

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – A regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Deuntay Diggs, Chairman, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford VA.

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

Also in attendance were Bill Ashton, County Administrator; Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney; Taylor Dunn, Deputy Clerk; various staff members; and other interested parties.

INVOCATION

Ms. Bohmke led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Gary led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CHAIR REMARKS

Mr. Diggs said that he would like to extend his gratitude to the North Stafford Rotary Club for their annual effort to honor those who had fought for their community and continued to fight for it, as well as everyday heroes in their community. He said that the public may have noticed the beautiful flags flying on their lawn at the Government Center campus, which were put up yearly by the North Stafford Rotary Club.

Mr. Diggs said that they would hold a Flags for Heroes closing ceremony on June 17 at 2:00 p.m. on the courthouse steps, and all were invited. He said that as a reminder, the County previously sent out information about Hurricane Preparedness Week, and he encouraged everyone to prepare themselves and their households for the types of inland impacts they received from hurricanes, including high winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, and power outages. He said that for more information, please visit ready.gov.

Mr. Diggs said that this evening, he and Vice Chair Allen attended a ceremony at Stafford Hospital marking Stafford's designation as a Stroke Smart Virginia community. He said that Stroke Smart Virginia was a public health initiative aimed at reducing pre-hospital delays and increasing timely stroke treatment through simple education and actions. He said that their goal was to educate their employees and their community on what they could do to recognize the signs of stroke and how to react to improve outcomes.

Mr. Diggs said that he would like to announce that Stafford County's Make Your Mark Design the Next I Voted Sticker Contest has received the 2025 Publication and Digital Media Excellence Award of Merit from the National School Public Relations Association. He said that this national recognition highlights the creativity of their students and the strong collaboration between Stafford County government, the Office of Elections, and Stafford County Public Schools to foster civic pride and community engagement.

Mr. Diggs said that as Chairman of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, he was proud to recognize and celebrate Pride Month. He said that this was a time to honor the resilience, contributions, and diversity of their LGBTQIA+ community. He said that Stafford County remained committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and welcoming environment for all residents.

Mr. Diggs said that he would now like to recognize youth who had participated in the 77th Annual 4-H Future Farms of America (FFA) Fredericksburg Area Youth Livestock Show and Sale in May. He said that he welcomed Sydney Blaisdell, Adler Burton, Emery Burton, Collin Dooley, and Madeline Dooley, as well as Ethan Fiennes, Colton Kelly, Leslie Linton, Jacob Newton, Joshua Newton, Noah Terry, Ellie Wilson, and Rebecca Young. He said that he would also like to recognize their adult leaders, Stephanie Traynor, Adult Volunteer and Club Leader, Sharon Linton, Adult Volunteer and Assistant Club Leader, Katelyn Newton, Adult Volunteer and Assistant Club Leader, Lori Clark, Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H Program Director, and Devena McLaurin, 4-H Program Assistant.

Mr. Diggs said that these children were part of Stafford's excellent 4-H program, led by volunteer leaders. He said that they had successfully raised animals from birth to adulthood, preparing them for exhibition and demonstrating the skills of actual farmers. He said that this was a significant responsibility and accomplishment that taught kids valuable lessons in leadership, personal growth, and career success. He said that he would like to hear from the students about which animals they had raised.

Mr. Diggs said that as a community, they were proud to recognize the FFA students' achievements. He said that they wanted to ensure they received the recognition they deserved. He said that on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and himself, he would like to present each of them with a challenge coin. He said that he had a number of coins in his hands, but he would distribute one to each of them.

ADDITIONS – DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

ADD ON ATTACHMENT TO ITEM #2; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R25-154 REDLINE

ADD ON ATTACHMENT TO ITEM #4; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R25-161 REDLINE

William Ashton, County Administrator, said that they had redlined copies of the resolutions for Item #2 and Item #4, which were included as attachments in the Board packet.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve the regular agenda minus Item 32.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (4) Bohmke, English, Gary, Vanuch

No: (3) Allen, Diggs, Yeung

Ms. Gary asked if she could re-vote. She said that she had mistakenly voted in support of the motion because she thought that it was a vote for the consent agenda, not the regular agenda.

Ms. Gary motioned, seconded by Mr. Diggs, to reconsider the vote to approve the regular agenda minus Item 32.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (1) Diggs

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to approve the regular agenda minus Item 32.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (3) Bohmke, English, Vanuch

No: (3) Allen, Diggs, Gary

Abstain: (1) Yeung

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve the regular agenda as presented.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (4) Allen, Diggs, Gary, Yeung

No: (3) Bohmke, English, Vanuch

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; ADOPT “POLIC GOVERNING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS IN BOARD AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS” FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

ITEM 2. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; APPROVE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SCHOOLS’ FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026 BUDGET, ADJUST THE ASSOCIATED APPROPRIATION, AND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FY2025 ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FUNDS; R25-154

ITEM 3. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDING, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 CARRYOVER FUNDS, AND FUNDING FROM SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, ALL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL (CGS); R25-140

ITEM 4. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE STATE FUNDING TO PROVIDE RETENTION BONUSES FOR STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; R25-161

ITEM 5. CAPITAL PROJECTS; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER WITH RISING SUN, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A GRAVITY SEWER FROM RT. 1 AND SOUTH CAMPUS BOULEVARD TOWARD HOSPITAL CENTER BOULEVARD; R25-127

ITEM 6. CAPITAL PROJECTS; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER WITH SAGRES CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A GRAVITY SEWER FROM AUTUM RIDGE PUMPING STATION TO BOXELDER DRIVE; R25-165

ITEM 7. CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; RESCIND RESOLUTION R25-84 AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL SAFETY/WEDGE-WIDENING PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2026 AND 2027; R25-164

ITEM 8. CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; ENDORSE AND SUPPORT A REGIONAL APPROACH AND LOCATION FOR A PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ROUTE AND BRIDGE TO CROSS THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER; R25-167

ITEM 9. COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT FY 2023 AND FY 2025 FOREST SUSTAINABILITY GRANT FUNDS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE THE GRANT FUNDS FOR TREE INVENTORY; R25-126

ITEM 10. COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES WITH CATALIS TAX & CAMA, INC. FOR TAX BILLING AND COLLECTIONS SYSTEM; R25-162

ITEM 11. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; PROCLAMATION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY; P25-08

ITEM 12. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; PROCLAMATION DECLARING STAFFORD A STROKE SMART COUNTY; P25-23

ITEM 13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; REAPPOINT MR. MARLON WILSON FOR THE GRIFFIS-WIDEWATER SEAT ON THE STAFFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE TERM ENDING JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2029

ITEM 14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; REAPPOINT MR. JACK ROWLEY FOR THE HARTWOOD SEAT ON THE STAFFORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2029

ITEM 15. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPOINT MS. CAROL WALKER TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2028

ITEM 16. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE THE APRIL 15, 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 17. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE THE APRIL 22, 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 18. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION; APPROVE THE MAY 06, 2025 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 19. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO INCLUDE COLLINGWOOD DRIVE, PLAINVIEW DRIVE, CUTTING WAY AND DAY LEWIS COURT WITHIN THE ESTATES AT CLEARVIEW AND RESERVE AT CLEARVIEW SUBDIVISIONS INTO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS; R25-146

ITEM 20. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO INCLUDE HARTWOOD VALLEY COURT IN THE HARTWOOD VALLEY SUBDIVISION INTO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS AS A RURAL ADDITION AND REQUEST VDOT TO IMPROVE THE ROAD TO VDOT STANDARDS WITH FUNDING FROM THE SECONDARY SYSTEM SIX-YEAR PROGRAM (SSYP); R25-91(R)

ITEM 21. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO INCLUDE LIBERTY HALL DRIVE AND LIBERTY GARDEN LANE WITHIN THE MEADOWS AT LIBERTY HALL SUBDIVISION INTO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS; R25-147

ITEM 22. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO INCLUDE OLD POTOMAC CHURCH ROAD AND PULSAR PLACE WITHIN SECTION 2 OF THE POTOMAC CHURCH FARMS SUBDIVISION INTO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS

ITEM 23. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO INCLUDE COFFMAN DRIVE AND TRUSLOW RIDGE COURT WITHIN THE TRUSLOW RIDGE SUBDIVISION INTO THE SECONDARY SYSTEM OF STATE HIGHWAYS; R25-150

ITEM 24. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; PETITION VDOT TO ABANDON FRONTAGE ROAD 171 FROM THE SECONDARY STATE HIGHWAYS; R25-90(R)

ITEM 25. FINANCE; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT RENEWALS WITH THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES GROUP SELF INSURANCE RISK POOL AND BROWN & BROWN INSURANCE AGENCY OF VIRGINIA, INC. FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026; R25-135

ITEM 26. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES WITH MCLANE

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES, LLC FOR THE COUNTY'S MICROSOFT 365 PLATFORM MANAGED SERVICES; R25-144

ITEM 27. MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT FY2026 PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT ENTERPRISE GIS SOFTWARE PROGRAM FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS; R25-125

ITEM 28. MAPPING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. (ESRI) FOR THE PURCHASE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE AND SERVICES; R25-156

ITEM 29. PLANNING AND ZONING; APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSIONER KELSEY CAUDILL AS THE PLANNING COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ITEM 30. UTILITIES; AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT RENEWALS FOR THE SIX-MONTH EXTENSION PERIOD AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS, AND RATIFY A CONTRACT RENEWAL; R25-132

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve the Consent Agenda without Items 4, 24, and 26.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

Mr. Diggs asked if Ms. Vanuch would like to address Item 4.

Ms. Vanuch said that she had pulled the resolution for public transparency. She said that she was supporting it; she simply wanted to pull it to highlight the state funding retention bonuses provided to Stafford County Public Schools educators under Resolution R25-161. She said that she recalled the School Board emphasizing the importance of equal pay for all staff, yet their County government staff and first responders did not receive bonuses. She said that despite raising the meals tax to offset 2.75% pay raises, they also received bonuses. She said that she aimed to draw attention to the irony surrounding this particular item.

Ms. Vanuch motioned, seconded by Ms. Bohmke, to approve Item 4, Proposed Resolution R25-161.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

Mr. Diggs asked if Dr. Yeung would like to address Item 24.

Dr. Yeung said that she supported this item but needed a bit more clarification.

Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney, said that this item was the corrected resolution. She said that when the interchange was realigned, a portion of Old Courthouse Road was abandoned, and at that time, they referred to it as Old Courthouse Road. She said that VDOT preferred that it be named Frontage Road 171. She said that this resolution simply included the name VDOT requested, allowing them to officially abandon the no longer used portion of road.

Dr. Yeung motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve Item 24, Proposed Resolution R25-90(R).

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

Mr. Diggs asked if Ms. Bohmke would like to address Item 26.

Ms. Bohmke said that she support this item but believed that they needed to be aware of the potential confusion. She said that upon reviewing the background report, it appeared that they had approved \$569,000 in 2023 for the 365 system. She said that this item's resolution, however, stated that the amount was \$200,000 or more for the required Microsoft system, which seemed to be a discrepancy. She said that the fiscal impact in the background report was \$560,000, and she believed that the language had been included at the suggestion of their former County Administrator in collaboration with procurement.

Ms. Bohmke said that she thought it was confusing for the public, as those citizens may not always read the background report. She said that if she were a citizen seeking information on the recently approved item, there was not sufficient information in this resolution. She recommended that they direct Mr. Ashton to revisit this issue and provide clarity. She said that in the future, she suggested that they include a sentence in resolutions to address discrepancies, such as the original request being \$560,000, but the threshold of \$200,000 being applied. She said that it would help ensure that supervisors and the public had accurate information.

Mr. Ashton said that he would like to sit down with staff to understand how they arrived at this point. He said that this was mentioned in the memo he had sent to them earlier that day. He said that they could then discuss ways to make the process more transparent and come back to him with a plan.

Ms. Allen said that she thought that when it was initially explained, once the threshold of \$200,000 was reached, staff would need to request additional funding because they would already be budgeted based on their policies. She said that she did not misunderstand it when it was first presented because she recalled Mr. Spence explaining that the upgrades would be done in phases. She said that she had asked about the timeline and he said it would be a phased process. She said

that according to their policy, if the threshold of \$200,000 was reached, the Board would need to approve additional funding.

Ms. Bohmke said that she agreed with that, but she thought it was essential to consider the fiscal impact. She said that under the fiscal impact, it stated that the department expected to spend no more than an additional \$569,000. She said that she believed the public would be asking whether they were spending \$569,000 or were they spending \$200,000 or more. She said that perhaps they could reference the prior resolution they approved in 2023 for context.

Ms. Allen said that she did not think a policy change was necessarily required. She said that perhaps when they had items like this that involved consecutive years or off-years of appropriations, staff could attach the previous resolution to the current package. She said that it was already there, but it would be helpful to highlight it and reference it.

Ms. Bohmke said that she believed the dollar amount should be part of the actual resolution.

Ms. Bohmke motioned, seconded by Dr. Yeung, to approve Item 26, Proposed Resolution R25-144.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

Mr. Diggs presented the Proclamation Honoring and Recognizing the Juneteenth Holiday.

Yolanda Rousell, President of the Stafford Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Executive Committee, accepted the proclamation. She said that she thanked the Board and was honored to be receiving this proclamation, as it was the second one they had received, indicating a high level of recognition. She said that she believed the first was Ms. Vanuch in 2022, and now Chairman Deuntay Diggs. She said that they appreciated this acknowledgment. She said that she invited everyone here to attend their infotainment event, which was an engaging way to receive information, presented in an entertaining manner.

Ms. Roussell said that the event would last approximately an hour, after which they would have dancing and listening to great music, as well as prizes and stages where attendees could gather information on past and current events in the country. She said that it was a very interesting and engaging experience. She said that the event was free to the public, and they encouraged everyone to register on Eventbrite to ensure accurate attendance counts.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

1. Thomas Winstead, Hartwood District, said that he was speaking tonight in regards to the Pride Month recognition. He said that in his view, setting aside a month to celebrate someone's lifestyle choices was unnecessary. He said that people had lived in Virginia for over 400 years, and the landscape was filled with statues and plaques recognizing outstanding service and contributions from brave men and women. He said that recognition should be reserved for those who had given themselves in service to the community. He said that those who chose the LGBTQ lifestyle had made a choice, and they had every right to make that choice.

Mr. Winstead said that however, he failed to see the service they provided to the community or on what basis the community should set aside a month to recognize and celebrate these choices. He also wondered whether they planning to set aside a month to celebrate those who chose a straight, heterosexual lifestyle. He said that if not, he wondered if they were not deserving of equal celebration. He said that the most generous estimates suggested that only 3% of the population identified as LGBTQ. He said that however, according to the GLAAD calendar, there were 49 events throughout the year, covering every month except January.

Mr. Winstead said that some events were one day, some lasted a week, and some lasted a month. He said that in contrast, other recognized groups in this country, such as those who had given their lives in service, received only one day of recognition. He said that for example, men and women who had died in the Revolutionary War were recognized on a single day, as were current military personnel and the day of the country's founding. He said that if they looked at other holidays in this country, they all received one day of recognition. He said that now they wanted to set aside a whole month to celebrate people who had made a lifestyle choice, which was theirs to choose, but it was nothing more than a lifestyle choice.

Mr. Winstead said that he also considered the potential unintended consequences of such proclamations. He said that according to the Komodo Health Study, there had been a three-fold increase in America over a four-year period from 2017 to 2021 of children who had experienced sexual dysphoria. He said that he wondered if this could be an unintended consequence of celebrating these choices. He said that he thought about the child sitting in a classroom who heard the announcement of National Coming Out Day and saw these people being celebrated. He said that the child may struggle with his own self-esteem, and this celebration may have inadvertently affected him. He said that he was opposed to this idea, not the people making these choices, but to them celebrating lifestyle choices.

2. Terry Martin said that she was not from Stafford, but she had worked in Stafford for many years. She said that as a resident of Fredericksburg, she was proud to say that their town also had a thriving LGBTQ+ community. She said that she was speaking to this Board because she understood that this topic had been added to the agenda, which she wanted to thank them for. She said that Fred Rogers once said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It was easy to say, it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there were those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

Ms. Martin said that another quote from Rogers was often cited during times of crisis, which she considered this to be, was, "Look for the helpers." She said that she was here looking for

the helpers tonight. She said that as a retired social worker with 50 years of experience, she had spent the last 18 years working with youth in therapeutic foster and adoption care. She said that these youth had faced unimaginable challenges, including sexual, emotional, and physical abuse. She said that it was horrendous. She said that she never had a downtime for them, and their busiest time was during the holidays, when tensions rose.

Ms. Martin said that some of these youth were LGBTQ+, and they faced unique challenges, including acceptance and support from their birth families, foster families, and adoption families. She said that some families believed that gender identity was a choice, rather than a fundamental aspect of a person's identity, which was not supported by scientific evidence. She said that recognizing and supporting individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities would greatly benefit these youth, as well as any LGBTQ+ adult, by making them feel valued and accepted.

Ms. Martin asked how anyone could deny the importance of teaching tolerance and education in the pride culture to a minority population that needed their support and understanding. She said that this population was not the majority, but rather a vulnerable group that required their help in feeling included, valued, and accepted.

3. Cliff Heinzer, Aquia District, said that he would like to address a subject he had spoken about before, but he wanted to remind the Board. He said that Stafford was an evolving County, and the Stafford that some of them knew from decades ago has changed. He said that to adapt to this change, they could prosper. He said that if they failed to adapt and try to maintain everything as it was, they may wither. He said that Stafford was no longer a small town. He said that when assessing governance, one measure they would look at was the compensation of the legislature and the availability of dedicated staff support.

Mr. Heinzer said that dedicated staff support referred to staff that worked exclusively for the legislative body. He said that the Supervisors served as both an executive and legislative body, and this type of support was necessary to help them advance the equities they perceived in their role as elected officials, which may sometimes diverge from the bureaucracy. He said that compensation was also an issue. He said that he aware that many of them were making significant financial sacrifices and professional sacrifices due to the time commitment required for this job. He said that this could limit the pool of potential recruits.

Mr. Heinzer said that when examining foreign legislatures, they were concerned about how reduced compensation levels can make legislation more susceptible to corruption or other influences. He said that Stafford was now larger than Alexandria, and they faced more diverse geographical challenges and financial issues. He said that in contrast, the average Council member in Alexandria was compensated around \$68,000 per year, which was significantly more than what the Stafford Supervisors were currently receiving. He said that while he understood the political challenges, there was no benefit to the community in under-compensating the work the Supervisors did. He said that he would like to suggest considering a raise this year, not in an election year.

April McCarthy, Aquia District, said that she was there this evening to express her support for honoring Pride and Juneteenth. She said that, as a veteran herself, she did not believe that honoring Juneteenth or Pride in any way diminished the importance of Memorial Day, Veterans Day, National Armed Services Day, or the Stafford County Armed Services Memorial. She said that, in fact, she felt that her County had been very supportive of veterans, and she did not think adding another celebration would detract from their existing observances. She said that it was like having two children with birthdays in different months - celebrating both birthdays did not diminish the importance of either one. She said that it simply meant they had more opportunities to come together and celebrate.

Ms. McCarthy said that she wanted to urge the Board to use common sense when considering this recognition. She said that celebrating another holiday did not mean they were taking away from something else. She said that they were a diverse County, and she knew that many veterans, including those who she knew in the Air Force and federal government, also supported and celebrated Pride. She said that she was concerned that if their County did not honor Pride, they may be sending a message that it was not important. She said that she thought about the gentleman who was tragically killed in Texas because of his lifestyle and his marriage to a man. She said that she felt this was indicative that they still had work to do to achieve acceptance.

Ms. McCarthy said that this was why it was essential to communicate to their community and visitors to the County that they were a safe and welcoming place. She said that they were a welcoming and diverse County. She asked the Board to vote with common sense, with empathy, and with the best interests of their constituents in mind, because many of them supported Pride and Juneteenth.

4. Deanna Fisher, Garrisonville District, said that she strongly believed that government should not be honoring or celebrating any individual's sexual preferences, as this was a private matter. She said that similarly, it should not be celebrating groups of people based on skin color or gender, as they had moved past such discriminatory practices decades ago. She said that such celebrations only divided people and were a form of discrimination. She said that if the government chose to honor specific groups, it should be based on their positive contributions to the community, not their inherent characteristics or lifestyle choices.

Ms. Fisher said that to increase positivity and unity in their community, she suggested honoring the military and veterans who had served their country, enabling them to enjoy the freedom to express themselves and participate in local governance. She said that Stafford County was predominantly a military and veteran community, and she believed veterans deserved recognition and appreciation for their service and contributions. She said that law enforcement officers and first responders also deserved to be honored for their dedication and service.

Ms. Fisher said that as the Board of Supervisors, it was their responsibility to represent the citizens of Stafford County and address the pressing issues that needed improvement. She said that she urged the Board to focus on issues that united their community, rather than wasting time on divisive topics that brought no positive change. She said that she was deeply concerned

about the potential negative impact of data centers on Stafford County, despite the discounted tax rates they may receive.

5. Caitlin Goodale-Porter, Garrisonville District, and the previous speaker provided a fitting introduction to her remarks today. She said that as a veteran of both the Army and the Coast Guard, she wanted to emphasize to her fellow citizens in Stafford that they had a unique advantage due to their proximity to Washington, D.C., being just 45 minutes away, provided I-95 cooperated. She said that she hoped that many of them would be able to attend the National Mall on Friday at 2:00 p.m. as part of Unite for Veterans to support the Veterans Affairs (VA) and hold it accountable.

Ms. Goodale-Porter said that as she had mentioned before, there were areas within the VA system that required improvement, and as taxpayers, they were all paying for it. She said that it was essential that it functioned correctly. She said that she would like to extend an invitation to veterans in Stafford who could attend the National Mall on Friday, June 6, at 2:00 p.m. She said that their presence would be greatly appreciated. She said that they had work to be done and improvements to be made. She said that Virginia had recently legislated Women Veterans Day, which would be celebrated for the first time in the state on Thursday, June 12. She said that sometimes, they did add new days to the calendar, and the calendar managed to fit all of them.

6. Jeff Eastland, Rock Hill District, said that it was not a secret where he stood on the issue of uncontrolled growth in this County. He said that to get to the point, regarding data centers, they needed to stop thinking of them as traditional businesses that the County wanted to attract for tax revenue. He said that they were not. He said that they should make no mistake, these large centers and the big corporations that profited from them were driven by a different mindset. He said that they were part of the privileged wealth class, who had more money than they could spend in a hundred lifetimes.

Mr. Eastland said that their sole goal was to accumulate more, and they would stop at nothing to achieve it. He said that they had no qualms about bulldozing or destroying to get what they wanted. He said that this was not just limited to data centers. He said that the 120-pump gas station at the courthouse and an amusement park, playground, and campground on the shores of Potomac Creek, near Crow's Nest, were examples of this destructive trend. He said that they were squandering and destroying their natural resources, including the Rappahannock River, which was a unique and beautiful gift.

Mr. Eastland said that they should consider making Stafford into a visionary leader that prioritized a clean, healthy environment for their families. He said that they should work to be a place where families could thrive, raise their children, and live in a community with clean air, water, and soil. He said that that should be their goal. He said that if they failed to achieve this, they were striking out and failing every generation that followed, leaving them to inherit the mess they created.

7. Elena Prokos, Rock Hill District, said that her husband and she owned a 7-acre farm, which featured a wildlife habitat, and they were extremely concerned about the environment at all

times. She said that she would like for the County to make their decisions by considering how they would affect the environment. She said that some people believed that preserving the environment was frivolous. She said that she recalled a study on a small, unusual animal that people dismissed as insignificant, and she would like to refute that claim. She said that trees, waterways, and air quality all contribute to a healthier environment.

Ms. Prokos said that they also lowered temperatures in urban areas. She said that when she first moved here, there were five traffic lights on Route 610, but now, there were many more. She asked the Board to consider the impact of their decisions on the environment, including trees, water, air, and even the lights, which could have an effect on the environment. She said that researching the topic could provide valuable information. She said that she would like to conclude by sharing a poem that had stuck with her: "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree. Poems are made by fools like me. But only God can make a tree."

8. Kristin Maxson, Falmouth District, said that the text on page 86 of their packet today, which was 433 pages, was distorted, and this issue would be exacerbated when digitizing low-quality documents. She asked if the Board's portal was visible to the public. She said that this contained the answers to the Board's questions. She said that on page 116 of 433, she asked how the courthouse could be considered a campus, and where was the map to this campus. She said she would like to acknowledge the American flag and its significance, which was recognized this past week.

Ms. Maxson stated that this was a matter directed by Richmond. She asked how this was affecting the Stafford public. She said that minutes from April 15, 2025, indicated that the regular meeting extended into the morning of April 16. She asked how they could accurately capture the additional hour and a half that was not included in the advertised day's hearing. She emphasized the importance of showing respect to the public when introducing hearings. She said that during this meeting, a resolution was missing when voted on, masking addresses.

Ms. Maxson said that this occurred on April 15, 2025, as recorded on the video caption at 34 minutes and 50 seconds within the hearing. She said that a statement that the public was lied to during this meeting was not recorded in the minutes or related factors. She said that the public should attend meetings for real-time witnessing to understand the proceedings. She said that the May 6, 2025 packet had grown from 23 megabytes to 29.46 megabytes after the fact that people loaded to prepare for the hearing. She asked how the public could follow this information.

Ms. Maxson said that the Capital Project Transportation bridge to cross the Rappahannock River failed to mention the Fredericksburg Stadium, opened on May 11, 2021, and was affected by the political COVID-19 fallout. She asked how this impacted the Stafford people, and what role the Stafford people played in providing the loss of funding for this.

9. Donald Squires, Hartwood District, said that his area was essentially ground zero of the data center issue. He said that during the last meeting, the conversation about the data center brought up the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report. He said that after reading it, he was surprised by how many people were discussing it as if they had a

thorough understanding, but were only cherry-picking specific information and omitting crucial details. He said that one point mentioned in the report was that data centers are industrial facilities, largely incompatible with residential areas. He said that it was puzzling that this data center would be placed so close to a residential area, especially considering the height of the buildings.

Mr. Squires said that he did not think there were any 10-story-tall buildings in Stafford currently, so it was hard to imagine that size of building. He said that he doubted that anyone would want a 10-story building erected right next to their house with a 100-foot buffer on land that once was forested. He said that he also wanted to emphasize the importance of minimizing residential impacts, which ultimately was up to elected officials such as the Board of Supervisors. He said that he appreciated the efforts to revise the standards and pass them on to the Planning Commission. He said that he had a question regarding how they absorbed public comments and made them relevant to the Board's decision-making process.

Mr. Squires said that he wondered if they even remembered public comments and whether they were effective. He said that he applauded their efforts to try, but he was left wondering if his comments would have any significant impact. He said that furthermore, he would like to know if they planned to require data centers to conduct environmental management studies or sound modeling studies to ensure they met noise standards in residential areas.

10. Shamgar Connors, Hartwood District, said that he stood in solidarity with Item 32 on the agenda, which recognized June as a month of recognition and support for individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in Stafford County. He said that he was thrilled to see this acknowledgment. He said that as a member of the LGBTQ community, he was committed to supporting Stafford's efforts to become a more inclusive and welcoming County. He said that he had previously spoken about this issue three weeks ago, sharing his personal experience as a transgender individual and advocating for trans rights.

Mr. Connors said that he appreciated the support of the School Board and Superintendent, despite the challenges posed by federal executive orders. He said that as a community, they deserved to be celebrated and recognized for their contributions. He said that however, he also believed it was essential to acknowledge the struggles faced by other groups, such as veterans. He said that the statistics on the LGBT community were striking, with higher rates of HIV, STDs, and mental health issues. He said that despite these challenges, they must continue to promote inclusivity and acceptance.

Mr. Connors said that he requested that Stafford hold a pride parade to promote awareness and understanding of the LGBT community. He said that this event would serve as a platform to celebrate their diversity and promote a culture of inclusivity. He said that he would address a concern regarding the way children were exposed to LGBTQ+ themes in schools, similar to those with Sesame Street and Disney. He said that exposure could potentially influence young minds and shape their values, ultimately contributing to a larger population of individuals who identified as LGBTQ+.

Mr. Connors said that the core purpose of pride in the LGBT community was to promote acceptance and inclusivity, which could manifest in various ways, including relationships and personal expression. He said that some individuals may take this a step further, embracing unconventional lifestyles. He said that he wanted to respectfully bring this to the Board's attention, as he genuinely cared about the well-being of their community in Stafford County. He said that it was essential to remember that trans rights were human rights.

11. James Fisher said that his message to the Board tonight was straightforward. He said that after 30 years in the Armed Forces, he did not serve to receive thanks for his service. He said that military personnel joined to demonstrate patriotism and a desire to serve their country, often at great personal cost. He said that they were willing to sacrifice more than most of them to protect their freedoms, which they enjoyed. He said that unfortunately, over the past 250 years, countless men and women had given their lives or suffered severe disabilities in defense of their nation.

Mr. Fisher said that tonight, they gathered because a Board member deemed it essential to recognize and support individuals of diverse sexual orientation. He said that however, the Board failed to honor the sacrifices made by the men and women of the armed services each day with a similar proclamation. He said that the fact that many Stafford residents voiced their opinions on this matter and attended tonight's meeting was a testament to the community's passion. He said that he found this situation to be disgusting and a slap in the face to all those who had served.

Mr. Fisher said that if some of the Board members had served in the Armed Forces, they might understand his perspective. He said that as Jack Nicholson once said in *A Few Good Men*, those of them who served had neither the time nor the inclination to explain themselves to individuals who benefited from the freedom they provided. He said that by all means, he encouraged the Board to declare June as the month to recognize and support diverse sexual preferences.

Mr. Fisher said that they would single out this small community while disrespecting the community that provided them with the freedom they enjoyed. He said that for himself, every month, including June, was Armed Forces Appreciation Month. He said that he hoped the large active duty and retired military community in Stafford County would remember the Board's stance and priorities come election time.

12. Abby Carter, Falmouth District, said that she wanted to start by expressing her gratitude to all of the Supervisors for voting to establish the ad hoc committee studying data center regulations. She said that she appreciated this effort. She said that she was there tonight to advocate for a slowdown in data center development in Stafford County. She said that as a community, they understood the need for revenue, and that was not the issue.

Ms. Carter said that the concern the public had was the speed at which these developments were happening. She said that she believed others had pointed out that this industry was relatively new, but at the scale and size they were seeing now, it was becoming increasingly daunting. She said that after conducting some research, she had found that the latest academic

findings on water usage, electrical grid strain, and noise pollution suggested that data centers were producing greater strains than previously thought, especially as their size and capacity increased.

Ms. Carter said that in November of last year, the World Economic Forum had published a paper on the water use of data centers. She said that the article revealed that water use was higher than expected, even in closed-system cooling. She said that according to the article, during the cooling process, part of the water evaporated, and the remaining water became wastewater, which was often contaminated with dust, chemicals, and minerals, hindering the efficiency of the cooling process if recirculated. She said that this implied that water would need to be changed regularly for efficient cooling.

Ms. Carter said that the article also noted that less than a third of all data center operators actively tracked water usage, which was a significant problem. She said that the lack of this data made the full environmental impact unknown and unknowable. She said that she would like to recommend reading a recent comprehensive article published by Stanford, which addressed many of the same concerns they had as a community. She said that she urged the Board to wait until the ad hoc committee had had a chance to investigate these issues before approving any further data center developments.

13. Kerri Sobolik, Hartwood District, said that as the County moved forward with a subcommittee to review data center performance standards, she would like to request that the Board consider holding all applications that had been submitted, were currently being reviewed, and had not yet been approved. She said that the information she would like to share with you tonight came from an article written by Grace Mammon in the Cardinal News, dated March 17, 2025. She said that the article, titled "Northern Virginia Has More Data Centers Than Anywhere Else in the World: Here's Its Advice," highlighted the importance of proper zoning.

Ms. Sobolik said that according to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Virginia was home to approximately 150 data centers, which accounted for around 35% of all known hyperscale data centers globally. She said that one of the key recommendations was to ensure that projects were zoned correctly and placed in industrial areas where they were least likely to disrupt residents. She said that it was also essential to demand specific details about project proposals and conduct thorough research on the parties involved.

Ms. Sobolik said that other counties, such as Loudoun and Prince William, had learned this the hard way and advised localities to keep projects in industrial areas to minimize potential problems. She said that Northern Virginia had experienced this firsthand, as the data center industry had evolved at a faster pace than zoning codes. She said that she asked the Board to please consider putting the brakes on and reach out to nearby boards to learn from their experiences and protect Stafford County for the benefit of all residents.

14. Erin Sanzero, Hartwood District, said that she wanted to express her gratitude for the vote to send the performance standards back to the Planning Commission for review. She said that tonight, she would like to focus specifically on the residential impact perspective and why stricter and more stringent performance standards were crucial. She said that even if data center

development was limited to M-2 zones, this alone would not address the wave of rezoning applications currently being processed by the County, with many of these applications placing data centers directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

Ms. Sanzero said that this proximity posed significant risks, and it was essential to have these performance standards in place to anticipate and mitigate these impacts before harm was done. She said that she would like to cite JLARC's report exclusively, which highlighted the residential impacts of data centers. She said that according to JLARC, a growing number of data centers were being built close to residential areas, causing residential impacts. She said that JLARC defined data centers as industrial facilities that were largely incompatible with residential uses and described them as large industrial buildings with trailer-sized generators, industrial-scale cooling equipment, security fences, and 24-7 bright security lighting.

Ms. Sanzero said that residents described the data centers as a giant monolith in the wrong place and like a prison. She said that JLARC stated that residents had reported negative effects from data centers, including constant noise that affected their well-being, causing migraines, disrupted sleep, and a poorer quality of life. She said that the report stated that the construction phase preceding the data center could last up to 12 to 18 months, and as they moved towards campus-style developments, projects like the one in Stafford were expected to take at least 10 years to complete.

Ms. Sanzero said that in summary, JLARC had clearly stated that the majority of data centers were located in industrial or commercial areas, far from residential uses. She said that in fact, over 60% of these data centers were more than 500 feet away from the property line, with the actual building distance being even farther than 500 feet. She said that JLARC emphasized that greater distances resulted in fewer impacts, making it a simple yet critical consideration.

15. Karen Fox, Hartwood District, said that at the last Board of Supervisors meeting, a comment was made that the 2023 data center regulations should not be changed. She said that while these regulations seemed appropriate 18 months ago, she wanted to thank the Board of Supervisors for listening to the public and moving swiftly to reexamine these regulations. She said that their quick response was appreciated and necessary, as the landscape was changing faster than anyone could have imagined.

Ms. Fox said that a growing concern had been reported, and she urged the Supervisors to investigate this directly. She said that Dominion Energy was actively exploring the use of small modular reactors (SMR) to power data centers. She said that these compact nuclear reactors were being considered for sites where grid connections and substations could not meet the enormous demand of data center operations. She said that Dominion had identified several locations in Virginia, including the Northern Virginia Data Corridor, as potential SMR deployment candidates to support high-tech infrastructure.

Ms. Fox said that while she gave no weight to unsubstantiated rumors, she must share that she had been approached multiple times since the last Board of Supervisors meeting by individuals suggesting the Eskimo Hill Data Center project may be planning to use nuclear energy, and that a specialized emergency response unit dedicated to nuclear incidents was already being

trained. She said that even if there was a shred of truth to this, it highlighted the importance of transparency and public accountability around these projects. She said that this was exactly why Stafford County must not allow data centers to be grandfathered under any outdated regulations.

Ms. Fox said that these facilities took years to develop and years to operate fully, meaning the decisions they made now must reflect the present and quickly changing future. She said that the future included technologies like SMRs. She said that data center regulations must not be treated as static; they must be consistently reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure they remained aligned with evolving technologies, environmental impacts, and community standards.

Ms. Fox said that she appreciated the Board's establishment of the Data Center Subcommittee. She said that their willingness to adapt and listen gave her hope that Stafford County would lead on this issue with strong, up-to-date regulations that reflected both public input and emerging realities. She said that she urged them to continue moving forward with bold, protective policies that put residents first, now and in the future.

16. Tristan Heinz, Hartwood District, said that he would like to invite the Board to review the comments made by his friends and neighbors behind him, as they had conducted thorough research and had the data to support their claims. He said that they required the County's support and attention on these issues. He said that personally, he had a unique perspective to share, having grown up on military bases where he was fortunate to have access to various amenities, such as a movie theater, pool, and library, all within walking distance.

Mr. Heinz said that this experience was invaluable to him and different from what he experienced growing up in Stafford. He said that although Stafford had some amenities in the past, such as a movie theater and bowling alley, they lacked those now. He said that this was unfortunate, as his wife and he had brought their family back to Stafford to be closer to their grandparents. He said that he believed they were at a crossroads in Stafford's development.

Mr. Heinz said that instead of focusing on placing data centers in residential areas, he proposed that they consider developing integrated commercial residential spaces that allowed residents to live, work, and enjoy themselves within close proximity. He said that this would help create a more vibrant community, rather than a commuter town where residents lived to sleep, eat, and work elsewhere. He said that by prioritizing the human factor, they could address the issue of lengthy commutes and provide residents with a place to live, work, and enjoy themselves within walking distance or a short drive.

17. Cade Hildreth, Hartwood District, said that he had taken some notes, but he preferred to speak from the heart as he listened to the Board and the people in the audience. He said that he would like to start by thanking the Board. He said that he had come to see the Supervisors as people tasked with hard decisions and a lot of work, and he learned from them and trusted them as he had attended their meetings late into the night along with them. He said that he wanted to acknowledge that some of the Supervisors were very good listeners.

Mr. Hildreth said that he wanted to address responsible data center development. He said that they could pursue both economic growth and community protection; they did not need to be mutually exclusive. He said that the last few years had been an interesting time for the Supervisors to serve as elected officials considering the developments of artificial intelligence (AI) had changed the landscape so that the size, scale, and number of data centers was changing. He said that this led to changes in how they were developed and what the impacts of those developments were on the community.

Mr. Hildreth said that furthermore, the power dynamic was changing so that the developers now needed a locality's resources and access. He said that Stafford had received 13 applications for data center developments since 2023 and had received two more this year. He said that he wanted to ask the Board to consider what their plan would be when they got up to 20, 30, 50, or 100 applications. He asked if they wanted their community to be massive complexes of data centers. He said that he also did not believe anyone would want to live near them as they proliferated in the future.

Mr. Hildreth said that the phenomenon was similar to being overrun by an invasive species. He said that it appeared non-threatening at first, but now was proliferating in ways that they did not expect. He said that it was especially troubling when they had massive facilities proposed in or adjacent to residences. He said that they must consider what it would be like to be a neighbor to a data center, even if the data center's neighbor was another heavy industrial development. He said that furthermore, 24/7 hyperscale operations would have persistent noise, intense lighting, diesel operations for lighting, water demands, and substations, all of which had effects on neighboring property values.

Mr. Hildreth said that he had read all 156 pages of the JLARC report and analyzed the tax maps related to this. He said that it did not look great, but he would elaborate on that on another day when he had more time. He said that other Counties had taken action, such as Amelia County where data centers were prohibited from being located next to residential properties. He said that they should start looking at the behaviors of other Counties. He said that JLARC also said that the industrial scale of data centers made them largely incompatible with residential uses. He said that he urged the Board to think about what types of distances and buffers mattered, and what they must ask of data center developers in order to make sure they were good, quality neighbors.

18. Dick Fine, Aquia District, said that he would like to address one aspect of the data centers, which was low-frequency noise. He said that he previously brought this up to the Board at one of their meetings prior to this meeting date. He said that Stafford County lacked performance standards for low-frequency noise (FLN), which poses a serious health risk if not mitigated. He said that Prince William County was attempting to address this issue after the fact, while other Counties continue to deal with the consequences of not establishing FLN standards. He said that Stafford County has an opportunity to take the lead by addressing this issue now.

Mr. Fine said that he was not aware if Stafford had any standards regarding low-frequency noise. He said that the general noise standard Stafford uses for industrial zones was 79 dBA during the day and 72 dBA at night, but it did not consider the impact of low-frequency noise

measured in dBc. He said that 79 dBA data center noise can reach levels of 90 to 100 dBc, far exceeding safe levels for a single data center, and even higher when clustered data centers are nearby. He said that low-frequency noise, measured between 20 to 250 Hz, was a deep hum or vibration from data centers, cooling systems, generators, and HVAC units.

Mr. Fine said that unlike other noises, it traveled up to two and a half miles, penetrating homes and schools, and was felt more than heard, making it highly disruptive. He said that according to Stafford County's existing noise standards, within one and a half miles, LFN posed a severe to moderate risk to people, including symptoms such as stress, anxiety, sleep disturbances, cognitive impairment in children, and cardiovascular issues. He said that in fact, there were several schools and hospitals in the vicinity of the Potomac Church center, within one and a half to two miles. He said that clustered data centers like these amplified the risk. He said that he urged the Board to slow down and establish data center-focused noise standards that include LFN-specific standards and mitigation mandates using dBc measurements to protect their families and wildlife.

19. Jerrilynn Eby MacGregor, Rock Hill District, said that she would like to express her gratitude for the May 20 deferral of the vote on the lease to the Patowomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia (PITV) until they provided the documentation they claim to have submitted to the General Assembly in 2010. She said that as a concerned citizen, she urges the Board to conduct thorough due diligence as supervisors of the County that is being adversely affected by the General Assembly's decision to recognize the PITV as an Indian Tribe. She said that, as previously stated by this Board, she was considered one of the leading historians in Stafford, with over 50 years of experience and 30 years of publishing on this topic.

Ms. MacGregor said that she has spent most of her adult life studying Stafford's records, having read tens of thousands of old documents. She said that currently, she had nine books in print on this subject, totaling over 4,500 pages, and two others nearing completion, which were considered treatises on Stafford history. She said that after an exhaustive search, she had established the following facts: Firstly, the PITV had no records proving descent or tribal continuity when they applied to the Virginia Council on Indians (VCI) in 1997 and 1998.

Ms. MacGregor said that secondly, the VCI turned down the PITV due to lack of records. She said that third, in 2010, the PITV claimed to have amassed family, church, land, and other records that proved their descent from Native Americans. She said that fourth, the Assembly's recognition of the PITV in 2010 was granted despite the VCI's advice against it. She said that she had found no evidence that these records exist or that the Assembly ever saw them. She said that if they did not exist, then recognition was granted under false pretenses, and the PITV is not legitimate. She said that they possessed official state records that demonstrated the Assembly failed to conduct its due diligence when recognizing the PITV as a Virginia tribe. She said that they would hear portions of these documents read tonight.

20. Rick MacGregor, Aquia District, said that he was beginning to agree with a previous speaker that the Board of Supervisors was underpaid. He said that in 1982, the Virginia General Assembly initiated a process to study and identify tribal groups that would be formally recognized by the Commonwealth. He said that this process was primarily handled by the

Virginia Council on Indians, a formal body established to advise the General Assembly and the Governor, or the General Assembly itself. He said that Thomasina Jordan was appointed by the Governor as Chair of the Virginia Council on Indians in 1994 and was reappointed in 1997.

Mr. MacGregor said that Robert Greene, who later became the first Chief of the Patawomeck Tribe, was elected as spokesperson for that group on August 10, 1996. He said that in a copy of the minutes of a Virginia Council on Indians meeting dated December 5, 1996, in which Robert Greene was present, Thomasina Jordan, Chairperson, stated, "Mr. Greene was made cognizant of the recognition procedure that it must go through the Virginia Council on Indians for approval, and the Council would make their recommendations to the General Assembly." He said that subsequently, Thomasina Jordan appointed a committee to work on the recognition status of members, including Delegate Harvey Morgan, Professor Helen Roundtree, Lenore Atkins, Jean Atkins, and Lonnie Costolo.

Mr. MacGregor said that then, in an official correspondence from Thomasina Jordan to Dr. Helen Roundtree dated January 7, 1997, Mrs. Jordan stated, "Mr. Greene of the Potomac Tribe and his friends had been advised of the proper procedure." He said that she had also noted that, "a couple of them called and informed me that they were going to get Delegate Howell to push it through with or without the Council's support. In an endeavor to be fair to all tribes, rules and regulations should be followed." He said that two days later, in a letter from Robert Greene to Thomasina Jordan dated January 9, 1997, Mr. Greene stated, "It was not our intent to push forward with this effort without the positive recommendation of the Virginia Council on Indians."

Mr. MacGregor said that Mr. Greene went on to state, "We wish to fully comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia in this matter." He said that Robert Greene concluded his letter by stating, "We desire to become a member of the family of Virginia tribes. To gain recognition without the favorable recommendation of the Virginia Council on Indians would be detrimental to this effort, and in reality serve no purpose."

21. Sid Neighbor, Aquia District, said that the official findings, which were publicly available and accessible through the Virginia Council of Indians, stated that after careful thought and consideration, including both the indigenous and anthropological aspects of the case, they had concluded that the petitioner's documents had not shown sufficient evidence of the existence of a tribal community to justify their recognition as an Indian tribe by the Commonwealth. He said that the Virginia Council of Indians had rejected the Patawomeck petition not only this time, but also on previous occasions, as they had never recommended the group for recognition.

Mr. Neighbor said that what was surprising was that the Council was eventually dissolved in protest after the General Assembly went against their petition and granted the recognition regardless. He said that ultimately, history should be based on evidence and facts, rather than stories that people may want to believe. He said that it was essential that they remain open to inquiry and hold public officials accountable for their due diligence, rather than being quick to dismiss or condemn their constituents who did it instead.

22. Heidi Farley, Hartwood District, said that she lived in what another speaker had referred to as “ground zero” for the data centers. She said that yesterday morning, she noticed logging trucks arriving at the end of their short cul-de-sac. She said that the narrow area at the end of their road was where the data centers claimed they would be built. She said that she had taken a video of the woods before the loggers began working, which she shared on Ms. Bohmke's page.

Ms. Farley said that she invited all of the Supervisors to visit the end of Kelsey Road and see the situation for themselves. She said that while she understood that the developer had the legal right to clear the timber, she believed that the action taken was motivated by a desire for retaliation against their community for speaking out. She said that one of their Board members had kindly reviewed the situation, which was going on again today. She said that she would like to know who would be held responsible for the damage to their road, which was caused by heavy logging trucks that were not supposed to be on their road.

Ms. Farley said that the forest could have been a buffer to protect them from the noise, lights, and hazards. She said that she was concerned that no silt fence had been put in place along the creek, which fed into the Crow's Nest feeders. She said that she understood that the developer's actions were legal, but she believed they demonstrated a lack of character and a desire for revenge. She said that she implored the Board to please visit Kelsey Road and see the destruction that had been done for no reason.

23. Bart Randall, Garrisonville District, said that he would like to discuss data centers and the County's plan for managing them in the long term. He said that as they had discussed before, he was interested in knowing where their data center plan stood and what process they would use to manage these facilities. He said that they had had multiple discussions about data centers, and he was concerned that they were not having a clear plan in place. He said that it seemed like they were often reacting to the situation rather than having a thoughtful approach. He said that there needed to be a comprehensive plan that outlined their goals, strategies, and timelines for managing data centers.

Mr. Randall said that with 15 applications, the potential for 20 or 25 more, they needed a plan to ensure they were making informed decisions and considering the long-term implications. He strongly advocated for developing a plan before proceeding with rezonings or any other actions. He said that this plan should be transparent and communicated to the constituents of Stafford County, so they understood their vision and strategy for data centers. He said that they had mentioned grandfathering existing data centers, but it was unclear what standards they were grandfathering them to.

Mr. Randall said that they had emphasized the importance of getting it right, but now they needed to ensure that their standards were in place before they moved forward. He said that they should follow a logical and sensible process that prioritized long-term growth and stability for Stafford County. He said that currently, it appeared they lacked a clear plan. He said that he would like to propose that they revisit the performance standards for data centers,

specifically the 100-foot limit. He said that they all agreed that 1,000 feet was the more suitable standard.

Mr. Randall asked why they did not simply vote to change the standard to 1,000 feet right now, rather than waiting for the Planning Commission to review it. He said that the Planning Commission could take their time to review all the other standards, but the Board did not require the Planning Commission's permission to make that specific change. He said that they could implement it immediately. He said that he would recommend that the Board proceed with making that specific change tomorrow to create a 1,000 foot buffer, without grandfathering. He said that he would reiterate that they must put together a plan.

24. Molly Denham, Hartwood District, said that similar to some of the other speakers, she was a military retiree. She said that having spent her entire childhood as a military brat and the better part of her adult life in service to her country, she was dismayed to learn that she was not considered part of the group of all service members as referenced by another speaker. She said that she took her service seriously and served to make their country and world better, and that included supporting those with a smaller voice than hers.

Ms. Denham said that she wholeheartedly supported the LGBTQIA+ community, and she agreed with another speaker that she did not see how supporting their observance detracted from anyone else. She said that she was appalled when people used military service as a counterbalance to recognition of others. She said that there were 37 separate days of the year dedicated to military holidays and observances. She said that not only that, there was the month of the military child, military appreciation month, military caregiver month, warrior care month, and military family month. She said that she believed that military members were not lacking in recognition.

Ms. Denham said that some who had served should be ashamed of themselves because they missed the lessons that they should have learned through the multiple leadership schools and academies that they would have attended as service members, and their comments were directly counter to everything that her own military service stood for. She said that the military taught that leaders steered the ship, and leaders were both good and bad. She said that the poor leadership qualities of the current administration had made ugly and cruel words, comments, and actions commonplace and even acceptable behavior.

Ms. Denham said that it seemed that this was trickling down into their local government leadership, and the public was seeing it as part of the clown show exhibited today. She said that she was deeply disappointed that they were having this discussion, and it hurt her heart to see that her service did not have the impact she thought it would have.

25. Connie Barrow, Rock Hill District, said that she wanted to thank the Board for their efforts last time they met and for the thoughtful consideration they gave to the comments regarding data centers. She said that they had taken her input into account and sent it back to the Planning Commission to re-examine the standards and regulations. She said that she would like to discuss a concern that she believed was relevant to their discussion.

Ms. Barrow said that when they were in the early stages of a new project, it was easy to become isolated and dismiss the experiences of other jurisdictions. She said that however, she thought it was essential that they consider the lessons learned from other projects, particularly those that had been approved or were currently under consideration. She said that in her research, she had found that data was a critical factor in this discussion. She said that what had been observed in other places was also important, and they should not rely solely on anecdotal evidence; they should look for substance and evidence to support their decisions.

Ms. Barrow said that she would like to share an article from The Guardian, published on April 24, 2025, which highlighted the issue of capacity and electrical power for an AI data center. She believed it was essential that they consider this information and its relevance to their own discussions about data centers. She said that the article mentioned Elon Musk's AXAI supercomputer in Memphis, Tennessee, which had become one of the biggest air polluters in Shelby County.

Ms. Barrow said that the Southern Environmental Law Center revealed that the supercomputer was using at least 35 portable methane gas turbines without air permits to supplement its power source. She said that these generators were enormous emitters of toxic and carcinogenic pollution. She said that the thermal imaging showed that there were currently 30 turbines, exceeding the allowed 15.

26. Patrick Sobolik, Hartwood District, said that as a veteran who had spent 28 years in the military, he chose to relocate to Stafford County to a secluded plot of land, where he could find the quiet he needed. He said that he also had a dog that suffered from anxiety, and the dog was extremely sensitive to low-level, low-volume, and low-frequency noises. He said that his dog often anticipated thunderstorms and became severely anxious, hiding under the bed and shaking. He said that if any of them had an anxiety-prone dog, he was sure they understood his point.

Mr. Sobolik said that yesterday, he witnessed tree cutting on Kelsey Lane, which was close to his residence, Rollingswood Lane. He said that although it was not directly next to him, the noise could still be heard, and his dog had been freaking out, hiding under the window and shaking due to the low-frequency noise. He said that he was concerned that a data center, with its potential for low-frequency emissions, would have a similar impact on their residential area.

Mr. Sobolik said that as one of their previous speakers had suggested, he urged the Board to visit Kelsey Lane and see the current situation for themselves, as the developer was removing what could serve as a buffer between the data center and the residents of the area. He said that he did not see the benefit this deforestation had for the developer.

REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Yeung – reported that she attended a Regional Housing Executive Committee meeting and was working to bring forward a work session focused on affordable housing, examining the comprehensive plan and the gaps within. She said that on May 23, they honored those who gave their lives in service to their country. She said that she had two children who served in the military.

She said that on May 28, she attended the Virginia Transit Authority for Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission, where they advocated for sustainable public transit solutions to reduce traffic and provide reliable alternatives, not just for those without cars, but for a healthier, more connected Stafford.

Dr. Yeung said that on May 30, they celebrated Dr. Gullickson's retirement from Germanna Community College. She said that Germanna's campus on Garrisonville Road remained a strong example of when education aligned with local healthcare, thanks to their nursing program. She said that she had several one-on-one meetings with constituents, coffee chats that she held informally to listen to residents' concerns regarding taxes, development, transportation, and schools, bringing those voices directly back to the Board. She said that she would also like to congratulate the Class of 2025, including Fabiola Torres-Rodriguez, who gave the salutatory speech, and she would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chelsea Cacciotti, the outgoing PTA president at Hampton Oaks, who brought joy and enthusiasm along with her dedication to the school.

Dr. Yeung said that serving was about the impact one made when no one was looking. She said that this was the kind of leadership Stafford deserved, and that was what she strived to model every day. She said that they should continue building Stafford where people could live, work, and play, with neighborhood schools within walking distance, connecting parks and trails, and maybe a regional sportsplex. She said that prioritizing safe crosswalks, smart housing for essential workers, and long-term investments was essential to making their community stronger and more connected.

Ms. Allen – stated that there was a question from a public commenter regarding how the Supervisors took in citizens' comments, and she wanted to answer that they took the comments very seriously, and they reviewed these comments through their notes, videos, and retaining them in their memories. She said that many of them took notes during public discussions, especially if they were relevant. She said that she wanted to clarify this to ensure that the public did not feel discouraged or think the Board was not paying attention, regardless of the outcome. She said that they were listening and paying attention, and they took heed of suggestions.

Ms. Allen said that some of them used this information to try to understand the pathway forward, as they did not have all the information. She said that they appreciated the research and insights that had been provided by their constituents, and they would consider them as they made policy decisions. She said that today, as Chairman had mentioned, they had attended the Stafford Hospital ceremony to recognize Stafford County as a Stroke Smart County.

Ms. Allen said that this was significant because it highlighted the community's efforts to bring stroke awareness to residents, reducing disability and effects caused by unrecognized strokes. She said that as a follow-up, she had asked their staff to investigate including information on stroke signs in the Commissioner's assessment letters, so households could be aware of the signs and take action. She said that this was crucial, as 75% of strokes went unrecognized, and timely recognition could lead to better treatment protocols.

Ms. Allen said that she also wanted to address comments about Pride Month and community tolerance. She said that she believed it was essential for their community to be accepting and

tolerant of others. She said that as an American, they had the freedom to make their own decisions, but she did not think it was acceptable to create a community that excluded others. She said that their history had shown them that acceptance took time, and they had made progress over 200 years. She said that she was committed to being open and accepting of others, and she encouraged the community to do the same.

Ms. Allen said that even if someone said something she disagreed with completely, she would never say that she did not want them in her community. She said that even if someone's view was harmful to her own existence, she would still accept them, because both of their existences mattered. She said that when she heard people say hurtful things about service members and the LGBTQIA community, it frustrated her because they did have service members from that community who had served. She said that if they were willing to put on a uniform to represent all of them, she did not see the harm in recognizing their service and the unique qualities that made them who they were.

Ms. Allen said that they had accepted them as Americans when they wore their uniforms, and she did not think it was too much to ask for them to acknowledge their contributions. She said that she was not asking anyone to go out of their way to make personal statements about Pride or to make a statement. She said that she simply wanted them to acknowledge that being different was okay, and that they should accept each other for who they were. She said that her grandmother used to quote, "Judge not, lest ye be judged," and that had always been her guiding principle.

Ms. Allen said that therefore her greatest adjudicator would meet her when the time came. She said that she was not here to judge anyone's lifestyle or decisions. She said that she just wanted them to create a community of tolerance, where their children and young people could look up to them as leaders and role models. She said that if they could not do that, then they were perpetuating the intolerance that was already present in the country. She said that she would always support those who were different, especially those who had overcome incredible challenges to be who they were.

Ms. Allen said that regarding the comments on data centers, she hoped they could have a more in-depth conversation about economic development in Stafford. She had been advocating for mixed-use development for years, and she believed it was essential for diversifying their economic base. She said that however, when initiatives had been presented to diversify their economic base, that progress had been met with resistance due to concerns about overdevelopment. She said that they had to look for the least impactful way to promote economic development, which was not always perfect but was meant to ease the burden of taxes on residents.

Ms. Allen said that the last three budgets had been challenging for taxpayers, and they were facing tremendous growth that required significant funding. She said that if they were not allowing for some form of economic development and were told that residents did not want the development, their options were limited. She said that she thought the community needed to start having a conversation about what economic development looked like. She said that it was not possible to completely say that they did not want anything and then not realize they had to pay for the consequences.

Ms. Allen said that as someone who had always been honest and truthful about this, her job was to figure out how to make Stafford County sustainable. She said that she wanted the public to be engaged in this process, especially as they moved through the budget process starting in October. She said that she encouraged the public to watch the video streams, review the financial demands, and understand the challenges they were facing. She said that it would help the Board, as elected officials, get a better sense of what the County wanted and what a reasonable plan looked like for economic development.

Ms. Bohmke – reported that she had the opportunity to attend several committee meetings. She said that at Virginia Railway Express (VRE), they were selecting their new general counsel. She said that they were now in the final stages of the hiring process, and she hoped they would have an update on that at their next meeting. She said that she was not at liberty to disclose the name of the candidate, but she was confident they would have an announcement soon. She said that she would also like to mention that the Falmouth Historic Cemetery, located on Butler Road off Route 1 and 17, had recently received a new sign designation due to its age and historic significance. She said that it was situated within the historic Falmouth Overlay District.

Ms. Bohmke said that she and Dr. Yeung had attended a landfill meeting with their R-Board, and at their August 27 meeting they would be voting on potentially using \$3 million of their reserves to pay down some debt on the existing landfill cell. She said that the Planning Commission would be holding their first subcommittee meeting this Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in these Board chambers. She said that although there would be no public comment, she recommended reaching out to the subcommittee members or the Planning Commission to provide input. She said that they would listen to concerns and take them into consideration.

Ms. Bohmke said that she would drive down Kelsey Road to get a firsthand look at the issues some of the public comments had mentioned. She said that she had seen some disturbing pictures online, and she was concerned about the situation. She said that she would also be inquiring about the developer after the meeting. She said that she would like to recognize Susan Siegmund, who received the Unsung Hero Award from the Attorney General on April 8 for her exemplary service as the Justice Services Director at Empower House. She said that Ms. Siegmund had been a great support to survivors of domestic violence and had worked tirelessly for 13 years.

Ms. Bohmke said that the way she had supported people of domestic violence for these 13 years was truly remarkable. She said that she wanted to take a moment to publicly recognize her efforts, as Empower House served all of Planning District 16, which included the four surrounding Counties and the city of Fredericksburg. She said that she would like to extend her gratitude to Ms. Siegmund.

Ms. Bohmke said that her final point was that if the public reviewed the initial data center vote on the Potomac Church site, which was located near the hospital, she had met with Dr. John Liver, a NASA employee with extensive experience in mathematics and engineering. She said that he had brought to their attention the issue of low-frequency noise, which the members of the public were now discussing. She said that she had previously voted against the data center in her district, which was too close to her neighbors.

Ms. Bohmke said that she had requested additional provisions regarding low-frequency noise, but unfortunately, the majority vote had prevailed. She said that although she was unable to get those provisions included, she had brought Dr. John Lyver to the meeting at the last minute, and he had shared his expertise with the Board. She said that he had previously reviewed the noise study and deemed it inadequate. She said that she wanted to assure the members of the public that they heard them and valued their input. She said that it was crucial that they got these things right, but it did require four votes.

Ms. Bohmke said that she encouraged the public to review the meeting tape and see for themselves what had happened when she brought Dr. John Lyver into the discussion. She said that as one vote, she may not have had the power to change the outcome, but she wanted to emphasize the importance of addressing low-frequency noise, which could be debilitating. She said that she was concerned about the proximity of the data center to a daycare center, single-family homes, and the Abberly Apartments.

Mr. English – reported said that he had visited Kelsey Road, and he was appalled, too. He said that he reached out to the developer and asked why they did not notify him or his constituents, and he did not receive a satisfactory response. He said that he also contacted the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) today, and they would monitor the road and address any issues that may arise.

Mr. English said that he appreciated Heidi's emails regarding this matter. He said that he completely agreed that what the developer was doing there was crazy. He said that he did not have an answer as to why they chose to do what they did, but ultimately the developer had the right to develop the property. He said that he was on top of this issue, as he mentioned before, and he would continue to monitor it.

Mr. English said that he would also like to bring up the upcoming Soapbox Derby on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. on Civil War Road. He said that it was the 28th annual event, and anyone could attend. He said that he attended the Memorial Day service here on May 23, which was a great event. He said that he would also appreciate an update on Musselman Park from Mr. Ashton. He said that he would like to extend congratulations to the 2025 graduates from this past week.

Mr. English said that he also attended the Foster Parents Appreciation Dinner on May 16, which was a wonderful event. He said that he would like to recognize the 70 foster children in Stafford County and the parents who had taken them in. He said that he would also like to share information about Black Horse Forge, a place in Stafford County that was featured in a video by Mike Rowe, who does Dirty Jobs.

Mr. English said that the video highlighted the work he does to help veterans with PTSD. He said that he did all this work for free, and it was truly remarkable. He said that what was even more impressive was that he relied solely on donations to support his efforts. He said that what really caught his attention was when he mentioned Fredericksburg as the location for the work, despite everything being done in Stafford. He said that he simply wanted to recognize that this all was done in Stafford County.

Ms. Gary – stated that she would like to take a moment to remind the public of the Board's conservation efforts over the past few years. She said that they had accomplished a great deal. She said that they had heard concerns about the environment. She said that they had established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT). She said that they had conserved hundreds of additional acres, not only in Crow's Nest, but across the County. She said that they had just updated that agreement in the budget process, so they were continuing that work and relationship.

Ms. Gary said that they had initiated the tree canopy ordinance, which was prompted by concerns about data centers. She said that they had sent it to the Planning Commission and were waiting for its return. She said that this ordinance would allow them to require developers to maintain more of the existing tree canopy. She said that furthermore, they were also exploring state legislation that would allow them to adopt a more stringent tree ordinance, similar to Planning District 9's, to require a larger area to be maintained. She said that she wanted to assure the public that they were listening to their concerns and taking action to address them.

Ms. Gary said that she wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some of the community events she had attended recently. She said that she had attended the Brooke Point High School graduation and wanted to offer congratulations to all the graduates, including those from public, private, and home schools, as well as college graduates. She said that she hoped everyone was able to take a well-deserved break and wished good luck to those who were in summer school.

Ms. Gary said that she also attended the Memorial Day Ceremony, which was always a beautiful tribute here. She said that her husband was a veteran of the Marine Corps, and she had never had to deal with him being deployed because they were married after his service, but he did go to Afghanistan a few years ago as a civilian. She said that he had been away for more than a year in a war zone, which was a difficult time for her and her family. She said that the Memorial Day Ceremony was an important event that allowed everyone to reflect on those near and dear to their hearts who had been impacted by military service. She said that she also wanted to acknowledge the struggles of those who had lost loved ones and continued to deal with PTSD. She said that her heart went out to the families of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Ms. Gary said that she would like to offer congratulations to her daughter, who was running in the state championships this weekend. She said that she had broken another record at Brooke Point High School and was so proud of her. She said that they had wonderful athletes in the County, and she was very proud of all of them.

Ms. Gary said that she had heard multiple public comments that included discussion that was pitting against the military community and the LGBTQ community. She said that she wanted to clarify that there was never any point where anyone on this Board expressed a lack of support for the military or veteran population. She said that in fact, they had actively shown their support and care for their military and veteran population. She said that her husband, who she had mentioned earlier, was in the Marine Corps, and she had three adult sons in the armed services - two in the Army, one in the Marine Corps, who she was very proud of.

Ms. Gary said that as a Christian woman and holder of a theology degree, she would like to address a point that was mentioned earlier in a public comment. She said that the story of Sodom and Gomorrah was not about homosexuality, but rather about a lack of hospitality. She said that it appeared to be a biblical account that had been misinterpreted. She said that she was glad to discuss this further with anyone later if the public had questions or would like more information. She said that there was a lot of information out there that could be misleading, and it was easy to get confused.

Ms. Gary said that she would be hosting a Walk and Talk event at 191 Coal Landing Road, Government Island Park, on June 14 at 9:00 a.m. She said that they would depart from the parking lot and walk the trail, and she encouraged the public to come and join her. She said that they could discuss any topics, including development, data centers, and schools, and get to know each other better. She said that kids and well-behaved dogs were welcome to join as well. She said that she looked forward to seeing everyone there.

Mr. Diggs – stated that voting was located at 124 Old Potomac Church Road, near Abberly Apartments. He said that when the Planning Commission met on Thursday, they would receive public comments. He said that he wanted to clarify that the County was not overrun by applications for data centers. He said that any developer had the right and opportunity to submit an application for anything. He said that if they had 40 or 50 applications, that was okay because they had to go through the process. He said that he wanted to tell the public not let the number of applications cause them anxiety. He said that the problem would arise at the Board level if they decided to approve all of those applications and build all of those developments.

Mr. Diggs said that he also wanted to address something he heard many public commenters say that bothered him. He said that it was unnecessary for citizens to thank the Board for listening to them. He said that it was the Board's job to listen to their constituents' concerns and then address those issues. He asked the public to please not thank the Board for their three minutes, because it was their right to speak and it was the Board's job to listen. He said that he wished they could give everyone more time to speak, but they could not let the meetings go until midnight.

Mr. Diggs said that on June 26, he would be hosting his third town hall of the year. He said that he was hoping they could focus on data centers and their potential impact on the County's budget. He had been attending various events and meetings, including giving the commencement speech at the Phoenix Center, which was an honor.

Mr. Diggs said that additionally, he wanted to address the Pride Month recognition and proclamation. He said that he wanted to explain why he made this decision and also ensure the public understood the context. He said that it was interesting to hear people speak boldly and bravely without having a good command of history and facts. He said that as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, he had the opportunity to review all the proclamations the Board gave and noticed that Pride Month was missing.

Mr. Diggs said that they recognized communities with proclamations because marginalized communities had been historically excluded from access to healthcare, housing, jobs, and other essential resources. He said that it was easy for anyone to use Google and learn about events that

explained the struggles faced by the Black community, gay community, and Hispanic community. He said that learning about these histories may give them more understanding about why it was important to celebrate people.

Mr. Diggs said that he sometimes felt like a walking conflict. He said that he was a Christian, a Black man, a veteran, law enforcement officer, and a gay man. He said that at certain points in his life, all of these identities conflicted and made someone mad. He said that he made everyone mad and had gotten used to that. He said that what he had learned in his walk, and hearing all week from people asking him to be quiet or to cut this part out, that when someone did not bring their full, authentic self to anything they did, they would not be successful.

Mr. Diggs said that he pushed to support everyone in this community because, as Ms. Allen had previously stated, he believed it was essential to allow people to say whatever they felt they needed to say. He said that during his campaign, he engaged in respectful discussions with people who held differing opinions, and he valued the diversity of perspectives and did not want to be in an echo chamber. He said that Pride Month was significant because it raised awareness about the mental health issues, depression, and isolation that people in the LGBT community felt.

Mr. Diggs said that one public commenter had brought up the struggles of veterans going unacknowledged, but he would like to note that he had lost several friends to suicide who had served in the military. He said that they were veterans who had been in combat overseas, serving in specialized units and returning home, ultimately to commit suicide because they could not come out and be who they really were. He asked the public to empathize with all of the things those individuals went through in combat, then coming home to be afraid of losing their families and friends, so they chose suicide over living their truth.

Mr. Diggs said that he wanted to emphasize that this proclamation was not about forcing anyone to celebrate or acknowledge a particular identity. He said that it was fine if someone did not like it and did not want to celebrate it; they could go on and do whatever else they wanted to do. He said that however, they should not try to ostracize or shut someone else down. He said that when discussing this proclamation, he wanted the public to understand the significance of it, which stated to recognize June as a month of recognition and support for individuals of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities in Stafford County.

Mr. Diggs read the proclamation, which stated, “Whereas, Stafford County is a friendly community that is welcoming and inclusive to all people; and Whereas, Stafford County recognizes the importance of equality and freedom for all our residents and the progress we have made as a nation to fight for justice and equality for all citizens; and Whereas, Stafford County recognizes that our nation was founded upon the principles that all people are created equal and that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness; and Whereas, Stafford County is dedicated to fostering the acceptance of all its residents and preventing discrimination and mistreatment based on sexual orientation and gender identity and promote treating them with the dignity and respect that should be accorded to all people; and Whereas, Stafford County is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of all its residents, all of which make up our vibrant character; and Whereas, Stafford County recognizes the importance and contributions of

Fredericksburg Area Health and Support Services (FAHASS), an organization committed to eliminating health and wellness barriers for the underserved.”

Mr. Diggs said that they were basically talking about respecting one another. He said that he understood there would be some people upset about it, and he was glad some people came to this meeting to share their opinions. He said that in closing, as a Christian, if he could not see God in someone, through someone, or hear God in the way they spoke, then they were full of hot air.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney, said that she had no report at this time.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

William Ashton, County Administrator, said that he had no report at this time.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS BY AGENCIES

CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR VDOT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Matt Lehané, Transportation Planning and Funding Manager, said that VDOT required a public hearing for their Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications, which were due on September 15. He said that today, they had a resolution authorizing staff and the County Administrator to schedule that public hearing. He said that the public hearing would be held at the August Board meeting for the four projects as listed. He said that additional information on the projects could be found on the following slides.

Mr. Lehané said that the projects included Mine Road and Greenspring Drive, Kings Highway and Chatham Heights Road, Barrett Heights Road, and Forbes Street at Falmouth Elementary School. He said that for the Board’s reference, the prior resolution, which the Board had approved the pre-applications for these projects, was also included in their packet, which had been submitted the previous week.

Ms. Allen asked if Mr. Lehané could provide a brief timeline of when these projects were expected to receive funding, assuming they were approved. She said that she just wanted to clarify the time required to get these projects done.

Mr. Lehané said that they had two sets of projects. He said that the Kings Highway and Chatham Heights and the Mine Road, and Greenspring projects, which were already underway, with engineering currently at approximately 30% design. He said that they anticipated construction, pending funding, to occur in the FY28 time period. He said that in contrast, the Barrett Heights Road Sidewalk and Forbes Street projects were not currently underway, but they planned to start engineering, potentially this fall, with some money they had in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Mr. Lehane said that from there, they were looking at a process that spanned approximately three to four years, including engineering phases at 30%, 60%, and 90% completion. He said that at 60% completion, they would hold a public hearing. He said that once they reached 90% completion, they started work on the right-of-way and relocating utilities, which would take approximately a year. He said that depending on the project's complexity, construction could take around a year, similar to the Staffordboro sidewalk project.

Ms. Allen said that for the public's information, a typical project timeline was approximately six years, from the vote today to securing funding.

Mr. Lehane said that it depended on the specific project.

Ms. Allen said that she just wanted to reiterate that it was a long process to get these projects completed.

Mr. Lehane said that he would like to add that they had three levels of transportation funding. He said that there was local funding, which was 100% locally funded and allowed for quicker and easier completion of projects. He said that then there was state funding, which added a layer of complexity and increased the project timeline. He said that finally, there was federal funding, which was the most challenging and time-consuming. He said that in this case, they were dealing with federal funding, but unfortunately, funding was scarce. He said that this was their main grant program for sidewalk projects, and the funding cycle typically occurred every two years.

Ms. Allen said that this was part of the difficult decisions the Board faced when it came to road improvements. She said that when they did not have sufficient funding from a budgetary standpoint to support projects like this, they were forced to rely on their resource toolbox, which unfortunately extended their timeline beyond what they would prefer. She said that she wanted to provide the public with a comprehensive understanding of the thought process behind some of these decisions.

Mr. Lehane said that although it took time, Stafford County currently had four major projects starting or under construction, totaling \$57 million. He said that they had another \$13 million allocated for wedge widening in the next couple of years, and an estimated 10 to 12 projects in the Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP) were also scheduled to begin in the next couple of years. He said that this totaled about 30 projects, with an estimated \$70 million in funding over the next two years. He said that as they had discussed over the past three to five years, this was a significant investment that was now coming to fruition.

Mr. English said that he had some concerns regarding the methods of installing these sidewalk projects. He said that specifically, he was concerned about the one near the vacant warehouse across Potomac Creek. He said that the sidewalks extended from the creek to nowhere. He said that he questioned why they were allowing this to happen. He said that he would rather see the funds allocated towards other sidewalks that would be used, rather than those that seemed to serve no purpose. He said that for example, along Route 1, there were sidewalks that did not go anywhere.

Mr. English said that he wondered what could be done to address this issue. He said that it was something that needed to be revised in their code. He said that upon reviewing the situation, it was clear that there were sidewalks along Route 1 that seemed to be unused. He said that he would prefer to see them relocated to areas like Stafford, where they would be more functional. He asked what steps they could take to change this situation.

Bryon Counsell, Chief Director of Infrastructure, said that he would like to bring the Board's attention to several key aspects of this matter. He said that currently, their code required a sidewalk to be built along the frontage of certain corridors. He said that one option the developer had was to opt out of this requirement and instead provide a cash donation to a sidewalk fund, which would allow the funds to be used elsewhere. He said that however, this option was discouraged due to the way they calculated the cost of sidewalks. He said that because they would need to match the estimate with federal funding, it discouraged developers from providing the cash and instead opting to build the sidewalk.

Mr. English said that it seemed like the money was being wasted to install these disconnected sidewalks. He said that he hoped they could find a better way to use the funds.

Dr. Yeung said that they some of the Supervisors and their constituents had discussed the same issue Mr. English had just brought up. She said that her concern was that some of these issues had occurred in the past, and they had no control over them. She said that she was hoping that in the future, when they had developments, they would hold them accountable for including sidewalks, as this was one of her pet peeves. She said that having sidewalks and crosswalks where they were needed was crucial. She said that for example, in Garrisonville, it was a beautiful example of how to make a location livable and walkable with parks, dog parks, and other amenities.

Dr. Yeung said that Hampton Oaks and other developments had attempted to connect them, and that was what she was trying to do in some areas, such as Greenspring and Mine Road. She said that while Mine Road may not lead to a specific destination, the crosswalk was essential because it was so dangerous. She said that in the context of the comprehensive plan, she urged them to prioritize sidewalks and crosswalks, even in older areas that may need upkeep, to ensure that they were creating livable and walkable communities.

Ms. Allen said that regarding the Barrett Heights project, she had advocated for this because of the 24-hour gate access to Quantico and Germanna opening its campus, so walkability was necessary. She said that additionally, the more sidewalks and connectivity they had along major roadways encouraged economic development. She said that she believed the Board would be taking more initiative to encourage pedestrian sidewalk projects developed when they had the funding. She said that Barrett Heights connected to Route 610, which mostly had sidewalks, allowing pedestrian access to the businesses down that road. She said that this was promoting connectivity and smart planning.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve Proposed Resolution R25-153.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)
Absent: (1) Vanuch

ACTION ITEMS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUNE AS A MONTH OF RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS OF DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS AND GENDER IDENTITIES IN STAFFORD COUNTY

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve Proclamation P25-21.

Mr. English said that he would not support this item because he did not think it was appropriate for a government to be dealing with. He said that his vote was not meant to be a personal statement.

Mr. Diggs said that what was most important to him regarding this proclamation was that every individual in this community felt seen and not alone. He said that this was a topic they had discussed at Memorial Day, as it was essential to acknowledge the struggles of their veterans dealing with mental health issues. He said that every segment of their community deserved love and acceptance, regardless of their individual perspectives. He said that he wanted to acknowledge Mr. English as a close friend, and he was aware that they may vote differently tonight. He said that he admired Mr. English's genuine love for people and his kind heart. He said that it was perfectly fine to see the world differently and vote differently. He said that they could argue about it later.

Ms. Gary said that in her opinion, sometimes they could lose sight of how great things were when there was controversy surrounding it. She said that this was a wonderful thing, as it told people that they loved them, valued them, and welcomed them there. She said that was a truly good thing. She said that they also needed to put their words into action, which was why FAHASS was mentioned, as they embodied that. She said that PTSD and veterans had been discussed earlier, and it was worth noting that people in the LGBTQIA community had higher rates of PTSD than even their veterans.

Ms. Gary said that they needed to just love each other and be kind. She said that this was a great way to do that and she was happy to support it. She said that she understood that they may see things differently sometimes. She said that if they had looked at her 15 years ago, she did not attend her mother's wedding because she had her own biases about her mother marrying a woman. She said that her mother was not with her anymore, and she had missed one of the most beautiful days in her mother's life because of this thing that she believed.

Ms. Gary said that she had since reconciled that and grown as a person, but she wanted to encourage everyone to reflect on what it meant in terms of how they loved people. She said that maybe they did not agree and maybe they would not vote in support of this proclamation, but she must urge everyone to continue loving people well and growing in that, because that was how they healed and would do better. She asked everyone to please take care of each other. She said that she was happy to support this proclamation.

Mr. Diggs said that he wanted to close with an African proverb, "the child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth."

Mr. Diggs called the vote to approve Proclamation P25-21.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (4) Allen, Diggs, Gary, Yeung

No: (1) English

Abstain: (1) Bohmke

Absent: (1) Vanuch

CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; CONSIDER PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR A FAMPO GRANT APPLICATION TO THE USDOT SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) GRANT PROGRAM FY2025 FUNDING CYCLE FOR GARRISONVILLE ROAD AND POPLAR ROAD WEDGE WIDENING PROJECTS

Mr. Lehane said that Safe Streets for All was a federal grant program for safety funding, which staff had discussed with the Board last year. He said that FAMPO was considering submitting a joint application between FAMPO, Spotsylvania County, and potentially Caroline County. He said that FAMPO was seeking support from Stafford County for any projects that Stafford County wished to apply for.

Mr. Lehane said that the previous year, they had applied for wedge widening, and FAMPO was considering doing that again. He said that the staff recommended moving forward with projects on their current wedge widening list, which were currently funded for FY27 funding. He said that specifically, these projects involved wedge widening on Garrisonville Road and wedge widening on Poplar Road. He said that therefore, the resolution would be a support for this application.

Dr. Yeung asked Mr. Lehane where the wedge-widening was planned for Garrisonville Road.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to approve Proposed Resolution R25-157.

Mr. Lehane said that on Garrisonville Road, from Joshua Road to the County line, it would be the one-lane or two-lane section. He said that Poplar Road would extend from Kellogg Mill Road to the County line. He said that there was a match requirement. He said that to clarify, they were currently 100% funded, thanks to the Board's allocation in the prior budget for future years. He said that what they were looking to do was replace some of that funding. He said that they were required to have a 20% match, but the federal government would only cover the wedge widening portion of the project.

Mr. Lehane said that the project had two main components: the wedge widening, which added two feet to each side, and the overlay, or pavement. He said that the federal government would cover the wedge widening, but not the pavement. He said that this meant that the pavement, which accounted for approximately 60% to 70% of the total cost, would be the responsibility of the local government. He said that for example, if the total project cost was \$1 million, the overlay cost

\$600,000, and the wedge cost \$400,000, the federal government would 80% of the \$400,000 wedge cost, which would be around \$320,000.

Dr. Yeung said that she was concerned that when they discussed Garrisonville Road and the wedge winding, it was separate from the area that truly required attention, such as turn lanes. She said that she wondered if they had any immediate plans to examine the area from Eustis to Route 1, which was causing significant traffic congestion.

Mr. Lehane said that from Stafford Marketplace to Eustis Road, they were currently conducting a study to identify low-cost solutions to improve Garrisonville Road. He said that he had a workshop scheduled with VDOT and a consultant tomorrow to discuss the findings, with plans to present the results to the Board later this fall as part of a Smart Scale application next year. He said that additionally, he would like to recall their discussion at the biannual update earlier this year, where they had discussed Garrisonville Road between Eustis Road and Shelton Shop Road, and had decided to descope the widening project in favor of a simpler approach. He said that that was the current direction they were exploring.

Dr. Yeung asked if FAMPO funding would go towards that work or if they were holding onto it with the hope that they would get a better project. She said that there was a transportation meeting in which it was mentioned that it was not a good project, but she thought it was an excellent project.

Mr. Lehane said that the funding for the Garrisonville Road widening project included approximately \$31.5 million in local funding. He said that in addition, they were setting aside an additional \$10 million in revenue sharing. He said that this meant there was \$10 million in local funding and \$10 million in revenue sharing still on that. He said that the remaining \$21.5 million had half allocated to wedge widening, with the remaining \$10 million being returned to the Transportation Fund for future allocation. He said that to Dr. Yeung's point, that fund could be used for future projects on Garrisonville Road or other locations, as determined by the Board. He said that they would discuss their next steps for Smart Scale and the broader transportation funding picture later this year, potentially in August or later this fall.

Mr. Diggs called the vote for approval of Proposed Resolution R25-157.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (5) Bohmke, Diggs, English, Gary, Yeung

No: (0)

Absent: (2) Allen, Vanuch

CAPITAL PROJECTS TRANSPORTATION; CONSIDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ROAD IMPACT FEE APPEALS BOARD REGARDING TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES

Bryon Counsell, Chief Director of Infrastructure, said that this was a phased approach to establishing the appeal board for the transportation impact fee. He said that currently, there was no full board in place. He said that in fact, there were no members on the board at this time, as their terms had expired. He said that tonight, staff brought forward three of the five individuals to be appointed to the board, pending Board approval. He said that these included the County

Administrator and his designee, the VDOT representative, Kyle Bates, and another local elected official, Mike Sienkowski, the Treasurer.

Mr. Counsell said that staff brought these three forward for consideration tonight. He said that additionally, staff sought direction on how to proceed with the remaining two appointments. He asked if the Board preferred to generate those names, or would they prefer staff to come up with suggestions and present them to the Board.

Mr. Diggs confirmed there was Board consensus for staff to provide recommendations for appointments to the Board.

Ms. Gary said that she supported staff taking the lead on identifying potential appointees, but she also would request that they first consider people who had already worked on it so they could continue with the previous work of the board without needing to get brought up to speed.

Ms. McClendon said that to clarify, this was a different board, one that would hear appeals. She said that this board would be responsible for reviewing and addressing any disputes regarding the impact fees imposed on developers. She said that once those fees were established, any developer who disagreed with the amount being charged in their plans would be able to appeal to this board.

Mr. English motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to approve Proposed Resolution R25-159.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (6)

No: (0)

Absent: (1) Vanuch

The Board took a recess from 7:58 p.m. to 8:06 pm.

CLOSED MEETING

Resolution CM25-08 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Dr. Yeung, to authorize closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

Absent: (1) Vanuch

The Board entered Closed session at 8:07 p.m.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING

Resolution CM25-08(C) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE

STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED
MEETING ON JUNE 3, 2025

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Gary, to certify closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

The Board left Closed Session at 9:08 p.m.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to adopt Proposed Resolution R25-168.

The Voting Board tally was:

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

No: (0)

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned its meeting at 9:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willam H. Ashton, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Willam H. Ashton, II
County Administrator