

**LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM
LUNENBURG COURTS BUILDING
LUNENBURG, VIRGINIA**

Minutes of October 12, 2023 Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the General District Courtroom, Lunenburg Courts Building, Lunenburg, Virginia. The following members were present: Supervisors Frank Bacon, Alvester Edmonds, Mike Hankins, T. Wayne Hoover, Edward Pennington, Charles R. Slayton, Robert Zava, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee, Deputy Administrator Nicole A. Clark, and County Attorney Frank Rennie.

Chairman Slayton called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Edmonds provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Slayton requested additions to the agenda from the Board and the public. Administrator Gee requested that the following items be added: a resolution of support for VAPDC under 8C, a carryover funds request for the Health Department as 8D, a Joint Enterprise Zone Resolution as 12Ai and the new Agriculture Natural Resources Agent for VA Coop Extension as 12Aii.

Chairman Slayton called for conflicts of interest from any Board members. There were none.

Chairman Slayton called for citizen comments. Mr. Michael Fowlkes, Jr. of 1492 Springfield Road in Meherrin spoke to share that he is currently running for Lunenburg Sheriff. He added that, if elected, he looks forward to working with the Board of Supervisors in the future.

Supervisor Pennington made motion, seconded by Supervisor Zava and unanimously approved, to accept Resolutions of Retirement for retired School Superintendent Charles M. Berkley, Jr. and retired School Finance Director and Assistant School Superintendent James M. Abernathy, Jr.

RESOLUTION OF RETIREMENT

***WHEREAS,** Charles M. Berkley, Jr. retired as the School Superintendent on September 1, 2023; and*

***WHEREAS,** Charles M. Berkley, Jr. worked in the Lunenburg County School System for a total of twenty-seven years; and*

***WHEREAS,** Charles M. Berkley, Jr. continued, throughout his career, to increase responsibility as he advanced from an educator to the Superintendent of the school system; and*

***WHEREAS,** Charles M. Berkley, Jr. provided knowledge and insight on the school system's operations during his tenure to the Board of Supervisors; and*

***WHEREAS,** Charles M. Berkley, Jr. led the school system with devotion and distinction in the years prior to his retirement.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors commends Mr. Berkley for his many years of dedicated service and commitment to the County of Lunenburg, the Lunenburg County Public School System, the students and citizens thereof.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors does hereby congratulate Charles M. Berkley, Jr. and wish him a long, healthy, fulfilling retirement and success in all future endeavors.*

Adopted this 12th day of October 2023.

RESOLUTION OF RETIREMENT

***WHEREAS,** James M. Abernathy, Jr. retired as the Assistant Superintendent and Finance Director on June 30, 2023; and*

***WHEREAS,** James M. Abernathy, Jr. worked for the Lunenburg County School System for a total of forty years; and*

WHEREAS, James M. Abernathy, Jr. displayed diligent work and continued to increase responsibility advancing as an educator and administrator in the school system; and

WHEREAS, James M. Abernathy, Jr. provided knowledge and insight on the school system's financials to the Board of Supervisors during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, James M. Abernathy, Jr. was integral in providing a pathway of communication on school system operations to the governing body of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors commends Mr. Abernathy for his many years of dedicated service and commitment to the County of Lunenburg, the Lunenburg County Public School System, the students and citizens thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors does hereby congratulate James M. Abernathy, Jr. and wish him a long, healthy, fulfilling retirement and success in all future endeavors.

Adopted this 12th day of October 2023.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to accept the Consent Agenda to include the October 12th, 2023 meeting minutes, the June 2023 revised report, Treasurer's Reports and the following Warrants for Approval:

Additions for June 2023 printed in September 2023:

(for inclusion in FY23 expenses)

Accounts Payable: #83674 (with Void #83214)	\$	716.69
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September 2023:

Payroll: Direct Deposit	\$	184,812.71
Payroll Check #2026	\$	903.81
Payroll Taxes Federal:	\$	61,214.11
Payroll Taxes State:	\$	11,224.28
ACH Payments	\$	45,366.70
WIRE (US Bank Debit Service)	\$	84,693.76
Accounts Payable: #83520-673, 83675, 83676-724	\$	<u>282,414.90</u>

September Total:	\$	670,630.27
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Mrs. Jamyce Watson, Director of Finance for Lunenburg Schools provided an updated financial report for June 2023 and reported that the local match amount has been met. She reviewed the financial reports for fiscal year 2023-24. Mrs. Watson replied to Supervisor Hoover's inquiry that the current ADM is 1,483 and noted the State budgeted membership is 1,510. Dr. Sharon Stanislas, School Superintendent, shared they will be meeting with the architect for the capital improvements at Central High School on October 23rd. The architect will be presenting his blueprint of Phase 1 to the School Board soon. Supervisor Edmonds questioned an event that led to added police presence at the high school earlier in the week. Dr. Stanislas replied that there was an electronic threat received at the high school and administrators followed protocol by calling upon law enforcement. She added that the threat turned out not to be credible and similar threats are occurring around the country for school systems. Dr. Stanislas said they must prepare and follow protocol in any potential threat to ensure safety for students and personnel.

Mr. Kevin Smith of VDOT provided the monthly report. He advised that the second mowing along roadways was ongoing county-wide and clean-up would begin soon. Mr. Smith noted that crews have also been replacing pipes within the county. He shared that Route 624, Molasses Hill Road, over the Nottoway River in Lunenburg would be closed for bridge repairs for three days, starting October 24th. He added that detour routes would be posted. Supervisor Slayton requested an update on the bridge repairs on Eubank Road. Mr. Smith replied that completion is scheduled for early to mid-November. Supervisor Bacon inquired about the bridge repairs on Route 46 at the border of Nottoway and Brunswick counties. He noted that although it is not located in Lunenburg, the bridge closure impacts many Lunenburg residents by way of traffic and road conditions as the detour routes drivers through Lunenburg. Mr. Smith responded

that the projected time frame for completion is fifteen to eighteen months. He shared that the project was somewhat delayed due to material shortages at the beginning.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Taylor King's monthly report was provided. In Mrs. King's absence, Administrator Gee noted several upcoming community events. She shared that a broadband committee meeting was scheduled for the following day. Mrs. King received several inquiries and concerns regarding the installation of broadband infrastructure in the historic district of the Town of Kenbridge. Mrs. King is working with all parties involved to mitigate those concerns.

Supervisor Hankins shared a request from the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) for localities to send a letter of support to the Governor's Office requesting to increase PDC funding through more federal dollars, to push collaborative projects and to assist the State. The request is an additional \$150,000 in state funding per PDC, of which Lunenburg is a member of Commonwealth Regional Council, in both FY2025 and FY2026.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Pennington and unanimously approved, to approve a letter of support to the Governor's Office requesting to increase funding for the Planning District Commissions across the state in the amount of \$150,000 each in both FY2025 and FY2026.

Administrator Gee shared a request from the Piedmont Health District Business Manager Matthew Claybrook to use FY2023 carryover funds in the local Health Department Office for a one-time purchase of office chairs and waiting room furniture. The amount of the carryover funds is \$5,327.45.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to approve the use of \$5,327.45 in FY2023 carryover funds in the local Health Department Office for a one-time purchase of office chairs and waiting room furniture.

County Attorney Rennie stated that the Board had previously requested he research a potential ordinance on excessive vehicle exhaust noise. He provided a sample ordinance for the Board to review and consider. Supervisor Hoover commented that during a Public Safety Committee meeting, Sheriff Arthur Townsend mentioned that his department is starting to notice more of a problem with excessive exhaust noise. However, the County must have an ordinance in place to allow police to stop motorists and issue citations. County Attorney Rennie noted that the Board would need to hold a public hearing before adopting an ordinance.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Hoover and unanimously approved, to advertise for a public hearing regarding vehicle exhaust and excessive noise at the November 9th meeting.

Administrator Gee requested the Board's approval of the following FY2024 budget adjustments:

- Move \$400,000 in solar siting agreement funds from the Debt Service Fund (420) to the Economic Development Fund (225)
- Move \$4,288.50 from EPS Funds to DEQ deferred revenue to allow for reimbursement to DEQ in FY24.
- \$15,000 from Economic Development Grant Funds (226) to the ARPA fund (280) for a VTC tourism grant.

She also advised that the county had received an extra \$50,000 from Meridian Waste as a part of their annual donations. She has notified Meridian Waste of the overpayment. They plan to hold donation funds from their quarterly payments until FY2025.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to approve the requested budget adjustments to move \$400,000 in solar siting agreement funds from the Debt Service Fund (420) to the Economic Development Fund (225), \$4,288.50 from EPS Funds to DEQ deferred revenue to allow for reimbursement to DEQ in FY24, and move \$15,000 from Economic Development Grant Funds (226) to the ARPA fund (280) for a VTC tourism grant.

Administrator Gee advised that the Board would need to determine who would serve as Lunenburg's voting member at the upcoming 2023 VACo Annual Business Meeting during the annual conference in November.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to appoint Chairman Slayton as the voting member for Lunenburg and Vice-Chairman Bacon as the alternate.

Administrator Gee thanked Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Newton for all their time and dedication in working on the new radio system. Mr. Newton shared that E911 Dispatchers will start training on the new system in the next week. The plan is to change over to the new system county-wide on November 14th, except the school system, as they will switch after the Christmas break to allow for school bus integration.

Administrator Gee provided her monthly report. She advised that the Southside Messenger newspaper has stopped production. The County will only be running ads in the K-V Dispatch going forward. She shared that the paving project at the airport was ongoing, and the new pavement looks great. Airport Manager Larry Way has noticed some electrical issues with the runway lights. He will work to try and repair them. Administrator Gee noted that the new Building Official truck arrived and is being used, and Building Official Jamie Tuck is very appreciative. The old truck is currently being cleaned and is having the labels removed in preparation for use by the Landfill Liaison. Administrator Gee commented that General Registrar Carolyn Parsons had announced her retirement for December 31st. Administrator Gee is assisting the Electoral Board with recruitment. She shared that the Sheriff's Office is finding it more difficult to compete with other localities to recruit and retain dispatchers and deputies. She will be reviewing possible options with the Public Safety and Finance Committee. Administrator Gee stated that the reassessment process is nearly complete. Final assessments will soon be available and mailed out to property owners. Administrator Gee shared a resolution to support the amendment of boundaries and incentives for Joint Enterprise Zone #48 requested by Charlotte County.

**A RESOLUTION
OF THE LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT OF BOUNDARIES AND INCENTIVES FOR
ENTERPRISE ZONE #48**

WHEREAS, Lunenburg County is included in designated joint Enterprise Zone #48 along with the Counties of Charlotte and Prince Edward, and

WHEREAS, Enterprise Zone #48 provides a combination of State and Local incentives to promote economic development, and

WHEREAS, Charlotte County has identified a current need to amend their portion of Enterprise Zone #48 to incorporate additional properties and additional Incentives for areas near the existing zone located at the Heartland Regional Industrial Park and the Charlotte County Industrial Park in Keysville to increase economic growth opportunities, and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment and expansion will serve to benefit economic and industrial expansion in neighboring Charlotte County, and the County of Lunenburg support is required to apply for this amendment to Zone #48 in the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the amendment to Enterprise Zone #48 and authorizes Charlotte County to apply for this proposed Enterprise Zone amendment.

Adopted this 12th day of October, 2023.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Hoover and unanimously approved, to approve the resolution to support the amendment of boundaries and incentives for Enterprise Zone #48.

County Attorney Rennie provided an update on the redistricting boundary line adjustment issues with Charlotte County. He noted that after talking with Commissioner of the Revenue Liz Hamlett, there are about fifty-four parcels affected, thirty-nine that are currently being taxed in Charlotte and should be taxed in Lunenburg and fifteen that are taxed in Lunenburg but should be taxed in Charlotte. He advised that his office is working with Charlotte's County Attorney to implement an agreement for making these changes. County Attorney Rennie continued that a deed of

correction would need to be recorded for each parcel. He added that the Charlotte Attorney has assumed the task of executing the corrections at a cost of \$400 per parcel, with the two counties splitting the cost in equal parts. He explained that the total for Lunenburg would be about \$11,000, however, the county will be gaining long standing tax revenue from these parcels.

Supervisor Pennington made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to allow the Charlotte County Attorney's Office to proceed with recording a deed of correction for each of the parcels needing boundary line adjustments at a cost of \$400 per parcel, with the two counties splitting the cost in equal parts.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Pennington, and unanimously approved, to enter Closed Session citing Virginia Code Section §2.2-3711A5 regarding a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Pennington and unanimously approved, to reconvene in Open Session following Closed Session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lunenburg County, Virginia ("Board") convened a Closed Session Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

VOTING YES

Supervisor Edmonds
Supervisor Hankins
Supervisor Hoover
Supervisor Bacon
Supervisor Pennington
Supervisor Slayton
Supervisor Zava

VOTING NO

ABSENT

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Pennington, and unanimously approved, to fund a \$5,000 grant match to the Central Virginia Poultry Group.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Hoover and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

Charles R. Slayton, Chairman
Board of Supervisors