

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

**Minutes of the April 14, 2022 Meeting**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 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, County Attorney Frank Rennie.

Chairman Slayton called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Slayton requested additions to the agenda from the Board and the public. Supervisor Pennington requested that trucks hauling trash driving on Mecklenburg Avenue be added as 7B.

Chairman Slayton called for any citizen comments. There were none.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to accept the Consent Agenda to include the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes, the Treasurer’s January 2022 reports and the following Warrants for Approval:

|             |                                  |                      |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| March 2022: | Payroll: Direct Deposit          | \$ 156,534.78        |
|             | Payroll Check #2006              | \$ 681.51            |
|             | Payroll Taxes Federal:           | \$ 51,235.52         |
|             | Payroll Taxes State:             | \$ 9,082.60          |
|             | Payroll VRS payment:             | \$ 34,276.46         |
|             | Payroll ICMA-RC payment:         | \$ 1,182.60          |
|             | Payroll Health Savings Deposits: | \$ 3,830.95          |
|             | <i>WIRES – DEBT SERVICE</i>      | \$ 59,410.14         |
|             | Accounts Payable: #80615-80788   | <u>\$ 639,460.40</u> |
|             | <br>Total:                       | <br>\$ 955,694.96    |

Mr. James Abernathy, Assistant School Superintendent and Finance Director, provided the monthly school report. He advised that the total cost of the new HVAC systems at both elementary schools would be about \$4.5 million and funding would extend over two fiscal years. He noted that installation preparations are scheduled to begin the following week. Mr. Abernathy presented two supplemental appropriation requests for FY2022. The first request is a result of previously awarded CARES Funds, a portion of newly awarded ESSER III Set-Aside Unfinished Learning Grant and other grants that were not available during the FY22 budget development process. The second request is for Emergency Connectivity Funds in the amount of \$179,800. The increases of both appropriations will result in a total updated school budget for FY2022 of \$24,123,727. Administrator Gee advised that this increase involves more than a one percent change in the total county budget and therefore will require a public hearing. She noted that a public hearing could be scheduled for May. Supervisor Hankins suggested that both appropriations be considered after the public hearing at the May meeting. Mr. Abernathy reported that their FY2022 budget was built on 1,550 students, but the final count from the State was recently finalized at 1509 ½ students. He added that the decrease will impact the caboose

bill and local funding match requirement. They are awaiting additional information from the State on required funding and he will provide an update at that time. Supervisor Hoover, of the Finance Committee, commented that the Board was scheduled to make a decision on the fourth quarter appropriation to the school system at this meeting. He asked Mr. Abernathy, based on the budgeted ADM versus actual ADM, how much would the local funding match requirement decrease for the year. Mr. Abernathy replied that he estimates about a \$133,000 reduction. Supervisor Hoover shared that the Finance Committee met just before the meeting. They recommend appropriating the full fourth quarter appropriation to the school system, with funds above the required local funding match to be used towards the updating the HVAC systems at the secondary schools.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to appropriate the full fourth quarter appropriation to the school system, with funds above the required local funding match to be used towards updating the HVAC systems at the secondary schools.

Mr. Kevin Smith of VDOT provided the monthly report. He advised that Reedy Creek Road (Route 671) between Wattsboro Circle Road (Route 658) and Irby Road (Route 672) had been closed due to emergency bridge repairs. Mr. Smith noted that paving had begun on Tinkling Road in Kenbridge. Supervisor Zava requested that VDOT look at Couches Creek Road, a portion of it is a dirt road with issues due to ditch wash-out. Supervisor Pennington shared that solid waste trucks are still traveling on Mecklenburg Avenue. Supervisor Pennington continued that he has been discussing this issue for over a year and something must be done to keep the trucks off Mecklenburg Avenue. Supervisor Zava mentioned that officers can write a ticket for speeding, however, they can't stop the trucks from using the road as it is a public road. Mr. Smith stated that VDOT will move forward with any action the Board wishes. The County and the Town may approve and forward resolutions requesting the road be classified as a "No Through Trucks" route, but it is rarely approved by the Transportation Board. County Attorney Rennie suggested that a letter from his office to Meridian Waste may prove helpful.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to have County Attorney Rennie send a letter to Meridian Waste requesting they remind them that solid waste trucks are not allowed to travel on Mecklenburg Avenue.

Administrator Gee shared a request from the Sheriff's Office to accept and appropriate a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to strengthen crime control in the amount of \$1,857. She shared an additional request to transfer \$144.25, plus any accrued interest, from the Sheriff's Office's Federal Asset Forfeiture Account to their police supplies line item. Major DJ Penland was advised by the Department of Justice that the funds were not Equitable Sharing Funds and should be moved.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to accept and appropriate a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to strengthen crime control in the amount of \$1,857.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to transfer \$144.25, plus any accrued interest, from the Sheriff's Office's Federal Asset Forfeiture Account to their police supplies line item.

Administrator Gee reviewed the health insurance comparison of renewal rates. She advised that those who provided quotes did not provide lower rates than The Local Choice. Therefore, the County would continue providing health insurance through TLC for another year. She is looking into available options to make the cost of coverage for dependents less of a burden on employees.

Administrator Gee shared a report of the personal property valuation for the 2022 assessment year. She advised that four categories increased more than twenty-five percent in value and suggested the Board focus on these four categories: Passenger Vehicles, Travel Trailers, Motorcycles and Recreational Vehicles. She shared four valuation discount options and a comparison of revenue increases for each. Those categories included revenue without any changes, revenue with an 80% of value, an 85 % of value and a 90 % of value. Supervisor Bacon commented that the Finance Committee discussed the options for a long time, as well as addressing the needs of the County. The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the revenue option utilizing 85 % ratio of the current value for tax purposes. This option would reduce the cost for the tax payers about \$600,000 but also allow the County to collect an additional \$400,000 in revenue.

Supervisor Bacon made motion, seconded by Supervisor Zava and approved, with seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to approve the personal property valuation revenue option utilizing 85 % ratio of the current assessment for tax purposes for the current tax year of 2022, with the tax rate remaining the same at \$3.60 per \$100.

Administrator Gee advised that the Finance Committee had reviewed the listing of Community Budget Requests. She shared recommendations for those organizations with changes. The Finance Committee recommended an increase for Piedmont Area Veteran's Council to \$2,500-\$3,000, Southside Center for Violence Prevention to \$2,000, Piedmont Senior Resources to \$10,000, Med Flight Program to \$800 and County Recreation Leagues to \$15,000. The committee recommended a letter of support for the STEPS-Homeless Housing Proposal, as the County's ARPA funds, which STEPS requested use of, have already been obligated to the broadband and radio system projects. Administrator Gee advised that the committee recommended an increase of \$30,000 to each of the appropriation amounts to Victoria Fire and Rescue and Meherrin Fire and Rescue. The additional funds are to be used for EMS services support. The fire departments would be flat funded. Supervisor Hoover explained why the funds were directed to EMS and not the fire side as well. He stated that most calls in the county are EMS related and there are not enough volunteers to cover all shifts and the increased call coverage. Victoria Fire and Rescue Chief Rodney Newton shared that last year his organization received about 1600 calls; only about 100 of those were fire related calls. Supervisor Hoover said that the total increase of \$60,000 for EMS services in the county, equated to about one full time employee with benefits. He added that the additional revenue for the increase in personal property valuation would be going directly to emergency services and the school system.

Director of Community Development Taylor Newton provided her monthly report. She shared that Dominion Power has been working on their Make Ready work for the 911 Fiber Buildout project. Ms. Newton advised that the Planning Commission recommended approval of a CUP application for a beauty salon and the Board would need to hold a public hearing on the application at the May meeting. Ms. Newton is working with several cell tower companies regarding recertification of their Conditional Use Permits. County Attorney Rennie stated that the permit requires cell tower companies to obtain recertification from the County every five years. He noted that there are currently about four to five companies that need to recertify and will be submitting new applications for review.

Supervisor Hoover shared that he has been reporting on Crossroads Community Services Board for about one and a half years. He stated that he was pleased to report they have finally hired a new director for the program, Dr. Melva Moore. He added that since Dr. Moore started in the position, employees have felt more respected and motivated, noting Dr. Moore is a breath of fresh air. Supervisor Hoover invited Dr. Moore to speak before the Board. Dr. Moore thanked the Board for their time, adding that she was committed to doing her best in the new role. She looks forward to nurturing the staff of the organization; adding there was a lot of work to be done.

Administrator Gee provided her monthly report. She directed each Board member to the new iPad before them and stated that the devices would be used for viewing the monthly board packets in lieu of a hard

copy. She advised that a required FOIA training video had been placed on the device as well. She noted that each Board member would be getting a new email address specific to his district. The Administration Office is currently working with Information Technology provider DataCare on changing email hosting providers and updating the website and email extension from .net to .gov. Administrator Gee explained that she and Building Official Jamie Tuck are still waiting for final figures for construction changes to the current Cooperative Extension Office to make it functional as the Commonwealth Attorney Office. Administrator Gee advised that an additional meeting may need to be scheduled in late May or early June for budget purposes. She will have a better timeline by the next Board meeting.

County Attorney Rennie shared an article regarding solar projects in Mecklenburg County. He advised that Mecklenburg no longer accepts applications in excess of five hundred acres or allows a facility be placed within one mile of a town or two miles of another solar facility. County Attorney Rennie noted the Solar Committee held a meeting the previous week and discussed three applications currently submitted for review. The committee expects the Board may have a public hearing on one of the projects within the next few months.

Supervisor Hoover made motion, seconded by Supervisor Bacon and approved, with all seven Supervisors voting yes, and none voting no, to adjourn.

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Tracy M. Gee, Clerk  
County Administrator

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Charles R. Slayton, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors