BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MINUTES
ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – The annual meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Randal E. Vosburg, County Administrator, at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA.

ROLL CALL – The following members were present: Tinesha O. Allen; Meg Bohmke; Deuntay T. Diggs; Darrell E. English; Monica L. Gary; Crystal L. Vanuch; Dr. Pamela Yeung.

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.

INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. English gave the invocation and Mr. Diggs led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN
Mr. Vosburg opened the floor to nominations for Chairman.

Ms. Vanuch nominated Ms. Bohmke for Chairman.

Ms. Gary nominated Ms. Allen for Chairman.

Mr. Vosburg asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none, he called the vote to nominate Ms. Bohmke for Chairman.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Bohmke opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Diggs nominated Ms. Allen for Vice-Chair.

Mr. English nominated Ms. Vanuch for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Bohmke asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none, she called the vote to nominate Ms. Allen for Vice-Chair.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

RECESS

The Board took a three-minute recess to reorganize their seats. The Board recessed its meeting at 3:06 p.m. and reconvened at 3:09 p.m.

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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

Mr. Vosburg said that in the folders before the Board, there was an addition for a new business item. He said that this concerned approving an economic development incentive agreement between Amazon Data Services, Inc., and the Economic Development Authority of Stafford County (EDA). He said that they would find several handouts and attachments related to this item in their folders. He said also that there were some handouts concerning Board appointments and newly submitted Board bank applications since the agenda was distributed.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

ADD-ON TO NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC. AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF STAFFORD COUNTY (EDA).

2024 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

CONSIDER AND APPROVE 2024 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to approve proposed Resolution R24-01, the 2024 Board meeting schedule.

Ms. Bohmke said that there was a date in May on which she had an event, so she would like to move that second meeting in May to the following Tuesday, if the Board was amenable.

Ms. Gary said that she did not have any objections but wanted to verify if there were other meetings scheduled in the County during that time period. She said that this was to ensure that they could inform the public and address concerns regarding overlapping moved meetings with School Board meetings. She said that she would like to know if they had the information about what other events were on their calendar.

Ms. Bohmke said that it would be after they set the tax rate, but if they wanted to go ahead and approve the calendar and come back to it after people had an opportunity to look at their calendars, she felt that was fair. She asked if there were any other changes. Seeing none, she called for the vote to approve the 2024 Board meeting schedule.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R24-01 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1416 and the Board's By-laws and Rules of Procedure, the time and place of regular meetings of the Board shall be established at the Board's annual/organizational meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that regular meetings be held in the Board Chambers at the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road Stafford, Virginia, generally on the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 3:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, regular meetings, without further public notice, may be adjourned from day-to-day, from time-to-time, or from place-to-place, not beyond the time fixed for the next regular meeting, until the business of the Board is completed; and

WHEREAS, should the Board subsequently prescribe any meeting time or place other than that initially established herein, it will in compliance with Virginia Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board has incorporated the Budget calendar into its meeting schedule, but such topics and subjects are informational only and if any subject needs to be amended, the Board may do so without amending this Resolution or its meeting schedule;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that it be and hereby does establish the following meeting dates for 2024:

January 02, 2024	Annual/Organizational Meeting
January 16, 2024	Regular Meeting Mid-Year Financial Review
February 06, 2024	Regular Meeting
February 9-10, 2024	Annual Planning Meeting
February 20, 2024	Regular Meeting County Administrator Proposed FY2025 Operating Budget and FY2025-35 CIP
February 22, 2024	Budget Work Session – General Fund
February 27, 2024	Budget Work Session – Joint Board and School Board meeting for Schools to Present their Budget
March 05, 2024	Regular Meeting At Evening Session – Authorize Public Hearings for the FY2025 Budget, the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Tax Rates, CIP, and VPSA
March 05, 2024	Budget Work Session – Other Funds
March 7, 2024	Budget Work Session – Joint Board and School Board meeting for the School Board/staff to discuss School's Budget
March 11-15, 2024	*Stafford County Public Schools Spring Break*
March 19, 2024	Regular Meeting

	Public Hearings for FY25 Budget, CY24 Tax Rates, CIP, and VPSA
March 19, 2024	Budget Work Session – CIP
March 26, 2024	Budget Work Session – Finalize the Board's Budget
April 02, 2024	Regular Meeting Third Quarter Financial Review At Evening Session – Adoption of CY2024 Tax Rates, FY2025 Budget, CIP, and VPSA
April 16, 2024	Regular Meeting
May 07, 2024	Regular Meeting
May 21, 2024	Regular Meeting
June 04, 2024	Regular Meeting
June 18, 2024	Regular Meeting
July 02, 2024	Regular Meeting
	Summer Recess
August 20, 2024	Regular Meeting
September 03, 2024	Regular Meeting
September 10, 2024	Joint Board of Supervisor & Economic Development Authority Meeting
September 17, 2024	Regular Meeting
October 01, 2024	Regular Meeting
October 15, 2024	Regular Meeting

November 05, 2024	*Election Day*
November 07, 2024	Regular Meeting (Tentative)
November 10-12, 2024	*VACO Annual Meeting*
November 19, 2024	Regular Meeting
November 27, 2024	General Assembly Delegation Dinner Meeting
December 03, 2024	BACC Holiday Event
December 17, 2024	Regular Meeting

CLOSED MEETING

At 3:11 p.m., Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to adopt Resolution CM24-01 to authorize closed session.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Resolution CM24-01 reads as follows:
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for (1) discussion and consideration of certain Board appointments; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that it be and hereby does authorize discussion of the above matters in Closed Meeting.

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

At 5:45 p.m., Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Dr. Yeung, to adopt Resolution CM24-01(C) to certify the closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

<u>Resolution CM24-01 (C) reads as follows</u>:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE
STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED
MEETING ON JANUARY 2, 2024

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, 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 2nd day of January, 2024, 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.

<u>RECESS</u>

The Board recessed at 5:47 p.m. and reconvened at 5:57 p.m.

<u>BOARD APPOINTMENTS</u>

<u>MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS.</u>

Ms. Bohmke said that they would address appointments and reappointments to the County's Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions. She said that staff had contacted volunteers whose terms expired on December 31, 2023, to ascertain if they wished to be reappointed. She said that Board members had indicated their recommended appointments where vacancies existed or terms had ended. She said that Ms. McClendon would provide a list of all the Board committee appointments that require appointments or reappointments. She said that she would be asking for a motion and a second on each one individually, which may take some time. She said that she appreciated the public's patience.

Ms. Bohmke said that beginning with the regional boards, the first appointment was the ADA Grievance Committee.

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Allen, to reappoint all members.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to reappoint all members except Mr. Rudy to the Advisory Board for Law Enforcement Towing.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint all members to the Advisory Board on Private Trespass except Mr. Rudy.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Tim O'Leary (George Washington District) to the Agricultural and Land Conservation Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint Kim Taylor-Wilson to the Architectural Review Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to reappoint Fred Donahoe to the Board of Social Services.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve R24-03, appointing Everet Blaisdell (Hartwood District) and Steve Gorski to serve as an alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Resolution R24-03 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER AND AN ALTERNATE MEMBER AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

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

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

WHEREAS, the term for the alternate member seat held by Steve Gorski expired on December 31, 2023, and the Board desires to recommend reappointing Steve Gorski, who has indicated a desire to be reappointed; and

WHEREAS, the term for the Hartwood District seat expired on December 31, 2023, and the Board desires to recommend appointing Mr. Everet Blaisdell to the seat, who has indicated a desire to be appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to recommend to the Circuit Court the reappointments and appointment, as described below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that

NAME	DISTRICT	EXPIRATION DATE
Steve Gorski	Alternate Member	December 31, 2028
Everet Blaisdell	Hartwood District	December 31, 2028

be and they hereby are recommended for reappointments and appointment, respectively, for the district and term stated above to the Stafford County Board of Zoning Appeals; and

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

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to appoint Melanesse Nauta (George Washington District) on the Diversity Advisory Coalition.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to appoint Ruby Brabo (George Washington District) to the FAMPO/Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint James L. Hepner as member-at-large for the unexpired term and Bruce Sullivan as member-at-large to the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Emily Torrey as staff liaison for the Hidden Lake Service District Advisory Board.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Frank White (George Washington District) to the Historical Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint Uriah Kiser to the Lake Arrowhead Service District Advisory Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to appoint Mike Sienkowski to the Treasurer seat and Randy Helwig to the Local Finance Board (OPEB).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Jay Rucker (Rock Hill District) to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Kristen Barnes (Rock Hill District), Kelsey Caudill (George Washington District), and Carlos Bratton (Griffis-Widewater District) on the Planning Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to reappoint Gregory Solokowski to the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint Andrea Light and William C. Tignor to the Rappahannock Juvenile Detention Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to reappoint Charles "Lindy" Kirkland and Samer Shalaby, and appoint Robin Dreeke as member-at-large to the Stafford Regional Airport Authority.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint Wanda Blackwell, Kelly Carder, Earl Cornish, Jr., Steven Herman, and appoint Chad Perry (George Washington District) to the Telecommunications Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Mike Sienkowski to the Treasurer seat on the Transportation Impact Fees Board of Appeals.

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

Mr. Diggs motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to reappoint Gregory Cox (Rock Hill District), and Nancy Sullivan (Griffis-Widewater District), and appoint Nathan Reese (George Washington District) to the Utilities Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary to reappoint Anthony Pineau to the Wetlands/Chesapeake Bay Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Bohmke announced that they would start the Regional BACC Board seats next.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Ms. Bohmke to the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Ms. Gary to the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Board of Trustees.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Ms. Gary to the Community Police & Management Team for At-Risk Youth & Families.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Ms. Bohmke, Ms. Gary, and Ms. Vanuch as primary members and Mr. Diggs and Dr. Yeung as alternate members to the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Dr. Yeung as primary member and Mr. Diggs as alternate to the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Mr. Diggs and Mr. English as primary members and Dr. Yeung and Ms. Vanuch as alternate members to the George Washington Regional Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Ms. Allen to the Local Finance Board (Other Post-Employment Benefits or OPEB).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Dr. Yeung motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Allen to the Military Installation Resilience Review Policy Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve R24-02, appointing Ms. Gary and Ms. Allen as primary members and Ms. Bohmke and Dr. Yeung as alternates to the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, and appointing Ms. Bohmke and Ms. Gary as primary members and Dr. Yeung and Ms. Allen as alternates for Virginia Railway Express.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

<u>Resolution R24-02 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO THE POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AND VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS FOR 2024

WHEREAS, at its annual, organizational meeting held on January 2, 2024, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors considered appointments to its Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions (BACC); and

WHEREAS, the below named Board members agreed to serve as the primary members representing Stafford County on the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) for 2024; and

WHEREAS, the below named Board members agreed to serve as alternates on the PRTC and VRE and will provide equal representation of Stafford County in the absence of its primary members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that it be and hereby does appoint Tinesha O. Allen and Monica L. Gary as its primary members representing Stafford County on the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Meg Bohmke and Dr. R. Pamela Yeung are appointed as alternates to Stafford County's primary members on the PRTC for 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Meg Bohmke and Monica L. Gary are appointed as the primary Board members representing Stafford County on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) for 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tinesha O. Allen and Dr. R. Pamela Yeung are appointed as alternates to Stafford County's primary members on the VRE for 2024; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that these appointments are effective from the date of this Resolution through December 31, 2024.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Ms. Bohmke as primary member and Ms. Gary as alternate to the Potomac Watershed Roundtable.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Ms. Vanuch as alternate to the Public Safety Memorial Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Mr. English to the RAAA Healthy Generations Board of Directors.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to appoint Ms. Vanuch as the primary member and Mr. Diggs as alternate to the Rappahannock Regional Jail Authority Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Mr. English, to appoint Ms. Bohmke and Ms. Gary as primary members and Dr. Yeung as alternate to the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Mr. Diggs as primary member and Dr. Yeung as alternate to the Rappahannock River Basin Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Dr. Yeung as primary member to the Rappahannock Youth Services & Group Home Commission.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Mr. English to the Westlake ARB.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Gary and Dr. Yeung to the Bylaws Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Mr. Diggs, Ms. Gary, and Ms. Vanuch to the Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Mr. Diggs, Ms. Vanuch, and Dr. Yeung to the Finance, Audit, and Budget (FAB).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Allen, Ms. Bohmke, and Dr. Yeung to the Infrastructure Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Bohmke, Ms. Allen, Mr. English, and Mr. Diggs as an alternate, to the Joint School Working Committee (JSWC).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Gary, Ms. Vanuch, and Dr. Yeung to the Legislative Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to appoint Ms. Gary, Mr. English, and Ms. Vanuch to the Public Safety Committee (PSC).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to appoint Ms. Allen, Ms. Gary, and Dr. Yeung to the Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee.

Ms. Vanuch said that in order to spend staff time or schedule meetings, their bylaws needed to be updated. She said that she believed they should not appoint committees that were not structured within the bylaws. She said that in her opinion, the appropriate course of action would be to update the bylaws first and then appoint the committee as they had done with others. She said that this topic would be addressed at their upcoming Board meeting. She said that a proposed amendment typically occurred at the end of January or early February and involved discussing whether the Board supported changing the bylaws to add an additional committee.

Ms. Vanuch said that during the last Board meeting, it was suggested that there might be a need to eliminate some existing committees and establish a more structured evening meeting format, where attendees could discuss various topics rather than being restricted by specific categories.

She said that she would be voting against the appointment as it contradicted their current bylaws, since in her opinion, the proposed committee did not align with the existing structure that they had authority to appoint.

Ms. Gary said that the committee did not contradict the bylaws but rather the Board needed to modify them to ensure that staff could effectively support the committee and its structure. She said they aimed to avoid having a committee that was merely inactive. She said that to achieve this goal, they must navigate the necessary changes and provide the required support. She said that in accordance with her commitment for this year, she said she was focused on shedding light on these matters.

Ms. Gary said that they had previously discussed all of these points; however, this particular issue was brought up for further discussion. She said that the attempt to reorganize in part was aimed at eliminating this issue. She said their staff could effectively support this committee and many other tasks if they appropriately funded their general government. She said that they would address this matter soon. She said that there was one comment regarding the possibility of creating an additional committee; however, she said the Board had already supported establishing this committee.

Mr. English said that if it went against their bylaws, he could not vote in favor of it.

Dr. Yeung said that this was not against the bylaws. She said that it had occurred when a member was absent, who now felt that the committee was voted for without that Supervisor's input. She said that they should be transparent about why they did not want workforce housing. She said that there were committees regarding workforce and employment but lacked housing-related committees. She said that it was essential to advocate for transparency and truthful communication. She said that this issue was not about the committee itself. She said that it was about having a committee in relation to workforce housing.

Mr. English said that he was not against the workforce housing aspect; however, he was against adding staff until they determined if it was suitable for them. He said that this would result in more work for staff. He said that this is why he did not support the proposal, as he believed it would be an additional burden on staff until they could ascertain its feasibility.

Ms. Allen asked Ms. McClendon if, while the matter may not currently be included in their bylaws, it did not prevent them from being able to propose someone for nomination purposes and place them on the committee.

Ms. McClendon said that the committee was established by the Board through a vote, allowing its appointment. She said that the committee was not included in the Board's bylaws as a standing committee. She said that she believed that the discussion surrounding the structure of the committee and how it was supported was what the bylaws provide structure for. She said that the creation of the committee has been carried out as a policy function of the Board.

Ms. Allen asked if they could appoint individuals to the committee.

Ms. McClendon said that the Board had the option to appoint today by motion and approval of the majority.

Ms. Vanuch said that it was true that the Board could appoint members to the committee, but the committee could not commence any work unless the bylaws were amended. She said that she would prefer to amend the bylaws prior to appointing members. Ms. Vanuch asked Mr. Vosburg how they would plan to staff this particular committee and if it had financial or budgetary impacts if the Board did amend the bylaws and planned to staff it.

Mr. Vosburg said that the committee would be best supported by hiring a consultant in the future, given the staff resources currently available.

Ms. Vanuch said that she would be voting against this committee because of its potential impacts on staff and the budget.

Dr. Yeung said that an ad hoc committee had been in place for the past year, which had been staffed. She said that in order to continue the work of that committee, they may need help from someone outside the County. She asked Ms. McClendon if the committee's inclusion in the bylaws would need four votes or five votes.

Ms. McClendon said that to amend the bylaws, it required two-thirds of the Board, which would be five out of seven members, and also required notice at a previous meeting, so they would need to hold two meetings to amend the bylaws.

Ms. Bohmke called the vote for the appointments to the Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC - I (3 MINUTES EACH)

Ms. Bohmke read the protocol for public presentations.

1. Madison Morgan said that she worked for Tri-County City Soil and Water Conservation District (TCCSWCD). She said that if the Board was not familiar with them, they were a local political subdivision of the Commonwealth focusing on natural resource problems and solutions. She said that TCCSWCD provided technical assistance, information, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and newsletters to their community on aspects of water quality, non-point source pollution, and stream health.

   Ms. Morgan said that currently, they had four active staff members: an operations manager, Renee Davis; herself, Madison Morgan, responsible for education and outreach; and two conservation specialists, Courtney Coleman and Jerry Rausch. She said she would like to share with the Board some annual report statistics on how Stafford County has been supporting them and in turn, how they had been supporting Stafford.

   Ms. Morgan said that for Fiscal Year 23, Stafford County provided them with $40,894. She said that in the previous year, they invested $131,814.42 back into the community through structural practices, cover crop practices, and nutrient management practices, following Virginia's best management practices from producers. She said that on the outreach side, they reached 476 area students, specifically K-12 students.

   Ms. Morgan said that their total outreach numbers included adults and youth within their communities, amounting to 539 individuals. She said that they had already surpassed this number for the upcoming year and were looking forward to further contributions. She expressed her gratitude to Stafford; she said that their support enabled them to provide assistance to farmers, parks, schools, and the entire community.

2. Molly Denham, Hartwood District, said that she hoped everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season. She said that she came to the Board with two constituent requests for the new year. She said that first, she urged the Board to prioritize County schools genuinely, not just in words. She said that she believed that the school system was the backbone of their community.

   Ms. Denham said that a glance at the dysfunction experienced by neighboring communities when their school systems faltered demonstrated the importance of a stable and effective education system. She said that she was confident that no one on this Board wished to see their schools fail and trusted they desired better educational opportunities for all children in their community. She said that however, the Board provided more lip service than real action regarding schools.

Ms. Denham said that when the school presented an overall annual budget and the Board only funded 38% of it, that was lip service. She said that when the Board consistently canceled joint working sessions with the School Board and later complained about insufficient information or lack of cooperation, that was lip service.

Ms. Denham said she was tired of attending these meetings where Board members merely offered five-second soundbites about the importance of schools but failed to take meaningful action or make difficult decisions. She said that as they progressed into 2024, she wished for the Board to cease postponing decisions and instead address the pressing issues facing their schools. She said that secondly, she expected them to fulfill their responsibilities as elected representatives.

Ms. Denham said that most residents in this County were unaware of their political affiliations and did not care; they simply desired competent decision-making. She said that she consistently attended these meetings because she believed them to be significant and deserving of her limited spare time. She said that due to her husband's work schedule, which required him to reside in D.C. from Monday through Friday, she was a single parent during the week.

Ms. Denham said that she often needed to hire a babysitter to attend these meetings. She said that when she invested two hours of her time, as she did last week, only to witness members of this Board behaving like unruly children throwing a tantrum, it infuriated her. She said that last week's incident was not an isolated occurrence nor one-sided on the dais.

Ms. Denham said that it had happened multiple times where she witnessed the Board make illogical decisions, present irrational and absurd arguments, and unnecessarily waste constituents' valuable time due to political one-upmanship with a blatant disregard for the actual best interest of the County. She said that she found it highly insulting to her and anyone else attending a meeting when they were subjected to such pettiness.

Ms. Denham asked the Board to use their adult perspective, and when something did not go as desired, accept it and just do their job. She said that despite how it may seem that evening, she believed that the Board had the potential to function as a cohesive unit. She said that she admitted that she was still somewhat irritated from last week, but she maintained high hopes for a fantastic 2024 and wished Stafford County a great year.

3. Lou Spencer, resident of Essex County, Assistant Business Manager with UA Local 5 Plumbers and Gasfitters, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council, said that he was present to discuss the resolution for an economic development agreement with Amazon Data Services. He said that he urged them to move in favor of building the data centers as proposed and planned, citing reasons spoken on these matters in the past. He said that the decision to build lay between the Board, their constituents, and the developer.

   Mr. Spencer said that it had been their experience that data center developers and end users have been most responsive and responsible. He said that these buildings were constructed safely, properly, on time, and within budget. He said that these projects created hundreds of excellent career opportunities, which included self-funded health and retirement plans, as well as self-funded apprentice and journey person's training opportunities. He said that if they decided to build, as he hoped that they did, he knew hundreds of qualified contractors and thousands of tradespeople who were eager to get started.

4. Alane Callander, 622 Lancaster Street, Falmouth District, said that she wanted to congratulate Chair Bohmke and Vice-Chair Allen and hoped they had a good year. She said that although they started off on a rough note that day, she believed the public was incredulous about being left out during an executive session that would typically be handled in a public session. She said that she had been observing Board of Supervisors organization meetings in January for over 35 years and had never encountered a situation like this where the Board immediately went into an executive session for such a lengthy period of time. She said that they had some notion of what might have transpired during this period, but she asked that they strive for greater transparency. She said that she emerged from her December slumber and reviewed the meeting agenda yesterday.

   Ms. Callander said that there was a significant item concerning Amazon data centers. She said that upon further investigation through news sources, she discovered that there had been an unusually timed December 28 meeting of this Board had taken place to expedite the approval of the Amazon item in an emergency session rather than at a January meeting where it would typically be discussed. She said that this development was disconcerting. She said that she had been closely following land use issues in Stafford for a long time, recalled and when members of the Board of Supervisors implemented a policy of abstaining from voting on land use items in November and December.

   Ms. Callander said that they were concerned about transparency for the public and believed that after an election for seats on the Board, new Board members should have an opportunity to be involved in making land use decisions once they assumed office. She said that this was a good policy and should be followed by this Board. She said that following the November election, she focused on celebrating holidays with her family members. She said that although she continued reading newspapers, there was not a single trusted news source that consistently provided detailed, advanced articles about events like the December 28 meeting.

5. Kristin Maxson, 1816 Richmond Highway, thanked Ms. Callander for her remarks. She said that she recognized that the County was closed on December 22 and there was a special meeting, but she did not see the second emergency meeting. She said that she was able to call zoning on the December 22 meeting and they said that absolutely that meeting would have to be canceled, and then found out that because it was an emergency, they did not cancel it. She said that there was a lot of confusion about the calendar even though she thought they had it straightened out.

   Ms. Maxson said that they currently did not have a Zoning Director, and this was January 2, and they had passed a big, huge baton from 2023 to 2024 and the director had been vacant since April, or eight months. She said that the comprehensive plan used to be 2,436 and was now 1,636, with a lot of empty links. She said that the agenda on Friday was 231 pages, now it was 272 pages. She said today, she checked it at 1:25 p.m. and it had changed.

   Ms. Maxson said that they had over 4,000 pages to review over Christmas. She said that they were concerned about the civil rights and the Stafford Economic Development local performance agreement. She said that R24-04 was declared on December 12, 2023, but it was a 2024 resolution and the public did not know what it was about. She said that it was in accordance with a particular law that was presented. She said that they questioned that. She said that the appointments had a lot of empty fields, and one that was RESONUM might be a rezoning number, but the public did not understand the empty fields.

6. Jeff Adams, Kellogg Mill Road, congratulated the Board on electing a Chair in only one vote this year. He said that if he were to assign grades to Board members for their decorum at tonight’s meeting, none of them would receive very good grades. said that at his farm, there were new lambs and piglets being born. He said that he might request that he bring some livestock into this meeting; however, he would need to assess the situation before making any decisions. He said that he would like to ask if the Board would prefer to go seven days without a cell phone, data, and Amazon or seven days without food, including beverages such as coffee, tea, milk, beer, wine, and whiskey. He said that all agricultural products were considered in this scenario.

   Mr. Adams said that considering their choice between seven days with no data access or seven days without food, he said that he would bet each of them $1,000 that if they could go seven days without consuming food, he would have $7,000 in his pocket. He said that they should explore the possibility of providing a more equitable deal for farmers instead of favoring a corporation owned by one of the world's wealthiest individuals who might not need it as much as others do. He said that he was serious about requesting a reconsideration of the code of conduct because he genuinely could not sign it due to his inability to control his body language. Mr. Adams said that when he arrived and made a fool of himself, sometimes it was intentional, and other times it was not. He said that when he aimed to make a point, he had the ability to convey it softly or with vigor. He said that his issue was that they could not enforce it; it was similar to when one grounded their children and took away their television privileges. He said that this approach worked when they were physically present in the house but did not work when they were not there unless they took the television with them. He said that he recommended revisiting the code of conduct because he believed they could not enforce themselves, and it was just a bad idea.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Allen – wished everyone a happy new year. She wished everyone a prosperous 2024 and she hoped it was an improvement over 2023. She said that she looked forward to this Board being able to move the County forward and functioning progressively in its actions.

Mr. Diggs – wished a happy new year to everyone present in the room and those watching online. He said that he was thrilled to be there that day. He expressed his gratitude to the County staff for facilitating his smooth transition into the role. He said that he was eager to collaborate with them all on this side of the street. He said that he was excited to work alongside his fellow Board members. He said that as Ms. Allen mentioned, they were looking forward to moving the County forward together.

Mr. English – thanked everyone for a good holiday and congratulated Ms. Bohmke and Ms. Allen on their elections. He congratulated Mr. Diggs for joining the team. He said that he hoped they could all collaborate more effectively than in previous times. He said that he would like to thank staff members for their efforts throughout 2023. He said that they had performed remarkably well despite having a short-staffed team. He said that he appreciated their dedication and was confident that his constituents were grateful as well.

Ms. Gary – wished everyone a happy new year and hoped they had a safe and enjoyable one. She said that she wanted to congratulate the new Chair and Vice-Chair. She said that she wanted to voice her confidence in both of them to lead this Board well, and she thanked them for their service. She said that she had heard similar perspectives from many who spoke, particularly regarding school funding and the actions of this Board.

Ms. Gary said that she had been concerned with some recent decisions made by the School Board, specifically concerning construction timelines, she still fully supported public schools and the educators and staff who maintained them under challenging circumstances. She said that she believed that they should strive to increase their resources as much as possible.
Ms. Gary said that she was grateful for the opportunity regarding the data center. She said that although it may not be perfect from all perspectives, she believed that they had negotiated the best deal achievable for their needs. She said that she was proud of that outcome and she was eager to proceed with addressing these issues. She said that their children deserved significantly better conditions than the overcrowded structures they currently inhabited, which also had failing septic systems.

Ms. Gary said that they were considerably delayed in meeting their basic needs, and a society that fails to prioritize its children's well-being was not one to be admired. She said that they must improve their efforts. She said that numerous individuals were working diligently to find solutions and make difficult decisions to address these challenges this year. She said that she was looking forward to collaborating with her Board to resolve these matters.

Ms. Gary said that she was disappointed that she did not receive an A+. She hoped that she at least achieved a B-. She said that she had no poker face but attempted to remain very professional. She said that she would challenge the statement Mr. Adams made in that he would only receive $6,000 because she had fasted for a week; however, she believed she needed water at least, so hopefully, she got that. She thanked everyone for attending and speaking, as they appreciated their support. She thanked the staff for the hard work they did, even with meager provisions sometimes. She said that she was very grateful for their continued dedication to the County.

Ms. Vanuch – remarked that she would like to wish a happy new year to everyone present and watching online. She said that she also wished to congratulate their Chairman, Ms. Bohmke. She said that she was the Chairman when she first joined the Board and did an excellent job during the COVID pandemic. She said that she hoped they would not experience such a challenging year again but was confident that she would excel in leading the Board. She said that seven diverse personalities were indeed a complex task, and it did not offer great remuneration. She said that she was there to assist her whenever required, whether for guidance or simply as someone to talk to, as she understood the intricacies of this position. She thanked Dr. Yeung for her service as the outgoing Chair.

Ms. Vanuch said that it was a thankless job and she was surprised that anyone volunteered to do it. She congratulated both of them. She said that moving on, there was one report from the Rock Hill District, which was that the long-awaited Tractor Supply would open on January 6. She said that the groundbreaking or ribbon-cutting ceremony was scheduled for January 13, a Saturday, at

10 a.m. She said that they were working out the details with their staff regarding the day's festivities, which would include various activities for families and children.

Ms. Vanuch said that they had assured her that they were moving forward with the Route 17 Tractor Supply location. She said there would likely be farm animals present, providing an opportunity for attendees to interact with them. She said that the organizers were very supportive of the agricultural community, and she would discuss with Mr. Adams specifically after this meeting about any animals he might want to bring to this petting zoo if he was available for January 13.

Dr. Yeung – wished everyone a happy new year. She said that she welcomed Mr. Diggs and congratulated their new Chair, Ms. Bohmke, and their Vice-Chair, Ms. Allen. She said that she also expressed her gratitude toward the executive staff for their support. She said that without the executive staff, she could not have been the Chair that they needed for them, her constituents, and Stafford County. She said that she had received several calls and emails regarding the situation on Mine Road, which was behind Walmart. She said that it was an assisted living facility. She said that she hoped that they could post information outside to address inquiries about it.

Dr. Yeung said that every time a call came in and asked her what was happening, it was courtesy of former Supervisor Dudenhefer, who had assisted in establishing an assisted living facility. She said that the purpose of the facility was to help citizens who cannot care for themselves. She said that it was her hope that it would soon be operational and ready to serve its intended purpose. She said that there were going to be some pad sites opening there as well. She said that she had received comments from people stating that they did not want storage spaces and no commercial tires. She hoped everyone on the Board had a good year and that they decided together to move Stafford County forward.

Ms. Bohmke – wished everyone a happy new year and said she looked forward to 2024. She welcomed Mr. Diggs to the Board and said that he had an array of valuable resources at his disposal. She said that all he needed to do was pick up the phone and call people, as well as staff members, and she was confident that he would be in good hands. She thanked Dr. Yeung for her service last year. She said that being Chairman could be challenging, as it involved taking on additional responsibilities.

Ms. Bohmke said that Dr. Yeung did an excellent job, and she truly appreciated her efforts. She said that she also appreciated the confidence placed in her. She said that if any issues arose, to please not hesitate to contact her directly. She said that that was how they would need to operate moving forward. She said that as a Board, they were eager to contribute to the progress of Stafford County. She said that their great County had an exceptional staff that played a crucial role in its success. She said that they looked forward to collaborating with Mr. Vosburg and his executive team.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

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

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Vosburg said that in the Board's packet were the December 12, 2023 Public Safety Committee Action list and the December 12, 2023 Finance Audit and Budget Committee Action List.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Vanuch said that she would like to pull Item #4 from the Consent Agenda.

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

The Voting Board tally was:
Yea: (7) Allen, Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Vanuch, Yeung
Nay: (0)

ITEM 1. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE DECEMBER 12, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES.

ITEM 2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE DECEMBER 12, 2023 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET WORK SESSION: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) AND PROFFERS REVIEW MINUTES.

ITEM 3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; ADOPTION OF 2024 CODE OF PERFORMANCE.

ITEM 4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

Ms. Vanuch said that regarding Item 4, several Board members requested further information and clarification from the County Administrator and had additional questions. She said that they hoped that this item could be postponed until the next meeting in January. She motioned to defer this item until the second meeting in January for action.

Ms. Allen asked if Ms. Vanuch could elaborate on the reason for the deferral. She asked if there were specific concerns regarding the proposed holiday schedule.

Ms. Vanuch said that she had several sidebar conversations with at least four supervisors regarding the differing fiscal impacts of offsetting the County calendar with the state calendar and exploring alternative options for the County Administrator in managing that budget. She said that, for instance, if providing extra days off would cost $200,000, they could instead implement a recruitment bonus to help fill the Zoning Director position or the zoning administrator position. She said that she thought they simply wanted some time to discuss these options with him. She added that some of these ideas were suggested by other Board members, but she would gladly hear other ideas.

Ms. Allen said that the primary reason for her inquiry was that she had consistently believed this to be within Mr. Vosburg's purview. She said that upon receiving notification, she perceived it as a means to incentivize staff and improve morale, considering the Board's limited resources, past actions, and efforts to secure positions and maintain staffing. She said that she did not consider this an issue. She said that they had granted a holiday for attending a baseball game. She said that she did not favor delaying the decision. She said that she did not have any objections regarding the calendar so she would like to proceed with the vote.

Dr. Yeung said that she wanted to defer approval of the calendar because she had not had adequate time to review the holiday schedule and believed that they should ensure there was adequate paid time off and that all underlying issues were addressed before offering days as bonuses.

Mr. English said that he felt that the additional days would benefit employees, but if they wanted to change it to a floating holiday, they could talk about that.

Mr. Diggs said that he supported the holiday calendar because there were other things they could not do in terms of salary and things of that nature, and he believed the County Administrator's proposal was beneficial for staff.

Dr. Yeung asked if Mr. English and Mr. Diggs would receive days off if they approved this.

Mr. English said that his position was part-time, so it was different.

Mr. Diggs said yes. He said that he was thinking of this situation in terms of how short-staffed they were. He said that in order to keep the people they had, every little bit helped. He said that this was not about himself getting a day off, but about the County as a whole, and that was his position.

Ms. Bohmke said that she would have preferred that this come up at a later meeting. She said that the fiscal impact was estimated to be $90,000 to $100,000 per day, and they had not yet entered the budget process. She said that they faced numerous financial issues this year, such as owing the health department for additional services and anticipating an increase in health department costs next year. She said that there would be many financial pressures, and she wanted to see what their peer localities were doing before making a decision.

Ms. Bohmke said that she was in favor of deferring the topic until they gathered more information. She said that they could engage in further discussion with Mr. Vosburg and his staff regarding the matter. She said that the date in question would be the day following July 4 this year, which was July 5. She said that the half-day preceding Thanksgiving will be considered a full day off for staff members, so staff would have Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday off.

Ms. Bohmke said that similarly, the half-day before Christmas Eve would result in staff having Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday off as well. She said that her concern that the County would be closed around Thanksgiving and Christmas for three business days, which represented a significant period during which people could not conduct any business with the County. She said that she was in favor of deferring this decision while they gathered more information.

Ms. Allen made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve proposed Resolution R24-20.

Ms. Vanuch said that she would like to discuss with Mr. Vosburg the options that could be pursued if the holiday calendar was amended. She said that she was not necessarily opposed to providing those holidays, but at this juncture she would like to review with the County Administrator what he would prefer to use the potential $200,000 for, such as filling difficult-to-fill positions.

Ms. Allen said that she understood Ms. Vanuch's point, but politely disagreed. She said that Mr. Vosburg and staff had already made the decisions and felt that it was the better move for the 3,000 employees of the County. She said that she knew from working in hospitals that pay raises or bonuses are sometimes not as valuable as a day off, and it was important to consider the importance of giving their employees an extra day or two to spend with their families or their personal activities. She said that she had complete faith and confidence in their leadership's decision to adopt this calendar and would fully support them.

Ms. Gary said that she believed that Mr. Vosburg had done his due diligence to find what would be best, otherwise it would not be on the agenda, so she supported the holiday calendar as presented.

Mr. Diggs said that one of his campaign promises was to support staff, and while he agreed with much of what Ms. Vanuch had said, she had failed to mention the issue of staff retention. He said that they not only had to recruit talent for vacant positions but also had to retain personnel they had, and that was his reasoning for supporting this.

Ms. Bohmke called the vote for the substitute motion to approve the holiday calendar for 2024 as presented.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

<u>Resolution R24-20 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, the County's Human Resources Leave Policy (Policy) provides paid holidays to employees based on the approved Commonwealth of Virginia holiday calendar as well as any additional days appointed as legal holidays by the Governor of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Policy also provides that the Board of Supervisors may designate additional holidays;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that it be and hereby does designate additional paid holiday leave days for calendar year 2024, as described below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an additional full day of paid holiday leave is added to the Friday after Independence Day, July 5, 2024; a half day of paid holiday leave is added to the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, November 27, 2024, thereby proving a full day of paid holiday leave the day before Thanksgiving; and a full day of paid holiday leave is added to the Monday prior to Christmas Eve, December 23, 2024; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that one floating holiday, to be used anytime during calendar year 2024, is being provided to all current or new employees hired prior to October 1, 2024. The floating holiday is calculated as eight hours for full-time employees and six hours for regular part-time, and must be used in full-day increments with manager approval, and cannot be paid out or rolled over.

<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC. AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF STAFFORD COUNTY (EDA)

Mike Morris, Deputy County Administrator, said that he would provide a brief overview of the performance agreement between the County and Amazon Data Services. He said that the following diagram illustrated the proposal that was presented to the Planning Commission and approved by the Board in November. He said that it featured two buildings, with Old Potomac Church located on the left-hand side of the map. He said that on November 14, proffer amendments were made and subsequently approved by the Board. He said that the conditions had gone through the Planning Commission to inform the public about the Board's due diligence.

Mr. Morris said that the Board held individual meetings regarding data centers in January 2023 and also visited and toured various data centers. He said that between March and December of 2023, there were 17 public meetings held by either the Board of Supervisors or the Planning Commission. He said that they had indeed conducted thorough research. He said that key aspects of the performance agreement included a capital investment requirement of $6 billion to receive full incentives. He said that this covered the construction of buildings, equipment within those buildings, and computer servers.

Mr. Morris said that Amazon was committed to spending $392 million on various infrastructure improvements, with the most significant being the implementation of a reuse water system for data centers. He said that the agreement also outlined job creation. He said that although jobs were not a condition for incentives, they planned to create over 100 jobs in the data centers. He said that they were obligated to provide annual reports to the County detailing capital investment, infrastructure costs, and job creation figures.

Mr. Morris said that as part of the agreement, Amazon requested that the County expedite the review of plans for building permits. He said that additionally, there was a section regarding utilities. He said that the review of plans for building permits would be followed by a separate utilities water agreement, which would be provided to the Board within the next 30 to 60 days. He said that this agreement would outline how the entire utility system would operate, including details on reuse water and the overall program to rebuild the structure.

Mr. Morris said that regarding taxes, property taxes would be assessed on this property annually during budget work sessions and budget approval. He said that there was a tax on computer equipment at $1.25 per $100. He said that the incentive agreement provided a five-year depreciation schedule. He said that staff had supplied the Board with some projected estimates of what the revenue could potentially generate.

Mr. Morris said that he would like to emphasize that these were very conservative estimates because staff wanted to be cautious in their calculations. He said that if only Potomac Church's two buildings were completed, they would generate $251 million over 25 years, which was approximately $10 million per year for that site. He said that the second proposed site remained undetermined regarding its location. He said that the second site would generate $782 million over the 25-year period.

Ms. Vanuch asked if the numbers projected were inclusive of the aggressive depreciation scale that had been agreed upon in the current agreement. She asked for clarification that these were not numbers if they were to pay taxes outside of the agreement.

Mr. Morris said that was correct. He said that these numbers were based on the five-year depreciation schedule in the agreement.

Ms. Allen asked if Mr. Morris had received any questions or feedback regarding the performance agreement since December 28.

Mr. Morris said no. He said that they had included details regarding the revenue it would generate, but that was it.

Ms. Allen asked if there had been any feedback or questions.

Mr. Morris said no.

Dr. Yeung asked if anyone requested any information regarding the investment and incentive schedule.

Mr. Morris said that the request was made during last Thursday’s meeting.

Dr. Yeung asked if any questions had been received.

Mr. Morris said no, he had not received any questions. He said that the item referred to by Dr. Yeung was available in the packet and also available to the public.

Mr. English asked if Mr. Mayausky had received any calls regarding this.

Mr. Mayausky said no, other than the questions from the EDA prior to their meeting.

Ms. Gary asked if Mr. Vosburg had reviewed the documents after the most recent meeting.

Mr. Vosburg said yes, they did review the performance agreement documents. He said that they tried to add some things to the presentation to provide more information to the public.

Mr. Morris said that the state legislature's incentive agreement stated that improvements initiated on or after January 1, 2023, will be part of this agreement, so therefore the last date prior to that was December 31, 2022, which was why that date was included in the agreement.

Ms. Bohmke thanked Mr. Morris for the explanation.

Mr. Morris said that in the second phase, after infrastructure improvements have been reimbursed at 10%, a tiered performance grant was introduced based on spending more than $6 billion. He said that for each additional tier, the grant increased by 5%. He said that the incremental tax value between $6 and $10 billion earned a 10% reimbursement, while the range from over $10 billion to $15 billion earned a 15% reimbursement. He said that for $15 billion, the reimbursement was 20% of the increased tax value. He said that earlier projections were provided, and the illustration demonstrated that the County kept approximately 84.4% of the revenue generated over 25 years. He said that in the case of a second campus, the corresponding figures were available as well.

Dr. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to make the item time-sensitive.

Ms. Vanuch said that she supported the motion because of its occurrence at their regular Board meeting. She said that she appreciated the information regarding the tax revenue for the County, as it allowed the public to see that the agreement was the best deal possible for the County.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Dr. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve Resolution R24-27.

Ms. Bohmke said that she found it interesting that in King George's agreement on page 14, they had not removed the sentence in Item 12A that removed their right to a jury trial. She asked why they would want to remove the right to have a jury trial against a gigantic company in Stafford County. She asked if they were giving something up by not having a jury trial in Stafford County.

Ms. McClendon said that the term was a standard provision included in agreements between all of the localities that have entered into arrangements with Amazon. She said that they were unable to confirm whether King George specifically removed it based on the document they possess. She said that it represented a common contractual term and format they recommended. She said that jury trials were notoriously unpredictable, which was why they would like to maintain this standard for the County. She said that if the Board wished to negotiate this point, they could revisit that option, but she asked that they be aware that this provision was also a standard component in contracts negotiated by other localities.

Ms. Bohmke said that this was a significant agreement between the state and all the localities participating in the contract. She asked if there was any way that this data center could be built in some other County. She said that Ms. McClendon had indicated that this was very specific to Stafford County and would have to build here, so as not to take advantage of the incentives and go build someplace else.

Mr. Morris said that Ms. McClendon was correct. He said that the company would have to have an agreement with another County, such as their agreements with King George, Louisa, and Spotsylvania.

Ms. Bohmke said that she was referring to any County in the state, not necessarily those in Planning District 16.

Mr. Morris said that they could not commit to the incentives that they had committed to outside of the agreement.

Ms. McClendon said that she would like to further elaborate on this matter. She said that the site-specific information she was referring to was clearly outlined in the agreement before them. She said that in terms of capital investments, which pertained to the required amount to be invested, it was defined by project. She said that each project was defined by a specific site, such as Stafford County and its Potomac Church sites, as well as any other sites and localities. She said that she would like to emphasize that the definitions were cumulative, meaning that Amazon could only ascertain the incentives if they develop the infrastructure in Stafford County as promised in this agreement. She said that the incentives would not apply to infrastructure in another locality.

Ms. Bohmke said that under Item 4, specifically referring to County economic development incentives and investment performance grants, it stated that if total capital investments were greater than or equal to $6 billion. She asked why they could not include something referring to Stafford County and the sum of all annual infrastructure costs.

Ms. McClendon said that capital investments were defined on page three. She said that capital investment projects were also defined; if they referred back to the first page, they were defined as capital projects. She said that this definition also included sites at locations within Stafford County, such as Potomac Church, further described in Exhibit A. She said that the definition allows for the possibility of building additional sites in the future. She said that collectively, these sites were referred to as capital sites. She said that the definitions provided made it clear that the project must be located within Stafford County and cannot be interpreted differently.

Dr. Yeung said that she sought clarification regarding whether any time had been lost based on the previous schedule received for the project.

Charlie Payne said that he was a representative of Amazon. He said that although he did not participate in negotiating this agreement, he would like to address the time schedule. He said initially they believed that the project would progress more swiftly than it currently had. He said that there was some disappointment with the pace of development, nevertheless, they continue to move forward with the project.

Ms. Gary said that she would like to make one quick comment regarding the needs of their County. She said that their general government requirements, school necessities, and infrastructure demands were substantial due to rapid growth. She said that this presented an excellent opportunity. She said that she did not want to overlook the proposed fire station in Aquia Town Center, as Supervisor Vanuch mentioned. She said that they must consider potential alternatives for revenue, such as replacing the car tax if it was eliminated at some point in the future. She said that she believed this proposal was a wonderful solution. She expressed her gratitude to everyone who had contributed to this effort, including staff and their legal team.

Ms. Allen thanked staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this lengthy process. She said that she also appreciated Amazon's patience as partners in this venture. She said they understood that it had not always been easy, but they were grateful for their cooperation, and they hoped to collaborate with them on future projects and potentially more sites. She said that, as Ms. Gary mentioned, that they must explore alternative revenue streams to replace the existing ones. She said that their municipality was expected to face significant construction debt in the next 10 years, which would be added to their books.

Ms. Allen said that to alleviate this burden and prevent it from falling solely on taxpayers, they needed to identify ongoing revenue sources. She said that one of the things people did not realize was that they all utilized data in some capacity. She said that she would rather Stafford County benefit from this data than have it sent elsewhere. She said that participation in the revenue stream was crucial. She said that it was gratifying to know that they were able to achieve this. She said that she looked forward to collaborating with Amazon on future projects.

Ms. Vanuch asked what happened if Amazon pre-purchased equipment and stored it elsewhere before utilizing it three years into the depreciation schedule, resulting in a 5% tax rate that disrupted revenue numbers.

Mr. Mayausky said that theoretically, that could happen; however, practically, it did not make much sense. He said that the primary purpose of refreshing the equipment every five to seven years was because the equipment became obsolete. He said that Moore's Law suggested that processing speed doubled every two years. He said they were not replacing the equipment because it got older or worn out; rather, it was obsolete. He said that it would not make sense for one of the largest and most sophisticated companies in the world to hold equipment until it became old before bringing it into their data center. He said that they preferred the most cutting-edge equipment available. He said that while it was a good question, that concern was not a practical issue.

Ms. Vanuch said that regarding the five-year depreciation schedule, she understood from their previous discussion last week, when he was absent, that there was an agreement among commissioners across different regions. She said that however, he had informed her today that it had been incorporated into state law as a legal requirement.

Mr. Mayausky said that the depreciation schedule was not, but its mechanics were. He said that he had no flexibility or ability to deviate from the fact that it was applied to the original cost at the date of purchase. He said that this related back to the initial question. He said that if someone were to bring in new equipment, they could they change the taxation date. He said that state law required the acquisition date to be used, not the date when the equipment arrived in their locality. He said that although accelerated depreciation schedules were common among data center-owning localities in northern Virginia and the Fredericksburg region, this was due to the rapid obsolescence of computers as computing power grew exponentially. He said that a five-year-old computer was virtually worthless because it lacked the processing power of a new one.

Ms. Vanuch asked if Mr. Mayausky had any additional information regarding the development of the data center tax incentive initiative. She said that this idea originated back in 2018 when other nearby localities successfully implemented lower tax rates for data centers. She said that they were unable to achieve similar legislative action at the state level. She asked if he had any further points he would like to address regarding their progress since then.

Mr. Mayausky said that he had nothing further to add other than that he was excited that they had reached this point. He said that it was an amazing opportunity for the County and the region. He said that they had such limited taxing authority at the local level that it basically all fell on the homeowners and property taxes. He said that to be given a revenue stream of this magnitude was something that he was thankful for and believed would benefit this region for decades to come.

Dr. Yeung thanked staff and the EDA for all the work they had done so far to achieve this. She asked Mr. Mayausky what benefits the County residents would experience as a result of this agreement.

Mr. Mayausky said that there would be some benefits observed from it as early as next year. He said that there had been numerous land sales, not only in Stafford but also throughout the region they were monitoring. He said that this was indeed a regional market. He said that when he presented the reassessment results to them in two months and they discussed primarily residential properties, he asked them to remember that this pertained to the Stafford County market. He said that data centers, however, operated on a regional or even national scale, which was why they considered sales that had occurred. He said that they would be able to incorporate the valuations of rezonings for data center land and other factors into their real estate tax assessment in the upcoming reassessment.

Mr. Mayausky said that the significant revenue benefits for data centers arose from the equipment installed within the buildings. He said that he was unsure of the exact timeline, but it could take anywhere between 18 to 24 months to construct a fully functional facility. He said that that was when they would truly see the substantial returns they had been discussing. He said that there would be some minor benefits immediately, which would be helpful, but the larger financial gains were further down the line. He said that on January 1, they would begin assessing taxes on existing real estate properties. He said that if there were half-built buildings by that date, they would be able to tax those structures and add them to the tax rolls.

Mr. Diggs said that while he had only been in his position on the Board for one day, he wanted to ensure the public that his Board colleagues and County staff had given him much guidance, so he felt well-informed and comfortable voting in favor of this project.

Ms. Gary said that she was aware that Mr. Diggs had attended meetings related to data centers in Fredericksburg to learn the nuances of their operations. She said that he had been very involved in learning about this topic and expressed her gratitude that he was able to be a part of this.

Ms. Bohmke said that it was last February or March when they had their first significant data center meeting at the community center, which marked the beginning of staff and community collaboration, and they had had extensive discussions since then. She called the vote for approval of R24-27.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

Nay: (0)

<u>Resolution R24-27 reads as follows:</u>

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOCAL PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC. AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF STAFFORD COUNTY (EDA)

WHEREAS, the Board is interested in the economic welfare of County residents, the creation and maintenance of sustainable jobs for County residents, and the development of new infrastructure to serve County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to provide the necessary conditions to stimulate investment in the local economy and promote business, resulting in the creation of substantial investments and economic growth and development opportunities in the County; and

WHEREAS, Amazon Data Services, Inc. (Amazon) is engaged in the development and operation of data centers, through direct ownership and third-party partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Amazon has proposed to build, develop, and operate data center facilities at locations in the County, including a site known as Potomac Church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed data center campus at Potomac Church would consist of two data center facilities, totaling approximately 510,000 square feet of space, public facilities/utilities, and related accessory infrastructure (Project); and

WHEREAS, by building, developing, and operating data center facilities at Potomac Church and other potential sites in the County, Amazon intends to make billions of dollars in capital investments and create more than one hundred new, full-time jobs in the County; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 59.1-284.42, known as the Cloud Computing Cluster Infrastructure Grant Fund (Grant Fund Program), established a program that provides grants by the Commonwealth of Virginia for infrastructure and workforce development to data center companies that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Fund Program requires Commonwealth grant funds to be matched on a two-for-one basis by the locality in which a data center company will build, or cause to be built, a new facility (Local Match); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to provide the Local Match to encourage additional data center development in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board created the EDA, pursuant to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act, Chapter 49, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (Act); and

WHEREAS, the Board 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

WHEREAS, the EDA has the authority to make grants of money and property pursuant to the Act in furtherance of its purposes, including promoting economic development; and

WHEREAS, to encourage the Project and additional data center development in the County, the Board and the EDA desire to support infrastructure built by Amazon by providing incentives to Amazon, including the Local Match in the form of the annual infrastructure reimbursement grants and investment performance grants; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to enter into the Economic Development Local Performance Agreement (Agreement) with the EDA and Amazon, establishing the terms of the incentives to be provided to Amazon for the Project and any future data center projects in the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 2nd day of January, 2024, that it be and hereby does approve an economic development incentive grant as established and provided in the Economic Development Local Performance Agreement (Agreement), with Amazon Data Services, Inc. and the Economic Development Authority of Stafford County (EDA), as referenced below, paid over the negotiated period of time set forth in the Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a tax increment account be established for such economic development incentive as provided in the Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the term of the Agreement, the County Administrator will include the transfer of such funds to the EDA, as described in the Agreement, in his annual budget proposal to the Board; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to execute the Agreement, which shall be in substantially the same form as the draft Agreement included with this Resolution, and any other documents that he deems necessary and appropriate to effectuate this Resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:37 p.m., Chairman Bohmke adjourned the January 2, 2024 Stafford County Board of Supervisor's organizational meeting.

Randy Vosburg

Randal E. Vosburg
County Administrator

Meg G. Bohmke

Meg Bohmke
Chairman