

**King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

6:00 P.M.

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

Minutes of the Meeting

Prior to the meeting, the County Administrator provided an update to the Board on the Governor's new COVID19 restrictions.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Simpkins called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with all five members being present with Supervisor Sherrin Alsop in attendance using remote access.

Chairman Simpkins announced that the meeting was also using GoToMeeting to allow the public to participate via telephone. He asked that the public attending mute their phones until asked to unmute them during public comment period.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF MAY RECURRING WARRANTS

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve the May recurring warrants subject to audit.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, J.M. BURNS, D.H. MORRIS, R.F. BAILEY
NAYS: NONE

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF FY2021 BUDGET AND RESOLUTION

Prior to the meeting, the Board was provided revised budgets reflecting the changes that have been discussed in previous meetings. Mr. Swartzwelder advised that members have been provided with two draft resolutions for consideration. The first is the same format that has been used for several years reflecting school appropriations being made on a monthly basis in 'lump sum' format. The second resolution was drafted based on comments from Board members looking for better transparency in spending by the School Division and has the school budget appropriated fully in July by category.

Mr. Simpkins asked for clarification of other items that are included in the resolution. Mr. Swartzwelder advised that the resolutions do not include a tax increase, reflects some staffing and operational cuts in the County Administration budgets, removed contingency funding for Rescue Services expansion and as suggested by the Board it moved the proposed salary increases for employees to the contingency fund for action at a later date if the Board chooses to do so.

Ms. Ammons also advised that the resolutions include changes received from the School Director of Finance today of revenue and expenditures in the school fund based on revised state and federal revenue.

Ms. Morris expressed that she did not want to adopt the resolution that adopts the school budget by category. She feels that the Board should continue to fund the schools like they have been for the last few years. She feels that the schools have been holding up their end of the bargain of being conservative and that adopting by category would not be fair to them. She feels that by adopting the school budget by category, the Board is not holding up their end of the bargain that was made years ago that as long as the schools are putting money back into the contingency fund every year that they would continue to be appropriated as they have been.

Ms. Alsop stated that she supports adopting the school budget by category in order to know how they are spending the money and that it is going toward educating the children. The Board would know in advance if they intended to move funds from Instruction to Administration and that especially in the uncertain times going on now that the Board really needs to pay close attention to how and where all funds are being spent not just with the schools but in every part of the budget.

Ms. Morris stated that she does not feel that the schools should have to come and ask for transfers to move money within their budget because County staff move money around all the time, spend money out of little funds everywhere and spend money that does not need to be spent all the time and the Board keeps approving it and that she does not think it is right.

Mr. Swartzwelder clarified that County departments are required to and do get the Board's approval prior to moving money through budget amendments and transfers.

Mr. Burns expressed that his concern has been that the Board has not consistently received reports from the Schools on how and where the money they receive has been spent. He is fine with however the Board decides to fund them as long as the Board receives the reporting that they have asked for.

Ms. Morris further expressed concern that by requiring the schools to come back and request permission to move funds between the categories that they adopted in their budget would not go over well with the School Board. She feels that by making them ask for permission to do so is micromanaging them and is not fair.

Mr. Simpkins clarified that regardless of which resolution is adopted the Board can request that the schools provide the monthly financial report as well as have a 'gentleman's agreement' that if they are going to move money between categories that the Board be notified at the time it is done.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Morris to adopt the resolution that matches how school funding has been done in prior years.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, J.M. BURNS, D.H. MORRIS, R.F. BAILEY
NAYS: NONE

DISCUSSION OF CARES FUNDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Middle Peninsula CAP business assistance (authorize signature)**
- **Social Services**
- **School Division**
- **County Complex**

Mr. Swartzwelder provided an update on the programs listed above that are ways to utilize the CARES funding that the County has either received or will be eligible to receive from the state through various entities such as FEMA and VDEM. He also advised of several items that the County may be able to help the school division with some items that have been on their 'Wish List' for some time that may be eligible for reimbursement under guidelines once we have more information on what those guidelines will be. Examples would be renovating the bathrooms at the schools and additional bleachers at the football field to accommodate new social distancing guidelines.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the County to begin ordering items for the School division that will allow them to begin preparing for school reopening such as the equipment and chemicals needed for sanitizing the school buildings as well as the buses.

Copies of the draft agreement for the Middle Peninsula CAP program that would be managed by the MPPDC was provided in advance. Mr. Swartzwelder gave an overview of how the program would function to help support the business community who have been affected by the restrictions that are in place. Clarification was provided on eligibility of nonprofit organizations and churches and the process of appeals that the Board would have the ultimate authority to decide who receives reimbursement.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey to authorize the County Administrator to sign the agreement with the MPPDC for the CAP program.

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

NAYS: NONE

At this point in the meeting Ms. Morris asked if there could be further discussion regarding the adoption of the FY2021 budget action that was taken earlier. She asked for clarification of where in the resolution is the funding that was moved to contingency for County staff raises.

Ms. Ammons advised that the line item in the resolution that states "Reserve for Contingency" is the total amount that is budgeted for contingencies throughout the year and the funding for the raises is included in that amount.

Ms. Morris asked how would the public be able to know that this is there and how would they know if the raises were approved.

Ms. Ammons advised that the resolution is just the total for every department, that the detail is contained in the budget document. If the Board did decide to provide the raises it would need to be a budget amendment at a regular Board meeting from the single contingency line item to every salary line item.

Ms. Morris asked if this would require a public hearing and Ms. Ammons advised that no it would not because the amount is less than 1% of the total budget.

Mr. Swartzwelder clarified that a public hearing would not be required but the Board could have a public hearing if they wanted to.

Ms. Morris stated that she felt this was not a transparent way to handle. She feels that the citizens wouldn't know that the County is giving those kinds of raises by doing it this way. Based on the report from the Director of Social Services requests for SNAP are up 36% from March and April and many people are unemployed.

Mr. Swartzwelder stated again that if or when the Board decides to take up the matter of raises that if they want to have a public hearing, they can do so at that time.

REGIONAL REASSESSMENT (2023) UPDATE (AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE)

Mr. Swartzwelder advised that the regional committee has met with firms that submitted responses to the RFP for regional reassessment for the upcoming cycle. The committee is recommending the same firm as last time, Wampler and Eanes. He advised that the pricing is contingent on all three counties participating.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Burns to authorize the County Administrator to sign contract with Wampler and Eanes with pricing locked in contingent upon all three counties in the region participating.

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

NAYS: NONE

DISCUSSION MIDDLE PENINSULA ALLIANCE

Chairman Simpkins stated that as the County's representative on this Board he has had issues with how the organization has been run recently. He provided background on recent actions that were undertaken by the Executive Director and the Chairman. A specific instance being a letter that was sent on behalf of the organization relating to a Go Virginia grant application that was submitted by King and Queen County.

After discussion of action taken up to this point, a motion was made by Mr. Simpkins and seconded by Mr. Bailey authorizing the County Administrator to draft a letter to be sent to the MPA stating that it is the County's position that unless there is substantial change in leadership within the MPA that it will be the intention of King and Queen County to withdraw as an active member and withhold future funding.

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

NAYS: NONE

WALNUT SOLAR LLC, REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION AT JUNE MEETING

It was the consensus of the Board to have representatives make a project presentation to the Board at their June 8, 2020 meeting.

DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTS WITH RIVERSTREET FOR FTTH (Fiber to the Home)

Mr. Swartzwelder provided an update to the Board on Riverstreet's responses to the draft proposal. Specific items that were discussed are as follows:

- Hookup fees – Riverstreet has agreed to there being no hookup fees for anyone within 2,000 feet of the right of way, anyone outside of this would pay \$1/foot
- Riverstreet agreed to the condition that they could not sell their ownership position without the Board’s approval
- The Board had requested input on setting rates, they responded that rates will be the same as their rates for Wilkes County, NC co-op.
- They cannot guarantee 100% home coverage but they are willing to guarantee 90% home coverage.
- They agreed to the funding obligations that are required under the VATI grant phases but asked that both contracts be signed now.

There was discussion relating to the funding obligations that the County would have to meet if VATI funding for future phases are not approved as well as the process of DHCD funding.

Supervisors requested printed copies of the maps that show coverage areas in each district.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey authorizing the County Administrator to sign the contracts with Riverstreet Networks for the FTTH project.

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

NAYS: NONE

ITEMS BROUGHT FORTH BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Burns had the following comments:

- Stated that he is frustrated with the actions surrounding the Coronavirus
- He is in favor of the fiber to the home project and feels it is a great thing
- In regards to Walnut Solar, there are many people who were opposed but are now quiet
- Thanked everyone for coming

Ms. Morris had the following comments:

- Advised that it seems that the solar project is similar to the landfill in that citizens feel it is a ‘done deal’ but that her district is opposed to the project
- Asked everyone to stay safe
- Asked the Sheriff if he could have a deputy running radar on Rt. 614 whenever possible

Mr. Bailey had the following comments:

- The trash trucks are also speeding on Rt. 14
- In regards to the solar project, most people he has talked to do not want the project

Ms. Alsop had the following comments:

- Thanked the Board for agreeing to the remote policy that allows here to stay home and still participate in meetings
- She participated in a webinar last week, Mr. Swartzwelder spoke on the solar legislation that was approved and the siting agreement provisions. She has had several citizens call her about it and she feels that having a presentation will be a good thing.
- The information surrounding COVID19 has been very interesting
- Everyone stay safe and wear masks

Mr. Simpkins had the following comments:

- The fiber company in the upper end of the County is starting to get people hooked up, his mother has it. The cost is about \$90/month for cable, internet and telephone
- There is a solar project being built on Broaddus' Flats in Hanover County on Rt. 360, if you want to see what a project looks like while under construction it is a good one to go look at.
- Thanked everyone for coming.

IT IS ORDERED THAT THIS BOARD BE ADJOURNED

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey to adjourn the meeting.

J. Lawrence Simpkins, Chairman

Clerk of the Board