

**King and Queen County  
Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Monday, May 22, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Regular Meeting  
King and Queen County Courts and Administration Building  
General District Courtroom**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with member Doris Morris being absent.

**APPROVAL RECURRING WARRANTS**

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Simpkins to approve the recurring warrants for the month of May, subject to audit.

AYES: J.L. SIMPKINS, R.F. BAILEY, S.C. ALSOP, J.M. BURNS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: D.H. MORRIS

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND RECOGNITION**

Delegate Keith Hodges provided an update on the recent General Assembly session. Since he serves on many committees, he provided updates on many items including the state budget, mental health initiatives, broadband support services, infrastructure, and rising healthcare costs. He updated the Board on his recent initiative regarding water resiliency, the Blue Cat bill which will provide jobs and income to the Middle Peninsula as well as manage the intrusion of the Blue catfish into coastal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. He commended King and Queen County for being one of the best managed in the state and have been very proactive and forward thinking, an example being the first in the state to provide broadband to every citizen. As part of the recognition of King and Queen for its efforts Joint House bill #640 was approved. This bill recognizes the efforts of former County Administrator, Tom Swartzwelder. Delegate Hodges read the resolution and presented the following resolution to Mr. Swartzwelder.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 13, 2023

Agreed to by the Senate, February 16, 2023

WHEREAS, Thomas J. Swartzwelder, an intrepid public servant who concurrently held the offices of county administrator, zoning administrator, and county attorney for King and Queen County, retired in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Swartzwelder joined the staff of King and Queen County in December 2007 as outside counsel, and in November of 2008, he began his distinguished service in the unprecedented combined position as county administrator, zoning administrator, and county attorney; and

WHEREAS, as county administrator and county attorney, Thomas Swartzwelder honorably and tirelessly served the residents of King and Queen County and guided and supported many local government staff and elected officials; he ably administered the policies established by the Board of Supervisors and provided outstanding legal advice when called upon to do so; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Thomas Swartzwelder identified, designed, and managed many innovative projects for King and Queen County, including the installation of a state-of-the-art regional emergency radio system, the cultivation of unique business opportunities at the regional airport, and the establishment of a local broadband authority to deploy the Fiber to the Home project, which brought broadband internet to all county residents; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Swartzwelder joined the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission in January 2009, became vice-chair in January 2016, and served as chair from July 2016 until his retirement on September 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Swartzwelder served on the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority as an alternate from March 2011 to September 1, 2022, and was a member of the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center Jail Authority from January 2011 to September 2022, most of which time he served as chair; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Swartzwelder served the residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula with the utmost dedication and distinction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Thomas J. Swartzwelder on the occasion of his retirement from King and Queen County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Thomas J. Swartzwelder as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his contributions to the King and Queen County community and service to the Commonwealth.

Sherrin Alsop asked if anything was being done at the state level to address the increase in instances of scamming of the elderly.

Delegate Hodges congratulated Mr. Bailey and Mr. Burns for their work on the Board and hopes they will continue to support the county even though they are not planning to run for re-election.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER AND CAREER STAFF RECOGNITION**

Deputy Chief Monty Willaford advised the Board that this week is National EMS Week. This year's theme is "*Where Emergency Care Begins*". He would like to recognize all the volunteers and carer staff who are present as well as those who were unable to attend. He further requested

the Board to recognize and adopt the following resolution for volunteer Rory Swanson who was killed while in service to Lower King and Queen Volunteer Fire Department.

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE SERVICE OF  
RORY “BUD” SWANSON**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Rory “Bud” Swanson volunteered with Lower King and Queen Fire/EMS for over 15 years, serving as both an operational member as well as an active fundraiser; and

**WHEREAS**, while engaged in fundraising activities for Lower King and Queen Fire/EMS, Bud’s life was prematurely taken in an unfortunate accident; and

**WHEREAS**, the service of community volunteers is invaluable to rural Virginia and proves integral, not only to the safety and welfare of the communities they serve, but also to the fiscal sustainability of the vital services provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of a member of the King and Queen Emergency Services family is a loss felt throughout our entire community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of King and Queen County, Virginia recognizes, with gratitude, the selfless service, dedication, and commitment of Rory “Bud” Swanson to King and Queen County and to his neighbors through his extensive service with Lower King and Queen Fire/EMS.

Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2023.

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Mr. Russell F. Bailey, Jr., Chair  
King and Queen County Board of Supervisors

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Burns to adopt the resolution.

AYES: J.L. SIMPKINS, R.F. BAILEY, S.C. ALSOP, J.M. BURNS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: D.H. MORRIS

Chairman Bailey presented the resolution to Chief Bristow of Lower King and Queen Volunteer Fire Department. He further stated that he personally knew Mr. Swanson and he knew that he was a true man of service and would be greatly missed in the community.

Mr. Burns stated that he had served with him and that he was a man above reproach and was greatly missed.

Deputy Chief Willaford further requested the adoption of a resolution recognizing National EMS Week.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Burns.

AYES: J.L. SIMPKINS, R.F. BAILEY, S.C. ALSOP, J.M. BURNS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: D.H. MORRIS

Ms. Alsop stated that since she is a volunteer with Rescue 5, she knows what it is like and appreciates all of the volunteers and staff.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS (Va. Code § 15.2-1800)**

### **ENCUMBRANCE OF COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY**

Ms. Seay advised that this public hearing is necessary as part of the grant requirements for the telework center. Federal EDA requires a deed of trust to be placed on the property since they are providing grant funds for the project. She further advised that the hearing was properly noticed in the Tidewater Review and Rappahannock Times. A courtesy copy was also noticed in the Country Courier.

Chairman Bailey opened the public hearing. There being no comments received from the public, the hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Simpkins to approve the deed of trust on the property for the telework center.

AYES: J.L. SIMPKINS, R.F. BAILEY, S.C. ALSOP, J.M. BURNS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: D.H. MORRIS

### **LEASE OF COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY & GRANT OF EASEMENT**

Ms. Seay advised that this is related to the telework center project as it language in the original lease between the EDA and Riverstreet for the fiber hub was found to be incorrect. This is to correct the previous action taken now that the language has been corrected. She further noted that the hearing was properly noticed in the Tidewater Review and Rappahannock Times. A courtesy copy was noticed in the Country Courier.

Chairman Bailey opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Simpkins to approve the lease on the telework center property.

AYES: J.L. SIMPKINS, R.F. BAILEY, S.C. ALSOP, J.M. BURNS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: D.H. MORRIS

## **THRIVE VIRGINIA UPDATE**

Tina Ammons, Director of Finance, updated the Board on the status of the Family Resource Center project that is currently being developed by Thrive Virginia. She has been attending the meetings and is asking that the Board allow her to continue to do so as a governmental representative in the process. It was the consensus of the Board that to allow Ms. Ammons to continue attending and to report back to the board periodically on the progress of the center.

### **LIBRARY UPDATE AND REQUEST TO HIRE**

Ms. Seay advised that staff has met with the administrators of members in Pamunkey Regional Library system and is continuing discussions on the best path for removing from the system. Staff has continued to gather information from other libraries and vendors on the operational needs once the county library is officially underway. She requested that the Board allow staff to begin the hiring process to have the person on board and begin the leg work involved. Staff is recommending that the position be considered a Grade 7 with a salary range of \$60,000 to \$80,000. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the hiring process.

Ms. Seay also advised the Board that she is preparing to request the General Assembly to add King and Queen County to the list of counties that are not required to have a library board. This would instead allow the county to operate the library as a county department instead of having separate governing body to oversee its function.

### **BUS REPLACEMENT/INSURANCE ISSUE**

Ms. Ammons advised that the school division had a bus involved in an accident with multiple deer which the damage was significant enough for VACORP to total it. The estimate for the new bus is approximately \$145,000. The budgeted amount for a bus is \$100,000. The school division is asking to be allowed to keep the totaled bus for parts and use approximately \$5,000 from the school capital fund for the remaining amount of the bus. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the school division to do both items as requested.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

Dane Seagle with Skanska provided the Board with updates on the following projects:

- Modular Classroom Campus
- KQES Construction Project
- Telework Center
- Fire Department

### **ITEMS BROUGHT BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Seay brought the following items to the Board:

- During the recent VDOT mowing several of the Riverstreet pedestals throughout the county were damaged. Riverstreet has been notified that they need to make sure

- VPPSA will be holding an employee appreciation event on June 6<sup>th</sup> and all convenience center sites will be closed.
- The Building, Planning and County Administration offices have purchased new software, the cost will be \$7,800 the first year and approximately \$7,000 each year after that.
- Advised that the Skanska contract is nearing expiration. They have been invaluable in their assistance with the projects that are ongoing and asked that it be renewed. It was the consensus of the Board to renew.
- Advised that the King and Queen Women's Club would like to have internet access. She proposed, and they are agreeable to, providing the service in exchange for periodic use of the building by the county.
- Updated the board on the status of the regional radio system agreement. Several counties are in the process of joining and there will be a public hearing soon on amending the agreement.

## **ITEMS BROUGHT BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Alsop advised that a historical marker for the 1923 lynching of an African American citizen. She read the following that will be the content of the marker.

*“James Horace Carter, 1 45-year-old African American husband and father, was lynched on 12 Oct. 1923 a mile southeast of here. Two weeks before the lynching, a white woman had admitted that Carter was the father of one of her children. He was charged with rape and arrested. While being driven by officers to the King and Queen Court jail, a mob seized him from the car, shot him ten times (five in the face, four in the chest, and one in the back) while he was still shackled, and left his body in a ditch. Gov. E. Lee Trinkle offered assistance and the case was widely reported, but no one was prosecuted for the murder. The woman's husband later used her admission of adultery as grounds for divorce.”*

The group who organized the placement of the marker has requested use of the courtroom on October 14<sup>th</sup> for a meeting and presentation of the marker.

It was the consensus of the Board that none have any objection to them using the courtroom on that day.

Mr. Bailey advised that his hunt club has adopted Pear Tree Avenue for litter pick up. Hopefully more organizations will do the same to help with the litter problem throughout the county.

Mr. Simpkins thanked Delegate Hodges for being here and for having the joint resolution for Mr. Swartzwelder adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Burns agreed with Mr. Simpkins and thanked Delegate Hodges. He also asked if anyone knows of someone who died while serving in the military to reach out to the VFW. Veterans need to be remembered also and let them know they are not forgotten. Their families have suffered for the freedoms we enjoy.

**IT IS ORDERED THAT THIS BOARD BE ADJOURNED**

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Ms. Alsop to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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Doris H. Morris, Chairman

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Clerk of the Board