BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – A special meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Deuntay Diggs, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 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; Maya P. Guy, Vice Chairwoman (participating remotely); Tinesha O. Allen; Pamela Yeung; Darrell E. English; Crystal Vanuch; Kecia S. Evans.

Also in attendance were William Ashton, County Administrator; Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney; Sukhi Purewal, Deputy Clerk; various staff members; and other interested parties.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Vanuch, to allow Ms. Guy to participate remotely in the meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Diggs, Guy, Evans, Yeung, Allen, English, Vanuch
No: (0)

ADDITIONS - DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Bill Ashton, County Administrator, said there were no additions or deletions to the regular agenda.

Ms. Allen motioned, seconded by Ms. Evans, to approve the regular agenda.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Diggs, Guy, Evans, Yeung, Allen, English, Vanuch
No: (0)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM 1. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2027 COUNTY BUDGET; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R26-49 (BUDGET)

Andrea Light, Chief Financial Officer, said that she would be presenting information to the Board for the public hearings on the County budget, tax rates, Virginia Public Schools Authority (VPSA), and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) issuance. She said that the Board had scheduled three public hearings for today, and she would like to present on all three if acceptable. She said that Stafford County's all-funds budget was approximately $1.1 billion, covering all activities in the County government and Schools. She said that the General Fund, which was typically most important to taxpayers, accounted for $498.6 million, with one-time funding of $18.3 million in the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 27 Budget. She said that this represented an 8.7% increase over the previous year's budget.

Ms. Light said that this included mandatory increases of approximately $10.7 million, primarily for employee pay and benefits, schools operating, transfer, public day school, and debt repayment for the three new schools. She said that staff had also identified year-over-year savings of about $4.4 million. She said that the real estate tax rate was based on a calendar year, not a fiscal year. She said that in Fiscal Year 25, it had been adopted at $0.9236; it was proposed to be $0.985 in Calendar Year 26. She said that when comparing Stafford County to other localities, it was essential to look at the effective tax rate to understand the actual tax burden. She said that at their last work session, the Board had asked staff to provide average tax bills for their service districts, and she had included those in her presentation this evening.

Ms. Light said that the Board was also holding a public hearing today on debt issuance and the CIP. She said that the proposed resolution R26-105 proposed the issuance of $65 million of debt, with estimated annual recurring costs of $5.2 million. She said that this was incremental financing for Drew Middle School, Hartwood Elementary School, and 3R projects. She said that the CIP proposed in Resolution R26-50 covered all departments, with education being the largest department, accounting for 28% of their total CIP.

Mr. Diggs opened the public hearing on the FY27 Budget. He read the rules of procedure for public comment.

1. Sandra Pace said she, her husband, and daughter had moved to Stafford County in 1982, so they had witnessed the numerous changes that had taken place here. She said she would like to share some information about the Brisben Center and the homeless in Stafford County. She said that an estimated 1,200 Stafford County residents experienced homelessness each year. She said she knew this because the schools counted the number of homeless children, and the last statistics from the 2023-2024 school year reported 307 children.

   Ms. Pace said that an average household size of 3.7 gave them an estimated 936 homeless individuals and families with school children, not including many homeless households without school children. She said that many adults were employed but did not earn enough to cover their expenses, particularly due to the shortage of affordable housing. She said that if an unexpected change in income or expenses occurred, they could easily find themselves on the streets. She said that it was said that most of them were only one to two paychecks away from homelessness.

   Ms. Pace said that the Brisben Center initially provided emergency shelter, food, and case workers, and then worked with singles and families to overcome their homelessness. She said that two-thirds of Brisben Center residents were families with children, and half of their residents were children. She said that at the shelter, they helped adults find better jobs and address the underlying causes of their circumstances, all while ensuring the children's education continued unimpeded.

Ms. Pace said that for the past year, 52% of residents who entered the program did so without a job; however, if they stayed and worked the program, 69% experienced a significant income increase, from $7,200 to over $21,500. She said she had volunteered at the Brisben Center since it transitioned from a rotating cold-weather shelter to a new facility. She said she would like to leave the Board with a thought. She said that her 5-year-old daughter once asked her, "Mom, why do they call them 'those people?' We're just like them. We just have a home to go to."

2. David Major, Falmouth District, said that he had been a resident of Stafford County since 2003. He said that he would also like to speak on behalf of the Brisben Center. He said that his family moved here from Fairfax County when his job moved from Washington, D.C. to Quantico. He said that living in Stafford had been great for his family, especially since his kids got to grow up in the community and his wife taught for many years with Stafford County Public Schools. He said that when he retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 2022, he wanted to give back to the community that served them so well by volunteering for several different organizations. He said that one of those was the Brisben Center, whose mission aligned with his desire to support folks in times of crisis. He said that he began by preparing and serving lunches, and as he learned more about the organization, he expanded to helping with their graphic design and working in more of an advisory capacity.

   Mr. Major said that as Ms. Pace noted, one of the most striking things was how many kids were at the Brisben Center. He said that at any given time, about half of residents were children, and it was heartwarming to see how the care and socialization helped the children while their parents could take classes to learn how to best care for their kids, often breaking the cycle of generational neglect and homelessness. He said that older children and teenagers were a bit different because they were aware of their situation as they entered the Center, and they often carried a stigma and wariness with them. he said that however, over time, the protective walls began to fall as those kids also experienced the care, guidance, and support of the staff and volunteers there. He said that if they had not already visited, it was well worth the Supervisors' time to come to the Brisben Center and check it out.

   Mr. Major said that yesterday, he was serving lunch there and a former resident came back as a volunteer. He said that when he was a resident at Brisben the previous year, he had been struggling with mental illness, leading to conflicts with law enforcement, eventually losing his job, home, and family. He said that he had decided to give back and at this point, he was employed, had his own vehicle, and was back together with his family, with his mental illness under much better control. He said that the safe environment, healthy meals, and social support from the Brisben Center had helped that resident into who he was today.

3. Ann Kloeckner, Executive Director for Legal Aid Works, said that their organization had been serving Stafford County since 1973. She said that she was grateful for the County's past support, but was concerned when they decided to completely zero out their funding in the current year's budget. She said that they were requesting a reinstatement of the level funding of $22,257 that they had previously received. She said that they completely understood the need to balance a tight budget, as they too had to make difficult decisions. She said that she saw they had tentatively allocated $11,000 to support their work in the upcoming budget. She

said that their four full-time attorneys and one part-time attorney in their Fredericksburg office serve five counties and 15 courts in this planning district.

Ms. Kloeckner said that they represent low-income individuals who need an attorney in civil legal matters, such as representing domestic violence victims to obtain civil protective orders, custody and support orders, and resolving landlord, tenant, and foreclosure disputes. She said they were the only agency providing this service. She said that in Stafford County, there were over 8,000 eligible low-income individuals who could benefit from the services of their five lawyers. She said that as an outside agency, they worked closely with Stafford County government in three important ways. She said that they alleviated the strain on the Social Services safety net by lifting clients out of poverty with enforceable court orders of child and spousal support, which clients would not otherwise have won without their legal intervention. She said that they assisted the County court system by helping those who cannot afford an attorney, thereby speeding up the process.

Ms. Kloeckner said that they also aided law enforcement by working with victims of violence to secure enforceable protective orders. She said that they leveraged the County's financial support to provide legal services that benefit their County's citizens. She said that in the last fiscal year, their five attorneys were successful in litigating cases for 172 Stafford County residents, including 32 families facing illegal eviction or foreclosure of their homes. She said that their attorneys had also helped Stafford County clients avoid over $8,000 in unlawful claims and fees. Each year, they created and produced a local housing guide to educate citizens on their rights as tenants and explain fair housing practices, which was free of charge to all County residents and available on their website. She said that additionally, they set up mobile outreach teams consisting of one attorney and one paralegal at the general district court here in Stafford, targeting morning eviction dockets to offer free legal advice to all and free legal representation. She said that they appreciated the County's past support and hope that in the future, they would continue to do so.

4. Roane Furlong, Hartwood District, said that she was born here in Stafford and was currently a senior at Mountain View High School. She said that the phrase she heard most in school-related marketing was "setting students up for future success." She said that in fact, a statistic from information from the U.S. Department of Education reported that 77% of Mountain View students were involved in school activities; with 2,200 kids, that was a significant number, and it was only one school. She said that programs like Career and Technical Education (CTE), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses were directly responsible for her current employment, her siblings' employment, and college advancement, as well as benefiting the broader Stafford County community.

   Ms. Furlong said that these programs are what set students up for future success. She said that it had come to her attention that based on short-term attendance results, the current budget proposed would cut teachers' livelihoods in half. She said that if these teachers could not afford to teach in Stafford County and they left the school system, the programs they sponsored will be dissolved. She asked if the Board really wanted to be responsible for a NASA scientist not getting into college because they could take advanced math due to low enrollment. She asked about underprivileged students who worked hard but failed to get a critical job because their CTE program was cut. She said that she hoped the Board wanted to wisely allocate funding to support teachers without losing the opportunities they provide students.

Ms. Furlong said that she took a poll, and the impact that these students had seen had been incredible. She said that she received over 200 responses within 24 hours, and she posted a video on Instagram, which garnered over 45,000 views, over 1,000 combined shares and reposts, indicating that this was an important issue to all of Stafford County. She said that last fall, a teacher asked her for help because students were unaware of the opportunities available in the Mountain View Theater Department, so in 15 minutes, she created a sign, in 20 minutes, she posted that sign, and she put up posters across the school. She said that as a result, they had over 100 kids attend their interest meeting that year, more than any one meeting in the past few years.

Ms. Furlong said that lack of enrollment was not due to lack of interest, but rather a lack of knowledge. She said that anyone who knew anything about marketing will tell them that one touch was not enough; one counselor meeting was not enough. She said that the human brain requires 8 to 13 touches to recognize a brand, so the solution to low enrollment was educating students more thoroughly and more frequently about the opportunities available to them. She said that this was an inexpensive solution, and it would solve the problem of under-enrollment. She said that before making decisions that would force teachers to lose their livelihoods, and thus they would also lose the programs they had worked long and hard to build, she requested the Board to return to the goal of the Stafford County School Systems, setting students up for future success.

5. Nam Nguyen, Falmouth District, said that he had lived in Stafford for about six years and was currently a junior in the IB program at Brooke Point High School and a student representative on the SCPS Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. He said that he was here to speak about the School Board's funding request for Fiscal Year 2027. He said that when the School Board's budget was not fully funded, it would lead to a reduction of programs and services for students. He said that his school, Brooke Point, was a prime example of this. He said that the IB program was being moved away from their school next year due because the thinning budget could not support specialized programs at multiple locations. He said that however, this was just one example of how the budget hindered students' ability to learn. He said that specialized programs like IB, CTE, and the arts were crucial for students' engagement and are necessary for college and career readiness.

   Mr. Nguyen said that if the budget request was not fully funded, SCPS may have to consolidate or cut these programs, making it less competitive. He said that they were already seeing families leave the public system for private schools, homeschooling, and virtual options. He said that to retain these families, they must offer a top-tier education for SCPS students. He said that they also need to prioritize teacher pay. He said that the proposed raises in this budget were necessary to prevent their teachers from leaving neighboring counties like Prince William, which paid more. He said that it was challenging to have high-quality programs if they did not have the funding to keep their staff. He said that additionally, they had three new schools being built, and they must ensure their operating budget could cover the costs of running them. He said that if the School Board received less than the proposed budget, it would force more consolidations and cuts that harmed the student experience, especially with increased expenses associated with the new schools. He requested the Board to fully fund the School Board's request. He said that they need to ensure that every student in Stafford was afforded a high-quality education.

6. Jennifer McCall, Garrisonville District, said that she had lived in Stafford for almost 14 years and as of March 20, was a Stafford County homeowner. She said that she was also a Stafford County teacher. She said that 14 years ago, she was a brand new teacher. She said that she discovered Stafford County through a teaching fair in Pittsburgh. She said that her first year, she was given a mentor teacher and a lot of training. She said that a significant amount of time, resources, and money had been invested in her to ensure she could provide the best possible education for Stafford County's students. She said that similarly, a substantial investment had been made in all of the teachers in Stafford County. She said that however, they were experiencing an unprecedented teacher exodus, with more teachers leaving than joining the profession. She said that this was a critical issue, as investing in education was an investment in the futures of their children and the quality of their schools.

   Ms. McCall said that in a time when qualified teachers were scarce, it was puzzling that Stafford County would consider cutting the budget and teacher salaries. She said that when other districts were struggling to fill open teaching positions, it was disconcerting that Stafford County would suggest that it did not prioritize education. She said that recruiting and training new teachers was more expensive than retaining existing ones. She said that to the north, Prince William County paid more, yet they were able to attract former Stafford County teachers, who had already benefited from the county's investment. She said that Stafford County could not afford to lose the teachers it had, nor could it afford to cut the school budget.

7. Matthew Lentz, George Washington District, said that he was grateful to have two children in Stafford schools, and they thoroughly enjoyed their educational experience. He said that in 2018, he and his family relocated to Stafford from Arizona, primarily due to the funding issues in the Arizona education system. He said that as a parent, he was concerned that his children would not receive a quality public education. He said that he was impressed with Colonial Forge High School when they first arrived. He said that unfortunately, he began to notice some concerning habits at Stafford, reminiscent of what he experienced in Arizona. He said that this led him to worry about the impact on his community. He said that he was disheartened to hear that many educators were leaving Stafford County, with some opting to move to Prince William County for higher salaries.

   Mr. Lentz said that the "brain drain" in Stafford County was particularly concerning, as it affected not only his fellow educators but also his children. He said that they were suffering from the lack of consistency and quality educators, which was essential for their academic success. He said that he was also troubled by the fact that people could not afford to live here. He said that when they failed to plan for their future, they all lost. He said that their children were their future, and they were being starved. He said that he was dismayed to learn that his former district in Arizona was closing schools due to lack of funding. He said that he did not want to see that happen in Stafford. He said that he was proud to call Stafford his home, work, and community. He said that he would like to see their schools fully funded to continue the progress they had made since 1664.

8. Kenneth Furlong, Hartwood District, said that like the previous speakers, he was here today to express his concerns about the proposed cuts in the school budgets. He said that to start, he would like to ask, what's working well? According to data from neche.org, which analyzed data from the U.S. Department of Education and other sources, combined with millions of parental and student reviews, Stafford County Schools ranked with an overall grade of B+, ranking 26th out of 129 in Virginia. He said that the County received a B in academics, a B in teachers, an A in college prep, and an A- in clubs and activities. He said that the proposed cuts, as he understood them, could reduce classes with fewer than 15 students enrolled, making students less competitive for spots at the nation's top universities. He said that additionally, these cuts could deny students the opportunity to complete licensing programs in areas like cosmetology. He said that many of the points already made by previous speakers were valid, so he would like to ask, what solutions were there?

   Mr. Furlong said that he did not know, but he did know that state funds accounted for approximately 61%, local funds for 37.35%, federal funds for 0.74%, and miscellaneous 1.12% of the funds. He said that to move forward, they needed to engage with stakeholders: what more could they offer? What was in their best interest to provide? He said that they should look for efficiencies in the schools. He said that perhaps this could be a self-directed objective for them. He said that when examining the miscellaneous funding, which included investment earnings, he would like to suggest considering a developer fee, such as $500 or $1,000 per residence, which could be allocated to an investment fund for schools. He said that this was just an idea for future discussion.

   Mr. Diggs closed the public hearing.

<u>ITEM 2. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2027 VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL AUTHORITY (VPSA) BOND ISSUANCE AND FY2027-2036 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP); PROPOSED RESOLUTION R26-105 (VPSA); PROPOSED RESOLUTION R26-50 (CIP)</u>

Mr. Diggs opened the public hearing.

1. Kristin Maxson, Falmouth District, said that she was confused because Item 2 had been changed at the last minute without giving the public sufficient time to understand the changes. She said that according to the April 7, 2026, Board of Supervisors' agenda, the 2027 Capital Program did not include transportation, yet there was a significant amount of transportation listed there. She said that when items and proffers were tallied in the budget, it was unclear who paid for the proffer items - the developer or the taxpayer. She said that for example, the Transportation Route 1 and South Campus Boulevard, SR-2378 traffic signal, was listed on page 28 of 48 in today's special meeting agenda. She said that this cost had initially been included in a proffer statement with a data center, but was now being included in the budget.

Ms. Maxson said that a trigger was attached to the proposed Resolution R26-50 FY27-36 CIP, which was listed under the Department of Utilities, tabled under transportation, and bundled into R26-105. She said that this data center project had undergone several amendments and had previously been deferred on November 21, 2025. She said that the public was questioning the billion-dollar impact of this project on the community. She said that the attachment to R26-50 also included land acquisition, but no further information was provided. She said that she would like to thank the Board for their attention, and she also wanted to mention the schools, but unfortunately, she did not have her notes with her. She said that she would like to clarify that the term "campus" was often misused and mixed with "schools," but in reality, there was more to these projects than just schools. She said that whether or not the full budget went to the schools was questionable.

Mr. Diggs closed the public hearing.

ITEM 3. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; PUBLIC HEARING ON CY2026 TAX RATES, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR ENERGY TAX RATE; PROPOSED RESOLUTION R26-48 (REAL ESTATE AND MOBILE HOMES); PROPOSED RESOLUTION R26-142 (PERSONAL PROPERTY, OTHER TAX CLASSIFICATIONS, AND SERVICE DISTRICTS)

Mr. Diggs opened the public hearing.

1. Molly Denham, Hartwood District, said that she would like to discuss the advertised tax rate, as it remained well below many of the surrounding counties. She said that their County's reliance on property taxes as its primary revenue source was a reality that had been acknowledged for years. She said that despite this, the Board consistently chose to underfund the County, only to be surprised when infrastructure breaks down and large bills appear, straining their ability to pay them. She said that these costs were not unexpected, but rather predictable results of years of failing to make incremental adjustments to the tax rate to keep pace with inflation and the County's actual needs. She said that if the Board had implemented incremental increases over the past several years, as advocated by many residents and implemented by other counties, they would not be facing the significant jump in the rate that they are now.

   Ms. Denham said that the advertised tax rate is not a surprise to anyone who has been paying attention. She said that what she found most interesting was the disparity in concern shown by this Board during tax reassessment season. She said that when residents living paycheck to paycheck struggled to pay higher taxes, the Board suddenly expressed deep concern. Yet, this concern was nowhere to be found in policy or action for the rest of the year. She said that over the past year, there had been no working session dedicated to affordable or workforce housing, despite repeated public requests. She said that the Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee, referenced in the Comprehensive Plan, has not met since 2023 and appeared to be effectively disbanded. She said that she would like to see it reestablished and work on the five-year Comp Plan update.

   Ms. Denham said that recently, the Board had approved only high-end, luxury apartments that many County employees cannot afford to live in. She said that the Elderly and Disabled

Tax Relief Program had also gone years without meaningful updates, despite being brought to the Board's attention multiple times. She said that yet, every tax season, it seemed like the Board's priority was to address concerns about residents struggling financially. She said that however, little effort was made to attract high-paying industries outside of retail and restaurants, which would bring much-needed jobs to the County and enable residents to afford the housing and amenities being approved. She said that concerns for residents living paycheck to paycheck should not be limited to tax debates.

Ms. Denham said that if this concern was real, it should be reflected consistently in policy planning and priorities throughout the year. She said that as someone who had been affected by the current global situation and was experiencing tougher times than normal, she did support the $0.985 tax rate and hoped the Board would continue to worry about those living paycheck to paycheck beyond tax season and into the Board's future actions.

2. Abby Graziani, Falmouth District, said that as a resident of Fredericksburg for 20 years, she had recently moved back to Stafford after living in Washington, D.C. for a year and purchasing her home. She said that in her work as a mortgage processor in the mortgage industry, she had helped many first-time homebuyers in the area. She said that because she worked behind the scenes, she worked a lot with the pre-approval process and understood firsthand the impact of the tax rate and home values in the district on these first-time homebuyers. She said that over 92% of their first-time homebuyers who wanted to buy in Stafford County had ended up purchasing homes in surrounding areas. She said that they may wonder how a 6% change would affect a first-time homebuyer.

   Ms. Graziani said that when the qualification for a home was so tight, $10 or $15 per month could make or break whether someone could live in their County. She said that for instance, the starting salary for a police officer in Stafford County was $60,000, which was insufficient to purchase a home in the County. She said that her husband, a police officer in D.C., had discussed this with a recruiter in Stafford County, and it would require a $40,000 decrease in his annual income to work in Stafford County. She said that she wanted to acknowledge the challenging job the Board had, particularly in balancing the needs of passionate constituents who cared deeply about their school system. She said that she was not pretending to offer a solution, but she would like to share her perspective.

   Ms. Graziani said that she had noticed that the real estate tax rate had increased significantly between 2024 and 2025, by $30,000, and from 2025 to 2026, by $140,000. She said that she would like to know if the proposed tax rate took into account the upcoming higher assessments that may help offset the budget needs. She said that this was her question, and she would like to offer her perspective as someone who frequently worked with homebuyers in the area. She said that it was disheartening to see individuals who loved and worked for Stafford County but could not afford to buy here. She said that she believed it was essential for their first responders, teachers, and other public servants to live and work in the same area, so they could provide passion and dedication to the people they served.

3. Scott Forest, Rock Hill District, said that he had lived in Stafford County for 36 years. He said that he had attended this meeting to see his government in action, and he was somewhat disappointed. He said that the proposed 6.6% tax rate increase was on top of a 1.2% increase

in housing costs in the area. He said that he had heard politicians express concern about affordable housing, but it seemed that concern did not apply to this County. He said that the tax increase was part of the housing cost. He said that when he first moved to Stafford 36 years ago, his entire payment, including taxes and insurance, was double what the current tax rate was. He said that that was what he was doing to people, including teachers, police, and firefighters, forcing them out of the County. He said that he was struggling to understand how they could afford to live in this county, given the high property taxes on a $500,000 house.

Mr. Forest said that he had always been frustrated by the notion that other counties were doing it, particularly when comparing themselves to those north or south. He said that it was an easy way out. He said that he knew it was hard, and he did not know the solutions, but the Supervisors were paid to do a difficult job. He said that they needed to roll up their sleeves and find a real solution. He said that when he and his wife got married, they had committed to each other that they would differentiate between wants and needs. He said that if they needed something, they figured out a way to pay for it. If they could not afford it, it had to wait or they made do with less. He said that they did not just go out and spend money on everything to make everyone happy. He said that they were pricing people out of Stafford County. He said that that was the Board's job to control it, and they were not doing it this year. He asked the Board to please take a hard look this year and not wait any longer.

4. Kristin Maxson, Falmouth District, said that the problem was compounded. She said that the federal cuts resulted in 300,000 job losses, with over 100,000 of those coming from northern Virginia. She said that Stafford's involvement in federal work and contracting also made it a significant issue. She said that this affected the people who lost their jobs and, as they relocated, they would likely bring their businesses with them. She said that the impact was further exacerbated by the presence of data centers, which contained expensive computers that would depreciate significantly in five years. She said that small business owners also faced challenges in reporting their equipment, making it difficult to determine their worth. She said that the cuts also had a substantial impact on solar panels. She said that she recently visited VDOT to register a trailer she purchased for $500, but they insisted on valuing it at $1,300, citing their minimum requirement.

   Ms. Maxson said that this highlighted the complexities of the process and the audits involved. She said that the $20,000 threshold for audits was particularly concerning, as many individuals struggled to make ends meet. She said that the issue was not just the tax increases, but the way the process was handled. She said that for example, the construction of three new schools, the tier system and three-prong approach to budgeting, which relied on large scopes, had become too huge. She said that when the budget cuts occurred, these scopes disappeared, leaving a backlog and a rush to salvage funding. She said that the loss of $3 million in one project was just one example of the consequences of these cuts.

Mr. Diggs closed the public hearing.

Ms. Vanuch said that she wanted to clarify for the public that the Board would be voting on their real property tax rates at their Board meeting on April 28, so citizens should attend that meeting and give public comment at 6:30 p.m. She said that the night before, the Board also had a work session to review final budget changes, but public comment was not allowed at that meeting.

Rysheda McClendon, County Attorney said that she wanted to ensure that the public had a clear understanding of what the Board was voting on, and therefore, she would like to clarify the dates for the upcoming votes. She said that on April 21, the Board would be considering the personal property tax rates. She said that on April 28, the Board would be voting on real property tax rates, as well as Utilities rates, and would hold a public hearing on VPSA bond issuance, CIP, and budget approval and appropriations.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Evans motioned, seconded by Ms. Allen, to authorize closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Diggs, Guy, Evans, Yeung, Allen, English, Vanuch
No: (0)

Resolution CM26-08 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board desires to hold a Closed Meeting for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to opioid-related class action lawsuits, where such consultation or briefings in open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture of the Board; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7) such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 7th day of April, 2026, that it be and hereby does authorize discussion of the above matters in Closed Meeting.

CERTIFY CLOSED MEETING

At 8:07 p.m., Ms. Evans motioned, seconded by Dr. Yeung, to certify closed meeting.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (6) Diggs, Evans, Yeung, Allen, English, Vanuch
No: (0)
Absent: (1) Ms. Guy

Resolution CM26-08 (C) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 7th day of April, 2026, adjourned into a Closed Meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify, on this the 7th day of April, 2026, that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

Ms. Evans motioned, seconded by Dr. Yeung, to approve proposed Resolution R26-136.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (6) Diggs, Evans, Yeung, Allen, English, Vanuch
No: (0)
Absent: (1) Ms. Guy

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned its meeting at 8:09 p.m.

William H. Ashton, II
County Administrator