good Friday.

Dr. Yeung said that before she continued, she wanted to stop and let their brothers and sisters in Nashville know that their hearts and thoughts were with them. She said that they had loved ones,

families of Board members, Supervisor English lost an aunt, Deputy County Administrator lost a mom a couple of months ago, and recently she lost her dad. She said that they also mourned Supervisor Coen's mom's dog. She said that they had people who lost their lives in tornadoes, and six individuals who yet again lost their lives due to gun violence. She asked that they take a moment of silence for everyone.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing April 9 - 15, 2023, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Stafford County.

Dr. Yeung invited staff from the Emergency Communications Center to the dais. She said that these were the dedicated individuals who answered 911 calls. She said that Supervisor Allen would present the proclamation.

Ms. Allen presented the proclamation.

Ms. Allen said that in the medical community, there was a saying that "time is brain" or "time is heart," and knowing that these people were behind their emergency calls for their residents gave her pleasure and reassurance. She thanked everyone for their service. She said that she was glad the Board was able to address the salary of the ECC workers as well.

Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing April 2-8, 2023 as Local Government Education Week.

Dr. Yeung invited the Community Engagement team and visiting student to the dais. She said that the Community Engagement's Office of Citizen's Assistance coordinated their education program. She said that Supervisor Coen co-hosted Student Government Day and would present the proclamation.

Mr. Coen said thanked the staff, particularly for the third-grade tours, Student Government Day, and other programs they did for students. He read the proclamation.

Mr. Jeff Shover stated that he managed the Citizens Assistance and Volunteer Services Office in the Community Engagement Department. He said that it had been his pleasure to be in this position for well over 15 years now. He expressed his thanks to the Board for their continued support and reaching out with all the resources that they could possibly need to make sure that these programs continued to be such a success. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Ms. Gary said that she would like to remove New Business Item 20, a discussion on increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) by 1% to dedicate as a funding source for the Stafford County Museum.

Mr. Vosburg said that he had an addition for New Business to discuss the Warrenton Service District, as requested by Chairman Yeung.

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

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC - I

Dr. Yeung read the protocol for public presentations.

1. Mr. Howard Rudat said that he resided at 10 Hayes Street, Stafford, Virginia. He said that the Board of Supervisors had ignored the growing needs of Stafford County schools year after year, and some of them seem shocked that the bill had now come due. He said that the equivalent of ignoring the amount due and blindly writing a check to your mortgage company every month, and then being surprised when your lender wanted to foreclose because they had been underpaying them for years. He said that that was what they had done to their schools, and they did it in the name of politics, telling voters that they were keeping taxes low when in fact they were destroying schools.

Mr. Rudat said that to use the words of one Board member, “your thought process on school funding has been ludicrous.” He said that he applauded the Supervisors who voted yes to advertising a rate. He said that it allowed them to start a dialogue and hear the voices of their constituents, weigh the options, and vote accordingly, which was what they were elected to do. He said that at the same time, he shook his head at those of them who voted no on advertising a rate. He said that their vote solved nothing and left them right where they were today. He said that they were the fifth richest County in Virginia, sitting at 112 on the education list. He asked what they hoped to prove by voting no.

Mr. Rudat asked if their goal was to prove to County residents that they would not work with the other Supervisors for the betterment of their schools. He said that if that was their goal, they succeeded, and at the same time, they failed the residents of Stafford. He said

that one Supervisor said that they wanted to go to the School Board members' homes for Christmas because they got everything on their wish list. He said that he doubted that anyone in the school system thought that comparable pay and better facilities were on a wish list. He said that instead of looking at this as the largest single tax increase in Stafford history, he was sure that many parents would look at it as them voting for the single largest investment in Stafford schools in County history.

Mr. Rudat said that one Supervisor argued that bond referendums were the better approach to solving the school funding problem, but complained that the Supervisors received the same old, dumbed-down information of bond referendums at the off-site. He asked why they did not fight harder if they believed that was their approach, because that was their job. He said that they should have been shouting from the rooftops and all over social media, pushing their plans so that everyone would jump on Board. He asked if this close to Easter, they wanted to put all their eggs into one basket.

Mr. Rudat asked what happened if the whole referendum failed. He asked where that left their schools. He said that even if it passed like the \$50M referendum for roads did in 2019, here they were, four years later, and road projects had not been started, let alone completed. He said that their schools could not wait four years. He said that they did not all create this mess, but it was theirs to clean up. He said that they had provided pay raises to police. He said that teachers were their first responders for their children's future. He said to stop talking and start listening to their constituents. He said that they were asking them to do the right thing and tell them to start fixing the school funding problem was now.

2. Ms. Shannon Fingerholz stated that she was a resident of the Hartwood District. She said that she was present to discuss libraries. She said that she had heard the libraries be brought up before and she had attended the library meetings before. She said that something that some of them may not know because they did not access them on a regular basis, was that it was not just about what was in Stafford. She said that they utilized all the different branches, and they moved books between all the different branches. She said that there was an online app that was utilized as an entire community.

Ms. Fingerholz said that sitting here, thinking of a few things over the last few years that she had personally used through the library were a nonprofit that supported moms and used rooms from the library because they were free, she had been there to use the internet when her internet was down, and story times with her daughter, where she learned to interact, sit, listen, and be patient, before she began preschool. She said that they offered scavenger hunts for kids and adults, with a current one being about all of the historical things in Stafford that was done through the library. She said that they did community events, she

had done copying, she had gotten things notarized, she had borrowed books and audio books, and used it as a quiet space.

Ms. Fingerholz said that HOA meetings were held there, as well as books for school and learning, which especially during COVID-19 she could pull out extra stuff to supplement whatever the school was unable to address at that time. She said that genealogy, geocaching, play areas, and book club bags, which had 10 sets of books for six weeks, were also offered at the library. She said that she had used this to teach her daughter to borrow and return as a citizen, and how to treat other people's property. She said that she had faxed things because they had a fax machine there. She said that the library was so much more dynamic than just some people borrowing a book every now and then. She said that it actually helped build their community and it was extremely important. She said that it saved a ton of families.

Ms. Fingerholz said that if anyone went to any of the libraries, especially the one next to Gayle Middle School, there was a ton of kids that went from the school to the library, because that was where they found comfort, because no one was at home. She asked the Board to please keep funding the library, because it was very, very important to her family, and she knew it was important to other people, too. She said that she had recently listened to the Board talk about all of the pickleball stuff and funding for the Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Fingerholz said that a survey was recently done in the last six months, but another thing that was way up there was a splash pad. She said that the Woodlawn Pool had a talk about potentially closing that to put in pickleball, but it was a great facility for a splash pad because they already had the facility set up there. She said that she knew that it was a huge, huge need, and something that the rest of the community did not have, because the one in Fredericksburg was cute but not good, and nowhere near as good as Culpeper's

3. Ms. Maryanne Devine stated that she lived at 245 Mount Hope Church Road, Stafford, Virginia, 22554. She said that she had a question. She said that she would like to see Stafford make it easier to find information. She said that her husband and she had recently moved here and it was very hard to find information. She said that for example, where she lived, Verizon was putting in a lot of telecommunications. She said that when one tried to call and find out from somebody who started this and when was it going to end, it was hard for anybody in the community to find out. She said that her second thing with information was taxes, specifically real estate taxes. She said that they were raising their tax rate from 2022 to 2023 from 85 cents to 1.145.

Ms. Devine said that it would be nice to be able to access the information, find out why they were raising it, and where this money was going to, especially when they had a much bigger tax base. She said to look at Embrey Mills where they had built hundreds of homes. She asked where this money was going. She said that to tie into that, she would like to see when they were building roads, when they were going to improve roads, or to improve a community, to see the plans. She said that she had looked online and tried to find information, and maybe it was there somewhere, but she had a master's degree and was used to doing research and found it very hard.

4. Ms. Kelly Gardner said that she lived at 551 Telegraph Road and was present to speak about the tax increase. She said that as a project manager and technology consultant, when they were approached with a large problem with a large solution, they asked questions, looked at requirements, and made sure that they unearthed all of the potential issues that could be solved. She said that they exhausted all of their options and explored all of those options, and that saved time and money. She said that she was wondering how much time, money, and effort went into providing or looking at other options for this tax increase.

Ms. Gardner said that she was all for putting money in their education, their fire and rescue, as she was an EMT for 12 years at Stafford rescue. She said that she knew that they needed that stuff, but with the growth, she understood that the infrastructure could not keep up with that, but what other options for increasing funding did they have for these areas. She asked if they could look to their developers and builders, if they could look at increasing fines and penalties for crimes and violations conducted in the County. She said that she welcomed any opportunity to explore this further and be a part of a solution that would really work for their residents.

5. Mr. Derwin Banks said that he lived at 42 Burns Road in Stafford, Virginia. He said that he had been a resident of the County since 1979 and was from four generations of Banks' who had been in this County. He said that he agreed with a tax increase, but this jump was crazy. He said that they were killing the American dream of the people who had worked, did not break the law, who showed up every day. He said that he had pride in this County and had served his country. He said that he was a civil engineer for VDOT, so he knew what the cost of roads was. He said that they should find a better way than making a tax increase that great.

Mr. Banks said that it put a lot of burden on people who were trying to do the right thing. He said that they were killing the American dream, and with the increase in inflation and everything else, this was the last thing that they needed, was a tax increase that great. He said that he was all for putting money into the County because it was growing, but they

were growing too fast. He said that he could have lived anywhere else, but he came back to Stafford because he believed in Stafford and loved Stafford. He said that he went to North Stafford as part of the first class, played football against David Decatur, and loved the Sheriff's Department. He said that they had a hard job, but he felt safe here.

Mr. Banks said that he did not want to move away and use all of his retirement to go toward taxes. He said that it killed what he served this country for. He said that it made him want to look for somewhere else to move and live, when he had invested so much, his family, people buried here, dogs buried here. He said that he wanted to live there for the rest of his life, but if they were going to chase him out with taxes, he asked the Board to not California them. He said that he saw things going bad, and the increase he just did not agree with.

6. Ms. Kristin Maxson stated that she lived at 1816 Richmond Highway. She said that there was a 1,300-page document to read for this meeting, and it was a little bit of an overload. She said that most of this information was George Washington Regional Commission, which combined Stafford, King George, Spotsylvania, and Caroline, a population of 353,000 people. She said that their survey conducted July 11, 2022, received 194 responses. She said that she knew that they had more than 194 workers in this building. She said that comparing 353,000 to 194 responses, and made one ask what happened. She said that these responses would direct the project management team and the draft plans for the GWRC, and it was probably because people had to put in their private information, and once they saw that, they probably revoked their interest.

Ms. Maxson said that also, they had just gotten over COVID-19, which deterred a lot of people from working, and with higher taxes, that would be more increased. She said that they wanted to encourage people to have a hardworking ethic. She said that she may be able to answer a few things. She said that they had a utilities meeting on March 1, 2023. She said that there was a 21.8 expansion on capital projects, and not all projects were defined. She said that they could use overlay projection so that people understood those capital projects. She said that utilities services was doubled in the utilities meeting as far as they were requesting or asking a double in utility services for most areas.

Ms. Maxson said that there was a slide #2 which had key assumptions and findings for historical projected capital and cash flow bases. She said that it went from \$75M and rose to \$300M for 2033, or four times the rate in 10 years. She said that she could not seem to search on 2022 resolution indexes or 2020, so there was a lot of information there that they could not touch. She said that if she wanted to highlight a tax map number, she highlighted two lines instead of a horizontal line, which also confused the search engine.

7. Ms. Dana Brown stated that she lived at 41 Saint Williams Way in the Rock Hill District. She said that she knew that over the last couple of years, it had come up a couple times some talk about them pulling out and going it on their own. She said that she supported that and it was time to look into that. She said that she did not think that the regional consortium was serving the citizens of Stafford very well. She said that it was time to move out and start looking at doing it themselves.
8. Mr. Daniel Cortez stated that he resided at 19 Hidden Springs Lane in the Aquia District. He said that he was a 50-year media operative whose extended family started the Hispanic media giant, Univision. He said that he had been involved in media and political advisement in Virginia for over 39 years. He said that a great many citizens contacted him about the Board's actions, and particularly, the actions on the Aquia District. He said that he had covered every Board and advised every Governor dating back to Douglas Wilder. He said that as a presidential appointee on the President's Hispanic Prosperity Commission, he served President Trump and President Biden at the White House on matters relating to Hispanic and veterans' communities and was a co-chairman of the Latinos for Youngkin Coalition. He said that he remained an independent voter and supported the person and not the party.

Mr. Cortez said that they lived in troubling times and were dealing with issues that the Board had inherited in some respects and added difficulty in other respects. He said that the answer was responsible taxation, and responsible building, and they had been irresponsible in that category. He said that they had a blight called the Aquia Town Center, the most embarrassing situation he had ever seen that was dealt with – the Muslim Cemetery in Rock Hill. He said that the Board perhaps needed to make some changes, or perhaps the voters needed to make some changes. He said that education was important, and that was why the George Washington District Supervisor was so important, and his counsel was vitally needed as an educator.

Mr. Cortez said that he would ask the Board this evening to respect the process and allow people to have their say, but once they had spoken, that was it. He asked to let no one stand up and be a rabblouser, whether it be from the school district, law enforcement, or veterans. He said that they had had their say, and they would enable the Board to have their say. He said that if they agreed with it, they would either retain them or remove them. He said that he strongly encouraged the Board to have the moral courage to talk about downzoning, because the time had come, they had been irresponsible, they had grown too big. He said that sometimes they had to say no, and sometimes they had to say no with purpose, even to educators.

9. Mr. Casey Durst said that he was a resident of the George Washington District at 3 Lord Fairfax. He thanked the Board. He said that he had a feeling that some of them went to sleep at night and probably realized that this was a little more than they thought, which was okay. He said that there was a lot going on, and tonight they would be getting earfuls from both sides, or all sides. He thanked the Board as he could not be present tonight. He said that they were rooting for them and it would be alright.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Allen - remarked that misinformation was her pet peeve, so she would correct some untrue and categorically false comments. She said that they did not raise people's taxes to \$1.14 at all, and the tax rate had not been decided as of yet. She said that for anyone to make assumptions, for anyone to falsely paint a narrative of any Board member irrespective of what their decision would be was not fair, because they were painting an image that was not the truth. She said that all they did was advertise the tax rate, and it did not mean that it would be the tax rate.

Ms. Allen said that no one was raising taxes 40% right now. She said that if they had watched their budget sessions, there had not been one Board member who said that they wanted to raise taxes 40%. She said that the narrative out there that they would automatically do that. She said that she did not know what the answer would be on April 18, but until that action was actually executed, she asked to please not paint an image that that decision had already been made for the Board. She said that she could not recall her other point.

Ms. Bohmke – remarked that she wanted to thank all of the people who participated in the budget process and who came and spoke this afternoon. She said that this was part of their democracy, and she appreciated them being present to use their three minutes at the podium. She apologized that the majority of this Board felt that it was appropriate to advertise or propose a \$1.14 tax along with a 3-cent additional fire and rescue levy. She said that unfortunately, they set the record in the Commonwealth of Virginia with the highest advertised tax proposed rate ever. She said that the reason she apologized was because it caused a tremendous amount of angst in the community. She said that she had gotten more emails than she had ever gotten from people throughout the entire County, not just in the Falmouth District.

Ms. Bohmke said that people were saying that they were taxing them out of their houses, they could not afford to live here, the stories went on and on. She said that she wanted to set the record straight, and everyone knew that she loved data. She said that as a former School Board member, she would go back to 2017 to the proposed budget. She said that on page 291 of this proposed budget, it told them all of the CIP projects. She said that the school division was telling them that they needed to do 18 and 19 and the new high school. She said that if they looked in that budget,

it said rebuild Moncure, which they did, rebuild Ferry Farm, which they did, Elementary School 18 was on there with an estimated opening date of 2027. She said that high school 6 said that they would use land in the Westlake subdivision, which was not what they were doing, but what the school had told them.

Ms. Bohmke said that there then was Mountain View additions, Hartwood Elementary School, 2026, something at North Stafford and Drew Middle School. She said that the budget of 2021 had CIP projects of High School 6, High School 7, Elementary School 18, early childhood special education, Drew Middle School renovation, and that was it. She said that there was no Elementary School 19 even on this list. She said that they could go read that all on page 476. She said that March 10, 2020, they had a meeting with the School Board and Board of Supervisors, and on a page, there was High School 7, elementary school, Drew Middle School renovation.

Ms. Bohmke said that the last one, which was the School Board's budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, approved August of 2020. She said that people wanted to hold them responsible for the CIP decisions, they made these decisions with the School Board. She said that the projects listed were High School 6, Elementary School 18, Drew Middle School renovation, additional early childhood, additional middle school seats, North Stafford renovation, fine arts wing. She said that she had not heard anything about Elementary School 19 in these documents. She said that it was not the Board of Supervisors who made the only decision on the capital improvement needs. She said that they gathered information on the School Board and worked with them. She said that they had changed the game in the last year.

Ms. Bohmke said that in one of these documents, they addressed Hartwood Elementary, but to the right of it, it did not say it was being renovated, if there was going to be a new elementary school, there was nothing. She said that there was a new Superintendent in town, and he was making sure facilities got built. She said that they focused on early childhood education before, and other projects like the North Stafford wing. She said that someone just said turf fields, which was money that came out of proffers, and they could not use that money for construction even if they wanted to.

Ms. Bohmke said that people talked about downzoning, which they did two years ago, in March of 2021. She said that it was the hardest decision, and prior Boards had tried to downzone but did not have the votes. She said that it got to a count of four at the Board of Supervisors, so they downzoned from one house per three acres to one house per six acres. She said that that should have been done ten or 20 years ago, but it wasn't. She said that she had a lady email her who said that she lived in Texas, and no subdivisions in Texas were ever built until the infrastructure was there. She said that she would love to have that in the Commonwealth of Virginia, but they lived

in what was called a Dillon Rule state, where they did not have that luxury. She said that they could only do what the General Assembly granted them to do.

Ms. Bohmke said that the advertised tax rate created a lot of angst in the community. She said that she was not in favor of it. She said that she was a huge support of the schools, but what they were saying about the CIP, and all of the information could be reviewed with her compiled documents, and all of the information was there. She said that the new capital improvement plan was a working document and changed every year. She said that she did not believe that prior Superintendents and School Boards were responsible, and perhaps they had not made their decision on where they really wanted everything.

Ms. Bohmke said that in one of these documents, it said there was an elementary school to be built in Embrey Mill, but that was not where they were proposing Elementary School 19. She said that the only reason she said this was because all of this information was online. She said that the public speaker who asked about the budget, she recommended she go to the government page, and she could see the Budget and Management Department had the entire budget there. She said that they had a new system that shared everything they needed to know about the budget called OpenGov, a tool they had had for about two years.

Ms. Bohmke apologized for a lot of the angst caused in the community. She said that the County Administrator recommended a 94-cent tax increase with the additional 3-cent fire tax levy. She said that at \$1.14, it was not acceptable, and she had never seen anything like that in her life. She said that all that did was scare their community.

Mr. Coen – remarked that when they had their meeting two weeks ago, he said that he had hoped people would communicate with them, so he was very happy to see people communicating with him. He said that as a point of finesse, they did not rebuild Ferry Farm, but as stated, it took four votes.

Ms. Bohmke said that they funded it.

Mr. Coen said that they renovated and worked on it. He said that he and Ms. Bohmke and Mr. Snellings worked very hard to get that to happen. He said that at their meeting two weeks ago, he waited to see if there was some alternate offer, but nobody spoke. He said that silence was not doing anything to help the public. He said that a few things he did that were of positive note included attendance of the Stafford Schools Partner Appreciation Breakfast this morning, and it was the second year in a row that he was honored to go. He said that this year, he picked up the certificate for the Board of Supervisors and the County staff. He said that it was awesome, and the

people who were speaking said wonderful things about the fire training program, and they singled out their terrific work.

Mr. Coen said that he and Ms. Bohmke worked exceedingly hard to get that instituted after it was pulled out for various reasons. He said that the work by Ms. Donna Krauss to try to expand their workplace learning was terrific, and they called out and gave special attention to the work by the Commissioner of Revenue to have students learn IRS training for low-income adults. He said that they were doing a lot of things on their side of the street to help with education, and it was nice to be appreciated. He said that education was phenomenal and seeing the fine arts festival. He said that this year they unfortunately did not serve food, because the artwork of food made him very hungry, and while he wanted to grab some of it, it would not have done his teeth very well.

Mr. Coen said that he went to the Fire and Rescue Awards Banquet and saw the phenomenal fire and rescue personnel who did such great work. He said that he understood that at the last meeting, he raised the issue of 24/72 and neglected to point out that both the County Administrator and the Fire Chief had talked about this, and the Fire Chief had it in his presentation to the Board at last year's retreat. He said that he humbly requested they add the 24/72 to the public safety committee agenda either in May or June, whichever worked best for them to prepare information.

Mr. English – remarked that Ms. Bohmke had made a great presentation. He said that when he first got on the Board, his whole thing was to get Hartwood Elementary built ahead up there, and it got shoved down and was below 18 and 19. He said that he was still working hard to get Hartwood Elementary School built. He said that he was not at the meeting due to a family emergency, but when he heard the advertised rate as it was, he felt like he fell through the floor when he heard it.

Mr. English said that he could not afford that at all, and he worked three jobs as it was to make ends meet. He said that if they ever did that, he would probably be out with them and move out of the County, too. He said that he did not think that that was going to happen, but it scared him a little bit that they advertised that. He said that he got tons of emails just like everyone else, from every jurisdiction, and he attempted to answer all of them, but apologized if he did not. He said that it was the first time that he had received that many emails in less than a few weeks.

Mr. English thanked the Fire and Rescue for inviting him to their banquet a few weeks ago. He said that the volunteers and paid personnel had done tremendous work doing so many acts of bravery and saving lives. He said that on a sad note, David "Goatman" Lowry of Hartwood was a longtime volunteer of the fire department, a school bus driver, and a paid fireman at Quantico, and he wanted to give condolences to his family. He said that he was a great, staple light in the Hartwood community. He said that they also lost Freddie Miller, who was 88 years old and a staple

for the American Legion Post 290. He said that he would cut grass and do everything like that even into his 80s, and he was a great guy. He said that he was also a veteran and would be sorely missed in the community. He said that his heart and condolences went out to the Miller family.

Ms. Gary – thanked the public for being present. She said that she had also received a lot of emails, which she was working on returning as she was able. She said that she did not want to copy and paste, which sometimes could be done for general questions, but people were very concerned right now. She said that she would not review her comments about her activities from the past few weeks because she could not access her list, but she did have additional comments. She said that she had received those additional emails, phone calls, and had spoken with many people. She said that she was also running a survey independently, which was one of the things that she had chosen to do with her own time and resources, and she found it very valuable to getting additional feedback to not limit it to emails or constituents who could physically attend the meeting.

Ms. Gary said that she knew that there were a lot of concerns about the potential of a tax increase, and she thanked Supervisor Allen for addressing that. She said that the question had come up pretty often about getting resources from developers, which was addressed last year in that year's budget. She said that they had sent a letter about the issue because their hands were somewhat tied as to what they could get as proffers when it was a rezoning involved, and they struggled with that because they could not just ask developers for certain things because of legal restrictions. She said that she had encouraged people who came forward with ideas to talk to staff and see what was needed if they wanted the Board to support this before showing anything, and they should come with their A-game because they could do one or the other. She said that that had worked pretty well.

Ms. Gary said that people noted that as they needed revenue from the commercial development and retail expenditures that they could harness, they did have a huge retail gap, which was something that she had campaigned on and was trying to work on. She said that part of what she had requested in this budget was additional positions to streamline processes for the development of commercial that they needed, and she requested that staff do a communications campaign to educate people about how to generate that tax revenue with online purchases. She said that that was something they had access to that she did not think people understood well enough to do that. She said that if she could order something from Macy's online instead of driving down to Fredericksburg, and the taxes went to Stafford, she would much rather do that, so she requested that that communication be pushed out as well.

Ms. Gary said that she was the one who motioned to advertise the \$1.14 rate, which was an advertised rate and meant that they could not go over it. She said that she did not know when this became politicized, and she was new to politics, it was not her favorite thing to but she loved people so she was doing it. She said that she enjoyed her job. She said that she motioned for this

because year after year, the public came to their Board and asked them to fully fund the schools and that they were not giving the schools enough, and she wanted to be very clear that this advertised rate of \$1.14 for the real estate tax would fully fund the School Board's budget. She said that this was what they were asking. She said that the School Board was asking them to fully fund their budget and was asking them to tax them \$1.14. She said that the School Board was asking for that, and they had opened up the aperture so that everyone could see.

Ms. Gary said that obviously with the feedback that she and her colleagues were getting, it did not work for their community to fund the entire thing. She said that she left it open because there were so many people asking, and she wanted to gather information, which she was still working to do. She said that her job was doing what the public asked her to do. She said that if they wanted to pay more taxes and fund the schools, then okay, but it must be the majority of them as best as she could discern. She said that she was trying to discern that, and would not apologize for advertising this rate, because people should know what was being asked of them every year, so that when people came back next year and asked why they did not fully fund the schools, there would be an answer as to why. She said that it was because they went through this and they would see what that would take.

Ms. Gary said advertising the rate had been politicized, and that had scared people. She said that it was her personal opinion that if the Board said that if they were advertising the rate, which just meant that they could not go over it, just put a pin in it so that they could come back and gather more information and educate people. She said that this was what she had personally been trying to do, so that people would not be as afraid as they were, that this was a process and they were looking through all the options. She said that it was heartbreaking that people were afraid, and it never should have been like that, so that was troubling to her. She said that she did not want to scare people, and she did not want to scare them but wanted to make their lives better.

Ms. Gary said that she owed it to the public to give them all of the information on what was being asked of this Board, and that was her purpose for supporting that advertised rate. She said that the survey that she mentioned that she was running, which was not a substitute for sharing public comment in written or spoken form to the Board, she had some preliminary results from that that she wanted to share. She said that it was not a scientific survey but was something she did to get better intel from people who could not attend the meeting or respond via emails. She said that she had 183 respondents so far. She said that 74% had or have children in the school system, 26% had not. She said that they currently did not observe significant difference between community members who used public school services and those who did not, which she thought was good.

Ms. Gary said that the residents in favor of the advertised rate were one-third of the Stafford residents who filled out the survey and said yes to the \$1.145, a proposed rate provided by the

Stafford County School Board that was advertised. She said that the remaining 65% of respondents disagreed, with the highest of the three proposals reported the following. She said that they gave an option for people to fill in what they would like if they did not want the \$1.145. She said that 60% were not in favor and most often suggested 90 cents as the new rate, a median of 94 cents, a mode of 90 cents, average of \$0.963. She said that 5% indicated uncertainty and most often suggested 90 cents as the new rate. She said that 35% were in favor of \$1.145. She clarified that this was not a scientific survey, and she was not making decisions based on this survey but would put it with the emails she had gotten, the comments she had gotten, and look at the numbers.

Ms. Gary said that it highlighted that there was a huge need, and they desperately needed to take care of their schools, and people were willing to pay. She said that they had to do something, and she had proposed earlier that if they were not going to do pay raises for their own positions, they should give it to partner agencies to help people with tax relief, because there would be some increase, although it may not be near the \$1.14. She said that she wanted to share all that information and tell them where she was at. She said that she hoped that this brought some peace. She said that their lives should be better because of the Supervisors sitting at the dais, and she was doing her best to accomplish that. She thanked the public for being present today.

Ms. Vanuch – remarked that she tried to respond to everyone who sent her an email on the tax rate, which was very difficult, and at some point she had to stop responding and make sure she was prepared for the meeting today and read the 1,300 pages of document that Ms. Maxson mentioned. She apologized if she did not get back to everyone, but she believed she got back to most everyone except for those who sent her emails late last night. She said that she and Supervisor Bohmke wanted to apologize to the community for the majority of this Board's actions and for scaring them.

Ms. Vanuch said that when she got phone calls from older adults who had lived their entire lives who said that they could not believe this County could tax them out of their home, they lived on a fixed income and could not afford a rate of this increase. She said that it was tremendously irresponsible to make their community feel like this, and she was vehemently opposed to the \$1.14 plus the 3-cent fire levy. She said that if that were to pass, that would be a 50% increase on the real estate taxes within three years. She said that there was a 10% increase voted on last year, separate and apart from the increase in assessment values. She said that if this passed, this would be a 38% increase this year.

Ms. Vanuch said that if everyone was following the work sessions, no matter what tax rate they voted on, if they voted on the County Administrator's rate, it was a guaranteed 3.1% increase to the taxes next year as well, totaling the taxes to over a 50% real estate increase in just three years. She said that for those who were saying it was misinformation for informing their residents, she

was the one who went on the radio. She said that she was the one who made sure, along with some of her other colleagues who went on social media, that people knew about this, because people did not follow their meetings. She said that people deserved to know what was going on in the community and how this would impact their pocketbooks over the next year when they got that state bill in the mail.

Ms. Vanuch said that she tried to give her colleagues the benefit of the doubt when this motion was brought forward, and she even said, wait a minute, were they just appeasing the public who was present and asking for the \$1.14 rate, and nobody here was saying they wanted to raise taxes 38%. She said that her colleagues doubled down and said that they would vote for it if the public told them they wanted it. She said that if it were not for them going out and telling the public that they needed to speak out against this, it very well could be the rate that was passed. She said that the Board voted with a majority to approve advertising that rate.

Ms. Vanuch said that she did some quick math on the forms she had requested from the Superintendent yesterday, and she found that the School Board budget had gone up 62% in 10 years, with only an additional approximate 3,500 students, or a 12% increase in students, so it would be a 62% increase if they funded the Superintendent's budget. She said that if they funded the School Board's budget, that was a 73% increase on their budget. She said to be careful when using the tagline "fully fund the schools." She said that they needed to know what that meant. She said that every single department, which she had folders for, came to them with a laundry list of requests. She said that just like a CEO had all departments come, it was the Board's job to prioritize the needs of the community, and absolutely education was a priority. She said that the Sheriff's Office, Fire and Rescue, and public safety as a whole was a priority.

Ms. Vanuch said that it was their job and incumbent upon them to prioritize those things with what they felt the taxpayers could actually afford to pay. She said that what was proposed would break their taxpayers, and she apologized that the public felt that this Board had done that to them. She said that to the woman who came up and spoke about doing everything that they could, she was in complete agreement, which was why several of them, for many years, had been pushing the state for the cost-to-compete increases on education. She said that if they would qualify Stafford as a northern Virginia locality, it would give them an extra \$25M per year to fund the schools, so they had been fighting their General Assembly for that.

Ms. Vanuch asked the constituents to help them, because if their Superintendent was advocating on behalf on cost-to-compete as much as he was emailing every single parent in Stafford County to come to the Board meetings and say to fully fund the schools, she was sure that they already would have cost-to-compete. She said that they had been fighting that fight alone for several years, and they needed the public and the delegation to come and support those increases. She said that

another thing they could do that would not be on the tax of the residential homeowners was that they could petition the General Assembly for a 1% sales tax increase that could be funded for capital needs. She said that they could do that as well.

Ms. Vanuch said that she was the one who brought forward the recommendation to do a bond referendum for the schools, because as they could see, there were two sides to the story, and the public deserved being able to choose whether they wanted to put that kind of funding on their real estate taxes and the infrastructure needs in the community. She said that she asked some items to be added to the budget today. She said that if the schools were really concerned about safety, did they not think that they would have requested a School Protection Officer at every single school, but there were five schools that had no protection.

Ms. Vanuch said that she had received support from Supervisor Gary and Supervisor Bohmke to ensure that there was a School Protection Officer at every single school and ensuring that every school was a hard target and not a soft target. She said that there would also be an additional position in the Homeland Security Office. She said that with the issues they had at the border, they had to build up Homeland Security infrastructure in the community, and those were positions that she would fight tooth and nail to ensure were in this budget. She said that her last comment was that the Board voted to approve a \$1.17 tax increase with the \$1.145 for real estate and 3 cents for the fire levy, and her biggest fear was that they would come back at the next meeting and say that they had cut them a deal with 95 cents. She said that that would still be the largest tax increase in Stafford County history, so they should remember that.

Dr. Yeung – remarked that she was looking at the assessed value of real estate property tax rate right now. She said that one of her colleagues had said that never in their history had they gone above \$1. She said that in 2013, they were looking at \$1.07 and in 2019 they were at \$1.01. She said that in 2015 they had \$1.02, so she did not think that was a true statement. She said that they talked about the County Administrator's budget, which was at 94 cents plus 3 cents. She said that what the County Administrator did was ensure that where there was a bump in assessed values, and where there should be a steady increase in values due to inflation, they did not see that, but what instead happened was it went down. She said that they were not doing right by the real estate property tax, and that was not the line that they wanted to see there.

Dr. Yeung said that in terms of positions, they funded the Sheriff's Office 15% with ARPA funds, which she did not vote for, but passed because a majority of the Board voted for it. She said that they had to pay for it, and they were not paying for it right now because they were using the ARPA funds, but they would pay for it in the future. She said that they had to make sure that that somehow got into the budget sooner than later because they could not just use ARPA funds for one or two years, and that must be taken into consideration.

Dr. Yeung said that that was the reason why when they looked at 94 cents plus 3 cents, and if they were asking for more positions, she wanted to make sure that everyone who was not going to increase the tax rate, they should tell them what their tax rate was going to be to ensure that those were covered. She said that she did not prefer the \$1.14 or \$1.17 but something closer to \$1.01. She said that she agreed with her colleague who mentioned the five positions for the schools in addition to Supervisors Bohmke and Gary, and believed in ensuring that their schools were safe.

Dr. Yeung said that she appreciated being able to attend a welcome breakfast on March 22, 2023 from the Virginia Tourism Corporation Visitors Center. She said that it was a seminar with those partners, where Stafford showcased various tourist attractions like George Washington's Ferry Farm, Gary Melchers, and Potomac Pointe Winery. She said that that was where they were, and they also had a dinner and show at Riverside. She said that as they traveled along Virginia and I-95, these were professionals that they met, and it was often the first stop for visitors' information when people traveled in and out of their Commonwealth. She said that they went through extensive training, so their work deserved respect.

Dr. Yeung said that on March 23, 2023, she attended the Workforce Affordable Housing Committee with a guest from Virginia Housing who provided them with good information that even when making six figures, there were funds that could be applied to for housing support. She said that there needed to be a mission to empower and help communities grow smart so that everyone could thrive, eliminating the crisis of affordability. She said that if they continued to allow by-right development, which was for example, someone who sold a farm to developers, they could not put any proffers on there and had difficulty with that. She said that the Board had been addressing that by going from six acres to three, but for those who had been living there for over 30 years such as herself, they would not be able to afford their homes if they did not share the tax burden with new homeowners.

Dr. Yeung said that being scared to have individuals move next door or nearby would mean that many people sitting in the room would not be there if she had felt that way for over 30 years. She said that they should not be like that, and they should share their community, and they believed in smart growth and would do the best they could to ensure that they had affordable homes. She said that affordable homes were not for poor people, they were for children, firefighters, teachers, nurses, who could not afford to live in a \$300,000, \$400,000, or \$600,000 home. She said that individuals were renting their houses and sharing it, living with up to six people in a home. She said that that was what they were going to have if they did not have affordable homes.

Dr. Yeung said that Governor Youngkin said that one of the things that he believed in was affordable homes, so they needed to look at that a little better. She said that people in California

and Florida were renting their homes out and six people were living in it, so that was what they were going to have if they did not have affordable homes where they shared their community with others. She said that they may not look like you, they may not be from your political persuasion, but they all belonged in Stafford County.

Dr. Yeung said that on March 27, 2023, she was attended a GWRC meeting online, where they reviewed the orientation manual, which was important, and the bulk of the agenda was for the strategic plan and financial report. She said that they had a very important meeting on March 29, 2023, a joint Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors meeting where they discussed data centers and the changes that were needed for the current policies. She said that she would be talking a little bit later on the service district. She said that she believed that the service district of Garrisonville already paid a tax rate of 6%, and she was not saying that George Washington did not, but they currently had a tax rate of 0%, which she would be discussing later on.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Vosburg said that in the packet, there was a Public Safety Action List for informational purposes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve the Consent Agenda minus item 9.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

ITEM 1. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE MARCH 21, 2023, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES.

ITEM 2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE MARCH 9, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET WORK SESSION: GENERAL FUND, REVENUES, AND EXPENDITURES MEETING MINUTES.

ITEM 3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SCHOOL BONDS WORK SESSION MINUTES.

ITEM 4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE FEBRUARY 3-4, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING MINUTES.

ITEM 5. CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDING AND REORDAINING STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SEC. 15-56, "DESIGNATION OF RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS" TO ADD CERTAIN STREETS WITHIN BROOKESMILL ESTATES SUBDIVISION AS RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS.

Resolution R23-111 reads as follows:

AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDING AND REORDAINING STAFFORD COUNTY CODE SEC. 15-56, "DESIGNATION OF RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS" TO ADD CERTAIN STREETS WITHIN BROOKESMILL ESTATES SUBDIVISION AS RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS

WHEREAS, Virginia Code §§ 46.2-1222.1 and 46.2-1224 authorize the County to regulate or prohibit parking on any public highway in the County, of any or all of the following: watercraft, boat trailers, motor homes, camping trailers, commercial vehicles, and the parking of motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers for commercial purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance O10-37, which established criteria for the designation of restricted parking areas; and

WHEREAS, the Brooksmill Homeowners Association, Inc. (HOA) has submitted a letter requesting the establishment of a restricted parking area within Brookesmill Estates subdivision, and the letter satisfies the requirements of Stafford County Code Sec. 15-56; and

WHEREAS, the letter from the HOA requests to designate Millbrook Road (SR-2170) and Brookesmill Lane (SR-2171) within Brookesmill Estates subdivision as a restricted parking area; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced streets within Brookesmill Estates subdivision meet the established criteria to designate a restricted parking area; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to consider public comments concerning the proposed restricted parking area within Brookesmill Estates subdivision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to advertise a public hearing to consider amending and re-ordaining Stafford County Code Sec. 15-56, "Designation of restricted parking areas," to include Millbrook Road (SR-2170) and Brookesmill Lane (SR-2171) within Brookesmill Estates subdivision as a restricted parking area, pursuant to proposed Ordinance O23-10.

ITEM 6. CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A TASK ORDER WITH A. MORTON THOMAS AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE BERA CHURCH ROAD PROJECT.

Resolution R23-128 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A TASK ORDER WITH A. MORTON THOMAS AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE BERA CHURCH ROAD PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Board identified improvements to Berea Church Road between the intersections with Warrenton Road (US-17) and Truslow Road (SR-652) (Project), as a critical part of Stafford County's roadway improvement plan; and

WHEREAS, A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. (AMT) is authorized to provide on-call transportation engineering services, pursuant to Contract No. 21-011-9602SP-AMT-B; and

WHEREAS, AMT submitted a proposal in the amount of \$1,090,457 to provide construction engineering, management, and inspection services for the Project; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the proposal and determined that it is reasonable and responsive for the scope of work requested; and

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of \$6,682,481, previously budgeted and appropriated for the construction phase of the Project, is available to fund this task order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized

to execute a task order with A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. to provide construction engineering, management, and inspection services for the Berea Church Road Project, in an amount not to exceed One Million Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$1,090,457), unless modified by a duly-authorized contract amendment.

ITEM 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2-8, 2023, AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION WEEK.

Proclamation P23-03 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2-8, 2023, AS LOCAL
GOVERNMENT EDUCATION WEEK

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the Commonwealth provide valuable services to the citizens of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, citizen services such as law enforcement, public health and safety, recreational opportunities, and educating local children are most often delivered at the local level; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the work performed by local governments, the Virginia General Assembly, on February 29, 2012, designated the first week in April as Local Government Education Week in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, April 2, 1908, was the creation of the Council-Manager form of government in the City of Staunton, thereby making the first week in April appropriate for this designation; and

WHEREAS, Stafford provides virtual and in-person field trips to wastewater and water treatment plants, with curriculums tied to the Standards of Learning. Stafford holds a Student Government Day, gives third-grade tours, provides a Blu's Academy for residents and the Youth Engaged in Stafford (YES) program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that it be and hereby does declare April 2-8, 2023, as Local Government Education Week in Stafford County.

ITEM 8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 9-15, 2023, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK.

Proclamation P23-04 reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 9-15, 2023, AS NATIONAL
PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
IN STAFFORD COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, public safety telecommunicators are more than a calm and reassuring voice at the other end of the phone, contributing daily to the public safety needs of the community; they are the "unseen first responders" serving the public in countless ways, many times without recognition; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that it be and hereby does recognize and honor its public safety telecommunicators and their dedication to the citizens of Stafford County.

ITEM 9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; A RESOLUTION TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE STAFFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO AN INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST LINE TECHNOLOGY, LLC.

Dr. Yeung said that she pulled Item 9 because this was something from 2019, and she did not feel that she could vote on this. She said that Ms. Bohmke and Mr. Coen were on the Board then. She asked if they could talk about it so she would know what she was voting on.

Mr. Coen said that he recalled that something unanimously was done on this two weeks ago or one month ago.

Mr. Paul Santay said that he did not think that it was two weeks ago, but it could have been the session before that.

Mr. Coen said that this was following through on what the Board voted unanimously on one month ago.

Mr. Santay said that in 2019, the County entered into an incentive agreement with Firstline Technologies to expand their business. She said that the agreement stated that over a five-year period, the business would get a portion of the business personal property tax that they contributed that year back to them as the incentive. He said that this was year two that they had finished up on December 31, 2022, and they met their goals with job creation, tax revenues, so part of that agreement required that these funds be paid back to that business since they were there in Stafford and meeting that performance agreement.

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Coen to approve the Resolution R23-93.

Ms. Bohmke said that this was a great company, and the gentleman who was present to speak answered the questions from Board members. She said that she thought that some of them were concerned about the contamination on the site, and that fear was removed, so she did not know why they would not support this. She said that to her, this was a no-brainer. She said that while it was not the reason she was voting for this, this was the company who came through their school division and all of the County offices during Covid-19 and could take a classroom and spray a detergent that eliminated the Covid-19 immediately, and the classroom could be used within a certain amount of time.

Mr. Coen said that it was several hours.

Ms. Bohmke said that they were fortunate to have them in Stafford County.

Mr. Santay said that part of the discussion they had several weeks ago was furthering their expansion to another location in Stafford, so it was the same company but different topic, however she was correct in what she was saying.

Dr. Yeung called for the vote.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R23-93 reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE
STAFFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PURSUANT TO AN INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST LINE
TECHNOLOGY, LLC**

WHEREAS, the Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Economic Development Authority of Stafford County, Virginia (EDA) and First Line Technology, LLC (First Line) dated October 2, 2019, pursuant to Resolution R19-281; and

WHEREAS, the MOU established certain conditions under which certain incentives related to economic development are to be provided to First Line; and

WHEREAS, First Line has met such conditions in the MOU as of December 31, 2022, including payments of its business personal property taxes in an amount of \$14,964.78; and

WHEREAS, First Line is entitled to the second-year of incentives as provided in the MOU; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-953, to make gifts, donations and appropriations of money to the EDA for the purposes of promoting economic development and the EDA has the authority to make grants of money and property in furtherance of its purposes, including promoting economic development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023 that the second-year incentive contemplated under the MOU be and it hereby is approved, and said funds are budgeted and appropriated as follows for payment to the Economic Development Authority of Stafford County, Virginia (EDA) for incentives provided to First Line Technology, LLC:

Fund	Department	Amount
General Fund	Economic Development	\$13,843

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EDA is requested to disburse such funds pursuant to the terms of the MOU.

ITEM 10. FIRE AND RESCUE; A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON
REGIONAL COMMISSION (GWRC) 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Resolution R23-131 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL
COMMISSION (GWRC) 2023 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within the George Washington Region have exposure to natural hazards that could cause risk to life, property, environment, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington Regional Commission's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update has been prepared in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements; and

WHEREAS, Stafford County has been involved in the preparation of the GWRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update through the participation of key staff in the plan's working committee, local advertisement and opportunity for public input, and plan review by staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that the George Washington Regional Commission Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update, with a March 20, 2023 date of publication, be and it hereby is approved and adopted.

ITEM 11. PLANNING AND ZONING; A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE PLANNING
COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND
ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING DATA CENTERS.

Resolution R23-141 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO
DEVELOP AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND
ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS, data centers are an emerging industry with growing demand throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

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

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan does not address specific land use guidelines for evaluation of data centers; and

WHEREAS, data centers are currently permitted by-right in various zoning districts pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Zoning Ordinance does not contain specific regulations related to location, siting and design of such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to consider establishing Comprehensive Plan criteria and Zoning Ordinance regulations to address data centers; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that the Planning Commission develop proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance for its consideration prior to taking the proposed amendments to public hearing; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that the Planning Commission be and it hereby is requested to develop proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance regarding the location, siting, and design of data centers, and provide its recommendations to the Board for consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission shall substantially complete its review and analysis and report its findings back to the Board for consideration by June 27, 2023.

ITEM 12. SHERIFF; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2023 LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS ACT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS GRANT PROGRAM.

Resolution R23-126 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2023 LAW ENFORCEMENT
MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS ACT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS
GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Stafford County is eligible for grant funding in an amount up to \$200,000 through the Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Implementation Projects Grant Program (“Grant”) to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the Grant funds would allow the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office to invest in a variety of wellness resources that would assist employees, retirees, and family members whether in a time of need or proactive care; and

WHEREAS, the grant application deadline is April 14, 2023 and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) will announce the awards electronically on or after October 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office has identified mental health and wellness resources such as a wellness application, therapy dog training, resource literature, instructional classes, and copayments to support 100 professional counseling visits; and

WHEREAS, the funding for these resources totals \$83,000 and no local match is required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that it be and hereby does authorize submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Grant in an amount not to exceed Eighty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$83,000).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 13. PARKS, RECREATION, FACILITIES AND TOURISM; DISCUSS A REQUEST TO LEASE A PORTION OF COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT DUFF MCDUFF PARK FOR THE RIVERE ECOLOGICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN PROJECT.

Mr. Brion Southall of Parks and Recreation, Facilities, and Tourism, stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Mike Morris brought forward an option to lease proposal for Rivere to lease property at Duff Park for a botanical garden to support their ecological center. He said that Rivere was asking for an option to lease with terms similar to Patowomeck Tribe, which was a ten-year lease with four ten-year extensions at a dollar per year, plus Rivere was recommending collecting donations for a playground. He said that staff was requesting direction from the Board, and if they Board was interested, they could advertise a public hearing and converse with Rivere about the specifics.

Ms. Allen asked Mr. Southall asked if they were one of the entities related to the test bed.

Mr. Southall said that he was not aware. He said that it came through economic development.

Mr. Morris said that they actually participated in the RIOT Entrepreneur Program and came through that program as a participant at the test bed.

Ms. Allen said that she had advocated for them to support their incubators, meaning their entrepreneurs, and help them establish businesses in Stafford County. She said that it would be counterintuitive of her to support a program and then not support them opening their business in Stafford County.

Ms. Bohmke said that they had a Parks and Recreation Commission, and she knew that they took this subject up a number of times. She asked what their vote was on moving forward with Rivere. Mr. Southall said that the Commission voted to deny the option to lease.

Ms. Bohmke asked why they voted to deny.

Mr. Southall said that they were looking at the utilization study for fields that was done in 2014, and another utilization study in 2017 about programs and other recreational opportunities, and each one of them projected a need for properties to build parks, sports fields, etcetera.

Ms. Gary asked what the timeline was for the project if approved, and how long it would take to get going and be a viable project.

Mr. Southall said that they were asking for direction for that.

Ms. Gary asked if Rivere had any sort of plan for implementation. She said that she was wondering why they were holding onto something that she did not know of the Board having elevated in redoing the master plan. She said that they had had a lot of talk about what they would do with Parks and Recreation in different areas, and she did not want to hold onto something for undefined plans when a potential plan had been presented. She said that she wanted to know how soon it would be until they could say they were open for doing what they were planning to do.

Mr. Southall said that they were looking for a three-year lease to option so that they could raise money for that and begin construction on the center and garden.

Ms. Gary asked if there was a projection on how long it would take to raise that money and get that going.

Ms. Michael Manchester said that the option to lease would be for three years for fundraising to get \$2.5M for the botanical gardens.

Ms. Gary asked if there would be fundraising through the three years and then do the botanical garden eventually.

Ms. Manchester said yes.

Mr. Coen said that this was an exceedingly creative project. He said that the idea was to put an ecological center there where it would be good for education and study of the river, which were things that were helpful to their community. He said that at their own expense, they were looking

to do a botanical garden, so the individuals who said that there was nothing to do in Stafford, or that there was nothing new, this was something new.

Mr. Coen said that part of their proposal were people who did the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, an exceedingly successful botanical project in Richmond. He said that they did not do this as a competitor but as a complement to what they were doing, which had been shown to be very successful. He said that part of what they were asking for was raising funds to create a children's' play area. He said that right now there was nothing in the CIP for the next decade for that area.

Mr. Southall asked if Mr. Coen was referring to the Duff area.

Mr. Coen said that was correct.

Mr. Southall said that there was a master plan, but no funding associated with it.

Mr. Coen said that nothing was going to happen there, whereas here they would give the County the money and the County chose what to put in there. He said that people said that they wanted stuff from this County, but they wanted others to pay for it, and they had others paying for it. He said that they wanted something to do, and here was something to do. He said that lastly, if they had been down to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, or to any other major tourism area, there were not ball fields sitting in front of them. He said that if they went to Sturbridge Village, they did not put a ball field with lights right in front of it. He said that if they had a tribal center, to believe that they would have ball fields right in front of it was inane.

Mr. Coen said that it also was true for the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden that it had brought in family restaurants and chain restaurants to that area, so when they were speaking about trying to get more commercial revenue for this County, this was a way to do it other than the continual way they were told by individuals in the development community, which was to build more homes. He said that this was a way for them to get what they wanted without building more homes. He said that some people may think this was inane, but he did not, and thought it was very "nane." He said that it was very sane to try to give these people time to raise the funds to do it if they were not able to.

Mr. Coen said that people say that Fortune 500 companies and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden did not have the wherewithal to come up with a business plan, but they would know that in three years, and it would stay their land. He said that he did not see the downside of this, other than it being a test case for all businesses and individuals to understand why they could not do anything in Stafford, because it could take them six, eight, or nine months to get anything done, and when

they came forward with a plan that they were taking the whole burden, they were put through the grinder.

Ms. Bohmke asked if the applicant's team approached the City of Fredericksburg about doing this on the other side of the river, and if so, what were those conversations.

Ms. Manchester said that they approached Fredericksburg first and were looking at the old power plant. She said that as they were looking at that, they had plans drawn with Commonwealth Architects. She said that they were approached by Economic Development in Stafford, who said that it would be great for Stafford, they should look at Stafford, and they could make it happen in Stafford, with all of these suggestions for wonderful things to happen. She said that this was clearly a great location, with more acreage and opportunities working with the tribal community, so it was very appealing, and that was why they shifted gears. She said that they put a lot of money into working with Fredericksburg, and they were very accepting of that and still were. She said that they had dragged this out for over a year, and the decision needed to be made that either it would be in Stafford or it would be in Fredericksburg.

Mr. English asked what would happen if they did not raise the money at the end of the three years. He asked if they could raise that kind of money in three years.

Ms. Manchester said that she absolutely believed that they could, yes.

Mr. English asked what happened if they did not raise it.

Ms. Manchester said that if they did not raise it, there would be no harm to Stafford as they still owned the property. She said that if they did raise it, then the opportunity was then afforded to Stafford to then have this botanical garden. She noted that in 2021, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens had 391,000 visitors during COVID-19, so the numbers were there, and she believed that they had shared those numbers before. She said that the George Washington boyhood home during that same period had about 40,000, so it would be a huge increase for tourism dollars.

Mr. English said that he had concern that the Parks and Recreation Commission turned it down, which indicated that they had some sort of concern about that.

Ms. Manchester said that the Commission asked her to find other land for the ball fields, and out of her time and expense, she did find other lands for the ball fields to be located, but it did not appease them with the property that she found. She said that it was kind of like they did not want it, so they shut it down before she even walked in the door. She said that she met them, had presentations, gave them the information, found other land for the ball fields to be in another

location to try to make everyone happy. She said that after all the times of coming before this Board and all the expense they paid for over a year of time involved, it was like they could not do this any longer but had to fundraise to make it happen. She said that she had lived in Stafford, and it was a wonderful opportunity and a great location.

Dr. Yeung asked if Ms. Manchester currently lived in Stafford.

Ms. Manchester said that she still lived in Stafford.

Dr. Yeung asked how this project connected to the tribe that Ms. Manchester mentioned.

Ms. Manchester said that the property that they were seeking an option to lease was in between the Rivere-owned property and the tribal-leased property, so it was in between that location.

Ms. Vanuch asked why they needed the Board to sign a lease in order to raise the money.

Ms. Manchester said that if they did not have something on paper that said that the Board was in agreement for them to do this at that location, it was difficult to raise money when the information about the location was unknown.

Ms. Vanuch asked why they could not create a memorandum of understanding that they would get the first right of refusal to the property if they did not end up having it for some County need on that property. She said that they could go out with an MOU to raise the money, but the County would still have the ability to utilize that property if something came up. She said that they had had many discussions about County-owned property, and almost never did they just want to give it away, because they did not own a lot of property, and their needs were significant for schools, Parks and Rec, and she believed that the Parks and Recreation believed that this land was ideal for meeting some of the gaps in parks and recreational facilities.

Ms. Vanuch said that she talked to the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who said that the reason the proposals were not appetizing was because they had to buy those properties, so the County would have to find the funds to purchase that property. She said that the Chair did not agree with giving them the property for free and then buy more property for the ball fields. She said that if they listened to their budget discussions, they did not have the money to do that right now because they had so many pressing needs.

Ms. Vanuch said that she asked her Parks and Recreation Commissioner what his biggest concern was, because she thought it was strange that the entire Commission voted no, and when she reviewed it in CEDC, a recommendation was not really provided, but she knew that committee

members were concerned at the time. She said that the Parks and Recreation Commission said that the George Washington member did support the plan because he felt that he was being directed to. She said that when they asked why, he said that because the Parks and Recreation's biggest issue was the fact that they needed land for facilities, and he said that he thought his Board member had a friend who they could purchase property from to move the ball fields. She said that that was a big concern to her and raised a huge red flag. She said that that came from a Parks and Recreation Commissioner to her, and she could not support the project.

Ms. Gary said that there were a lot of needs, and it was obvious the applicant had been through a lot, and she apologized. She said that it was hard to hear. She said that she wondered if it was possible that because they had a shortage of land, and they had a plan right now for this land, which the County did not, they could do some kind of revenue sharing where they could get resources to buy land or resources for Parks and Recreation in the future. She asked if that had been considered.

Ms. Manchester said that she thought that initially, there were some considerations, and she believed that what they were talking about was a memorandum of understanding for the option to lease.

Dr. Yeung said that it was 10 years versus three.

Ms. Manchester said that the memorandum of understanding was what they were seeking, and after the three years of fundraising, then they would be looking at an option to lease. She said that they were discussing a memorandum of understanding right now.

Dr. Yeung asked if a MOU or MOA was for the three years and that was it, if they raised it by then, they would come back to the table to talk.

Ms. Manchester said that then anyone who gave them money to fundraise at that location would expect that it was going to happen.

Dr. Yeung asked if the money would be in a place where they could give it back if it wasn't going to happen. She said that she was trying to make it work.

Ms. Bohmke said that she did not see the memorandum of understanding in the materials provided, so she leaned over to the County Administrator. She asked if Mr. Vosburg could share what he told her.

Mr. Vosburg said that the item was currently seeking Board direction, and if the Board favored the project, staff would return with an MOU or MOA, or some kind of memorandum of agreement to

be before the Board for approval. He said that it was not an attachment until they received Board direction that this was where they wanted to go.

Ms. Bohmke said that she understood that Ms. Manchester had been working on this for a year, but a lot of things like this took a long time. She said that they began with GWRC, then they went upstairs, and there was a lot of discussion at GWRC because they had a list of sponsors at the top who were more like interested parties rather than sponsors, and she did not feel that that was very forthcoming as an organization looking to lease land from Stafford County. She said that she did not feel that it was a good-faith effort and they had to ask a lot of questions. She said that because of that, it had been hard for her to get over that hurdle because things were misrepresented at the beginning. She said that maybe this was a great project.

Ms. Bohmke said that she understood Ms. Manchester's frustration that it had been a year, but they worked on a lot of things and wanted to make sure that they got it right in Stafford. She said that this was precious land that they were going to give away in a lease. She said that she understood why the Parks and Recreation Commission, whose opinions they valued, because parks and recreation was all they focused on, they understood what they were doing, and the fact that they voted 6-1 against gave her great pause. She said that that was why she asked why did they vote no. She said that in their CIP, they had a great need for a lot of other things. She said that she understood that this was an interesting project, but she personally was not ready to give direction today.

Mr. Coen said that it was a lease of land and not giving away the land, because the County still owned the land and they were just allowed to use it. He said that the individual who owned two parcels in White Oak and farther down Route 3 had talked to the Parks and Recreation Department on numerous occasions about the County buying their land to expand parks and recreation facilities. He said that there were other options, and what was raised by the Parks and Recreation Commission was for them to raise their own funds for their own project, raise them for the children's play area, and fundraise to buy land. He said that at this point, they should just poll the Board and see if they wanted to go forward with the project, and if they did not, that was what would happen. He said that future government classes could use this as a test case.

Dr. Yeung asked if there was a motion.

Mr. Coen said that there was no motion. He said that staff requested direction from the Board, so they should poll the Board. He said that they could not make an MOU without direction of staff, and that was why they did not have an MOU in front of them.

Dr. Yeung asked if the Board was polled and approved of the project, staff would return with an MOU, and if it was acceptable that was what they voted on.

Ms. McClendon said that if the Board gave staff direction to negotiate an MOU, they would do that. She noted that because they were talking about an interest in County property, a public hearing would be required.

Ms. Allen said that she would support this. She said that it may not get the support, but when it went across to Fredericksburg, they would hear people asking why it was not in Stafford.

Ms. Gary said that she would like to see what a negotiated MOU would look like and she was still interested in if a revenue sharing agreement could be worked into that so that they could buy land if need be and if they were giving up land that could work. She said that yes, she was interested in pursuing the project.

Ms. Vanuch said no. She said that her Parks and Recreation person just texted her and told her that they could not afford to give that land away and that they should not do it.

Mr. English said that he was a no. He said that his park guy said no.

Dr. Yeung said that her Parks and Recreation person also said no.

ITEM 14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; DISCUSS OPTIONS TO RELOCATE THE VOTER REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND EARLY VOTING

Mr. Mike Morris, Deputy County Administrator said that Ms. Anna Hash was also present to answer questions. He said that in February, the Board requested that staff explore opportunities to relocate the Voter Registrar's Office and Early Voting, so they spent the last six weeks searching different properties to see if they would work. He said that six of them did not meet the necessities of the Registrar, including that the space was not big enough, was too awkward, did not have enough parking, along Route 1 where there were traffic issues and handicap accessibility issues.

Mr. Morris said that they did find one location that the voter registrar was very pleased with, which was 124 Potomac Church Road, the building that Germanna was in. He said that it would be on the second floor, while Germanna would remain at their current location on the first floor. He said that they had preliminary discussions with the owner of the building, got the preliminary prices, and it would cost them approximately \$75,000 to \$80,000 to rent the property, plus utilities of approximately \$25,000.

Mr. Morris said that however, there would be significant buildout costs because it was a vacant shell at the moment, and those costs could range anywhere from \$350,000 to \$400,000. He said

that their desire today was to see if they wished them to pursue a lease agreement to bring back to the Board or what their direction would be.

Mr. English asked Ms. Hash if this location would be easy to find for citizens, easy to get in and out of, and there were no issues. He asked if she was 100% on board with this.

Ms. Hash. said yes. She said that there were two ways to get in and out, so the traffic flow or whichever way someone was going on Route 1 had options. She said that there was a light at one option and one way that people could get out by the hospital, so it was a good location. She said that it was safe and there was ample parking.

Mr. English asked if it would be ready for June.

Ms. Hash said no.

Mr. English asked if it would be ready for next year.

Ms. Vanuch asked if it would be ready for November.

Mr. Morris said that it would be December at the earliest.

Ms. Hash said that early voting began in September and there was no time.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there was any possibility that it could happen faster. She asked if the building had a sign rule. She asked if they knew it would be a Registrar's Office and there would be early voting, and if there was rules for signage.

Ms. Hash said that she did not know if they had rules for signage or not.

Mr. Morris said that they indicated what it would be for and were very clear about that when they met. He said that they did not express any concerns.

Ms. Vanuch said that they probably did not know.

Mr. Morris said that they would share with them to make sure.

Mr. Vanuch said that if the Board needed to do something to help with that, she would be a proponent of no signs.

Dr. Yeung said that telling them was one thing, and explaining to them what happens. She said that her question was security. She said that at the current location, they had the courthouse next door and sheriffs on site. She asked what happened over there.

Ms. Hash said that she knew that the City of Richmond's Registrar Office was separate, and they had security there. She said that when they were open, they had a security person there.

Dr. Yeung said that as long as Ms. Hash was happy.

Mr. Morris said that Board direction was requested by staff.

Dr. Yeung said that Mr. Morris had Board consensus to move forward.

ITEM 15. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; APPROVE A REVISED RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE PERSONAL PROPERTY VEHICLE CATEGORY TAX RATE FOR ADVERTISEMENT.

Dr. Yeung said that the County Attorney wanted to ensure that the Board's intention was that vehicles were advertised at \$6.10 and not all other classes of personal property. She said that she would make this item time sensitive. She asked Ms. Light if she had anything further to add.

Ms. Light said no.

Dr. Yeung asked if there was a motion necessary for this item.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve proposed Resolution R23-73.

Dr. Yeung asked Ms. Light to explain why the rate was at \$6.10. She asked if it was at \$4.49.

Ms. Light said that the proposed budget was at \$4.99. She said that the Calendar Year 2022 tax rate was at \$4.49. She said that from COVID-19, they had seen significant increases in Calendar Year 2022 for vehicles, so much so that the General Assembly changed personal property law and put in a sunset so that vehicles could be pulled out separately and be at a rate lower than business personal property. She said that they had seen a record spike in 2022, and that had begun to normalize again.

Ms. Light said that the Commissioner of the Revenue was doing a significant amount of work to see what all of those valuations were, and she knew from what they had provided for a 2019 Honda Accord in 2021 was valued at \$20,925, and in 2022, it went up to \$27,150, and had now come

back down to \$23,050. She said that the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office was finalizing what those valuations were, and they still felt like \$6.10 was likely high, but that it gave the Board the advertised rate to allow for that coverage.

Mr. Coen said that in agenda review, the attitude was that if they did not fix this and make it clear, it would actually raise taxes on loads of other people. He said that it was articulated that if the way it was done two weeks ago raised everything to a certain level, and if they did not clarify that this was for vehicles, then they were raising taxes on mobile homes, boats, and other items. He said that he made the motion because if they did not, they were proposing yet another tax increase.

Ms. Light said absolutely. She said that some examples were volunteer fire and rescue and sheriff personnel had their first vehicles essentially exempt from personal property, so this would advertise them at \$6.10. She said that this may make an impact on people misinterpreting or misunderstanding the information provided and the Board's intention.

Mr. Vosburg said that this item spoke to the Board's intention when they voted on the \$6.10 rate. He said that this did not set the rate and did not change what was advertised with \$6.10 related to vehicles. He said that what could have been advertised if they took it in a different direction was what Supervisor Coen pointed out, which was \$6.10 for every category within personal property. He said that they as staff chose not to advertise it that way because they did not feel that that was the Board's intention.

Mr. Vosburg said that when the \$6.10 was talked about, it was implied that it was with vehicles, and they felt that was what the Board's intention was, so they did not put every category, including boats, everything else Ms. Light mentioned, at \$6.10 because they thought would cause a bigger stir. He said that some of those items were currently set at a penny in some cases, and they would have set \$6.10 in advertisement. He said that this was simply to clarify what they thought the Board's intention was with that vote to set the advertised rate for \$6.10 for vehicle personal property versus the entire category of personal property, which had about 14 subcategories.

Dr. Yeung asked if this should have been motioned if it was just a clarification.

Ms. McClendon said that her recommendation was that it needed to be clear because vehicles were a separate class of personal property and they wanted that to be reflected in the Board's actions.

Ms. Vanuch said that this was part of the problem when they made rash decisions. She said that she specifically requested the Board to break the votes out into personal property, real estate, and the capital improvement plan. She said that she was shut down on that, and these kinds of mistakes happened because of that. She said that she would abstain because she did not vote to advertise it

at \$6.10 in the first place, but this should be a lesson that when someone spoke up, they should be allowed to finish. She said that they were trying to break it out, but some were so set on the \$1.17 tax rate and wouldn't listen to anything else.

Ms. Gary said that it had been a very tense day, and she thought maybe they should simmer down a little bit. She asked if the \$6.10 was high for going forward, what number Ms. Light felt would be more appropriate to readjust after the fluctuations in the market.

Ms. Light said that it should certainly be less than \$6.10. She said that the Commissioner of the Revenue was finishing up that work, and they talked today about having more information before the Board set the tax rate so that they had the information about the valuation and the impact to taxpayers.

Ms. Gary said that they would follow up later then.

Dr. Yeung asked if the \$6.10 was the number the County Administrator put in his budget.

Ms. Light said no. She said that it was \$4.99 based on the information they had from the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at the time, and they felt that that was the right number to use to get to the projected revenue increase. She said that this was an odd year, and there had been a big spike and then drop in valuations of vehicles.

Ms. Bohmke said that she was confused because there was an article in the Wall Street Journal last week about how used car prices were going back up. She said that she was trying to figure out how she should vote.

Ms. Light said that voting at \$6.10 across would be looking at aircraft, volunteers, boats and watercraft, then being advertised at \$6.10. She said that the intention of the Board was only for vehicles to be done at \$6.10, and when the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office provided additional information, they would be able to provide that to Board members so they were confident in the vote they took for the tax rate or the actual tax rate applied to bills.

Ms. Bohmke said that since everything was lumped together at that vote, they did not get a chance to discuss the personal property, so she did not know what the rest of the Board was really thinking there.

Mr. Vosburg said that partially why they were present today was to verify that that was how staff interpreted it, but if that was not how those who voted for it meant it, then that was another issue. He said that if that was how they meant it, then they would ask them to approve this item.

Mr. English said that he was not present at the previous meeting so he would abstain from this vote.

Ms. Gary clarified that her intention was to only include the vehicles, which was how staff interpreted it.

Mr. Coen asked what the impact would be if they went with a number such as \$5.

Ms. Light asked if Mr. Coen meant \$5.

Mr. Coen said yes.

Ms. Light said that for every penny on personal property, it was just above \$100,000 in revenue, so dropping that could be over \$1M in revenue loss. She said that they would have to do the analysis of what that would look like, and that was part of what they were doing with the Commissioner's Office to see where the valuations fell.

Mr. Coen said that this was the theory that they set it at a certain rate and could go lower once they got better information, but they had it set at a certain rate for that.

Ms. Light said that was correct. She said that they asked the Board to consider advertising at the \$6.10 because there was so much information still coming in.

Dr. Yeung called for the vote.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea:	(3)	Allen, Gary, Yeung
Nay:	(0)	
Abstain:	(4)	Bohmke, Coen, English, Vanuch

Dr. Yeung said that the vote failed.

Mr. Coen said that three votes in favor with zero no votes would pass.

Dr. Yeung said okay.

Resolution R23-73 (R) reads as follows:

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 4th day of April, 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 \$1.145, personal property--vehicles tax rate of \$6.10, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 16. UTILITIES; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH CDM SMITH INC. FOR AN ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES.

Mr. Chris Edwards, Director of the Department of Utilities, said that he was present to discuss the Department of Utilities Asset Management program and asset management contract with CDM Smith. He said that the County had released a request for proposals or RFP in the summer of 2022, which was qualification based and selected CDM Smith as the most qualified candidate. He said that an asset was any physical item, meaning for utilities any pipes, valves, motors, and pumps.

He said that from doing their benchmarking study, Stafford had a significant number of assets, more than most neighboring jurisdictions.

Mr. Edwards said that about 30% of the asset value was horizontal assets, which were pipes in the ground, fire hydrants, and other facilities people saw in their neighborhoods. He said that the remaining 70% were vertical assets, or things found in their water and wastewater plants, pump stations, and water storage tanks. He said that they had found that the vertical assets had much shorter lifespans than horizontal assets; horizontal pipes that may last 50 years versus vertical assets that lasted only one year or two. He said that the vertical parts took much longer to stock, up to 12 to 18 month to be received after the pandemic. He said that ensuring that they kept them and replaced them was critical to their operation.

Mr. Edwards said that asset management was the practice of managing infrastructure assets to minimize the total cost of owning and operating them, while delivering the same level of service. He said that the two main important things for the Department of Utilities was to deliver the same level of service while making sure they kept the total cost down. He said that they had to begin with the asset inventory, and they had done a good job of keeping track of their pipes, but over the years, their vertical assets had not been documented well.

Mr. Edwards said that one of the first things they would have to do would be to go through, redocument all of the vertical assets, which would be tens of thousands of assets, and they worked with their consultant to come up with the total number of hours of work necessary, which was determined to be 15,000-to-20,000-man hours, or 10 full-time staff members for a year. He said that they did not have enough staff to dedicate toward doing that, so they had asked for the consultant's assistance to do that as well as help develop 3R programs and operations and maintenance program around this catalog. He said that they were asking the consultant to help them with the first round of this, which was a five-year contract, and after that, the hope was that they could get staff trained to continue moving through this process.

Mr. Edwards said that the department had some foundations in asset management. He indicated on the slide the two graphics to the right had been presented during the last two five-year plans, which were the criticality analyses of the water and sewer system. He said that these graphics were made possible by their GIS system, which had been a 20-year work in progress, and they used the GIS information to create these analyses that had served as the cornerstone of the 3R program to date.

Mr. Edwards said that the goal for asset management moving forward was to make sure they had something that would encompass both horizontal and vertical assets. He reiterated that the main parts of this would be to catalog all asset inventory, log it into a computerized management system,

probably as something the entire County could move forward with if need be. He said that their main goal was to complete this within a year and not let the information age, because a lot of the assets would be switched out within a year period.

Mr. Edwards indicated on the slide an example of a computerized management system from another utility. He said that to the left was a list of all assets from this utility, either water plant, sewer pump station, tank, or a pipe in the ground, and what it allowed them to do was to compare apples to oranges and helped them make sure they were spending their 3R money wisely.

Mr. Edwards said that the financial consideration moving forward, as presented with the budget two weeks ago, the 10-year CIP had approximately \$300M. He said that during the CIP presentation, their goal was to make sure they spent two-thirds of the money toward 3R projects, or \$20M per year. He said that this was an up-front investment of about \$3.5M, but it was a wise decision-making tool to invest that \$200M.

Mr. Edwards indicated on the slide a statement from the American Water Works Association, which was their main trade publication, and said that many utilities would see a 10% reduction in operating costs, and within the article it stated that 10% to 40%. He said that he was not willing to go out on a limb to say 40%, but he was confident that over time they would be able to get to that 10% reduction, and this program would end up paying for itself.

Mr. Edwards said that they had also looked at several different programs that they were going to do, one was a work order system, another pump station evaluation program. He said that they stopped at that because they did not want to do that as piecemeal, so they went out with an RFP for everything in total, which was about 1% to 1.5% of the rate increase but was a much more holistic approach that would allow them to make better decisions with decision-making tools in the future. He said that this would help with their reactive maintenance and reactive 3R projects that were what truly drove up the costs of the projects.

Dr. Yeung said that the item would return as unfinished business.

ITEM 17. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; AUTHORIZE A VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY INDIVIDUAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR DATA ANALYTICS SOFTWARE FOR OPIOID ABATEMENT AND AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR THE VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY'S GOLD STANDARD INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

Mr. Anthony Toigo, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, said that there were two resolutions before the Board, neither of which were time sensitive, would come back to the Board on April

18. He said that the first, R23-122, authorized a grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority for their individual grant program. He said that the individual grant program was a non-competitive formula grant, and in FY23 and FY24 combined, they had \$157,025 already reserved for Stafford County, and all they had to do to access the funding was essentially apply for it.

Mr. Toigo said that the condition on the funds was that it had to be used purely for opioid abatement purposes, sediment rules, and statutory rules, which were all in the background packet items 5 and 6. He said that they had worked with the Opioid Abatement Authority and staying on top of their progress since November, and he was happy to report that this application would actually be the second in the state, which was significant. He said that Stafford County would be one of the first counties to apply, and they would also be receiving direct support from OAA staff as they wrote this.

Mr. Toigo said that they had met with public safety departments, and they believed that the best project to bring forward was data analytic software for opioid abatement, which was their top priority. He said that what this would essentially do was serve as the basis for their opioid mitigation measures. He said that it was a software program and was able to exist with their existing emergency services systems to create a visual with heat maps and real live data tracking of where opioid calls and overdoses were occurring to create hotspots, and then their public safety would use that data to target the opioid abatement education, mitigation, and connection to care. He said that the cost of the program was \$124,754.72, which they had available out of their individual fund to cover.

Mr. Toigo said that the second resolution, R23-123, was the Gold Standard Initiative. He said that this was an incentive offered by the OAA that stated if localities used 100% of their opioid abatement funds for opioid abatement purposes, the OAA would increase the individual distribution they received by 25% of the locality's direct distribution. He said that for Stafford, it would be a little less than \$40,000. He said that the recommendation of the County Attorney's Office was to opt into the gold standard. He said that different settlements had different rules for spending, and this would ensure that the funds they were reporting and using were spent on opioid abatement across all OAA buckets.

Mr. Toigo indicated the slide on the screen which showed the amount of funds that would be remaining in their individual grant program allocations. He said that after the purchase of the data analytic software, they would be left with \$32,270. He said that the OAA's Gold Standard Incentive was \$39,000 and would leave them with \$71,526 left that they could use on other opioid abatement measures that could be discussed at a later date. He said that the next steps would begin at the April 18 meeting when these items came back for Board approval. He said that if they

submitted the grant application, it would be reviewed in the May to June timeframe and awarded in July, and the first report was due on September 1, 2024.

Ms. Vanuch asked if Mr. Toigo could provide information about the costs associated with the opioid abatement education and if that had been budgeted for. She said that this was obviously using the abatement funds, so she would like to know if these funds could also be used to purchase Narcan. She said that in the School Board's budget, they were purchasing \$71,000 of Narcan, which she had never seen in the budget before. She said that it looked like the new expense, and she was unsure if these funds could be used to offset those costs in the future. She asked if that information could be provided at the next meeting.

Dr. Yeung asked what was being done with the data analytics software other than tracking the information. She asked how it was addressed with the individuals.

Mr. Toigo said that he would discuss more about that at the next meeting. He said that this was focused on the start-up cost of the software, so the next step would be those education measures.

ITEM 18. UTILITIES; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT PROVIDED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) FOR LITTLE FALLS RUN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY'S NUTRIENT REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY.

Mr. Chris Edwards, Director of Department of Utilities, noted that this item was time sensitive, and he had received an email regarding the matter this afternoon which he needed to respond to with the Board's decision. He said that this item was for grant funding for the Little Falls Run Wastewater Treatment Plant project, which was through the Department of Environmental Quality's water quality improvement fund.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to deem the matter time sensitive.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

Mr. Edwards said that the total project cost for Little Falls was about \$43M, and the grant-eligible portion was about \$15M. He said that they actually had received the highest amount for the grant funding, which was 45% of the grant-eligible amount, for an amount of \$6.7M toward the Little Falls Run project. He said that it was scalable, so if the project came up higher, that portion would

actually increase with the cost of the project. He said that this was designed to help them meet water quality regulations now and in the future.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to approve proposed Resolution R23-114.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

Resolution R23-114 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) TO ACCEPT THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT FOR ENHANCED NUTRIENT REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY AT LITTLE FALLS RUN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides grant funding through the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to assist local governments in reducing point source nutrient loads to the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to restore and improve the quality of State waters and to protect them from impairment and destruction for the benefit of citizens of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, WQIF point source grant funds are available to assist with the costs of the design and installation of nutrient removal technology at publicly-owned treatment plants, necessary to comply with effluent limitations requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved Resolution R21-139 on April 6, 2021, authorizing the County Administrator to apply for WQIF grant funding for the design and installation of enhanced nutrient removal technology as part of the Little Falls Run Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades (Project); and

WHEREAS, DEQ has approved a WGIF grant of 45% of the costs of the eligible portion of the Project, subject to execution of a grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, the total Project cost is approximately \$34,760,423, and DEQ determined that 43.2% of the Project is eligible, a cost of \$15,015,432; and

WHEREAS, the grant would reimburse the County for up to 45% of the eligible Project cost amount, an amount equal to approximately \$6,756,944; and

WHEREAS, DEQ and the Department are still finalizing Project costs and the grant agreement may require modification to reflect revised Project costs; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Department of Utilities Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023 under BHC065, LWWTF – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and may be used for the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April 2023, that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) grant in an amount up to Six Million Seven Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Four Dollars (\$6,756,944) be and it hereby is approved and accepted for the design and installation of enhanced nutrient removal technology at the Little Falls Run Wastewater Plant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County Administrator, or his designee, is authorized to execute the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund Point Source Grant and Operation and Maintenance Agreement and any other documents necessary and appropriate to accept the WQIF grant; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that any amendment to the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund Point Source Grant and Operation and Maintenance Agreement that substantially modifies the County's performance requirements under the agreement or increases the total WQIF grant award above the amount approved herein is subject to approval by the Board.

ITEM 19. DISCUSSION ON HIGH SCHOOL #6 TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS AND ISSUES; REQUESTED BY SUPERVISOR MEG BOHMKE.

Ms. Bohmke asked Mr. Jason Towery from the school division to discuss this issue. She said that this item came up when she was watching the Planning Commission meeting last Wednesday or the Wednesday before, where there was a discussion regarding the height requirements of the new high school. She said that the Planning Commission ended up voting in favor of what they were there to discuss, however, one Planning Commission member brought up the challenges that they would have as it related to Truslow Road and the new potential roundabout, and there was a lot of discussion. She said that she was also on the Commonwealth Transportation Board, so she understood the challenges around these transportation issues.

Ms. Bohmke said that she did not want this item to bite the Board of Supervisors or the School Board, because they did not have enough money in the budget to pay for the road improvements that needed to be over there. She said that they did not need to have an a-ha moment in a year or two years to realize that they did not have enough money and needed \$18M more for new road improvements. She said that she thought that this should be on record and have a short conversation

with Mr. Towery, who was in charge of facilities for the school division and who used to work for the County, who knew a lot about construction and transportation. She asked Mr. Towery if he could give a broad overview of what the challenge was, and what the work was being done on the school side of things.

Mr. Jason Towery said that Ms. Sellers, the CTP member and Planning Commissioner, brought this matter up and discussed it at large with the other Planning Commissioners. He said that the consensus was that there were concerns about the current condition of Truslow Road and being able to put schools on that, which brought more attention to the current conditions and concerns of that road. He said that he knew that this Board and the County had looked to Truslow Road before in the past, and there had been various items that had been considered out there, but nothing comprehensively beyond the extension project completed in 2016 or 2017 to the east of where the school site was.

Mr. Towery said that a couple items brought up by VDOT were concerns about the intersection of Truslow and Poplar. He said that the study that the schools did show that it was already currently operating in a deficient condition, so there was concern about that. He said that that was far outside of the scope they were working on, so they had to unfortunately say that it was not something they were budgeted to do. He said that they had presently, up until about a month or two months ago, had been planning to place a roundabout at the proposed intersection of Truslow Road and where Stafford Plaza Drive would come through. He said that they were extending Stafford Plaza Drive from Route 17 back to Truslow Road as part of the scope of their project, and as they went through the design process with VDOT on this matter, it became apparent that a lot of the items requested by VDOT as a part of the roundabout were getting beyond the scope of the original budget that they had anticipated.

Mr. Towery said that in conversations with VDOT over the last couple of months, they had indicated that as a part of the schools' project, they were going to step back and design a standard four-leg intersection instead of a roundabout. He said that the four-leg intersection was shown in their traffic study to operate at the same level of efficiency as the roundabout, and still met all the VDOT requirements for a standard intersection design. He clarified that there was nothing deficient about the intersection and they were building a safe intersection, but it was not a bells-and-whistle design that the full roundabout design that everyone initially hoped for.

Mr. Towery said that throughout the process, VDOT had alluded to the desire to make additional improvements along that section of Truslow Road, whether it be widening or straightening in certain areas, which was clearly outside of the scope of what they could do. He said that they had been talking very closely with the Transportation staff and monitoring the situation, trying to collaborate on ways that they could work together.

Ms. Bohmke asked if the efficiency of the four-way stop was the safest way to design that intersection or was it the level above that. She said that she was concerned that if they built that, then found that they should have built something else, it would be too late. She asked where this Board and Mr. Vosburg would like to see this conversation go, because they did not have the money in the project right now. She asked what the number was currently.

Mr. Towery said that 183 was what he believed the request to be.

Ms. Bohmke asked if that included any of these improvements.

Mr. Towery said that it did, but as of the last three or four months, he did not believe it would be sufficient.

Ms. Bohmke said that her question was if it should be on the CIP. She said that she wanted this issue to be public.

Dr. Yeung said that this was informational. She said that she wanted to discuss the Warrenton Service District in Item 22, which was somewhat related to this. She said that she and Supervisor Coen had discussed the service district, and Commissioner Sellers and she had discussed Truslow Road. She said that Garrisonville had a 6% tax, and the Warrenton Road area had service tax there, which was currently 0%. She said that when looking at that area, they could include Truslow Road in that area, and she did not see why that would be an issue when this was about safety for these elementary and high school students.

Dr. Yeung said that they should not want to put parents, children, and students in danger. She said that she understood it was a road over, but in the packet, the service district was included, and she did not see why they could not extend it to include Truslow Road. She said that a lot of the traffic went down Route 17, and she believed that just like Garrisonville paid that tax, that service district should pay for this road.

Ms. Bohmke asked if that was a legal issue.

Dr. Yeung asked if the County Administrator and County Attorney could provide information related to that. She said that she wanted to look at it and see what the legalities were, because it was possible that they could get funds to help this road that way.

Ms. McClendon said that ultimately, when looking at the Warrenton Road Service District, Truslow Road was not currently within the service district boundaries, so if the Board wanted to adjust that district, it would need to include that in the boundaries. She said that another more

pressing issue that must occur was with regards to the size of the service district and ensuring that everyone paying into the district had a benefit from it.

Ms. McClendon said that looking at the current configuration of the district, they had both sides of Route 17, and they would have to be able to make the case to say that those on the southern side, touching the Rappahannock, would also benefit from the district that would then be working on Truslow Road. She said that the Board and staff would need to look at this in regard to bringing something back the Board, because the Board needed to first find a project area and determine which properties would benefit from that project, and then say that those properties should be taxed.

Mr. English said that he would like to see this happen. He said that it would encompass Holly Corner Road, where there had been many issues, and this would work well for that.

Ms. McClendon said that that was in the same vein. She said that the Transportation Department would need to look at the viability of the projects and bring that back to the Board, because the service district would need to be amended, which required a public hearing and a notice process that required a few weeks for the notice.

Ms. Vanuch asked if there was an issue with staff coming back after a month or two with all of the options as Ms. McClendon had mentioned with regard to how the service district would need to change, the process, the implications, and all of those related items.

Dr. Yeung said that she had no issue.

Ms. Vanuch said that they had direction.

ITEM 20. DISCUSS INCREASING THE TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX (TOT) BY 1% TO DEDICATE AS A FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE STAFFORD COUNTY MUSEUM; REQUESTED BY SUPERVISOR MONICA GARY.

This item was removed from the agenda.

ITEM 21. DISCUSSION ON REMOVAL OF DATA CENTERS AS A BY-RIGHT USE IN THE B-2, M-1, M-2, AND RBC ZONING DISTRICTS; REQUESTED BY SUPERVISOR CRYSTAL VANUCH.

Dr. Yeung said that some members of the Board were not present at the joint session with the Planning Commission where this item had previously been discussed.

Ms. Vanuch said that during the data center meeting, they shared the zoning districts where data centers could happen by-right, which were the B-2, M-1, M-2, and RBC zoning districts. She said that they discussed all of the implications and repercussions of data centers. She said that her biggest concern was that they were making closed loops in the systems, that they were connecting to the power grids appropriately, and using setbacks to keep them away from houses, which were all discussed at the joint session with the Planning Commission. She said that if they allowed these to stay listed as by-right uses in these zoning categories, they could come in tomorrow and put in an application, which the Board could not stop or require anything for.

Ms. Vanuch said that subsequent to this request, she would like for them to work with the Planning Commission on creating data center ordinance and a zone for data centers. She said that the other issue was that if a data center came in and say that they wanted to rezone an R-1 property to M-1, but if the data center applicant fell out and now a developer owned M-1 property and put an Amazon distribution center there, that would happen there by right, or a rock quarry could happen by-right because they had used one of the most intensive industrial uses as a category for that.

Ms. Vanuch said that she believed this was time sensitive because there was a property that had an M-1 application on it and would happen by right. She said that she felt compelled to do this quickly, but she wanted to bring the matter up because two Board members were not at the meeting. She said that she did not feel that data centers should be listed as a by-right use, which they did not get any proffers for.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to deem the matter time sensitive.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. English, to begin the process to bring back before the Board the removal of data centers as a by-right use in B-2, M-1, M-2, and RBC zoning districts. She said that the item could be addressed as new business or on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Allen said that removing the by-right use was a terrible idea. She said that data centers had been able to self-regulate themselves, and the County was becoming too involved by removing the by-right data center use.

Ms. Gary said that she needed more information to be able to make a decision on the item.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that the motion was to bring the item back before the Board under unfinished business, and at that point, the Board could make the decision to send the item to the Planning

Commission to remove data centers as a by-right use. She explained that the Commission would have 100 days to address the matter, then the Board would have 100 days to address the matter.

Mr. Coen requested information about whether it was possible for a data center to come forward as a by-right use in the zoning categories. He said that there was a data center project in the pipeline. He asked for information about the legal implications of changing the zoning regulations when the Board was aware of a project in development.

Ms. Bohmke said they did not want to send the message that the County did not want data centers. She noted that there were four categories of data centers, not just one. She said that she supported moving forward because the Board could decide not to send the item to the Commission.

Ms. Allen said that she had discussed the matter with data center representatives, and they indicated that changing the zoning would make them reconsider locating in the County.

Ms. Gary said that she needed more time to consider the item, and she did not currently support moving forward.

Mr. English said that they needed more information to not send the wrong message to developers, but the by-right use was concerning.

Ms. Vanuch said that the County Administrator would be able to return with information at the second meeting in May. She amended her motion for staff to bring back the options of removing the by-right data center uses. She said the Board could choose to grandfather in data center development applications in the pipeline under the previous ordinance. She said that the Board could change an ordinance even if they were aware of projects in the pipeline.

Ms. Vanuch restated that her motion was to have staff return at the second meeting in May with the options of removing data center uses as by-right uses under B-1, M-1, M-2, and RBC zoning districts. She said that the matter would be referred to the Commission if the Board approved.

Dr. Yeung called the vote.

The Voting Board Tally was:

Yea:	(4)	Bohmke, English, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay:	(3)	Allen, Coen, Gary

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:35 p.m., Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to adopt Resolution C23-08 to authorize closed session.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution CM23-08 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for (1) discussion and consideration of a disposition of public health, real estate, property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, (2) consultation with legal counsel regarding the acquisition of the public property pursuant to certain proffers, which is a specific legal matter requiring a provision of legal advice by such counsel where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation strategy of the Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(3) 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 4th day of April, 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 6:07 p.m., Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to adopt Resolution CM23-08(C) to certify the closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution CM23-08 (C) reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE
STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED
MEETING ON APRIL 4, 2023**

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 4th day of April, 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 4th day of April, 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.

RECESS

At 6:07 p.m., the Board recessed .

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

PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Dr. Yeung read the rules for public presentations.

1. Ms. Barbara Barlow, Executive Director of Mental Health America Fredericksburg, said that Mental Health America Fredericksburg had been in operation since 1955. She said that they currently had four signature programs—suicide prevention education for teens, support services and groups, senior visitors, and a mental health helpline. She said that they had created a database accessible on their website that allows people to find mental health care based on provider, insurance, age, services, and wait time. She said that half of the mental health providers were not accepting new clients.

2. Ms. Linda Jackson, 40 Spartan Drive, said that she had concerns about potholes. She said that her street was full of potholes, and it was located across from Stafford Middle School. She said that if the school division was responsible for the potholes, then they should be fixed in the budget.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Vanuch requested that the public hearing for Item 22 be moved to the end of the list so that the public would be given the opportunity to speak on matters 23 through 27.

Dr. Yeung said that Item 22 would be moved to after Item 27.

Ms. Allen requested that they hear Item 22 first so as to not make Mr. Southall wait.

ITEM 22. PARKS, RECREATION, FACILITIES AND TOURISM; CONSIDER AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PARKING FEES CHARGED AT THE HISTORIC PORT OF FALMOUTH.

Mr. Michael Morris, Deputy County Administrator, said that he would present on the item. He said that the public hearing was to consider reestablishing the parking fees at HPOF for the coming year.

Mr. Brion Southall, Director of Parks, Recreation, Facilities, and Tourism, said that staff was requesting to collect fees on Saturday, Sunday, and holiday, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. He said that staff requested the funds be allocated to the general fund.

Mr. Coen said that he believed the funds were to be used for staffing and specific projects.

Mr. Southall said that the funds were proposed to go to the general fund where they could be used for staffing.

Ms. Bohmke asked for information about the pilot program.

Mr. Southall explained that HPOF Park was one of the most highly visited parks in the summer, and there were parking issues at the park. He said that last year, the Board approved an ordinance to staff the park and collect parking fees. He said that staff helped direct parking. He said that staff found the pilot program worked well.

Mr. English clarified that the parking fees applied to non-County residents.

Mr. Southall said that County and City residents would not pay the parking fees.

Mr. Coen asked why County and City residents did not pay.

Mr. Southall explained that John Lee Pratt donated much of the property for the park. He explained that Mr. Pratt created the Fredericksburg Stafford Parks Authority, and the deed restrictions included requirements that anything for County and City residents was free.

Dr. Yeung opened the public hearing. She noted that there were no public speakers and brought the item back before the Board.

Mr. Coen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve proposed Ordinance O23-04.

The Voting Board Tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

Ordinance O23-04 reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PARKING FEES AT THE HISTORIC PORT OF FALMOUTH

WHEREAS, overcrowding and parking challenges exist at the Historic Port of Falmouth on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance O22-19 established a \$25 per car parking fee to be collected daily from non-residents of Stafford County and non-residents of the City of Fredericksburg from the Friday prior to Memorial Day through the Monday of Labor Day at Historic Port of Falmouth and designated parking areas associated with this site; and

WHEREAS, end-of-season records indicate most residents of Stafford and the City of Fredericksburg visit during the week, and non-residents visit on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission voted unanimously to recommend the fee collection days be changed to Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only, and funds collected also be used for safety and river education; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 4th day of April, 2023, that it be and hereby does amend Ordinance O22-19 to charge non-residents of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg a parking fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) per car parked at the Historic Port of Falmouth and designated parking areas associated with the Historic Port of Falmouth on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, from the Saturday prior to Memorial Day through the Monday of Labor Day each year; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that parking fees collected at the Historic Port of Falmouth and designated parking areas associated with this site be placed in the General Fund to be used for operational costs, safety, and river education at the Historic Port of Falmouth.

ITEM 23. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2023 TAX RATES; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R23-74 (PERSONAL PROPERTY AND OTHER TAX RATES).

ITEM 24. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET.

ITEM 25. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY2024-FY2033 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP).

ITEM 26. UTILITIES; HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDING AND REORDAINING THE USER FEE SCHEDULE FOR PROVIDING WATER AND SEWER CHARGES.

ITEM 27. UTILITIES; CONSIDER AMENDING WATER AND SEWER GENERAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMEND AND REORDAINING WATER AND SEWER PRO-RATA FEES.

Dr. Yeung stated that items 23 through 27 of the Agenda would be presented in a combined presentation. She stated that the public hearing was an opportunity for the Board to hear from citizens regarding the proposed rates. She said that the Board would vote on the budget and rates at the April 18 meeting.

Ms. Andrea Light, Chief Director of Financial Services, explained that the public hearing was for the calendar year tax rates, the FY24 proposed budget, the CIP, water and sewer charges, and utility pro-rata fees.

Ms. Vanuch clarified that there would be one presentation on the topics, but there would be multiple public hearings, one for each topic.

Dr. Yeung said that was correct.

Ms. Light said that under the proposed budget, a \$0.09 increase was proposed to the current real estate tax rate. She said that the advertised real estate tax rate was \$1.145, and it took into account the School Board's entire budget request. She said that the Calendar Year 2023 personal property tax was advertised at \$6.10 with an effective rate of \$3.05. She said that they had begun to see used car values decrease. She said that the Commissioner of Revenues was continuing to work on the assessed values, and they had indicated that \$6.10 was too high of a rate. She said that further information would be presented to the Board before it adopted the tax rates.

Ms. Light said that there was a consideration of a Fire and Emergency Services levy. She said that the increase to the annual tax rate would be between \$77 and \$360 for taxpayers. She said that the \$0.03 levy would allow the County to move forward with all of the Fire and Rescue capital projects. She said that they would be able to replace volunteer stations. She said that they intended to use the fund to pay all of the debt service for Fire and Emergency Services and capital needs. She said that the levy would pull Fire and Rescue capital out of debt capacity.

Ms. Light said that the other tax rates for service districts were proposed at a flat-rate, the same rate as the year prior. She said that the proposed budget was a \$947M budget which included all school, general government, and utility expenses. She said that the FY24 proposed budget included \$12M for the School Board in the operating transfer. She said that \$11.7M was for the schools, and \$274K was for public day schools. She said that the day school increase added an additional teacher and provided for operating costs.

Ms. Light said that \$1M was proposed to go to capital to fund some of the School Board's large capital needs. She said that for every \$1M, there was about \$80K in annual debt service. She said that there was a large increase in school-related debt service of \$4.5M primarily from the high school. She explained that there was a large issuance for the high school the past spring.

Ms. Light said that the proposed budget addressed some public safety needs. She said that 13 full-time uniformed positions were proposed for SCSO, and six of those positions were earmarked for SPOs for elementary schools. She said that 16 full-time uniformed positions were proposed for Fire and Rescue, 12 of which were for one engine crew. She said that there were three stations which did not have full-time engine crews.

Ms. Light said that in terms of the CIP, there was \$699.4M in SCPS projects, \$238.4M in County projects, \$202M in transportation, and \$306.4M in utility projects. She said that the Board was asked to consider a rate increase for water and sewer charges and pro-rate fees. She said that water

and sewer fees represented a six-year, 6.5% rate increase, and the average impact would be about \$6.20 for a single-family home.

Ms. Light said that inflation was driving the need for a rate increase. She said that the costs of chemicals had increased significantly since the pandemic, and maintenance costs had increased as well. She said that pro-rata fees were charged to developers to pay their proportional cost of hooking up to the water and sewer system. She said that the pro-rata fees were increasing to meet the demands of inflation.

Ms. Light said that there would be a budget work session on April 11 to review the five-year financial plan. She said that there would be a budget work session on April 18 for the Board to help staff define the final budget decisions. She said that a public hearing would be held on the elderly and disabled tax relief program and on the VPSA issuance at 7 p.m. on April 18.

Ms. Bohmke noted that the School Board had requested Elementary School #18 and #19 to be funded in the CIP. She said that in 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the School Board did not mention Elementary School #19. She asked Ms. Light to clarify that there was no mention of Elementary School #19 back to 2017.

Ms. Light responded that she did not recall when Elementary School #19 was introduced into the CIP, but the information could be provided as a follow-up.

Ms. Allen requested information regarding the enrollment figures over the last five years. She noted that Elementary School #19 was likely added due to capacity issues.

Ms. Vanuch asked Ms. Light what the School Board's budget was in 2015.

Ms. Light said that she did not know.

Ms. Vanuch said that it was in the paperwork, and it was \$256M. She asked what the current School Board request was.

Ms. Light responded that the request was \$442M.

Ms. Vanuch said that equated to a 73% increase over 10 years. She asked what the Superintendent's proposed budget totaled.

Ms. Light said that the request totaled \$416M.

Ms. Vanuch said that was a 62% increase in 10 years. She asked how much student enrollment increased over 10 years.

Ms. Light said that it was 12%.

Ms. Vanuch said that there was a 12% increase in enrollment and a 73% increase in the school budget.

Ms. Allen asked where the public could find more information about the budget.

Ms. Light responded that the County Administrator's proposed budget was online on the County website.

Ms. Allen asked how many years of budgets were able to be accessed on the website.

Ms. Light said that she believed 10 years were posted on the website, but all of the budgets were available if the public came into the office.

Ms. Allen asked if there was information about the School Board's budget accessible to the public.

Ms. Light said that the school information was provided on the SCPS website. She said that the School Board used the same budget online platform. She said that the five-year plan, the Superintendent's budget, and School Board budget were included on their website.

Ms. Allen asked if the budget information posted on the website could be manipulated by the public to see what the impacts of deletions or additions would be.

Ms. Light said that it depended on what figures were being reviewed.

Mr. English asked how much was allocated for teacher raises last year.

Ms. Light said she believed it was an average 12% increase.

Mr. English said that it was \$23M.

Ms. Allen asked what was driving the School Board's budget other than capacity issues.

Ms. Light said that the School Board and Superintendent performed a more comprehensive review of the school system and compensation. She said that they moved teachers, para-professionals, and

non-licensed staff to a pay-scale program. She said that \$16M was dedicated in the budget to maintain the same level of service. She said that other budget drivers were salary increases for staff across the school division, funding for PAYGO and 3R capital, and staff pay differentiation for hard-to-hire staff.

Ms. Bohmke asked what the Board provided to the school division to fund maintenance costs over the next 10 years.

Ms. Light said that the Board had set aside almost \$1.5M of ongoing annual funding and between \$6M and \$8M of bond funding to pay for the maintenance projects. She said that the total 10-year cost was about \$70 to \$80M over the 10-year period.

Ms. Bohmke clarified that the bonds were to cover maintenance costs.

Ms. Allen asked how the fire levy would impact the scheduling for Fire and Rescue projects and station rebuilds.

Ms. Light said that the Rock Hill and Aquia stations had been approved in the CIP, and the fire levy would remove the debt service from the general fund. She said that about \$2.8M of current debt service related to Fire and Rescue would be funded. She said that the levy would allow the County to consider expediting projects for White Oak, Brook, and Embrey Mill without competing for timing and debt capacity for school projects. She said that they would likely be able to accomplish the projects in the next 10 years and build the joint training center.

Mr. Coen clarified that if they did not do the fire levy, they would have to prioritize the Fire and Rescue projects along with the school projects.

Ms. Light said that was correct, and the Board would have to make decisions about fire stations and schools. She said that \$2.8M would have to come back into the general fund to fund debt service.

Ms. Gary encouraged the public to watch the Board comments from the 3 p.m. meeting.

Ms. Vanuch said that she wanted to ensure there was an SPO at each school to make them a hard target, not a soft target. She said that there were five elementary schools without SPOs. She said that she and Ms. Bohmke had requested five additional SPOs be added to the budget. She said that they added a Homeland Security position because the County had serious Homeland Security needs.

Dr. Yeung opened the public hearing for public comment on agenda Item 23.

1. Ms. Sarah Taylor of the Falmouth District stated that she is a Stafford teacher, parent, and NAACP Education Committee Chair, as well as a single-parent head of household. Ms. Taylor stated that with her own budget, she chooses needs over wants—but she emphasized the need to invest in children and their future success, as everyone would pay the price for not investing in Stafford schools.
2. Ms. Michele Wickman of the Garrisonville District stated that she has two children in Stafford schools and has been a teacher for nine years. She thanked the Board for advertising the higher tax rate as a starting point for conversation. She said that a 70% over 10 years is only about 7% a year, and in 2015, salaries had been frozen for six years. She concluded by encouraging the Board to please enact change.
3. Mr. Perry Darley of the Hartwood District addressed the Board and commented that this is the largest tax increase in Stafford history, and the proposed tax rate will cause undue burden on some of the poorest residents. Mr. Darley said that numerous data centers are coming to the County, which will help offset expenditures, and some of these should be postponed until that revenue is realized.
4. Ms. Mary Hanson of the Falmouth District said that she is against the proposed tax increases, particularly because her parents are retirees and are trying to stay in their home. She stated that her mother has Alzheimer's and is diabetic, with exorbitant healthcare costs that make other expenses extremely challenging.
5. Ms. Valerie Irizarry of the Falmouth District said she is a parent of four children, noting that there are 31,000 students in public schools, yet they remain underfunded, with a shortage of basics like bus drivers. She said the schools have stretched every dime and cannot continue to do so, with teacher pay increases, HVAC units, and building repairs all needed now. She urged the Board to fully fund the School Board's budget.
6. Mr. Daniel Palmer of the Falmouth District stated that he has three children enrolled and supports the School Board's budget, which represents an increase of almost \$31 million over the FY23 budget. He stated that this does not come without cost to citizens and will require a significant increase in taxes, costing his family an additional \$1,500 a year if approved. He said that the School Board's proposed budget is still not enough, and he urged the Board to fully fund the schools.

7. Mr. Jeffrey Sacks of the Hartwood District and moved here in 2019 with his family to seek the American dream and put his daughters in good schools. He stated that he cannot support the proposed budget and its historically high tax increases, adding that the people of Stafford County utterly reject this budget and will not allow it to rob people of their earnings and savings.
8. Mr. Wilke Renwick of the Hartwood District said that taxpayers are struggling to keep their heads above water, with the cost of everything increasing. Mr. Renwick said this is the largest proposed tax increase in Stafford history, and while there are school needs, other counties use other levers such as BPOL to raise revenue. He stated that Stafford brags that this makes them “business friendly,” but it could be written so there are exemptions—and there are enough large businesses here already.
9. Ms. Cecilia Sheefer of Aquia Avenue thanked the Board and said she panicked when she heard about the tax increase, which would make her total home tax increase about \$1,400 a year. She said she is proud of Superintendent Thomas Taylor for cutting \$2 million out of central office, and perhaps this could be done in other areas. She also expressed concern at the salary increases for Board members and public safety officials.
10. Ms. Alie Hoole of the Garrisonville District and asked the Board to fully fund the School Board’s budget. Ms. Hoole said she will have seven children in schools, but the lack of concern for education in Stafford makes her want to move to a county where it is a priority. She stated that she is on the PTO at Hampton Oaks, which is at 105% capacity and will get trailers in the fall. She emphasized that school funding has been neglected to the point of now being a crisis situation.
11. Mr. Derek Bauckman stated that he supported the teachers’ tier increase to help with retention, adding that he and his wife were sold on Stafford because of the good schools—but it seems like the schools are getting the shaft, with the Board underfunding the schools. Mr. Bauckman said this is a giant mess, and he wondered how they ended up here after 10 years, but it seems like total neglect. He stated that the increase all falls on property owners and not enough on businesses, adding that the Elderly & Tax Relief program here is a joke with a \$40K cutoff.
12. Ms. Sandra Erickson of Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Fredericksburg thanked the Board for their past funding and support of youth. She asked the Board to approve the \$5,418 funding request to the organization for one-on-one mentoring.

13. Dr. Robert Harris of the Hartwood District stated that he fully supports the school budget, even though he does not have and likely will not ever have children in Stafford schools. Dr. Harris stated that he and his wife have always purchased homes in the best school districts, and their two sons have gone onto successful careers. He urged the Board to do the right thing and fully fund the budget.
14. Mr. Al Shabty of the Griffis-Widewater District stated that the schools and the buses here are a travesty and needed to be funded, as well as the teacher salaries. He expressed concern about some of the fluff in the budget, including the Board raises, and they cannot fund everything.
15. Mr. Heath Hunter stated that teachers, police, and other things should be funded—but through other primary needs and not a tax hike on property owners. Mr. Hunter said that the County Administrator cited reasons such as escalating costs for a tax increase from 84 cents to 95 cents, but families are feeling the pressure of those same reasons. He said that a 32% increase means the Board is serving themselves, not the people.
16. Ms. Heather Wooten said that she knows the schools and teachers need funding, and she has been raising her six kids in Stafford schools for the last 20 years. Ms. Wooten stated that she came from Luray, with rural schools and limited resources, and Stafford is barely keeping up with that. She emphasized the need for funding mental health care in schools before kids get stabbed and shot, not just hiring a school resource officer.
17. Ms. Hayley Perschau stated that basic infrastructure and foundation need to be funded first, but the 38% increase is absurd and cuts in certain areas can be made. She said that Board members giving themselves a 100% raise and a personal assistant while school septic systems are on the edge of disaster is unacceptable. She said that the Board should fund the schools at the proposed budget level, at a minimum, while building a better relationship with one another.
18. Ms. Megan Green of the Falmouth District urged the Board to fully fund the budget for FY24, and the schools are overcrowded because there was no thought to infrastructure while development was being approved all over the County. Ms. Green said that she left a position in the schools because she couldn't afford to work there and still feed her own family. She emphasized that the schools have been in trouble for a long time, and she urged them to fully fund the school budget.
19. Mr. John Hatzis, student, said that his parents received an email from the Superintendent that encouraged them to fully fund the school budget. He said that he supported school

funding, but keeping a competitive tax rate should be a second priority—and a 40% increase is exorbitant, so they should strike a fair balance by opposing spending hikes besides school funding.

20. Mr. Nabil Al-Tikriti, a George Washington District resident and teacher at Mary Washington, stated that teachers here are exploited by the County by not being given the salary they should have received, with pay frozen for six years. He stated that the reason for the sticker shock is the long-term neglect that preceded it, as the County becomes increasingly developed with a competitive tax rate for corporations—bringing in more warehouses and traffic. He said that Stafford is 112 out of 133 for financing, adding that teachers are “pre-first responders,” and Stafford should compare itself to the north, not the south.
21. Mr. Daniel Cortez of the Aquia District stated that part of the reason schools are pressured is the undocumented population, noting that he worked with both the Trump and Biden administrations on southern border security. Mr. Cortez said that Prince William has had a 70% increase in violent crime, and to fund education and law enforcement, Stafford needs other revenue sources such as data centers. He added that they must say no to a school district that is out of control.
22. Ms. Nancy Rueter stated that the Board has inherited a school system that has been underfunded for years, with Stafford’s average income being \$112,000—but schools rank 118 out of 132 in the state for school funding. She emphasized that companies choose counties with good school districts, and Stafford is in competition with Prince William for the best teachers. Ms. Rueter said that good schools actually protect home values, and the tax increase on her house amounts to one latte per day.
23. Ms. Kristin Maxson of 1816 Richmond Highway said that 67% of the CIP is now school projects, which she doesn’t recall seeing in the past. Ms. Maxson stated that there are a lot of database issues in Stafford, and cleaning them up would save money. She said that she wants the schools to be better and thanked the Board for their work.
24. Ms. Suzy Brown of Fredericksburg stated that her daughter is profoundly deaf and needs two cued language transliterator (CLTs) in school, but she has only had one—and both were out on March 24. Ms. Brown noted that Stafford is aware of its interpreter shortage but says it’s not in the budget, and she mentioned the *Perez v. Sturgis* Supreme Court case in which the justices ruled unanimously that a Michigan school district was in violation of educational access laws.

25. Mr. Mark Purkowski of Rock Hill District said that he retired here in 2012 after managing several companies, and he sympathized with the Board's predicament. He mentioned that subdivisions where he used to live would provide a school site and a park as part of their redevelopment. He stated that a 38% tax increase means \$100-200 a month for most homes here, which is painful for retirees who live here.
26. Ms. Theresa McGhee said she is a resident of the Falmouth District, a parent of a Falmouth Elementary School 1st grader, and a member of the PTO, as well as a former Stafford student. She stated that the lack of funding is concerning, and investing in the schools is now a safety issue—because what does a lockdown look like in a trailer? She also expressed concern about the droves of teachers leaving the Stafford school system, adding that the school request to “keep the lights on” means that even basic needs are not being met.
27. Ms. Nora Hartquist stated that when she moved here 30 years ago and came to her first Board meeting, she was impressed with the future planning and vision—but that does not seem to be the case now. Ms. Hartquist emphasized that the schools need to be funded, but not at the expense of safety, and teachers need to be paid—but not at the expense of the elderly. She added that a \$35K cutoff for tax relief is ridiculously low, and the Board needs to figure out how to fund schools without harming seniors.
28. Mr. Milton Bratton said that the population has doubled since he moved here in 1999, and the County didn't develop a plan to fund the growth. Mr. Bratton stated that states such as Washington and California have used the revenue from legal cannabis, with Colorado realizing \$3.5 billion in revenue—25% of which goes directly to schools. He stated that medicinal and recreational marijuana is legal and could be used for needed alternative income, encouraging the Board to go to the legislature to see what kind of businesses can bring in additional revenue.
29. Mr. Richard Dodson, representing his household and the nine in his Walden Lane neighborhood, stated that putting in thousands of homes raises the questions of how to pay for infrastructure and services. He said that it was noted 25 years ago that uncontrolled growth without money for infrastructure would not work, and his concern is that four Board members are taking the easy way out by putting the extra tax burden on homeowners instead of other sources such as proffers.
30. Mr. Mark Ellis of the Rock Hill District thanked the County for including the three pickleball projects in the CIP but expressed concern about how long it would take for the projects.

31. Mr. Don Bee of Marine Cove stated that he is strongly opposed to the 30%+ tax increase, as it would be very difficult for people to make ends meet with that type of hike and the Board shouldn't look at homeowners as their "very own piggybank." Mr. Bee said that government entities cannot tax themselves into better services, and increasing per-pupil expenditures doesn't always equate to better students, and he gave Washington D.C. schools at \$21K per student as an example, as they graduate functional illiterate students.
32. Ms. Alaine Callander of the Falmouth District stated that the Board needs to do whatever possible to fund schools that have been underfunded for many years, adding that Supervisors were not "blindsided" by CIP needs, as citizens have been talking about this for years. Ms. Callander said that the Board members were also past due for a pay increase, as the last one was in 1997. She also encouraged them to fund the eight social worker caseworker positions, as their pay is lower and caseloads higher than some neighboring localities.
33. Ms. Maureen Siegmund of Garrisonville District said that she is a School Board member but was before them as a parent, stating that the Board has made several promises as to encouraging better cooperation, supporting world-class schools, investing in education, etc. and hopes they will uphold their pledges. Ms. Siegmund stated that she also supports what the sheriff needs to keep the community safe.
34. Ms. Alicia Reebel of the Griffis-Widewater District said she has lived in her home since 1988 and doesn't remember the discussion ever being different—funding schools. She stated that she grew up in Fairfax and went to school in Quonset huts that were shared in half-day alternating sessions. Ms. Reebel said that she supports the schools but not at this level, and she expressed concern about the magnitude of the tax increase in light of higher consumer costs.
35. Ms. Erica Schwendeman of the Aquia District said that she moved here eight years ago from Prince William and before that lived in Arlington and D.C. She stated that she and her husband came here for lower taxes and larger lots, and what attracts people here is a lower cost of living. Ms. Schwendeman said that raising taxes should never be the first course of action, and they need to instead prioritize needs over wants. She stated that the Superintendent has found \$2 million in cuts, and perhaps the Board could do the same.
36. Mr. Michael Mintzer of the Rock Hill District thanked the Board for its support of the library system but asked if they could get the repairs done to the ADA door at the Porter Library. He said that inflation over time would increase the County's tax revenues, and he didn't see a 38%

increase in the current budget but instead saw a 70% increase by his calculations. He encouraged the Board to graduate any increase so people could ease into it.

37. Mr. Adam Eldert of the Rock Hill District stated that he has been in government for his entire 34-year working life, and the proposed tax increase is significant. He expressed concern that this steep of a tax hike would have a significant impact on seniors who need food and medicine. Mr. Eldert said that his raise in Fairfax was 2% this past year, and the Board can't fix a problem that happened over time with an overnight solution.
38. Mr. Keith Lockett of Fredericksburg stated that this problem didn't happen overnight, and this Board has now gotten stuck with it. He suggested that one way out of this problem is to look at schools as an investment, because there is a correlation between a highly ranked school system and a county's prosperity down the road. He stated that the Board could encourage the Superintendent to bend the trajectory and achieve a higher rating in the state, adding that he would never have moved his family here if the schools had been ranked low at the time.
39. Ms. Tori Nichols of the Rock Hill District said that she is an ESOL teacher in Stafford and is speaking from the heart, with four students currently in County schools. She urged the Board to prioritize these children and change the outcome of Stafford, noting that in some cases, they are not even legally in compliance. She invited Board members to visit the schools.
40. Ms. Dana Brown of the Rock Hill District stated that she did not want a real estate tax increase, especially on the heels of previous hikes. She said that the rampant inflation was due to too much spending and borrowing, and she encouraged the Board not to give into the threats and be held hostage by the "rigged" system up and down I-95 for higher teacher pay within localities. She asked why the teachers feel entitled to bigger pay raises, which were 14% last year. She added that new schools must be staffed, which would require more tax increases.
41. Mr. Brian Danzig of the Hartwood District said the advertised real estate increase plus a fire levy was not what voters wanted when they voted Board members in—and doing this would raise the cost of living in the County overall. Mr. Danzig stated that there are many small businesses in the area, and he moved his business out of Baileys Crossroads to Stafford during the pandemic. He said that it will be difficult for teachers to afford to live in Stafford, even if they get pay raises.
42. Mr. Tony DeTora of the George Washington District, parent of a 5th grader, and Chairman of the Stafford County Republican Committee, expressed concern with the 38% increase in the real estate tax, 36% increase in personal property tax rate, and a new fire levy. He stated that a primary Republican tenet is fiscal responsibility, and he found the Superintendent's letter

insulting to Board members and residents, particularly the comment of “keeping the lights on.” He emphasized that Stafford is not Prince William and shouldn’t strive to be, adding that there are other ways to fund things without bankrupting citizens.

43. Ms. Anne Adams of the George Washington District stated that she and her husband moved here 25 years ago so her son would have a good school system and he has gone on to college and now a job on Capitol Hill. Ms. Adams said that she has been a teacher here for 30 years and retires next year, and the Board needs to prioritize salaries and fully fund the schools—as the 31,000 students are also their constituents.
44. Ms. Ann Kloeckner, Executive Director of Legal Aid Works, said the organization is celebrating its 50th year of serving the community—which the Board cut by 30% through use of a formula that didn’t take into account all of Legal Aid’s services such as civil protection orders. She stated that 12 organizations were cut, with apparent randomness and little transparency.
45. Mr. Justin Green of the Aquia District expressed his respect for the Board but also expressed concern at the 30%+ tax increase. Mr. Green said that he and his wife have been here since 2011, when they fell in love with Stafford and moved here from Ft. Belvoir. He stated that they just entered a 30-year mortgage in their 50s and hope at some point not to have to work, emphasizing that the sharp tax hike is not feasible. He suggested that this type of increase be put forward to a general vote.
46. Mr. Abram Marsh said that he and his wife live in the Hartwood District and were excited to move to Stafford after both serving 20 years in the Air Force—where they learned that they must invest in people, facilities, and equipment. He stated that they don’t get to pass the buck, and the military has asked for \$700 billion from Congress to provide the best, and the same must be done here for teachers and police.
47. Mr. John Roche of the Aquia District stated that the tax increase was too significant, and Stafford has been making tough decisions to keep the tax rate lower than communities like Fairfax and Prince William. Mr. Roche said that he would never pass on such a Draconian increase in the organization boards that he sits on, and a better option would be transparency on every line item and then send it to referendum.
48. Ms. Rosmary Goudyrev of the Garrisonville District said she has two boys in Garrisonville Elementary, and the County needs more elementary schools. She stated that the students here would continue to experience disruption until the Board addressed the root of the problem. She said that she called around to schools this past week and spoke with them, and they all

expressed concern about being able to fund what is needed for students. She stated that they should be looking at this as an investment, not an expense.

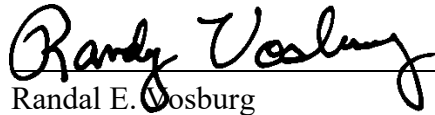
49. Mr. Peter Rhyne of the Falmouth District stated that he has five children and they are priceless, so theoretically teachers should be paid three times what they are being paid now. Mr. Rhyne said that the Stafford County School Board has a 179-acre property on Clift Farm Road that they purchased in 2006 for \$4.3 million to build a high school. He said research was done that found it could not be used as a high school, and it is now valued at just over \$1 million as a vacant lot. He added that they need school resource officers, but the parents are the ones who make the biggest difference in a child's life.
50. Ms. Amanda Vega of Garrisonville stated that she graduated from high school here and served in the Marines but came back to Stafford with her husband. She said that she is proud that her children go to schools here, but she is appalled by the overcrowding and low teacher pay. She stated that she is willing to pay more taxes and is not willing to sacrifice her children's education, and they should find a way to save elsewhere.
51. Mr. Clifford Heinzer of Aquia Harbor said he was speaking as the political action chair of the Stafford NAACP, stating that the right tax number is 1.145. He stated that the 38% tax rate is really only about a 14% increase, given the rate hovering around \$1 for many years. He said that there is a limited toolbox that pays for schools, and they need to invest in schools as previous generations have. He also mentioned the need for Board members to be paid better.
52. Ms. Juanita Shanks of Failsafe Era stated that the organization requested funding to rehabilitate and reform those who have been incarcerated, which totals about 1,000 released back into Planning District 16 each year. Ms. Shanks expressed disappointment that the organization was not funded, as they provide job support, hotel funding, and mental health/substance use services, as well as emotional support for families.
53. Mr. Eric DuPont of the George Washington District stated that he is a homeowner, taxpayer, veteran, voter, teacher, parent, and community volunteer. He thanked the Board for their service but said they have never fully funded the schools—with most localities in the state having much higher per-pupil spending, which does not reflect well on Stafford. He expressed support for the Superintendent's budget and asked the Board to do better than the minimum for students, adding that the necessity for a new school was no surprise. Mr. DuPont added that while he benefited from the teacher raises last year, his child was still eligible for free lunch.
54. Ms. Mary Howlett Brandon of 94 Cherry Hill in Stafford said that she was before the Board as assistant secretary of the NAACP, and she was here to support Superintendent Taylor's budget for the upcoming school year.

55. Ms. Michelle Chadoir of the Falmouth District said that she moved away and back again for the quality of life and schools, with her daughter getting accepted into the Commonwealth Governors School. She said that the schools have been a mixed bag here, with inadequate and outdated services in several. Ms. Chadoir said the budget shows their priorities as a community, and there is room in the budget for funding the school budget as proposed. She added that they needed to get creative about other sources of funding, such as data centers, gas tax, etc.
56. Ms. Emily Shilts of the Hartwood District said she and her husband have lived here for eight years, and they have four children. Ms. Shilts stated that funding schools with a tax increase like this is taking money out of family budgets—and schools are just one part of raising children. Ms. Shilts said that her husband encourages finding multiple revenue streams and says that “failure to plan is a plan to fail.”
57. Mr. Luke Wright, a Leeland resident, said that he is a retired Marine and public school teacher, and he is running for State Delegate District 27. Mr. Wright emphasized that teachers make an impact, and they make more in other localities such as Alexandria. He said that they to not confuse efforts with results—and they need to find effort to work together, not excuses.
58. Mr. Richard Coleman of 42 Sentry Court asked the Board not to put themselves in the position of not being able to fund schools in the future, and as a resident, it is his responsibility to ensure a valid and functional public school system in the future.
59. Ms. Alicia Reebel stated that she has not done the due diligence to find out where the increases have come from, but she would surmise that the school increases were coming from new residents. She said that the County needs to be creative in looking to things like proffers to help fund education as well as law enforcement and other needs. She stated that people are hurting right now, and this isn’t the time to raise taxes.
60. Mr. Bart Randall thanked the Board and said this was not an easy process. He said that the schools do more than educate children—they provide community. He stated that they are building a county here, and it will continue to be built, as there is no real “end” to this process. Mr. Randall urged the Board not to make decisions today that would be looked at in the future as negative turning points for the community.
61. Mr. Justin Thacker said that he is a resident of 56 Well Lane and had a contract for custodial services, and the schools went with a company from Crofton, Maryland that was far more expensive than his bid as part of a shared agreement with the state. He stated that they talk about supporting businesses here but don’t actually support them, adding that the school central offices are wasteful and should not be managing money.

Dr. Yeung thanked the audience and thanked staff for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:00 p.m., Chairman Yeung adjourned the April 4, 2023 Stafford County Board of Supervisor's meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Vosburg", written over a horizontal line.

Randal E. Vosburg
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Yeung", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. R. Pamela Yeung
Chairman

Cheryl D. Giles

From: Mag McD <jking330@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles

I'm writing to you, as the clerk for the county's supervisors to express my concern and disapproval of the proposed property tax increase. A large portion of the budget is already devoted to schools with no change proposed for how the funds are spent leaving an open ended prospect of increases that are making it harder on the citizens of Stafford to afford to pay their taxes and keep their homes, particularly older citizens, in specific veterans, which comprise a larger percentage of the demographic than anywhere else in Virginia. It puzzles me to comprehend why our county did not try harder to secure the contract for the VA Hospital awarded to Spotsylvania which now has to fund the same road construction that we just finished around our own hospital complex to accommodate traffic. The VA Hospital would have increased revenues significantly in our county through jobs and sales tax for restaurants and local businesses making tax increases unnecessary. Not to mention the prestige of a medical complex that is expected to be one of the finest and most impressive since it will serve the region's veterans and is so close to DC.

In addition, Amazon has increased their presence in the county and should be generating revenue and be held responsible for the increased wear to our roads and highways rather than passing that expense onto overtaxed citizens. We've read about data centers and plans for Stafford to become the first city/county to feature the latest civic centered technologies that would improve our lives. All of these plans should mean money coming into our budget from companies that can better afford to fund them than expecting residents to finance it all or have to sell our homes and leave because we can no longer afford to live here. This would surely mean a change in demographics, choking out older homeowners, the middle (working) class, lower income families and minorities. All for a budget that can't be justified when leveraged against those who cannot afford to fund it rather than those who easily could who enrich themselves at our expense.

Furthermore, our county's education system could be redesigned to better budget the funding they already have by having high school students attend in the evening and arrange their classes in the type of larger forum presentation you find in lecture halls at universities, making better use of the facilities we already have. This would also increase the sense of community and connection the students feel with each other and help prepare them for college life. It's been proven that attendance and performance improve with this type of arrangement and it would attract educators that prefer evening hours, making us more competitive in securing teachers and staff rather than simply trying to out-pay other school systems with money we don't have.

I would like to see us leading the nation as a county in what the possibilities are when you think of a new and better way to provide the best life for all our county's residents rather than tread in the same paths that have not proven to be good for anything other than an ever increasing cost of living a life filled with stress and mediocrity.

Finally, thank you for repainting the hydrants and for the quick clean up after the terrible snow storm. I was impressed as well with the tree trimming to clear site lines for drivers entering the roadway.

Sincerely,
Nola Green
Stafford resident

3/31/2023

Members of the Stafford Board of Supervisors:

The proposed rate hike in the Real Estate tax rate is unrealistic. While we understand the need for increased services to support the ever-increasing growth of Stafford County, it would be more prudent to minimize the rate increase, and then consider a County Tax imposed on cigarettes and other tobacco products. King George County has implemented this tax and Caroline County is about to institute their local tax which will help to offset any increase in their Real Estate tax. Look at a local Gasoline tax. There are many other ways to insure EVERYONE pays their fair share, not just the property owners of the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julianne S. Thompson", is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julanne S. Thompson

Poffey@StaffordSchools.net

My name is Patrica Coffey, I have worked in Stafford County Public Schools since 2002. 16.5 years as a Substitute Teacher, currently working as a Library Tech at NSHS.

Why is there a debate in the first place for better funding for our schools here in Stafford, one of the richest Counties in the State? Why aren't children our priority? I just do not understand and am outraged on why, right now, priority is given to additional staff in County Govt., with a proposed 100% raise for members of the Board of Supervisors, the personal assistants for each member of the board of Supervisors and a 15% raise for the majority of public safety employees. (The 15% raise for our public safety employees is needed) Who decided to, and WHY would members of the BOS decide to give themselves a 100% raise? Who DOES that? Especially knowing that our schools are suffering!

Why is Stafford County ranked 112 out of 132 Counties AND one of the most affluent?

PWC prioritizes their children (as they are our future) by using over 67% of their budget to their schools, whereas Stafford only 47%. I have seen talented staff leave our County because of the overcrowding of classrooms, and the low priority of funding that shows our professionals that they along with our children are not a priority. Not that it is all about me, but I need to address the teacher shortage. I applied, spent my hard earned money to supply documentation of my educational background to become a provisional in Stafford County this past summer (2022). I made an appointment with a staff appointment professional, and was even given a suspense date on when I would be contacted to be in the classroom this past school year. It NEVER happened. Even after contacting HR on several occasions, no response. I do not blame the professional that tried to get me into the classroom, I blame the short staffed HR department that is doing everything that they can to place qualified teachers in classrooms. Ever heard of stuff going downhill? This is an example...because of the low priority of funding, we lose quality teachers which in turn there are lower test scores of the students that are in overcrowded classrooms with short staffing...it all rolls downhill when proper funding is not met. Please consider how valuable education is and approve the proposed budget.

Thank you.

April 4, 2023

Stafford County Board of Supervisors
1300 Courthouse Road
Stafford VA, 22554

Attn: Board members

Re: Custodial Award

I first off want to apologize for my demeanor at the meeting last week. I am a simple person who wears their emotions on their sleeve. As a great man once said, I am who I am. That said, I ask you read this in its entirety and receive it with an open mind. This took a lot for me to reach out about this, but two things spurred me. First, the committee appointed for the award of this contract selected American Building Maintenance along with 5 other companies (we will revisit this) for negotiation. I felt that negotiating with a company that over the last couple of years that have had such negative reviews in the papers, special school board meetings, and literally schools closing with over 1,000 absences all the while making national news. The second reason was one that really made me stop in my tracks. Last Sunday morning my 6-year-old daughter was picking at me while I was trying to work in my home office like a 6-year-old little girl would. Suddenly, I snapped at her, and it came out of nowhere. The look on her face instantly made me feel ashamed. This has been eating me up inside and I will not carry this inside, especially during the holidays. I cannot snap at my daughter because I am angry on the inside about not cleaning your schools. I should be able to address you as you address me and that's just people being people, one leg at a time. I am the epitome of the "working class".

My lawyer once said to me that "you are within your legal right to your opinion" and that is what this is. I am going to say some things that might not be popular but need to be said. Quite frankly, I feel that some of this is a bit of an "eyes wide shut" type of dealing. He also said that the truth is the most valid defense known to man...so here goes.

Something is very wrong:

There is a very strong bias against my business, and I will display it. When James Stemple replied to my neighbor Mary McCauley's email regarding the award of the janitorial contract to an out of state firm, his answer essentially was this (I will include the email). First, he said the county was not allowed to set aside contracts based on locality and or the intent "to include keeping public dollars local". I have made it blatantly clear to the board and to James Stemple himself during lunch that the county could 100% legally ride my state contract that I hold. This is a contract rider put in place by the state of Virginia that says, "hey come utilize this contract that is in place with a vendor that not only is approved to do work with the state but also does a good job because to keep the contract is to keep the work and the way to keep the work is to do a good job." The fact that you have a county that has a contractor that has this state shared

contract in their county is like having a golden ticket. I will include a copy of such with the section highlighted.

The second part of his answer was that these "policies create a level playing field in which local and non-local companies have an equal opportunity to bid etc..". This is the part of the answer where he speaks of the "level playing field" that created as a result of the procurement process. I want you to see the following 6 vendors that were utilized to arrive at this \$1.95 "average".

1. Melgar Facilities Management
2260 Highland Village Road
Highland Village, Texas
2. ABM Services
One Liberty Plaza (sounds cheap)
New York, New York
3. HES Facilities
Knoxville, Tennessee
4. Service Master
Atlanta, Georgia
5. Associated Building Maintenance
Crofton, Maryland
6. The Budd Group
Winston-Salem, NC

I ask any of you if this looks like the results of a "level playing field"? All I see here are all massive companies, some with a global presence such as ABM. Not one of these vendors is in state or a small business. There are two reasons why 6 companies were chosen to arrive at this \$1.95 average. First, they did it so that if the first company chosen defaulted or chose not to take the bid, that there would be a massive company to take their place but also with a massive price tag. Second, it is my opinion that all these vendors chosen were the highest bids received. Our price was a \$1.81, that is a far cry from \$1.95. It is a total difference of \$532,682.50 annually. That is \$44,390.21 more a month that you are paying an out of state vendor. My price had profit, so this tells me that this money is profit on top of profit for the chosen vendor. By using a vendor in your county with a contract in place, you would save this amount of money while also receiving a better offer in terms of service. Now, we included unlimited flood protection for your schools in our price. This drives your total saved by using PBM would have been in excess of 500k annually.

Now I am going to explain how they can justify such a choice. In the RFP they account the price as to 25% of the total grade so to speak. They leave 75% open for interpretation, approach,

mission statement, etc. This where a "level playing field" is anything but. Look at all 6 of those massive companies. They have departments that do nothing but provide marketing materials and provide presentations that smaller companies are not able to do. They have marketing departments larger than my entire company. But guess what, you are paying for that presentation and those fancy flyers to the tune of \$40K plus a month. This percentage of interpretation regarding decision of who gets this work is left largely to whomever is making the decision based on a bunch of marketing materials and not price. If saving \$500k a year is only worth 25% of the scale, then there is a problem.

I would say that when a purchasing department refuses to ride a state sponsored contract in order to achieve a desired result, I would say there is a problem. Please keep in mind that 3 people supposedly made this award, such a small group deciding such a large award is a problem. Again, having a vendor with such a contract in the same county that provides just the service you are struggling with, and you don't use them, there is a problem. When said local firm is the low number and still not considered while 6 massive companies are chosen, there is a problem. You know why my \$1.81 wasn't thrown in the mix? It's because if you average my number in there, the average goes from \$1.95 to \$1.88. That's somewhere around \$230k right off the top if you average us in. Who doesn't like that? I can tell you who, someone that feels it is a benefit in some shape or form for the county to spend such money. Now what would it say about a person who would make such a decision? Why would someone say, let's spend \$500k more a year with a company from out of state and not even negotiate with your local vendor who exist in your own county? I will leave that for you to answer for yourself.

I would like to speak to the Economic Impact of the award of this RFP and how that is not considered? We as a family have lived in this county for 5 generations. I will not go too far into it because I am sure all of you understand this part of it. I have paid literally millions of taxes in this county. The more business I do, the better it is for the county tax wise. For a company that can provide service and is in your own county, to not use them is to ship a massive amount of tax revenue to another state. To do this is an either an intentional move or the result of incompetence. Shop small!!! Shop local!!! Isn't this the theme that is shouted throughout every single community when it comes to how we spend our money, more importantly our tax dollars. The more we waste, the higher we must make taxes in order to keep up.

In keeping with Economic Impact, I am sure you realize the impact of keeping that contract in the county in order to help generate tax revenue. That's 7 million dollars stripped from our local economy and shipped out of state. I literally could not think of either a gross error or intent to do such. Just to lay it out in terms of trickle-down economics, it goes like this. I buy my produce from C & T produce in White Oak, I use Paul at Brauning Automotive as well as Phillip (classmate) who owns Fitzpatrick's on Cool Springs. We buy our hardware at Fastenal, I use Ferry Farm Animal, Catfish Kelly's, Earls True Value, Chatham laundry mat for our linens. We have Mark Wilson and Toms Auto Body handle all our body work; Wayne's Auto Glass handles all our windshields. Last to mention is the mighty Greek House of Pizza right here in South Stafford. I could run down an entire list of local Stafford based businesses that would have benefitted from that revenue being kept in the county. It is not illegal or does it open the

county in any way for litigation in terms of considering the degrees of positive economic while awarding a contract. Again, you have a vendor in your county which has this contract so this alone enables you to use again a state vendor that is proven for 46 years. This would have been such a win for the county in terms of receiving service while keeping this revenue in our county. Whomever did not consider this is your issue. Why would you at least not interview the company that is in the county with this contract? Again, it is my belief that it lowers the overall average that has been created by these 6 massive companies in order to again in my opinion, inflate the overall contract price. Why would you do such and take all that money out of the county? First, you're paying over \$500k more a year (3mil over 6 years) all the while removing the revenue from the county. It's a poor business move for the county in my opinion.

This must be mentioned because we all know this is important, especially in today's world. I am not here to require any thanks or recognition and or nothing owed for what I am about to say because this comes right from my heart. In my opinion, I provide a lot of support to our community with my philanthropy. We support so many amazing organizations to include Thurman Brisben, SPCA, United Way, Friends of the Rappahannock, Shop with a Cop, Stafford's Sherri Department, Special Olympics, numerous little league teams, and one that is close to my heart, the Fairy God Mother Project. Those folks are some special people over there. We send money to all the coat drives that we can. A wise man once told me that you cannot outgive God, I have found this to be the case. Again, I do not mention this for a pat on the back. I mentioned all the charities and organizations we support in our community in our presentation and for that to be seemingly overlooked is painful. We really could have done a lot for our community over 6 years with that revenue.

I would like to just share some overall thoughts for consideration and then I will conclude.

-Wouldn't you think that with the size of that contract that they could have split it like they said they might do in the RFP? I mean here you have this local company with this great price and all these ultra-expensive companies, so why not see how they stack up? I mean the local guy has the time in business and the book of work that demonstrates he can handle it and the massive companies have their big price tag and fancy literature so let's see how they do. There are many obvious scenarios of what could happen but the most promising two are that sharing it works and or the local contractor proves he can handle it and the county shifts the entire contract to the local contractor for the obvious benefits that have been mentioned. It is my opinion that someone should have at least interviewed the local company in the group of 6. Please keep in mind that there were 16 total bids presented.

-This contract has been set aside as a SWaM contract. Many of the bids submitted skirt the line of legitimacy. None of these companies are small and many qualify as women and minority with ownership percentages that just qualify them. I am going to take this further in that massive companies are poaching contracts that are set aside for small businesses. I am going to reiterate this. Shop local!! How is the local, small business that is the definition of a SWaM vendor supposed to come up? How is a small business supposed to grow when the contracts set aside for them are just given to the companies that they are not intended for? In addition,

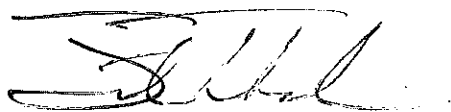
you bring competition into Stafford that I now must contend with as well as other local vendors. Just a result of a very poor decision in my eyes. UMW did the same thing you guys did, the fired ABM. Then they hired PBM, and they have not been happier. We have a great relationship, and their business has a tremendous amount of positive impact.

-I honestly think some of this has to do with my political position. I have allowed Charles "Bootsy" Bullock to host many a political function at my home and office here in White Oak. Bob Thomas, Tarra Durant, Glenn Youngkin, and most recently Yesli Vega. These have all been held at my home. I think that in today's political climate, people are head hunted. I think that there is bias where I am concerned in terms of my political views. I could be wrong. The reason I mention this is that as a result of these functions, I have come to know some of these people. I have full confidence that when our Governor told me to call if I ever needed him, that he meant it. I think the attorney general should review the policies as to which pertain to our procurement laws. Massive companies that skirt the lines should not be eligible. What is a businessman that is based in Virginia, more importantly the county from which they from, to do?

The same wise man once told me that you must ask yourself if what you are chasing is worth it? I do believe that this is. It means so much to me in that my dad cleaned them for 17 years. It means so much to me in the fact that it would help my business greatly as well as the community. It just seems like a no brainer and maybe it's the fact that I feel someone just doesn't like me, that is bothering me. I think that like me or hate me, you should know that I love being from and residing in Stafford. I am giving the benefit of the doubt to all of you. I think you have no idea about our offer, and I believe that is on purpose. You know that after I came and spoke at the Supervisors meeting, that I was scheduled to speak later at the school board meeting. For some reason I didn't make the list to speak even though I signed up online. The end of public comments was concluded rather quickly in my opinion, and I was not afforded the chance to speak. If it passes the sniff test for you, then it is what it is. If it doesn't, then it's worth a conversation I feel.

I want to conclude by thanking you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Thacker", written over a horizontal line.

Justin Thacker
President

government procurement from non government services. These policies create a level playing field in which local and non-local companies have an equal opportunity to bid on and meet the requirements of procurement. No where in the code does it permit Public Governments to set aside these policies and award contracts locally for any reason to include keeping public dollars local. Not following the VA Procurement Act and awarding bids locally would open the school system up to potential litigation that would be impossible to defend and at a significant cost of taxpayer money.

Respectfully,
Jim Stemple
Dr. James D. Stemple, Executive Director of
Constituent Services and Title IX Coordinator
FOIA Officer
Stafford County Public Schools
31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, VA 22554
540-658-6000 (phone)

And, here's my FOIA request response. Obviously, I'm not going to pay a fee to obtain the info, especially since they are going to spend "4 hours" redacting info—which means (in my opinion) the info will be useless.

You are receiving this email to let you know we are in receipt of your FOIA request on November 8th.

- Info on Award of a Service Contract for Contracted Custodial Cleaning Services to commence 12/21/22
- 16 contractor bids, including \$ amount; evaluation criteria used; ranking of all contractors matrix; makeup of proposal analysis group

Per FOIA law we have five days to process your request with day one starting the day after the request.

Your request does have a few associated with it. The cost will be \$208.32 due to it requiring 4 hours of redacting the proprietary information.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Wendy Drogo

--

Wendy A. Drogo, Executive Assistant
for Dr. James D. Stemple
Executive Director of Constituent Services
Stafford County Public Schools
31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, VA 22554
Telephone: 540-658-6612
#851012

4. Should UMW not receive the performance bond, in the amount of the base total value of the contract term, within the one hundred eighty (180) days extended by the University, the Contractor shall agree to provide, at no cost to UMW, a smooth transition of the services to another contractual arrangement (including assigned personnel contact information) with a contractor to be identified by UMW; and
 5. PBM shall continue to provide the contracted services in the interim, at the contracted rates while UMW re-competes the services, and the \$4,167 payment discount shall continue, per month, until such time as a new contractor is awarded to take over services; up to 6 months (12 months from contract execution); and shall total \$50,000.
 6. At UMW's sole discretion, the performance bond *may* be waived, at any time, for subsequent renewals.
- C. Additional University buildings and locations, leased or owned, may be added to the contract via a two party agreement. The University will provide PBM with the size, scope and frequency of the location to be added and will request a negotiable quote. If the quote, after negotiations (if applicable), is deemed to not be in the best interest of the University, it will be rejected and an alternate vendor will be sourced.

COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT/ADDITIONAL USERS: It is the University's intent in issuing the solicitation and resulting contract to allow for cooperative procurement. Accordingly, any public body, public or private health or educational institution, or any University related foundation may access the resulting contract if authorized by the Contractor.

Participation in this cooperative procurement is strictly voluntary. If authorized by the Contractor, the resulting contract may be extended to the entities indicated above to purchase at contract prices in accordance with the contract terms.

- A. The Contractor shall notify the University in writing of any such entities accessing the contract.
- B. No modification of the contract or execution of a separate agreement is required to participate.
- C. The Contractor shall provide quarterly usage reports for all entities accessing the contract.
- D. Participating entities will place their own orders directly with the Contractor and will fully and independently administer their use of the contract to include contractual disputes, invoicing and payments without direct administration from the University.
- E. The University will not be held liable for any costs or damages incurred by any other participating entity as a result of any authorization by the Contractor to extend the contract.
- F. It is understood and agreed that the University is not responsible for the acts or omissions of any entity, and will not be considered in default of the contract no matter the circumstances.
- G. Use of this Agreement does not preclude any participating entity from using other agreements or competitive processes.

It has been agreed that any member of the Virginia Association of State College and University Purchasing Professionals (VASCUPP) may participate in the contracts resulting from this solicitation. VASCUPP is currently comprised of eleven (11) members who include: The College of William and Mary, George Mason University, James Madison University, Longwood University, Old Dominion University, Radford University, The University of Mary Washington, The University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Tech.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES: PBM shall:

ATTACHMENT E - PRICING SCHEDULE

Revised 9/23/2022 12:00 PM

Cost/sf for Proposal:

\$1,811

\$1,065

Facility	Unit Price	UOM	Qty	Extended (Annual) Price	Alternate #2 Unit Price	Annual Unit Price	Price Difference	Annual Price Difference
1 Brooke Point High School	\$ 40,243	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 482,916	\$ 43,332	\$ 519,984	\$ (3,089)	\$ (37,068)
2 Colonial Forge High School	\$ 37,138	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 445,656	\$ 39,988	\$ 479,856	\$ (2,850)	\$ (34,200)
3 Temporary Trailer at Colonial Forge High School	\$ 167	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 2,004	\$ 179	\$ 2,148	\$ (12)	\$ (144)
4 Mt. View High School	\$ 38,462	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 461,544	\$ 41,414	\$ 496,968	\$ (2,952)	\$ (35,424)
5 North Stafford High School	\$ 45,893	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 550,716	\$ 49,416	\$ 592,992	\$ (3,523)	\$ (42,276)
6 Stafford High School	\$ 44,048	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 528,576	\$ 47,429	\$ 569,148	\$ (3,381)	\$ (40,572)
7 A.G. Wright Middle School	\$ 19,511	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 234,132	\$ 21,008	\$ 252,096	\$ (1,497)	\$ (17,964)
8 Temporary Trailer at A.G. Wright Middle School	\$ 318	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 3,816	\$ 342	\$ 4,104	\$ (24)	\$ (288)
9 Dixon Smith Middle School	\$ 21,989	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 263,868	\$ 23,676	\$ 284,112	\$ (1,687)	\$ (20,244)
10 Drew Middle School	\$ 14,928	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 179,136	\$ 16,073	\$ 192,876	\$ (1,145)	\$ (13,740)
11 Rodney Thompson Middle School	\$ 20,857	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 250,284	\$ 22,457	\$ 269,484	\$ (1,600)	\$ (19,200)
12 Shirley C. Helm Middle School	\$ 22,150	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 265,800	\$ 23,850	\$ 286,200	\$ (1,700)	\$ (20,400)
13 Stafford Middle School	\$ 20,627	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 247,524	\$ 22,210	\$ 266,520	\$ (1,583)	\$ (18,996)
14 Gayle Middle School	\$ 22,369	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 268,428	\$ 24,086	\$ 289,032	\$ (1,717)	\$ (20,604)
15 Anthony Burns Elementary School	\$ 13,326	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 159,912	\$ 14,349	\$ 172,188	\$ (1,023)	\$ (12,276)
16 Conway Elementary School	\$ 13,326	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 159,912	\$ 14,349	\$ 172,188	\$ (1,023)	\$ (12,276)
17 Temporary Trailer at Conway Elementary School	\$ 549	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 6,588	\$ 592	\$ 7,104	\$ (43)	\$ (516)
18 Falmouth Elementary School	\$ 11,127	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 133,524	\$ 11,981	\$ 143,772	\$ (854)	\$ (10,248)
19 Grafton Village Elementary School	\$ 11,427	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 137,124	\$ 12,304	\$ 147,648	\$ (877)	\$ (10,524)
20 Hampton Oaks Elementary School	\$ 12,219	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 146,628	\$ 13,157	\$ 157,884	\$ (938)	\$ (11,256)
21 Kate W. Barrett Elementary School	\$ 13,250	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 159,000	\$ 14,268	\$ 171,216	\$ (1,018)	\$ (12,216)
22 Park Ridge Elementary School	\$ 11,535	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 138,420	\$ 12,420	\$ 149,040	\$ (885)	\$ (10,620)
23 Rocky Run Elementary School	\$ 13,235	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 158,820	\$ 14,251	\$ 171,012	\$ (1,016)	\$ (12,192)
24 Temporary Trailer at Rocky Run Elementary School	\$ 435	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 5,220	\$ 468	\$ 5,616	\$ (33)	\$ (396)
25 Margaret Brent Elementary School	\$ 13,250	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 159,000	\$ 14,268	\$ 171,216	\$ (1,018)	\$ (12,216)
26 Moncure Elementary School	\$ 15,997	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 191,964	\$ 17,225	\$ 206,700	\$ (1,228)	\$ (14,736)
27 Stafford Elementary School	\$ 11,216	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 134,592	\$ 12,077	\$ 144,924	\$ (861)	\$ (10,332)
28 Widewater Elementary School	\$ 11,637	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 139,644	\$ 12,530	\$ 150,360	\$ (893)	\$ (10,716)
29 Winding Creek Elementary School	\$ 11,538	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 138,456	\$ 12,424	\$ 149,088	\$ (886)	\$ (10,632)
30 Rockhill Elementary School	\$ 14,212	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 170,544	\$ 15,302	\$ 183,624	\$ (1,090)	\$ (13,080)
31 Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex (Main Building)	\$ 8,359	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 100,308	\$ 9,001	\$ 108,012	\$ (642)	\$ (7,704)
32 Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex (PDC Building)	\$ 2,828	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 33,936	\$ 3,045	\$ 36,540	\$ (217)	\$ (2,604)
33 Operations and Maintenance	\$ 3,591	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 42,372	\$ 3,803	\$ 45,636	\$ (272)	\$ (3,264)
34 Pupil Transportation Facility	\$ 1,111	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 13,332	\$ 1,196	\$ 14,352	\$ (85)	\$ (1,020)
35 Fleet Services	\$ 2,415	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 28,980	\$ 2,600	\$ 31,200	\$ (185)	\$ (2,220)
36 Gary Melcher Complex (GMC)	\$ 11,922	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 143,064	\$ 12,838	\$ 154,056	\$ (916)	\$ (10,992)
37 North Star	\$ 5,886	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 70,632	\$ 6,338	\$ 76,056	\$ (452)	\$ (5,424)
38 Heather Empfield Day School	\$ 2,419	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 29,028	\$ 2,605	\$ 31,260	\$ (186)	\$ (2,232)
39 Planning and Construction	\$ 1,660	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 19,920	\$ 1,788	\$ 21,456	\$ (128)	\$ (1,536)
40 School Nutrition Trailer	\$ 598	Per Month	x 12 =	\$ 7,176	\$ 644	\$ 7,728	\$ (46)	\$ (552)
42 Cleaning for Special Events	\$ 3,913	Per Month	x 9.5 =	\$ 37,174	\$ 3,913	\$ 46,956	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 6,849,669.50		\$ 7,382,352.00	\$ (43,575.00)	\$ (522,900.00)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Shannon

Last-Name = Fingerholz

Address1 = 19 Cardinal Forest Dr.

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = Speaking

Client IP = 98.169.151.56

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:53 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Abe

Last-Name = Jardines

Address1 = 12 Birney Ct

City = Fredericksburg, VA

State = Virginia

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = The proposed tax rate increases pose a significant threat to the ability of Stafford County residents to remain residents of Stafford County. Numerous studies have proven that higher tax rates result in lower appreciation of property values and in extreme circumstances even cause a decline in same. At a time when everyone is facing higher inflation rates, higher interest rates and higher overall costs of living, levying the most significant tax increase in the history of the county is tantamount to a death sentence for the dreams of working families who wish to live in a community as nice as ours. While many employers to include the federal government have embraced the idea of increasing pay rates to alleviate the pressure that the recent extreme inflation has placed on their employees, reality has shown that those pay raises have fallen short. Enacting such an extreme increase in the tax rate will undermine, and possibly negate, any pay raises the residents of Stafford County may have seen. Harder hit would be the many retirees and elderly in this community who live on fixed incomes and have little recourse available to alleviate the burden that these proposed tax increases would place on them. Our county, in my opinion, is one of the best options for federal government employees being transferred to positions in the greater Washington, DC area as it is a haven as many of the areas closer to DC have become impossible to afford. I implore the Stafford County Board of Supervisors to not adopt the advertised rates, instead adopt more modest and reasonable increases, which would not place such a sudden and significant burden on the residents of the county and find ways to control the dangers of unbridled increases in the county budget. This would assure that our county and community would continue to be viable for Virginians (both current and new) seeking affordable housing with good schools and a decent quality of life for years to come.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 173.71.198.236

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Casey

Last-Name = Durst

Address1 = 3 Lord Fairfax Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Good afternoon BoS! I'd like to write a quick note to show support of raising the property tax to the approved rate of 1.145. For some, this rate and last year's assessment will be a hard pill to swallow. For many, the additional taxes will be not worthy of mentioning in the family budget and for others, a noticeable sacrifice. Stafford is the 19th wealthiest county in the nation but it also has a vast difference of pay: some make very good money and some do not. Plainly, this exists in every location in the state and nation. Assuredly, this will impact my family's budget. But what I know is that Stafford County is nearing "joke" phase for school funding compared to other counties in the state- you can fix that. National inflation and the devaluation of the US dollar are ongoing. And while we can all debate "why" and "how", the fact remains that local governments cannot continue with pre-2020 revenue streams. Frankly, across the board, more money is needed to conduct the same tasks pre-2020 much less account for population expansion that Stafford is continuing. Understanding that Virginia is one of the few Dillon Rule states, you cannot impose a fee on residential builders to supplement the new growth; something our friends in Richmond forced on you by not making Virginia a Home Rule state. Maybe next Assembly...I consider myself an economic conservative but I also realize the functions of government that we enjoy cost money and local governments can't go magically print money like our friends in DC can. While I wouldn't agree with some of the other proposals (executive assistants, significant pay raises for BoS, and the like) I have faith that you will do right with our money and fund schools so they can expand and build learning environments. Please don't let me lose that faith. Thank you for your time.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 107.116.79.46

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Richard

Last-Name = Wallace

Address1 = 4 Dallhan Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Most Counties limit the yearly increase of real estate tax to 10%. If it is more than 10% it is carried over to the next billing year. I think Stafford County should enact a maximum yearly increase of property tax of 10%. The county risks residents not being able to afford the tax increase and in turn not being able to make there mortgage payment. If the county is looking to raise money via real estate they can add a transfer fee on sales of homes and / or add a transfer fee paid by builders of new homes.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 23.25.111.242

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jose

Last-Name = Rodriguez Torres

Address1 = 18 Piedmont Dr.

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = If the real estate tax rate is indeed increased, how does the county plan on using the increase in revenue? As a resident of the county for almost 17 years and a father to three, I have spent a significant amount of time on the highway either going south or north just to be able to catch a movie, dine at a restaurant, or play bowling just to name a few. Meanwhile, it seems that there is a gas station, a storage facility, or a vape shop (some too close to our schools) in every corner of the county. I am all for improving but I am not interested in paying more taxes if the funds will be utilized to attract more of these type of businesses to the county. Also, if the increase happens a bigger allocation of the budget should go to the schools because, in my opinion, it has deteriorated quite a bit during recent years.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.241.226.54

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = mindy

Last-Name = reifsnyder

Address1 = 405 pear blossom rd

City = stafford

State = va

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Definitely mad about the proposed tax increases that I have viewed. We can not afford as a family to take that big of a increase on, plus we already pay a huge amount of taxes. We also live in embrey mill, and already pay an additional cda fee that is large 2x a year. I am all about helping out the schools, but not putting extra monies into the county workers' pockets. What you're currently proposing as an increase for us taxpayers is OUTRAGEOUS and INFURIATING.

Plan-to-speak = very upset that I moved my family to Stafford County and even have to deal with this. We are not rich - the proposed tax increases are ones for rich folks - not for middle class families. So disappointing. :(

Client IP = 108.45.169.4

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Linda

Last-Name = Rudd

Address1 = 24 Ashcroft Dr.

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I cannot attend the meeting, but I want to express my dismay at this ENORMOUS increase. Families are struggling with the highest inflation in 40 years, and now you want to put even more pressure on us? Even half of this increase would be the largest in Stafford's history. We simply cannot sponsor EVERY item on the wish list all at once. That is irresponsible. As is typical with politicians, your wish list is twice your budget! I'm sick to death of being bled dry by politicians! Every time my home value rises, so do my taxes - already. I support teachers, but I suspect more of this money will be used for an agenda I do NOT support. DO NOT be irresponsible with my money. We are getting hit from all sides these days, and it feels like a deliberate attempt to drag EVERYONE into poverty. ENOUGH!!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.171.91.26

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Mark
Last-Name = Husar
Address1 = 18 Argyle Hills Drive
City = Falmouth
State = VA
Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = The proposed tax increase to 1.145 percent from .85 percent is outrageous especially during this time of hyper- inflation. If this increase is approved, Stafford County will have a higher real estate tax rate than Fairfax County, which is 1.110 percent. That is something that Stafford County should not aspire to. Stafford County just went through a property reassessment last year which was essentially a real estate tax increase. The tax and spend members of the County Board need to learn how to tighten the County's belt just like the citizens that it's supposed to serve are having to do. This proposed real estate tax increase along with the annual utilities fees and personal property tax increases have got to stop. What was done with all the federal and state COVID money Stafford received? The citizens of Stafford should have a full accounting of the COVID monies that were received. It should be broken out by amount received by each county entity, what it was spent on and how much is left, if any. I grew up in Fairfax County and had to leave when I became an adult because I could not afford to live there. Now after nearly 32 years here in Stafford I may have to move again because it is becoming a place I can no longer afford. I am sure that there are a number of others in Stafford that feel the same way and we will make our voices heard the next time County Board members are up for election.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 173.72.205.101

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = I jean
Last-Name = eustice
Address1 = PO Box 216
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22555
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy
Written-Comment = EXACTLY what \$\$ amount of the Stafford County proposed tax increase is designated to help fund IN ANY WAY the FOUNTAIN PARK and/or the Downtown Stafford projects?
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 108.28.94.57

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:32 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Daniel

Last-Name = Pare

Address1 = 99 Hopewell Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = My name is Dan Pare and I currently have two sons at Hartwood Elementary, with a third beginning in August. I'm a recently retired Marine, who chose to move my family to Stafford County over Loudoun and Fairfax, because Stafford still offers a quality public education without the overt political agenda. I'm here to talk about the lack of public education funding Stafford County has been dealing with for many years. Stafford County has been booming over the last few years, with an influx of federal government transplants, such as myself, immigrants, and refugees. Our schools are over capacity, yet our county budget for education is ranked 112 out of 132 in the commonwealth. I am not just a parent of HES students, but I am also a PTA member, a Scout Leader and STEM Mentor at Rocky Run Elementary, and a religious education catechist for Holy Cross Academy; all of which are volunteer positions. I am also actively donating to a project to grow HCA. My wife and I understand the importance of a quality education, and I know the potential of the young generation in my community. I grew up in Southeastern MA, to a middle-class family, in a medium sized city with awful public schools. My parents sacrificed to give me a quality education at Catholic Schools from K-12, but as a gifted student, I was not challenged due to the lack of resources offered. This caused my interest in class to diminish, which sometimes left me to being disruptive in class. At that time, my doctor assumed it was just another case of ADHD and prescribed me medication. It wasn't a mental illness, it was simply boredom. I went from being a top performer in my class to barely graduating. I think that had I had more resources available to me, specifically, subjects I was interested in, I wouldn't have had to play "catch up" with math and the sciences in my adulthood. During the pandemic, I started my kids at private school in NC and they excelled. Once I retired, my wife and I decided to give the public system here a chance, though they were both already accepted to Holy Cross. We have been dialed into the school board meetings for over a year, and began watching the live streams from NC when the mask debates were going on last winter. So far we have been very happy with the staff and programs offered by HES, but I can see how resources are already stretched thin. Bottom line is the county needs to allocate more funding for our schools. I understand that will mean a tax increase, and as a former Florida resident, I understand how paying income tax, real estate, and property taxes here hurts. Our kids are worth the investment. We need a new elementary school in the southern part of the county, and everything that new school comes with. We need to continue renovating and updating the space and technology in our current schools, and we need to make teacher pay competitive for recruitment and retainment. We need to get back to the basics of education, and in doing so, some of the money currently spent can be reallocated to focus on the liberal arts of a classical education with the addition of STEM. We need to make sure our county helps those kids affected by COVID lockdowns to catch up to their grade level, while not holding back the kids who excel in the name of equity. In order to do that, funding and growth for our education system must be a top priority for the foreseeable future. We have to do better. Thank you for your time.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 172.58.243.208

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Perry
Last-Name = Darley
Address1 = 71 Coakley Lane
City = Fredericksburg
State = \A
Zip = 22406
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy
Written-Comment = I plan to speak
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 68.100.218.174

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = John

Last-Name = Edgar

Address1 = 5 Potomac Overlook Lane

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I am opposed to the outrageous increase in the proposed property tax rate. It appears that Stafford County government is now following the "tax and spend" policy of the Federal Government. I will be retiring on a fixed income this year and the proposed increase in tax rates will cause me to look to move to somewhere after spending 28 years in Stafford. GET SPENDING UNDER CONTROL RATHER THAN PUNISHING AND IMPOVERISHING THE MIDDLE CLASS.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 204.148.24.254

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Peter
Last-Name = Santisario
Address1 = 104 Liberty Hall Dr.
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22406
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy
Written-Comment = To speak about tax hikes
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 173.71.203.168

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:49 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Margaret

Last-Name = Beckwith

Address1 = 81 Peacock Station Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = Va

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = NO TAX INCREASE!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 173.71.213.100

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:11 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Klaudia

Last-Name = Lipford

Address1 = 1 Burnt Oak Lane

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Please do not raise our real estate and personal property taxes at a time when inflation is hitting us very hard increasing prices for everything without increase in salary. Thank-you!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 107.77.204.64

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Coleen
Last-Name = Teverini
Address1 = 35 Sharp Court
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554

Written-Comment = My husband and I are hard working residents of Stafford County. We chose to build a home here instead of moving to Northern Virginia and are disappointed at the mere suggestion of raising our taxes to an absurd degree that puts us in range of tax rates in Reston. This is an abuse of power and tremendous overreach to burden the working citizens of this county. This affects not only our budget but the ability to sell our home here going forward. This will not benefit the residents of Stafford in any way and dissuades people from wanting to live here.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 73.177.223.253

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jeffray

Last-Name = Droubay

Address1 = 41 Montera Ave

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I am concerned regarding the mil levy increasing 30% more than the inflation rate. I see a grab to pull more cash from residents to build through roads and support for nonresidents, rather than Stafford Resident and business support. At this speed I will be recommending that voters unseat all Supervisors supporting an increase so large and far over the inflation rates. Many Residents are retirees moved here to save money on fixed incomes and provide good quality of life. Retirees are on fixed incomes that is only a portion of the wages earned while working. Raising the Mil levy ~38% violates the trust given to Stafford County and encourages these residents to depart to more affordable counties.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 68.100.91.82

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 10:47 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Stephen

Last-Name =

Address1 = 58 Serene Hills Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Do NOT increase Personal Property Tax! Do NOT increase Real Estate Taxes! We don't want communism and the infatuation with death, filth, and horror it embraces. We don't want it in Stafford County, or in the United States. Marxist control of money is WRONG. Taking more of our money (than already is taken) is OPPOSITE of Truth Goodness and Beauty. These proposals are un-American. We aren't British citizens anymore. Those proposing these impoverishing tax increases should be chunked out with these garbage proposals. Please do not do it.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 172.58.191.0

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Wilke
Last-Name = Renwick
Address1 = 68 Arden Ln
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Today Americans are experiencing the highest inflation in 40 years. Taxpayers are struggling to keep their heads above water and more Americans than ever are living paycheck to paycheck. The cost of virtually everything has increased, from eggs, milk and fuel to services provided by contractors and home insurance. And at this time of extremely high inflation this board proposes the largest tax increase in Stafford history. Talking points to justify this increase include the salary of our teachers. It is argued that teacher living in Stafford choose to work in neighboring counties because the pay is higher. I believe we should pay our teachers more. But even as we look to the salaries paid in neighboring counties, we fail to look at how these other counties can afford higher salaries. One source of revenue for surrounding counties is the Business Professional and Occupational License (BPOL). Stafford County brags that not charging a BPOL makes the county business friendly, making it easier for business start-ups. Good for the businesses. But what about the employees of those businesses who cannot afford the property taxes and may have to live in another county? Stafford County Supervisors argue that a BPOL will unfairly burden smaller businesses. If the BPOL is written correctly an enormous amount of revenue could be generated from larger businesses while giving a break to smaller businesses. Finally, just a reminder. President H.W. Bush was quite a popular President and should have served two terms. But he was a one-term President for one reason. His campaign slogan was "Read my lips, no new taxes". The moment he raised taxes his career was over.

Plan-to-speak = I do plan to speak at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Client IP = 76.123.17.33

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Henry
Last-Name = Hudson
Address1 = 38 SAINT ADAMS DR
City = STAFFORD
State = VA
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I am a Virginia resident and homeowner in the Rock Hill District. I am providing my written opposition to the current proposed 15.8% increase to the FY2024 Stafford County budget. This includes a 37% increase in taxes on homes via the real estate tax and 35% increase on our vehicle tax. While a modest increase in taxes may be reasonable, this total increase to homeowners and renters of 15.8% overall is not modest. It's not even ludicrous. It is beyond belief that the Board of Supervisors, who have spent a pretty penny to develop an elaborate PowerPoint slide show of their proposed budget, would not realize that if the county has experienced higher costs for everything, then maybe, just maybe, the populace has experienced it also? Where on earth do you think we are? Did we all of a sudden drop into the Twilight Zone with Rod Sterling? Can you even remotely show that the populace obtained a 15.8% increase in wages this past year? No, you can't. You should be ashamed that you even think we can bear such a burden, on top of what the federal government has burdened us with. I live on a postage stamp sized lot (1/4 acre) and pay \$3900 a year already and now you want to add 37% more (i.e. \$5343)! And for what? We pay for a fire department already and we pay for a Sheriff's department...that's all we get. We pay for each other service required to live (i.e. utilities, garbage, gas, cable) in our homes and yet we have to pay more? That is unreasonable and irresponsible. You're not showing how you can reduce waste but you want me to pay more? No. That's not acceptable. I've now paid in vehicle tax, on my 2004 Honda CR-V, about the same amount as I paid for it retail priced! It's insane. And, although I don't know the workload you are under, I can't seem to get around to saying "yes" to a 67% increase in salary for the BoS. I didn't get that kind of raise so why are you entitled? Again, that is shameful and you clearly don't have any shame for what you're doing. Be reasonable and maybe your constituents would agree but this proposed budget is not reasonable. Homeowners, not businesses, seem to be bearing the full brunt of this increase. I realize that we need to attract businesses into the region by reducing their tax but it can't be continued on the backs of the homeowners. I am asking you to go back and rework the budget to a more reasonable amount that takes into account the fact that your constituents are having the same burdens of inflation and we can't pay the federal government, you and everyone else 15.8% more for everything we do and still have enough to live. Do your job and make the hard decision to reduce benefits if we can't afford them.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 76.120.213.200

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sample

Last-Name = Stewart

Address1 = 35 Healing Way

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406-4228

Written-Comment = I strongly oppose the upcoming 38% increase in real-estate taxes you are proposing. How about putting some time and effort into looking into decreasing and/or eliminating some wasteful and un-necessary expenditures. Could it be you are taking lessons from our federal legislators who threw around money like candy in a parade during the exaggerated covid crisis?

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 172.58.243.79

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 9:30 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Johna

Last-Name = McNichol

Address1 = 2 Bluefield Lane

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Ordinance O23-04 - HPOF Fees

Written-Comment = Please do not raise taxes at a time when people are just trying to survive when money is so tight.

Seniors are on a set income and everything costs more and always going up. Please take all of this into consideration.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 68.100.196.103

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:51 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sarah
Last-Name = Taylor
Address1 = 1146 James Madison Cir
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22405
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget
Written-Comment = I plan to speak.
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 174.66.101.227

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Adam

Last-Name = Millsap

Address1 = 10 Appling Rd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I am concerned about the proposed real estate tax increase. Higher real estate taxes are capitalized into homes and lower property values. They also pull money out of the private sector where it can be invested or used to purchase goods and services and support our local businesses. If the county needs additional revenue, it should clearly state what the tax increase would fund so that voters can consider the costs and benefits of the proposed tax increase. The purpose of taxes is to provide critical public goods, not to create a pool of money that can be dished out by government officials at their discretion. It is important for government officials to make a clear link between the taxes they collect and the goods and services they provide. I hope the Board does that here.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 73.12.8.253

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Lacey

Last-Name = Gail

Address1 = 528 Cropp Rd

City =

State =

Zip =

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I have lived in Hartwood my entire life and it's just sad how much this county is changing. There is no need for our tax rate to be higher than Prince William county. A county much bigger county with more schools, Fire department, police, etc than us. I'm not sure if this rate increase is because of all the homes you all approve but if so increase what developers give the county in order to build all these giant homes. You will drive out all the people who have lived here for decades all for the dollar. There is no need to increase our rates.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 98.249.6.236

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 6:56 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Catherine

Last-Name =

Address1 = 58 Serene Hills Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Please do NOT increase real estate and personal property tax. The proposed tax increases are outrageously steep and place a significantly heavy burden on the residents.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 172.58.191.0

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:27 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Janet

Last-Name = Franklin

Address1 = 2350 Mountain View Road

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = My husband is retired and we live on a fixed income with lots of medical bills. Raising real estate taxes would force us out of our home. We would have no option other than to sell and move in with our children. Please think of the retired community th at has lived in Stafford our entire lives. We simply cannot afford such a huge increase in taxes.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 166.205.147.54

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:25 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jennifer

Last-Name = Turco

Address1 = 31 young ct

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Raising real estate taxes by almost 10% will cause many of us to go bankrupt! Mortgage rates are already high, the cost of living has increased significantly, raising real estate tax as high as suggested would be the nail in the coffin for many of us.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 172.58.188.33

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:18 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Fred and Ellen

Last-Name = Coppel

Address1 = 63 Call Court

City = Falmouth

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board: My wife and I are on a fixed income after I was laid off for being old. Also my wife is disabled. The tax increase you propose will be another burden on us and others in Stafford who are in similar straits. Why aren't you reaping tax windfalls from the builders and new people who are moving into Stafford in large numbers. Stop this insanity please. You are adding this burden on top of the horrible democrat inflation caused by the Biden administration and its pathetic spending policies. You are mistaken to think that Stafford residents will not hate you. They will probably attempt a recall of your sorry posteriors. Do not vote for this TAX increase. Thank you for the opportunity to speak our minds.

Plan-to-speak = We do not plan to speak.

Client IP = 68.100.88.158

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Joel

Last-Name = Ashinhurst

Address1 = 51 Bertram Blvd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Dear Stafford County Board of Supervisors, I truly hope that the board turns away from voting in favor of the advertised 2023 family budget crushing proposed increases for both the real estate and personal property taxes. While it can be assumed that for few in the county these increases would be a moderate blip on their tax bill radar, for many county residents they will be game changers. What the heck are you thinking in an area that is already incredibly expensive and almost impossible for low-to-middle income families and those living on fixed incomes to be able to save just a little or even make ends meet? Housing costs and auto prices are high enough thanks to the national economy, now you are just making it worse. Families will now have to make even harder choices on what they can and can't afford each month. I thought you were supposed to be on our side? These dramatic and unprecedented increases are incredibly ill conceived and certainly give the appearance that members of the board regard the county taxpayer as your blank check book. Again, please reconsider these crushing tax increases and show the low-to-middle income earners in Stafford that you are on their side! Joel Ashinhurst

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 67.187.20.155

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 5:17 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Matthew

Last-Name = Blackledge

Address1 = 24 Cranes Bluff Court

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = In today's inflationary environment, tax rate hikes are inevitable. However, the voters expect our elected leaders to propose reasonable tax rate hikes, especially now due to the highest inflationary pressure in decades affecting all households. The same inflationary pressures impacting Stafford County residents impact all aspects of Stafford County government and the services provided to its residents. Everyone understands that. However, a 38 percent real estate rate hike is not reasonable. In 2023 thus far, the median price of homes sold in Stafford County was about \$500,000. According to my calculations, the median real estate tax for Stafford County residents would jump from \$4,250 to \$5,725; that is a \$1,500 increase. For a \$250,000 home, it would jump from \$2,125 to \$2,862.50; that is about a \$750 increase. It will have a similar impact on both households but will impact those who can afford it the least, the most. Any member of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors who votes for an increase of 38 percent in a single tax year has betrayed the residents of Stafford County. For those who vote for this increase, these are the goals you must have set for you constituents without their knowledge or approval: • Increase the number of elderly residents on fixed income who must reenter the workforce. • Increase the number of households needing food stamps and welfare. • Increase the number of households who are delinquent in their mortgage and utility payments. • Increase mortgage foreclosures, especially on first-time homebuyers. • Increase the number of small businesses forced to close their doors as their customer base cannot support their price increases to offset the additional taxes. • Discourage families and businesses from moving to or staying in Stafford County. Finally, you have set your own personal goal to be voted out of office in the next election. Your 38% real estate rate hike proposal is unreasonable and is a slap in the face to all Stafford County residents. There is also a similar vehicle property tax rate hike values from 4.49 to 6.10 per \$100 of 50% of a vehicle's fair market; this will increase the financial pressures mentioned above. I urge all board members to reconsider the amount of the rate increase of both the real estate tax and the vehicle property tax. Thus, you could reduce the adverse financial impact on your constituents who you promised to serve. I served our country as a Marine for over 30 years to support freedom and democracy. A 38% proposed real estate tax hike and vehicle property tax hike support neither of those values; it feels like tyranny and dictatorship of the few to control the many. Semper Fi Matthew W.

BlackledgeColonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 141.156.218.156

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Dominique

Last-Name = Bee

Address1 = 103 MARINE CV

City = STAFFORD

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I plan to also speak. Tks

Plan-to-speak = I write in strong opposition to the proposed property tax increase from \$.85 per \$100 to \$1.175. That's a 38% increase, the largest in county history. This is outrageous and this proposal must be challenged and defeated. This tax increase would be a tremendous burden on hard-working individuals in Stafford County, making it even more difficult to make ends meet in an already tough economy. The Biden Administration's disastrous fiscal policies have already made it harder for families to afford groceries and other daily necessities. Now, residents and businesses will feel that pain at the county level, too. I want to applaud Supervisors Vanuch, Bohmke, and English for standing with taxpayers by opposing this proposal. For those Board members who proposed and/or support this massive tax increase, what that tells me is that you must look at home owners as your own piggy bank that you can tap into to pay for even more government spending. That is a dangerous perspective as the power to tax is the power to destroy. If this proposal is approved, that is a likely outcome, the continued destruction of the middle class but now at the county level. I would remind you tax and spend Supervisors that there has not been any government entity that has taxed their way into prosperity and that additional govt spending usually does not result in better govt. Just the opposite occurs and would offer the federal budget as an example. Are we getting better services now that federal spending has gone from \$4.3T in 2019 to 6.3T in 2022? I would suggest that the answer is a resounding no. Another example is the per pupil spending on education in major cities where \$22K per student gets you functionally illiterate high school seniors. I will close with a couple of quotes for the tax and spend supervisors to consider: It is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today and tax revenues are too low, and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the tax rates."—John F. Kennedy (For those of you who are economically illiterate that is known as the Laffer curve and it worked every time it was tried) For a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."—Winston Churchill Thank you. Dom Bee 103 Marine Cove Stafford, VA

Client IP = 18.116.27.168

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Deborah

Last-Name = Logan

Address1 = 1021 Garrisonville Road

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = As a life long residence of Stafford I am appalled by this tax increase. I am a retired and on a fixed income my car is 20 yrs old and I can't afford to purchase a new car especially with the cost and what the cost and taxes would be. The increase cost of food, gas, medicine and everything else you as the Board of Supervisors will be forcing retired, fixed income family to sell there homes and move from my beloved Stafford to a cheaper county to live. Please I beg you to reconsider this vote. Thank you for hearing my concerns!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 73.216.99.235

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Racquel

Last-Name = Balsavich

Address1 = 128 Coal Landing rd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = This drastic tax rate hike is not proportional to the income raises many of my fellow citizens or I have received or plan on receiving, and it will negatively impact my family of six. This proposal has failed to consider current economic issues that residents are not immune to. There are numerous other options available to fund Stafford County responsibly. This budget proposal will cause citizens, such as myself, economic hardships. Supervisors, please vote responsibly and develop an equitable budget for all residents.

Client IP = 67.187.23.182

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Tom

Last-Name = Gryder

Address1 = 86 Glacier Way

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 3pm

Written-Comment = I am not in favor of the proposed increased tax rate for real estate in Stafford County. This increase will put an extensive burden on your constituents, particularly home owners. I don't know why this increase being proposed isn't being considered within a referendum. Let the voters take a more active role in the decision-making process.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 68.33.205.66

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 1:13 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Donald

Last-Name = Balsavich

Address1 = 128 Coal Landing Road

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = This drastic tax rate hike is not proportional to the income raises many of my fellow citizens or I have received or plan on receiving, and it will negatively impact my family of six. This proposal has failed to consider current economic issues that residents are not immune to. There are numerous other options available to fund Stafford County responsibly. After fifteen years as a Stafford County resident, this is our first time considering leaving. This budget proposal will cause citizens, such as myself, economic hardships. Supervisors, please vote responsibly and develop an equitable budget for all residents.

Plan-to-speak = I am unable to attend the meeting but would like my comments read and sent to the BOS

Client IP = 140.248.0.0

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:49 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jeffrey

Last-Name = Sacks

Address1 = 235 Poplar Manor Ave

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I plan to speak at the meeting

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak at the meeting

Client IP = 76.123.17.119

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:47 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jeffrey

Last-Name = Sacks

Address1 = 235 Poplar Manor Ave

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I plan to speak publicly at the meeting.

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak publicly at the meeting.

Client IP = 76.123.17.119

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Betty
Last-Name = Adkins
Address1 = 570 Truslow Rd
City = Falmouth
State = Va
Zip = 22406

Written-Comment = As a life long resident of Stafford county I have witnessed the decline of this county! We pay a high tax rate as it is and what does that provide for us? We pay a fee included in our personal property tax that used to be for a county sticker but we don't get a sticker anymore but still pay that fee. We have to pay to use our landfill but that used to be included with a county sticker. Parks used to be for county residents and now anyone can use them even though they are maintained using tax dollars. The developments popping up everywhere but the schools, roads emergency services can't keep up! And whose is responsible for approving all these developments? Strip malls that sit empty but y'all approve new ones. You are forcing the long time residents that have supported this county out. We dont deserve to be taxed out of our homes! And yes that is on y'all! And does this tax hike include raises for y'all? Stop trying to change this county to what you want and embrace it for what it is! We the long time residents love this county the way it was! The new school, roads and expanded emergency services need to be funded by the developers! And what is going on with the tax rate for airplanes and boats those are luxury items but the tax rate on those is .0001 really. Hey if you have those items that is great! But who are you the supervisors looking out for? I think some of you need to step down! If you want to change this county maybe it's not the county for you!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 70.109.61.225

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = James

Last-Name = Robinson

Address1 = 55 Osprey Lane

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = My name is James (Don) Robinson. My wife, Cathy, and I live in the George Washington District, 55 Osprey Lane. My comments are particularly addressed to Mr. Tom Cohen who represents us on the Board of Supervisors. I am 80 years old and retired. I worked until I was 76 so I could pay off my house. My wife, Cathy, retired in 2022, so we only have our retirements to live on. We built our home in 2003 and planned to live here forever. Cathy, maiden name Curtis, has lived in Stafford County her entire life. She is a member of the Patawomeck Tribe and her grandparents donated land for the creation of Curtis Park. Unfortunately, the double whammy of continued increases in assessments and tax rates has us paying over \$9,000 in real estate taxes yearly. And now, you are considering a rate of 1.145 per \$100, increasing my real estate tax by \$3,000, to \$12,500. We have no kids in school, and our private community does not receive road maintenance nor police patrols. So that's another \$1,400 per year in HOA assessments to pay for services that Stafford County doesn't provide. Stafford has become a terrible place for retirees to live! If it weren't for our children and grandchildren living here, we would follow our friends to Florida or Tennessee! The increased house value means nothing if we don't intend to sell it. This is worse than the Federal plan to tax unrealized gains! If you want to run retirees out of the County, this is a good start! You MUST find a way to make the developers who are creating the growth pay for the additional burdens on the County, NOT the long-term residents. Thank you for your understanding.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.171.113.221

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 10:06 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = William

Last-Name = Emerson

Address1 = 43 kinross dr

City = Stafford

State = Va

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I want to start off by saying stafford county is not special. It's not even very nice. It's a place to live if northern Virginia is too expensive for you and you don't want to live in Maryland or south of Fredericksburg. The back to back tax increases on real estate (increase in tax rate this year and increase in assessed values last year) are ridiculous. Who is providing these recommendations to stafford county and thinks these rate increases are a good idea during an economic downturn? Why are they not changing assessed values on houses when there is a downturn as there has recently been? Because it doesn't benefit the county and gives them less money to play with? Part of the reason for the tax raises this year are to increase teacher and first responder pay — didn't they just get a raise within the last 2 years??? I would hope most board members have the intelligence to realize with rampant inflation, and with wages not increasing to match inflation, that the average worker has a LOT less money than they did just 4 or 5 years ago. Why is the public footing the bill for back to back tax increases and all of the price hikes this year? With all of the various increases that stafford is proposing I will have a lot less money for my family. Less money means it is going to be harder for me to put my kids into college. It's going to be harder to contribute to retirement accounts and plan for my family's future. Stafford county is in effect making it harder for people's families to be successful and fruitful. I fail to see the reason for these increases besides it being yet another squeeze of the middle class to fund governmental incompetence and reckless spending. Why was more money not assessed to builders who are throwing houses up all over the county? The builders pay minimal to nothing into expansion of infrastructure and to help bridge the costs the taxpayers have to pay from the expansion the builders benefit from. I have been considering a move from stafford county because there is nothing here - anything I need I have to go to Woodbridge or Fredericksburg for. The only thing stafford has is lots of new houses. But now there is another reason to leave - the lack of affordability. When stafford becomes as expensive as Woodbridge or Springfield, but with far less in the way of amenities and attractions, while being closer to DC, why live in this dump? My recommendation to my fellow citizens is to vote out everyone on the board. All of them. They need to go. The board members are not in sync with the voters and obviously do not truly represent us anymore. They are incapable of understanding the true burden the county taxpayers have, and the additional burdens they are placing on us to fund their pet projects. In closing, I know you don't care and aren't really listening to what we say, that you are required to be here and that we will all be paying these increases very soon. I do hope you are all out of jobs come the next election. You are obviously not in tune with the public or understand what people can realistically pay in this economy as they struggle to hold down their jobs and survive.

Plan-to-speak = I cannot speak as I will be out of town at a conference from April 2nd - 7th.

Client IP = 73.152.168.173

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Timothy

Last-Name = Diehr

Address1 = 54 Clift Farm Rd.

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I am against raising any tax rates in Stafford County. Stafford County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country, and the revenue being generated from that growth, and the current residents should be better managed by the BOS! The school board's proposed budget is \$50m and the proposed real estate max ceiling equates to the same amount, but yet there is a piece of School Board property on Clift Farm rd that they have spent \$10m on and done NOTHING with. MANAGE BETTER PLEASE!!!

Plan-to-speak = I do not plan to speak

Client IP = 173.71.204.75

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 6:05 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Mark
Last-Name = Smith
Address1 = 33 Preston Circle
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22406
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy
Written-Comment = A 38% tax increase is absurd ! We are taxed enough as it is ! As a Stafford Co. resident I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS TAX INCREASE !
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = 174.196.141.194

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 12:07 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = John

Last-Name = Hatzis

Address1 = 23 Saint Adams Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = PLAN TO SPEAK AT MEETING. Seeking to urge the Board of Supervisors to fully fund our schools!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 72.83.16.133

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = James

Last-Name = Robinson

Address1 = 55 Osprey Lane

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = My name is James (Don) Robinson. My wife, Cathy, and I live in the George Washington District, 55 Osprey Lane. My comments are particularly addressed to Mr. Tom Cohen who represents us on the Board of Supervisors. I am 80 years old and retired. I worked until I was 76 so I could pay off my house. My wife, Cathy, retired in 2022, so we only have our retirements to live on. We built our home in 2003 and planned to live here forever. Cathy, maiden name Curtis, has lived in Stafford County her entire life. She is a member of the Patawomeck Tribe and her grandparents donated land for the creation of Curtis Park. Unfortunately, the double whammy of continued increases in assessments and tax rates has us paying over \$9,000 in real estate taxes yearly. And now, you are considering a rate of 1.145 per \$100, increasing my real estate tax by \$3,000, to \$12,500. We have no kids in school, and our private community does not receive road maintenance nor police patrols. So that's another \$1,400 per year in HOA assessments to pay for services that Stafford County doesn't provide. Stafford has become a terrible place for retirees to live! If it weren't for our children and grandchildren living here, we would follow our friends to Florida or Tennessee! The increased house value means nothing if we don't intend to sell it. This is worse than the Federal plan to tax unrealized gains! If you want to run retirees out of the County, this is a good start! You MUST find a way to make the developers who are creating the growth pay for the additional burdens on the County, NOT the long-term residents. Thank you for your understanding.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.171.113.221

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Charles

Last-Name = Mallery

Address1 = 126 The Vance Way

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I do not plan to speak, but here is what I want to say. I grew up in Loudoun County when it was rural. Through the 1990's everything changed, and by 2005 my parents, like so many others, could no longer afford to live in the county due primarily to ever-increasing property taxes inflicting its wrath on their never-increasing pension. Then, there was a popular bumper sticker that simply said, "Don't Fairfax Loudoun". Today, the county is unrecognizable, and most my friends whom I grew up with from that era have had to leave, finding it unaffordable. Today, I find myself facing a similar situation here in Stafford. I fear that this decision - whether to boost county government revenue on the shoulders of its citizens - threatens to foist a dramatic change in our county and community. Those with the means, typically high-paying commuter jobs, will stay; those who cannot afford these costs, will leave. You will have the money needed to build fancy new county buildings, roads, schools... The coffers will be full, and the people who moved here for the affordable quality of life will move on. Maybe this is inevitable that Stafford will become the next Loudoun. But please resist; please don't Loudoun Stafford. At least try to keep this place affordable to people who don't have massive big-city commuter incomes.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 70.109.54.42

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 6:44 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Charlie

Last-Name = Mallery

Address1 = 126 The Vance Way

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I do not plan to speak, but here is what I want to say. I grew up in Loudoun County when it was rural. Through the 1990's everything changed, and by 2005 my parents, like so many others, could no longer afford to live in the county due primarily to ever-increasing property taxes inflicting its wrath on their never-increasing pension. Then, there was a popular bumper sticker that simply said, "Don't Fairfax Loudoun". Today, the county is unrecognizable, and most my friends whom I grew up with from that era have had to leave, finding it unaffordable. Today, I find myself facing a similar situation here in Stafford. I fear that this decision - whether to boost county government revenue on the shoulders of its citizens - threatens to foist a dramatic change in our county and community. Those with the means, typically high-paying commuter jobs, will stay; those who cannot afford, will leave. You will have the money needed to build fancy new county buildings, roads, schools... The coffers will be full, and the people who moved here for the affordable quality of life will move on. Maybe this is inevitable that Stafford will become the next Loudoun. But please resist; please don't Loudoun Stafford. At least try to keep this place affordable to people who don't have massive big-city commuter incomes.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 70.109.54.42

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 4:42 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = David

Last-Name = Hempe

Address1 = 2007 Sierra Drive

City =

State =

Zip =

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Raising rates on personal property and real estate in this economy by over 38 percent is criminal. As a democrat/independent thinker I am embarrassed at our democrat representatives. Have you not seen the grocery stores and gas pumps. The hurt in Stafford for homeowners and those that can barely afford cars now to get to work etc is not sustainable. You wonder why young couples and other can't afford Stafford and head south which hurts the environment because most of their jobs are north with longer commutes. It is because of these kinds of proposals. Now I understand why we have a republican governor. Stop the madness and you have an obligation to exhaust all waste and abuse in Stafford first. Why do high schools have up to 7 assistant principals? Just to babysit by alphabetical name. Why does an elementary school have a principal and two assistant principals. Times that by how many schools. Ridiculous. Stafford has become unfriendly to tourist with chargers for parks and parking and usage areas. These massive rate increases are beyond reasonable or discretionary and are an abuse of your temporary power until the next election.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 155.178.180.11

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Anthony

Last-Name = Trigg

Address1 = 176 The Vance Way

City = Fredericksburg

State = Va

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = It's concerning to me that these taxes would be considered for record increases at a time when most everyday necessities have increased nationwide, causing major financial hardship for a lot of families. These proposed hikes will only add to the burden for hard working residents at the most impromptu time. Please consider the timing of these hikes and the unstable economic environment we are experiencing.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 71.171.113.124

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sara

Last-Name =

Address1 = 80 Alderwood Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = The proposed increase in real estate taxes and personal property taxes in Stafford County, VA is alarming, especially considering the proposed spending projects that are not subject to voter referendum. A tax rate increase being described as the highest proposed in Virginia history is not be something you are proud of, particularly at the expense of the taxpaying constituents. The proposed increase in taxes will disproportionately affect residents with limited means. Stafford County has many residents living below the poverty line, on fixed incomes, or in farms and this increase in taxes will only serve to add to their financial burden. Moreover, the proposed increase comes at a time when inflation rates are high, and many households are already struggling to make ends meet. Furthermore, the residents of Stafford County have not had an opportunity to vote on whether they agree to the proposed projects, let alone the proposed tax increase. It is imperative that decisions regarding these spending projects be put to a voter referendum, allowing residents to have a voice in how their tax dollars are spent. Stafford County residents deserve to have a say in how their money is used, particularly when it comes to large-scale projects. We strongly urge officials to reconsider the proposed increase in taxes and explore alternative solutions that do not place undue hardship on residents. Decisions regarding the proposed spending projects should be put to a voter referendum, allowing residents to have a say in how their tax dollars are spent. Stafford County residents deserve fiscal responsibility in its leaders, regardless of political party. We urge officials to listen to the concerns of their constituents and consider alternative solutions to cut unnecessary spending and drastically limit any tax increases.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 73.152.170.242

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Oliver

Last-Name = Dunn

Address1 = 82 Enfield Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I am vehemently opposed to any increase in the tax rate for real estate or personal property beyond what the county administrator has proposed. The advertised increase comes at a time of financial hardship for below median income and elderly residents of Stafford. The advertised increase is unprecedented here and such an increase should be immediate career suicide for any politician to propose. Good governance goes hand in glove with proper stewardship of the tax dollars put forth by county residents. This proposal presents a clear indication that the political administration of county government is failing at their duty.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 104.28.39.109

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 2:04 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jesse

Last-Name = Conn

Address1 = 2019 Sierra Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = No tax rate increases. My budget keeps getting tighter everyday. If anything the rates should be lowered again. You act like no one built any houses in the county last year and have no new revenue. With all the new residents here there's no need to raise tax rates.

Plan-to-speak = No increases!

Client IP = 174.196.129.223

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Leland

Last-Name = Warren

Address1 = 105 Chrisanthe Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Absolutely not. The main selling point to moving to Stafford was the lower cost in property and personal property taxes. Now this is just going to make everything more expensive for no reason. With everything going up, we are struggling to keep pace as incomes are starting to decline and the threat of layoffs around the industry.

Plan-to-speak = DO NOT INCREASE TAX RATES FOR BOTH PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES.

Client IP = 52.95.4.0

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jason

Last-Name =

Address1 = 13 Legal Ct

City =

State =

Zip =

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I say no to the proposed tax increase. Stafford County residents had a tax increase last year and now the board is seeking another increase? We are reeling from the highest inflation in decades (with more to come), we are making difficult decisions every month on what bills we can or cannot pay, we have put off purchases, tightened our belts, and yet we are one missed paycheck away from disaster. We are at our breaking point and have no more resources to give. What other options has the board considered to fill in the revenue gap? Bonds? Spending cuts? Maybe a slow down on approving building permits until our infrastructure can catch up?

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 168.245.155.53

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:52 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Nilesh

Last-Name = Jha

Address1 = 68 Snowy Egret Way

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = A 38% tax increase is too excessive. With the inflation at over 10%, we the common flock are already straddled with additional burden for putting food on the table. In these difficult times, the government, instead of putting another burden of 38%, would not only break the bank but essentially break the back and make it impossible to survive. Is this what the county government aiming for? I would guess not. If we had gotten raises in our pay in tune with the inflation and the tax hike or even somewhere between the two rates, maybe this tax hike would have been palatable but given the current situation of none to 3% pay hike, this tax is nothing but additional burden and given the current economic situation, I would recommend 1-2% tax hike from the current level and I would suggest getting additional money from the medium to large businesses that are doing business in the county. Please do not put burden on us, the common working class.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 73.147.152.194

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Bill

Last-Name =

Address1 = 28 Old Creekside Rd

City =

State = va

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = As a Stafford resident for over 33 years I have witnessed firsthand the growth of the county. I planned to raise my family in the county I have cherished for so many years, but with the proposed tax increases I feel this may no longer be possible. Raising the Real Estate Tax over 35% from .85 to 1.145 per 100 dollars of assessed property value seems excessive given that property assessments that were increased 39% over prior assessments last year on the same property. This will be a strain on my family's personal finances as we currently deal with 2022 inflation rates of 6.5%. To put the proposed rate in comparison to surrounding counties - Fredericksburg City is .86 per 100, Spotsylvania County is .80 per 100, and King George County is .64 per 100. I agree that more funding is needed for schools and teacher pay within Stafford County. I believe this deficit has been caused by the counties inability to collect proper proffers from developers profiting by developing within the county in years past. This left county resident tax payers left to cover the cost of improvements to the counties infrastructure to handle massive growth in population. With my ending remark I do not feel that Stafford County tax paying residents should not have the burden of covering the cost of the county official's mismanagement of spending and collections of years past.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 70.109.54.248

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jennifer

Last-Name =

Address1 = Oakridge Dr.

City =

State =

Zip =

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = VOTE NO. When we finally got our house two years ago we where more than happy. We chose Stafford because of its affordability. As time goes on, cost of living is much higher than two years ago, and salaries don't seem to catch up. Higher taxes means a higher monthly payment for a lot of us who have mortgages and that means less money to go toward food, utilities and home maintenance and less money to support the local businesses. Job security is also uncertain. Most are already living tightly on two salaries, and for us, if we ever lose one source of income, affording our much desired inexpensive home will be impossible with a tax rate increase. We don't want to go back to apartment living. VOTE NO.

Plan-to-speak = VOTE NO.

Client IP = 208.127.65.163

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Mike

Last-Name = Nerenberg

Address1 = 1307 Washington Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = 30% increase in taxes is very extreme and will put already struggling families at an even higher risk point. Please reconsider and find some areas to cut taxes or modify programs. I can't believe with all the new construction in Stafford County that we need such an increase.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 204.122.110.170

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Mike

Last-Name = Nerenberg

Address1 = 1307 Washington Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Please reconsider this drastic increase in taxes. This can increase citizen's taxes about 30%. Many families are struggling as is and this will put more burden on the taxpayer. Try cutting some budgets or keeping the same budget. Trim the fat in the budget and stop the wasteful spending. By increasing the tax rate you will see many families leave Stafford County. This is a big mistake, and with the continued growth in the area there is a lot of revenue in the future.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 204.122.110.170

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Cecelia

Last-Name = Kirkman

Address1 = 447 Raven Rd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Plan to speak

Plan-to-speak = Plan to speak

Client IP = 108.48.126.81

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = Jennifer

Last-Name = Free

Address1 = 122 Northampton Blvd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = We do not want increased taxes. If people are moving into Stafford, more money should be coming from them. This will push citizens out of the area because they can't afford to stay.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 108.45.169.123

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

First-Name = Melissa

Last-Name = Hall

Address1 = 23 Cummings Dr,

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I've worked for the school system since 2017, but I've only been a Stafford resident since last summer. Until then, I wasn't able to afford to live here on my school division salary. (That's despite the fact that I have almost 40 years' experience in my chosen profession.) Due to the cost of real estate and apartment rentals in Stafford, it has taken me five years of working with the schools to reach a salary that allows me to live here comfortably. So I can't imagine how difficult it must for our county's youngest teachers and emergency personnel to be able to afford to live here. It's entirely understandable that they opt to accept positions in Prince William and our other neighboring northern localities, given the fact that they can instantly earn \$10,000-\$15,000 more per year for the same work. On the face of it, it may seem counterintuitive for me to advocate for higher taxes, but that's exactly what I'm doing right now. I urge you to adopt the highest tax rate possible for FY24. The school division desperately needs that extra money to recruit and retain teachers and support staff, and to maintain our aging school infrastructure. And there's no question that the county government needs some of the extra money to improve our horrible roads, and to recruit and retain emergency services and other personnel. We're one of the wealthiest counties in the Commonwealth, but you wouldn't be able to deduce that by looking at the condition of our roads and schools. As a taxpayer, I don't relish the thought of paying higher taxes, but I'll do it without complaint because I know that we as a community MUST bite the bullet and do it so that we can stop this long, slow downhill financial slide that we're currently on.

Plan-to-speak = Thank you.

Client IP = 38.73.227.230

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:30 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Michael

Last-Name = Zuck

Address1 = 51 upper mill way

City = stafford

State = va

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Vote "NO" on tax increase. I choose to live in AG-1 Stafford county, Not Prince William, Alexandria. ECT, Cost of living continues to increase, then increase the tax rate on people already working very hard to keep up will drive me and others to leave. I will retire soon and this will factor in significantly in my decision on where I will retire.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 204.122.110.167

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Stephen

Last-Name = Branch

Address1 = 101 Coffman Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = If real estate and personal property taxes are to be raised, there should be no increase to board member salaries. It is wholly unfair to levy taxes on others, when your own tax increases will be covered by the salary increase. The rest of the residents will see no increase in salary to compensate for such a rate hike. In addition, this seems to be a "bait and switch" tactic, whereby you advertise a 30% increase so that when you pass a 15% increase, you hope that people will be relieved.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 173.71.215.49

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 9:01 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jose

Last-Name = Mojica

Address1 = 29 Francis CT

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = I have been living in stafford for over 10 years and slowly I have seen stafford become more crowded and crime has increased. We have nothing but gas stations and duplicate stores. Now you want to raise our taxes again. I am against this, you don't deserve a raise. You have done nothing to deserve a raise. Our schools are over crowded, you just keep allowing to build and build more on such a small county. There is nothing special about stafford county to make it the highest taxed County in Virginia. You are just driving people away. Stop throwing money at problems, look for better solutions than to just increase taxes so you can have a pay raise while this county quality of living gets worse. There are panhandlers in every corner, it was never like this. Your whole board should be disbanded and new people should be elected that actually cares for the well being of this county.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = 74.96.255.74

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 7:48 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Thomas

Last-Name = Ehman

Address1 = 115 Hawks Nest Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = Va

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = At a time of very high inflation, high costs of living and high gas prices, budgets are stretched thin. I am getting ready for retirement and will be on a fixed income so this 30% tax increase on real estate and vehicles will put me dangerously close to not being able to make my payments. I understand that the county is experiencing additional expenses like the rest of us, but this proposed take rate is ridiculous! Be reasonable, you will drive people out of this county to more tax friendly localities. Last year, you raised my assessment an additional 100K, now you want to raise taxes on this new assessment?? This will cost me several thousands more per year!!! This new proposed rate is where Fairfax is at, do we want to be Fairfax????

Plan-to-speak = DO NOT RAISE THESE TAXES!!!

Client IP = 204.122.110.140

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Barbara

Last-Name = Barlow

Address1 = 618 Kenmore Drive Suite 2A

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22401

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Plan to Speak on behalf of Mental Health America of Fredericksburg

Plan-to-speak = Plan to Speak

Client IP = [68.98.147.30](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Stephanie

Last-Name = Bowers

Address1 = 13 Jamestown Court

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Dear Board Members, As a parent in Stafford County I urge you to please listen to parents who are raising children here. The budget should reflect the county's priorities and taking care of our children's education should be top priority. They spend most of their time in school! We want to keep good teachers in this county. We want to have enough buses and bus drivers so that our children don't have to continue to have such a late schedule. I have a middle school child and I know first hand how the classrooms are packed. Teachers are leaving to make ends meet in other higher paying counties. Stafford County owes it to our kids to provide more money than 47% of the budget. Money is not everything, but it speaks volumes that our county is not prioritizing the budget for our schools and kids and we rank 112th in Virginia. There has to be a correlation there. Stafford County continues to grow and continues to serve more families and students. Yet the budget is not growing the same. It is not allowing for our children to thrive. We need more of the budget allocated to our children and their education. It's the most important thing to any parent who watches their child go to school 5 days a week. Please consider the importance of our children and their futures. Other counties like Prince William allocate 67% of their budget and they are performing better as well. I understand there is a vote on raising taxes. Although paying more money out for property taxes does not sound appealing as a home owner, it's worth it IF I know it's going to the betterment of our children. Our children are more important than your raises. Please take our schools and children into consideration as the number one priority for this fiscal year's budget. Thank you.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [108.45.63.252](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Joshua

Last-Name = Carroll

Address1 = 2226 Aquia drive

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = This has always been a issue, voting on "your own raises" and needing an assistant? additional staff in county government, a 100% raise for members of the Board of Supervisors, personal assistants for each member of the Board of Supervisors.

Plan-to-speak = Plan to speak.

Client IP = [75.75.52.115](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:16 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kate

Last-Name = Holtet

Address1 = 464 Holly Corner Road

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = We need to make sure these cuts do not impact the instruction in the classroom for our children, as teachers and programs are the daily source of education for our children. Reductions need to begin in the County Office, not the student programs or services. As costs increase year after year in the Education Budget, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors must be open minded to creative alternatives to keep and reinstate our student programs and services as opposed to eliminating them as they have done in the past. Please consider a reduction in administrative staffing and unnecessary positions. This in turn could result in expendable funds that could be allotted to our children's future. Thank you.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.196.141.122](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:12 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = MOHAMED

Last-Name = MEZGUIDI

Address1 = 608 hatchers run ct

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Our schools and children are our priority. I say NO to the additional staff in county government, NO to the 100% raise for members of the Board of Supervisors, NO to personal assistants for each member of the Board of Supervisors.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [96.241.244.23](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:09 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Heather

Last-Name = Wooten

Address1 = 84 Newbury Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak

Client IP = [138.88.182.205](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:08 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Joan

Last-Name = Baker

Address1 = 101 Shepherds Way

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = I am a special education teacher and have been for 29 years. I hold 3 Master's Degrees and a single mom. I have to work a second job to help put my youngest son through college. I used to work in Prince William County Schools and Fairfax County Schools, but due to the commute and my children's needs when they were young, I returned to SCPS. If I were to go back to PWCPS or FCPS, they would start my salary as a teacher with 15 years of experience-THIS IS SO WRONG!! Stafford County Public Schools needs to keep up with the Northern Counties in terms of pay! Please help us fix this broken system-I would like to retire in 3 years when I'm 68 if I'm able!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [71.171.105.179](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:02 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = David

Last-Name = Bjerke

Address1 = 105 Autumn Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Dear Honorable members of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors. My name is David Bjerke and I live at 105 Autumn Dr right next door to the house I grew up in at 107 Autumn Dr better known to most as the Red Apple School Countrywood location. Stafford County is growing. As a military brat, I am a proud product of Garrisonville and Rockhill Elementary and AG Wright Middle School before moving again in the 1990s. 5 years ago I moved back with my wife and our 4 kids who are in Margret Brent and AG Wright Middle School. We moved back specifically because Stafford had the ideal environment of lower taxes and ample green space for our kids to grow up while still being close to the Northern Virginia and DC job market. We don't need the best school system, there's too much competition in Northern Virginia for that. What we need is space. Outside space and uncrowded classroom space with happy teachers. While we don't need to be better than or even equal to Prince William County, we should still be competitive with our neighboring school systems based on costs of living. I very much recommend that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board reach a Revenue Sharing agreement in the future so that the School System can continue to do its job in educating our children. I support the Superintendent's budget plan even if it raises my taxes. I've attended a number of his town halls and I've been impressed with what really are conservative budget proposals. The school systems are already taking away so many arts programs for next year, arts programs that my children love and thrive in while continuing to get good grades across all subjects. We recognize that is not everyone's experience and understand Stafford's need to get back to basics to bring up those who have been left behind by the pandemic. Please support the Superintendent's budget. Investing in our children is where we start the recovery process. Thank you for your time and service.

Plan-to-speak = I don't know that I can make the meeting but I will speak if I am able.

Client IP = [100.36.226.99](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Dustin

Last-Name = Allen

Address1 = 114 Old Oaks Ct

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Board of Supervisors, Good evening. Unfortunately, I am unable to be there in person to address you directly, so I hope my comments don't rest lightly on your decision-making responsibilities tonight. I am a Stafford County resident and very much in favor of Stafford County Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget proposal. We support our teachers and staff, but most importantly, our students attending these underfunded and under-supported school communities. COVID-19 policy hysteria destroyed our education system and has since damaged the retention of high quality teachers. It is impossible to retain the best in Stafford County if you cannot match or compete with the pay and incentives of our neighboring counties. It simply doesn't work. This has been an issue in the past and continues to remain a plague in our county. Approving this budget is not a want, it is a high priority need. Thank you for your time. Very Respectfully, Dustin Allen

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.196.131.239](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Henrika

Last-Name = Settles

Address1 = 8 Braewood Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I am unable to attend in person but am kindly asking the Board of Supervisors to approve the Superintendent's budget for SCPS. I fully support that it may increase my taxes, but it will be worth the cost to help better educate our students. If funding is decreased, it will just limit a student's potential and increase the chances of them becoming unproductive adults. Please continue to move our County forward and I hope you will support the Superintendent's budget.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [108.28.94.166](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:49 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Nabil
Last-Name = Al-Tikriti
Address1 = 4 Greenland Ct.
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22405
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget
Written-Comment = I plan to speak in person.
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = [192.65.245.83](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:49 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Henrika

Last-Name = Settles

Address1 = 8 Braewood Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I am unable to attend in person but am kindly asking the Board of Supervisors to approve the Superintendent's budget for SCPS. I fully support that it may increase my taxes, but it will be worth the cost to help better educate our students. If funding is decreased, it will just limit a student's potential and increase the chances of them becoming unproductive adults. Please continue to move our County forward and I hope you will support the Superintendent's budget.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [108.28.94.166](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:48 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Aaron
Last-Name = Misyak
Address1 = 543 Apricot St
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Comments for the record:I'm writing to express my support for increasing the real estate taxes as needed to meet the budgetary needs of the Stafford County Public Schools System. I myself am a product of this school system. I went to Park Ridge Elementary School starting in second grade and went on to graduate North Stafford High School. I went to college, came back to Stafford and have started a family here. My daughter is now a Student at Park Ridge Elementary School and my son is soon to follow. Her teachers have worked hard to provide her a good education and they are succeeding. That said, I see the conditions the schools are in, the trailers, and the need to ensure that Stafford is competitive at keeping and adding to our talented teaching staff as the costs of living rise. The teachers deserve better. My daughter deserves better. Please do what is necessary to ensure a bright future for Stafford and its students.Thank you!

Plan-to-speak = Thank you for your service in representing your constituents.

Client IP = [72.83.52.38](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sara

Last-Name = Kirstein

Address1 = 15 Baldwin Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I currently have a fifth grader and a seventh grader in Stafford County Schools. Last summer, we returned from three years in Okinawa with DoDEA schools. I was shocked and saddened to see how far back they are here than the kids in Okinawa. I know that COVID was a majorly challenging time, but that is all the more reason to invest in our children. I can't believe that Stafford is 112th in VA for funding schools. We should be embarrassed. I fully support a budget that is refocused on our children instead of bureaucracy and unnecessary overhead. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Plan-to-speak = Please add these to the record. I do not intend to speak at this meeting.

Client IP = [174.196.128.217](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kelly

Last-Name = Flynn

Address1 = 103 Black Hawk Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = As a parent of three children in Stafford schools, we need to drastically raise our school budget and give our teachers a raise. No one in this county should get a raise before our teachers. No one. Limited educational resources are forcing great teachers and administrators to leave. How could this country prioritize anything over the education of our children? The schools budget needs to be comparable to surrounding counties. We are losing our competitive edge. People will start leaving the county if it continues to underfund our schools.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [168.245.155.14](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Antonio

Last-Name = Contreras

Address1 = 17 Westchester Ct

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Board members: the decline in county budget allocation, per student and in relation to percentage in school budget, cannot stand. Even if the school budget could be 100% funded by the state, I would still demand that my county board go above and beyond to ensure our students are provided with the best environment, teachers, staff and facilities. Despite the recent improvements to North Stafford High, I simply know this to not be the case. How can one of the richest counties in Virginia rank near the bottom of the state in financing? Unacceptable, and more so considering the academic record. Suggesting a 100% increase in board compensation when our schools can't compete in compensating our teachers and funding basic services such as bus drivers? Surely you must be joking. A cost of living / inflation increase might be more palatable.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [96.231.139.27](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Ashley
Last-Name = Jenkins
Address1 = 171 MOFFETT LN
City = FREDERICKSBURG
State = VA
Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = 7pm--As a member of the community, mother to a child in school, I beg you to consider the benefit of increasing the school budget rather than lining your own pockets. I whole heartedly understand the need too improve salaries HOWEVER, I would say that improving the salaries of our first responders and schools should be prioritized in the budget ahead of your own. I am unsure what you need personal assistants or a 100% pay increase for, unless you're well below the poverty line- which I doubt. I pay a lot in taxes for my kids to go to good schools, which we moved within the county and increased our cost of living to ensure they stay in. It is incredibly selfish for you to essentially defund our schools further after they were so highly sought out. People will vote with their money by moving out of the county because there's no longer a benefit of being in stafford county. Thank you.

Plan-to-speak = 7pm meeting-not speaking

Client IP = [174.196.139.18](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:29 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Krystyne

Last-Name = Meyer

Address1 = 501 Rumford Road

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Please do not dismiss the carefully outlined needs of our county. Please do not underestimate the value of losing great teachers to surrounding districts. Please do not miss the chance to demonstrate the value you place on our education. Please know that our students are learning from all of us adults as we work to handle these challenges. Please let the educational experts be heard as far as what is needed. Please recognize there is a need that is not being met and your leadership here makes or breaks it for us. Do the right thing. The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.66.101.238](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Amanthis

Last-Name = Miller

Address1 = 80 Cherry Laurel Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors, As a parent of two young children in Stafford County, I strongly support increasing the school budget. Our children are the future of this community, and investing in their education is essential for their success, and the prosperity of our county as a whole. It's essential that we have adequate resources to provide excellent instruction, support services, and programs that help all students succeed. With an increased budget, Stafford County schools can support opportunities and the resources necessary to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, as well as ensure our schools are in adequate condition and busses run as scheduled. I understand the amount committed to schools has increased over the years, however it has not increased proportionally and Stafford County lags behind other counties. I urge you to consider increasing the school budget to ensure that our children receive the education they need to succeed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [173.71.219.90](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:17 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Valerie

Last-Name = Irizarry

Address1 = 21 Mulberry Ln

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Plan to speak

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [172.58.243.228](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Erica

Last-Name = Doherty

Address1 = 19 Saint Charles Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = Plan to speak at the 7pm meeting. Thank you.

Client IP = [71.178.172.111](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Daniel

Last-Name =

Address1 = 3 Craig Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-74, R23-124, R23-125 - Personal Property and Other Tax Rates, Real Estate Tax, Fire Levy

Written-Comment = Increase is way to steep. No feasibility plan advertised. School board selects those "friendly" to the advisories. No vision laid out. Stafford can tax franchises that snuff small business while refusing to give nationally advertised things to Vets or kids in Rec league. It's too much and too insensitive considering the times.

Plan-to-speak = I vote no until the board can come up with alternative funding and less of an impact. In fact, I think this proposal is insulting b

Client IP = [174.196.130.111](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Lynsey & Tyler

Last-Name = Bowers

Address1 = 29 Quarter Horse Ct

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = [not speaking, just a comment] FUND THE SCHOOLS. Children aged 18 and younger may only be 20% of our county's citizens, but they are 100% of our future and we owe it to them to do better - we need qualified teachers in every classroom and enough classrooms for every child. This should be non-negotiable. Our children deserve to have the best education and teachers as our surrounding counties do. We do not need to give more raises to board members when Stafford Co schools are trying to keep the lights on, buses running and PAYING OUR TEACHERS MORE.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [50.205.18.53](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Lynsey & Tyler

Last-Name = Bowers

Address1 = 29 Quarter Horse Ct

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = [not speaking, just a comment] FUND THE SCHOOLS. Children aged 18 and younger may only be 20% of our county's citizens, but they are 100% of our future and we owe it to them to do better - we need qualified teachers in every classroom and enough classrooms for every child. This should be non-negotiable. Our children deserve to have the best education and teachers as our surrounding counties do. We do not need to give more raises to board members when Stafford Co schools are trying to keep the lights on, buses running and PAYING OUR TEACHERS MORE.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [50.205.18.53](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:12 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Monika

Last-Name = Robinson

Address1 = 217 PEPPER TREE LN

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = In the 11 years we have lived here, many teachers that I know have left Stafford County for Prince William County because of the difference in salary. Our schools are falling apart, teachers and students alike are frustrated. Our children do not even have the same opportunities as those in Prince William County when it comes to fields of study. Even in Stafford County, the areas that are considered wealthy have better schools, and sports. This is not okay.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [138.88.127.71](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Arnie

Last-Name = Howe

Address1 = 11 Thaxton Court

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = As a mother of two elementary school aged children, it's chilling to see the graphs showing a drastic decline in financial help for Stafford county public schools. Our children's education should be first priority. I am so against the idea of a 100% raise towards the Board of Supervisors. Why in the world do they need all of that? I ask because I have constantly been donating items to my children's school that should have already been provided!!! As a graduate from SCPS, I believe I had it better in my public school years. I'd like for my children to have the same opportunities as I did, and I'd love for Stafford county teachers to feel like they are paid their worth.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [100.36.3.127](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:07 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kamran

Last-Name = Qureshi

Address1 = 10 Wexwood ct

City = Stafford

State = Va

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = I have been a resident of Stafford county since 1993. I have 2 children and a wife. My oldest child is a senior at aNSHS and my young son is in 8th grade at RTMS. I am not one to speak in public. So I am choosing to talk to you through this section. The most important thing we as parents have to do is go e our children the opportunity to get the best education. In today's world, even public education is not free. We all have to agree that we as a group need to pay for the education through taxes. And good teachers are not cheap. Let's not forget that the teachers are also working class citizens who want what is best for their family. And they want to make as much money as they can , or feel they are worth. There is nothing wrong with that. Ut just like anything else in life, the best usually cost a little more. So ittom line is that let's raise the taxes so that we can pay and keep the best teachers. Teachers teach for the love of the profession. It takes a very special person to teach a child. Let's pay them. A teacher should have a starting salary of \$50k to \$60k per year in their first year at Stafford county. Regardless of which grade they teach.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [50.216.26.170](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:07 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Joanna
Last-Name = Billia-Pashos
Address1 = 2007 Harpoon Dr
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Written-Comment = Increase Funding for Schools
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = [67.166.178.197](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:02 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Carrie

Last-Name = Misyak

Address1 = 543 Apricot Street

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 3pm

Written-Comment = Our schools need funding. Please give the schools every cent they ask for, or more because they could frankly use it. It is inexcusable that another elementary school has not yet been built and our children are packed into over crowded schools and trailers. We are one of the wealthiest counties in the state, but we lag in funding our schools. In the next election, I will not vote for anyone who approves of a budget that gives themselves a raise and yet does not fully fund our school. Prioritize our future by prioritizing our children.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [72.83.52.38](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 3:01 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kelly

Last-Name =

Address1 = 21 Goldcup Dr.

City =

State =

Zip =

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Good evening. My name is Kelly and I have been a resident of Stafford county for over 10 years. I also am a former employee of Stafford county public schools where I worked as an educator before taking a prolonged break from the school system in order to raise and invest in my children and it is for those children, and the children of Stafford county, that I am writing. I have watched the struggles of our educational community over the past several years and as a resident, educator, and parent I am appalled and disappointed. How can we, in good faith, continue to display the gross negligence we have exhibited in our county's educational system, staff, and structures and yet be labeled as one of the wealthiest counties in VA? How can we continue to advertise our community as a positive place to build, develop, and grow our community when we make NO INVESTMENT in it's educational future? As a county, we are demanding what is quite frankly unrealistic expectations from our educators and are not even committing to the decency of paying them a decent wage which would allow them to reside, on a single family income, in the very county they teach for. We are losing valuable educators, individuals who are invested in our community and it's youth, to other counties or even total career changes because they simply cannot afford to continue to work in one of the WEALTHIEST counties in VA and earn a wage that allows them to survive. In short, Stafford county's financial irresponsibility in it's treatment of our educators and the educational system is insulting, demeaning, and has long term repercussions not only for our county but our youth as well. Please, I implore you, as you consider the budget for the upcoming 2023/2024 year to invest and allot more for our educators and schools. They deserve it, and so do our kids.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [173.71.212.65](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Christopher

Last-Name = Denning

Address1 = 1 Brush Everard Ct

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I plan to make a short comment in support of a larger budget allocation to the Stafford Public School System.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [72.83.224.46](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Megan

Last-Name = Green

Address1 = 312 Edwards Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak.

Client IP = [68.100.223.15](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Anne
Last-Name = Gregory
Address1 = 500 Stefaniga Rd
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Written Comments Only, I do not plan to speak: I believe strongly that our school system is a major reason why people choose to move to and remain in Stafford County. As one of the wealthiest counties in the country, I find it interesting that we are among the lowest in per pupil spending and budget proportional allocation to the school system. The schools are struggling to find and retrain top teachers, staff and administrators when surrounding counties offer more. Our transportation division also struggles to maintain staffing. Our educational gap from the pandemic is not closing as quickly as surrounding counties. All of this is a direct result of a budget allocation that falls short of the need. Please fund the schools as they have requested. I understand that many people are upset about the real estate tax increase that will be incurred due to the budget levels. However, we are also the only northern Virginia county to not have a BPOL/business license tax. If the Board wishes to reign in real estate taxes while also funding our schools and programs appropriately, then perhaps it is time to move away from an inventory tax and to a BPOL system. Stafford County may argue the lack of BPOL makes the county attractive to business, but it should not be at the expense of county students, programs, and residents.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [104.28.77.172](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Christopher

Last-Name = Denning

Address1 = 1 Brush Everard Ct

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I plan to make a short comment in support of a larger budget allocation to the Stafford Public School System.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [72.83.224.46](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kim

Last-Name = Lundberg

Address1 = 6 Firehawk Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Let's support funding our Stafford schools at a higher rate to keep up with growth. Let's pay our teachers a fair wage so we don't lose them. We are falling behind other counties.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.66.101.237](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:51 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Angela
Last-Name = Murphy
Address1 = 3 Jolie Ct
City = Fredericksburg
State = Virginia
Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = I am a substitute teacher at Colonial Forge High School and my children have attended SCPS their whole lives. I have the utmost respect and praise for all the staff I have encountered over the years. They really do so much with the meager budget they are provided. If the last 3 years have taught us anything it's just how critical our teachers and support staff are to the county's children. Please give the schools more money to continue their excellent work. I'm so tired of hearing how this teacher or that nurse is now working for a school up north because the pay is better. Why can't we in Stafford County put 60% of our tax resources to the schools? If all the counties up north can figure out how to make it work we can too...unless they really are just better than us.

Plan-to-speak = I am not going to be speaking at the meeting. I just wanted to let you on the board know how I felt on the matter. Thank you.

Client IP = [98.169.151.170](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jason

Last-Name = Yorgensen

Address1 = 16 Ridge Pointe Lane

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = As a citizen of stafford county and a parent of two growing kids I worry about budget priorities and how my tax dollars are being spent. In our household we need to priorities needs versus wants. I believe our elected officials should do the same. As we look at our budget priorities a need that should be addressed is the investment in our children. As the world continues to get smaller with the advancements in technology our kids need to be able to keep up. Education is the foundation of how we invest in our children. When looking at the budget parents expect you as our elected officials to speak and support the kids. I can understand the want to get a raise or invest in other places. The best investment your vote can make is in our kids. I promise the return will be greater than any other investment you will make.

Plan-to-speak = I do not plan to speak.

Client IP = [71.171.100.106](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Brooke

Last-Name = Arnendinger

Address1 = 30 Country Manor Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = As a Paraprofessional working in Stafford County Schools since Dec 2022 I can say with 100% fact that our schools are SEVERELY under funded. My family and I moved here from the Dallas area in Sept 2022 and I was very much looking forward to being apart of this school district. But now, working in the school I can say that it saddens me how little the county cares about our schools, kids, and staff. Teachers are DRAINED and feel hopeless. We are so beyond stressed out and getting by with crumbs. Stafford County is one of the wealthiest counties in VA yet our schools rank at 112th out of 133 school districts... how? We need to shift our attention to our schools MAJORLY before it is too late and we fail these kids.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [38.73.227.198](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:46 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jessica
Last-Name = Marschall
Address1 = 375 WHITE OAK RD
City = FREDERICKSBURG
State = VA
Zip = 224052767

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = We have had 5 students within the school district over the past seven years. It is only thanks to teachers and administrators essentially donating their time and having the resources to provide additional educational opportunities to our children that they were able to thrive. I am also a CPA of 22 years and provide consulting for many local clients. Teachers living within our district are unable to afford housing and expenses based upon an SCPS salary alone. I often have clients with 2-3 additional 1099 part-time positions just to maintain rent or a modest mortgage. Add this to the mountain of responsibilities we lay upon teachers, and the more competitive PW and FCPS salaries a short drive away. Our daughter once had an advanced math HS teacher leave mid-semester for a better paying job in PW leaving her with a long-term sub without a math degree. We weathered that storm because we had the home resources to assist our children. Many do not. When traveling to places like Vienna, VA it is clear why people spend \$1.5 million for a modest home. The streets have sidewalks, there are no Confederate flags, no vape stores or storage units on every block, and a school district where excellence is demanded. Our property taxes are crazily low. We can afford to pay more and would happily do so to funnel the necessary funds to fairly compensate teachers and administrators. Most people would never proactively move to SCPS for the schools if they have better options. They move here for the last vestige of affordable housing. While it is beyond the scope of this request to request allocations for local beautification, removal of abandoned homes, bans against maintaining open trash heaps in one's yard, or more vape stores than cafes, paying our teachers the bare minimum should be a no-brainer.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [96.247.193.188](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sophia

Last-Name = Ryder

Address1 = 184 Bethel Church Road

City = Fredericksburg

State = VIRGINIA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = The Stafford Board of Supervisors must fully fund the school system for the 2023-2024 school year.

As a life long county resident, I have seen the demise of a once great school system due to chronic underfunding. All but two elementary schools are overcrowded and teachers have been leaving in droves for years. If you value the children and their education, the time to put your money where your mouth is now. Stafford County is one of the richest counties in the country according to median income. We should not be ranked 112 out of 133 counties on per pupil expenditures. It's a disgrace and the percentage given to the schools has decreased 7.5% in the last twelve years. Which one of you can tell me why that is the case? How many of you are going to stand up and support our teachers and our children? We are at the point of no return. If you value education, you should vote in favor of it.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.66.101.236](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Rachel

Last-Name = Swim

Address1 = 82 Stonehaven Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I plan on speaking during the 7:00 meeting, please. Thank you

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [38.73.227.230](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Melissa

Last-Name = Laferriere-Tucker

Address1 = 20 Rose Hill Farm Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Our education budget should be the priority of Stafford county. The schools are starting to show their lack of funding with not enough paper to print homework assignments and classes getting larger. There is no reason Stafford county public schools should not be as successful as PWC or Fairfax county public schools but a larger budget is necessary for that to take place.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [76.123.19.206](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Jessica I
Last-Name = Marschall, CPA
Address1 = 375 WHITE OAK RD
City = FREDERICKSBURG
State = VA
Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = We have had 5 students within the school district over the past seven years. It is only thanks to teachers and administrators essentially donating their time and having the resources to provide additional educational opportunities to our children that they were able to thrive. I am also a CPA of 22 years and provide consulting for many local clients. Teachers living within our district are unable to afford housing and expenses based upon an SCPS salary alone. I often have clients with 2-3 additional 1099 part-time positions just to maintain rent or a modest mortgage. Add this to the mountain of responsibilities we lay upon teachers, and the more competitive PW and FCPS salaries a short drive away. Our daughter once had an advanced math HS teacher leave mid-semester for a better paying job in PW leaving her with a long-term sub without a math degree. We weathered that storm because we had the home resources to assist our children. Many do not. When traveling to places like Vienna, VA it is clear why people spend \$1.5 million for a modest home. The streets have sidewalks, there are no Confederate flags, no vape stores or storage units on every block, and a school district where excellence is demanded. Our property taxes are crazily low. We can afford to pay more and would happily do so to funnel the necessary funds to fairly compensate teachers and administrators. Most people would never proactively move to SCPS for the schools if they have better options. They move here for the last vestige of affordable housing. While it is beyond the scope of this request to request allocations for local beautification, removal of abandoned homes, bans against maintaining open trash heaps in one's yard, or more vape stores than cafes, paying our teachers the bare minimum should be a no-brainer.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [96.247.193.188](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Al

Last-Name = Shabty

Address1 = 7 clark lane

City = Stafford

State = Virginia

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I plan to speak

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.196.135.221](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Dr. Robert

Last-Name = Harris

Address1 = 09 Smelters Trace Rd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22254

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Plan to speak.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [168.245.155.36](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Josh
Last-Name = Keefe
Address1 = 28 Christopher Way
City = Stafford
State = VA
Zip = 22554
Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget
Written-Comment =
Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak at the meeting
Client IP = [172.58.187.171](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Krystal
Last-Name = Cardenas
Address1 = 76 Affirmed Drive
City = Stafford
State = Va
Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm

Written-Comment = Written comments only. The proposed plan for the Stafford county schools is not a debate. It's a need and a necessity. With the news we've been seeing all too often now with frequent school shootings, and violence in the classroom, we need to work hard to retain those teachers that have so willingly and sacrificially given themselves to work hard to build up our youth, academically, socially, and emotionally. Our kids spend more time in school than with their families. These teachers work countless hours on and off the clock to provide, and continue to keep our kids safe. This is bare minimum that Stafford is asking for our students and employees to retain these amazing teachers, keep transportation going for these kids in a world where both parents need to be able to work and still feel they can have transportation for their kids, and the safety of our children. Do the right thing.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [174.216.181.158](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Molly
Last-Name = Denham
Address1 = 232 Holly Berry Rd
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22406
Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 7pm
Written-Comment = I plan to speak on the school budget
Plan-to-speak =
Client IP = [34.236.249.3](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Dr. Robert

Last-Name = Harris

Address1 = 09 Smelters Trace Rd

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22254

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Plan to speak.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [168.245.155.36](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:36 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Ruth Cady

Last-Name = Bell

Address1 = 651 Lancaster St

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = My children attend Falmouth Elementary School. It is my understanding that our county school funding is dramatically low. I cannot stress the importance of aiding to the school budget. Not only are the student to teacher ratios quite high, there are more and more children added each year. As a mother of two children with special needs, I can assure you that this environment is doing a disservice to those who are legally required to be educated in the least restrictive environment when educators and staff are being wildly overworked. Please modify the county budget. Thank you

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [172.58.243.247](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Michele

Last-Name = Wickman

Address1 = 305 Bentley Court

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak = Plan to speak

Client IP = [174.66.101.227](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 2:34 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Vanessa

Last-Name = Carletto

Address1 = 212 Determination Drive

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment =

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [172.58.188.121](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:31 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Cacilia

Last-Name = Sheefer

Address1 = 9 Aquia Ave

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22556

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Plan to speak

Plan-to-speak = Plan to speak

Client IP = [73.216.176.180](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 2:21 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Bridget

Last-Name = Obeng

Address1 = 1924 Sierra Dr

City = Fredericksburg

State = Va

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = Dear Supervisors, Thank you for taking the time to read this comment. I would like to sincerely ask you to raise the budget for the public schools. I grew in in Stafford Schools and now also work for SCPS, and we consistently struggle with overcrowding, insufficient funds for supplies, and low wages. Because of these struggles, we lose a lot of teachers to NOVA or other surrounding counties, creating instability for our kids and our strategic plans. Research shows it costs about twice as much to recruit a staff member than to retain one. Raising our budget would give us the opportunity to work more on retention by making SCPS the wonderful place to work that it has the potential to be. Fully funded schools will help us ease overcrowding by building new schools, attract and retain high quality staff, and have enough supplies and opportunities for every kid to thrive in our rapidly growing county. No kid should fall through the cracks, but with high staff turnover and insufficient funds, there is more potential to fail our kids. Our kids are our future, and our public schools are a #1 priority for the public in Stafford County. Please fully fund our schools. Thank you.

Bridget Obeng

Plan-to-speak = This is an online submission as I cannot attend on Tuesday. Thank you.

Client IP = [173.67.255.170](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply@revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 8:44 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Kristen

Last-Name = McBee

Address1 = 18 Reserve way

City = Fredericksburg

State = Virginia

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = Presentations by the Public 3pm

Written-Comment = As a parent to young children in this county, I am asking that the BOS takes into consideration the need for our schools. We want Stafford to grow in a positive direction and whether you like it or not - supporting the schools is the number one way to do that. Our teachers and school staff need your support in order to continue making Stafford and helping our kids grow and learn! Make our schools a place that not only kids want to be but the support staff want to be! Families moving into counties look first and foremost at the schools. Make our schools great - support the budget. Be the solution and fix the ever growing issues with the school budget - support our kids, teachers, support staff, principals and Elevate Stafford!

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [73.147.152.222](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Daniel

Last-Name = Palmer

Address1 = 112 Cotton Blossom Ct

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = I plan to speak.

Plan-to-speak = I plan to speak.

Client IP = [71.171.110.158](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 5:24 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Daniel

Last-Name = Pare

Address1 = 99 Hopewell Drive

City = Fredericksburg

State = VA

Zip = 22406

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = My name is Dan Pare and I currently have two sons at Hartwood Elementary, with a third beginning in August. I'm a recently retired Marine, who chose to move my family to Stafford County over Loudoun and Fairfax, because Stafford still offers a quality public education without the overt political agenda. I'm here to talk about the lack of public education funding Stafford County has been dealing with for many years. Stafford County has been booming over the last few years, with an influx of federal government transplants, such as myself, immigrants, and refugees. Our schools are over capacity, yet our county budget for education is ranked 112 out of 132 in the commonwealth. I am not just a parent of HES students, but I am also a PTA member, a Scout Leader and STEM Mentor at Rocky Run Elementary, and a religious education catechist for Holy Cross Academy; all of which are volunteer positions. I am also actively donating to a project to grow HCA. My wife and I understand the importance of a quality education, and I know the potential of the young generation in my community. I grew up in Southeastern MA, to a middle-class family, in a medium sized city with awful public schools. My parents sacrificed to give me a quality education at Catholic Schools from K-12, but as a gifted student, I was not challenged due to the lack of resources offered. This caused my interest in class to diminish, which sometimes left me to being disruptive in class. At that time, my doctor assumed it was just another case of ADHD and prescribed me medication. It wasn't a mental illness, it was simply boredom. I went from being a top performer in my class to barely graduating. I think that had I had more resources available to me, specifically, subjects I was interested in, I wouldn't have had to play "catch up" with math and the sciences in my adulthood. During the pandemic, I started my kids at private school in NC and they excelled. Once I retired, my wife and I decided to give the public system here a chance, though they were both already accepted to Holy Cross. We have been dialed into the school board meetings for over a year, and began watching the live streams from NC when the mask debates were going on last winter. So far we have been very happy with the staff and programs offered by HES, but I can see how resources are already stretched thin. Bottom line is the county needs to allocate more funding for our schools. I understand that will mean a tax increase, and as a former Florida resident, I understand how paying income tax, real estate, and property taxes here hurts. Our kids are worth the investment. We need a new elementary school in the southern part of the county, and everything that new school comes with. We need to continue renovating and updating the space and technology in our current schools, and we need to make teacher pay competitive for recruitment and retainment. We need to get back to the basics of education, and in doing so, some of the money currently spent can be reallocated to focus on the liberal arts of a classical education with the addition of STEM. We need to make sure our county helps those kids affected by COVID lockdowns to catch up to their grade level, while not holding back the kids who excel in the name of equity. In order to do that, funding and growth for our education system must be a top priority for the foreseeable future. We have to do better. Thank you for your time.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [172.58.243.11](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First-Name = David
Last-Name = Hempe
Address1 = 2007 Sierra Drive
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA 22405
Zip = 22405

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = It is ridiculous to raise real estate rates and personal property rates by 38 percent in Stafford at this time. The economy is not on an upward trend, prices continue to rise with inflation, interest rates continue to hurt spending power and now to punish those that can help invest in real estate and buying and driving cars in Stafford must bear more burden. Unacceptable. There are so many areas of waste in Stafford especially with duplicated overhead staff at high schools - why have 8 assistant principals at a high school to manage by alphabetical name kids. It is baby sitting and not cost effective. There are other examples as well with overhead of rec at parks etc. We now get charged to take our trash, get charged to go to parks, everything is a charge. Young families already can't invest in Stafford and mover to Spotsylvania and south because they can't invest here because of what we do here. Why do cars less than 10 years old have to be smogged - how many ever fail, just cost here. This is the easy way out of trying to find the real solutions to save.

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [155.178.180.11](#)

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Sandra
Last-Name = Erickson
Address1 = 325A Wallace Street
City = Fredericksburg
State = VA
Zip = 22401

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-75, R23-76 - Fiscal Year 2024 County Budget

Written-Comment = PLANNING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS GREATER FREDERICKSBURG AT 7 P.M. ON APRIL 4. Honorable Ladies & Gentlemen of the Board, County Administrator and Staff, My name is Sandra Erickson. I am the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Greater Fredericksburg, and a resident of Stafford County. We extend our gratitude for your past funding support. We sincerely appreciate Stafford's commitment to our mission to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors asks the Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed funding request of \$5,418 to help local children achieve their full potential. Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization that helps children realize educational success, builds their futures, and strengthens our community. This funding will help us continue to enroll children and volunteer mentors; conduct background checks and train mentors; and provide consistent support to the mentors and mentees. We will continue to partner with Stafford County schools to provide mentoring for students who need additional support to meet learning standards. The power of one mentor can change a child's life. One of the children enrolled in our program recently said: "My Big has really gotten me through a lot. I love talking to her because she always listens to me and makes me feel important. When we talk, I can talk to her about anything: problems that happen at home, problems that happen in school, peer pressures, and social problems. Me and my Big also talk about my future and what I want to do when I get out of school, like the Navy and different colleges." These relationships help provide children with hope for the future, consistency, and a role model to look up to. Big Brothers Big Sisters is here to serve children who live in adverse situations and have experienced elevated levels of trauma. Our Staff serves as a resource by providing information about community services to help families navigate these challenges. Our mentors work with children on healthy behavior and choices that allow them to achieve higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships. Studies report that students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking. Avoiding risky behavior has a massive effect on life outcomes. One study reports that after one-to-one mentoring, mentees were 78% more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities. These are the things that make a community healthy and strong. Our mentoring program is more vital than ever. By virtue of our program design, we nurture resilience in children. We are uniquely positioned to help students with academic, social and emotional support to learn, grow and thrive. If you know of someone who would like to be a mentor or have a youth that would benefit from being enrolled in the program, please direct them to our website – bbbsfred.org. Thank you, for joining with Big Brothers Big Sisters, in investing in the county's children. Together, we are, defenders of potential.

Plan-to-speak = PLANNING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS GREATER FREDERICKSBURG AT 7 P.M. ON APRIL 4.

Client IP = 68.100.147.53

Julia E. Holmes

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Cheryl D. Giles
Cc: Julia E. Holmes
Subject: Speaker Card

First-Name = Alie

Last-Name = Hoole

Address1 = 210 Greenspring Dr

City = Stafford

State = VA

Zip = 22554

Subject-Comments = April 4, 2023 Resolution R23-77 - FY2023-FY2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Written-Comment = Signing up to speak 7 pm

Plan-to-speak =

Client IP = [138.88.183.245](#)