

**King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2020**

7:00 P.M.

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

Minutes of the Meeting

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Chairman Simpkins called the regular meeting to order. Attendance at the meeting by the Board was recorded as follows:

Members in attendance at the Court House: Jim Burns, Lawrence Simpkins, Rusty Bailey and Doris Morris.

Member Sherrin Alsop in attendance via video due to health concerns related to the COVID19 virus.

Rusty Bailey provided the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE JULY 27, 2020 AND AUGUST 10, 2020 MINUTES OF THE BOARD

A motion was made by Ms. Morris and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the July 27, 2020 and August 10, 2020 minutes of the Board.

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: R.F. BAILEY

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE SEPTEMBER 2020 WARRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

APPROVAL OF COUNTY WARRANTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Bailey to approve, subject to audit, the County warrants for the month of September.

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

NAYS: D.H. MORRIS

APPROPRIATION OF ACCRUED REVENUE TO THE SCHOOL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$117,842.56.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Morris to approve the appropriations to the School Fund in the amount of \$117,842.56, subject to audit.

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

NAYS: NONE

APPROPRIATION OF FY21 REVENUE TO THE SCHOOL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$384,261.51.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Alsop to approve the appropriations to the School Fund in the amount of \$384,261.51, subject to audit.

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

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments from the public both in person and via telephone were received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Budget Amendment/CARES Funds

Chairman Simpkins asked the County Administrator to provide proof of publication and background on the proposed amendment.

Mr. Swartzwelder advised that the public hearing was advertised in the Rappahannock Times and Tidewater Review on August 22nd and September 2nd. A courtesy ad was placed in the most recent issue of the Country Courier. The Commonwealth of Virginia allocated Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to local governments as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). King and Queen County received a total of \$1,225,808 of which \$1,169,868 has been deferred to FY21 for use between July 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. This amount is greater than 1% of the total of the FY2021 adopted budget for King and Queen County requiring a public hearing prior to appropriation of these funds. The Board has designated these funds to various programs to provide assistance to the community such as cleaning equipment and supplies to the school division, food, rent and mortgage assistance through the Department of Social Services and the Back to Business program to reimburse local businesses for expenses related to COVID restrictions.

Chairman Simpkins opened the public hearing asking those who speak to provide their name, the district they are from and to limit comments to 3 minutes.

Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Burns amend the FY21 adopted budget and appropriate the \$1,169,868 in CARES funds.

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

NAYS: NONE

Budget Amendment/Roof Replacements

Chairman Simpkins asked the County Administrator to provide proof of publication and background on the proposed amendment.

Mr. Swartzwelder advised that the public hearing was advertised in the Rappahannock Times and Tidewater Review on August 22nd and September 2nd. A courtesy ad was placed in the most recent issue of the Country Courier. Bids have been received to replace roofs on three buildings within the Courthouse complex. These buildings being the Courts & Administration Building, Health Department and Registrar's office. The lowest responsive bid is \$304,848. This amount exceeds 1% of the total of the FY2021 adopted budget for King and Queen Count requiring a public hearing prior to appropriation of these funds.

Chairman Simpkins opened the public hearing asking those who speak to provide their name, the district they are from and to limit comments to 3 minutes.

Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Ms. Alsop amend the FY21 budget and appropriate \$304,848 to replace the roofs on the three buildings within the courthouse complex.

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

NAYS: NONE

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES REPORTS

Dr. Carter was present and provided the following report:

- The schools have been having man events for the start of school despite the accommodations needed due to COVID. School opened with students either attending virtually or on a hybrid schedule.
- Both elementary schools had a 'Drive Thru' meet and greet allowing staff to meet students and parents.
- CHS staff prepared a You Tube video to introduce everyone.
- There was a COVID testing event at CHS last week that was available to anyone who came.
- The school division does not have attendance numbers yet as tracking has to be done manually and takes additional time. Total attendance has been 55% hybrid in person and 45% virtual.
- Chromebooks and hot spots have been provided to students to assist with virtual learning.
- Breakfast and lunch are being provided at no charge to all students at all schools.

- The division has again applied for the Safety & Security Grant. Grant award should be made by next month.
- There will be no Community Pride Day this year.
- No sports dates have been released yet.
- Dr. James Lane, State School Superintendent, visited Central High School last week.
- All Board members are invited to visit the schools and see how things are functioning within the new COVID environment.

Mr. Simpkins asked how things were going at the students and staff were doing with all of the changes and restrictions in place.

Betty Dougherty, Director of Social Services provided the following report:

- **Child Protective Services “CPS” Training for Mandated Reporters**
During the month of August, our agency provided Child Protective Services training for mandated reporters to all three of the schools in our County. There is a statewide anticipation of an increased need for services for families with children, as a result, of COVID-19. The lock down, the fear, adapting to changes, job loss, and economic impacts create additional stress on families. Many times this also leads to increased substance use and domestic violence. We wanted to equip our teachers with the knowledge to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect, ensure that they understand the importance of reporting, and to increase their comfort level in reporting concerns to us.
- **Energy Assistance**
The cooling program began on June 15 and ended on August 15. We received and processed 149 applications. We were only able to approve 77 households out of the 149 applications because many households were receiving the extra unemployment benefits. An additional 35 households were on a pre-approved list and did not need to submit an application to receive their benefits.
The heating program will begin on October 13 and run through November 12.
- **Restaurant Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program “SNAP”**
Coming in December 2020, older adults, adults with disabilities and the homeless will be able to use their SNAP benefits on the EBT card at participating restaurants to purchase prepared foods. There will be additional information coming soon.
- **Emergency SNAP Benefits**
The emergency SNAP benefits were approved to continue through the month of September. This allows each household to continue to receive the maximum benefit.
- **Virginia Department of Social Services “VDSS” Offices and Training**
The regional offices and the home office of VDSS will remain closed to the public for the remainder of 2020. This means that all training will continue to be delivered virtually. The department has also launched a train the trainer program to train local staff to conduct classroom hands on training within their departments and have it credentialed by VDSS. Our Benefit Programs Supervisor was one of the first five Supervisors in the entire state to step up and become a trainer for benefit programs. She conducted her first training the week of September 7. She provided a class on VACMS Basics, a 4 day mandated class to 3 of our employees.

- **CARES Programs 2020**
- There has not been a substantial increase in the utilization of the Cares programs. There are some applications currently in process and I will provide another progress report for the October meeting.

Ms. Morris questioned whether the allowance of SNAP benefits being used at restaurants was temporary during COVID or if it would be permanent.

Ms. Dougherty responded that she has not been notified that it would be temporary, that she feels it may continue past the virus.

Ms. Morris expressed concern that this may leave families in a position to not have enough benefits to last through the month since restaurant food is more expensive than groceries.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CARES FUNDS/GENERAL REGISTRAR

The State Board of Elections has approved \$48,891 in additional CARES funds to the office of the General Registrar to offset the cost related to COVID-19 associated with the 2020 Presidential Election.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Burns to approve the budget amendment and appropriation of the CARES funds in the amount of \$48,891.

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

NAYS: NONE

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER – DEFERRAL OF PAYROLL TAX OBLIGATIONS

Mr. Swartzwelder advised that President Trump issued an executive order allowing employers the option to defer certain payroll tax obligations for employees. The order specifies that it is a tax deferral not a tax holiday. If the county opts to allow the deferral they would have to deduct it from employees pay between January and April 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey to opt out of the employee payroll tax deferral.

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

NAYS: NONE

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE – NEW HIRES

Mr. Swartzwelder advised that staff is still waiting on an answer from the insurance broker as to whether or not the suggestion to allow new hires to ‘buy up’ to the 80/20 plan and have the County contribute 100% of the employee only premium for the high deductible plan.

Action was tabled to the September work session.

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Wetlands Board/Alternate member – A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Ms. Morris to appoint Kerry Baseshore to the Wetlands Board as the alternate member.

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

NAYS: NONE

Economic Development Authority/Stevensville District – Table

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Thomas Swartzwelder, County Administrator, provided the following comments:

- The County has been awarded a feasibility study grant for a TeleHealth Center to be located at the proposed Telework Center. A consensus is needed from the Board to accept the grant and move forward with both projects. The Board agreed to continue to move forward with both projects.
- He provided an update on the CDBG Program Income Rehab Board. Now that there are multiple requests for the use of these funds, staff is working with Social Services to come up with a better system of managing client applications.

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Burns had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for their reports and asked if the Health Department could be included in departments that make reports to the Board.

Mr. Bailey had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and for the reports.
- Expressed that the Board has covered a lot of meaningful things in short order tonight.
- Apologized for missing the last meeting but he was in Texas for his daughter's wedding.
- Hoped everyone has a safe trip home and be safe.

Ms. Alsop had the following comments:

- She is still on doctors' orders to stay home but has been attending lots Zoom meetings and calls with VACO and NACO.
- The annual VACO meeting is coming up in November, it will be held virtually.
- She has a doctor's appointment soon and is hopeful that she will be released to attend meetings in person.

Ms. Morris had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for the reports.
- She asked for clarification on the VDOT report. It shows that paving has begun on Lily Pond Road but citizens have advised her that the 'prep work' has been done three times but no paving has started yet.

- Asked Mr. Swartzwelder to reach out to Dominion Energy regarding the project on Davis Beach Road and ask that VDOT post speed limits for the contractors using the road.
- Thanked Betty Dougherty for her hard work on the CDBG projects.
- Wished everyone well and see all in a few weeks.

Mr. Simpkins has the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Expressed concerns for the schools dealing with the virus and is glad that things continue to go well for them.
- He read a report from Dr. Williams (Director of the Three Rivers Health Department) that the virus is very active in rural areas. Everyone needs to ‘Stay the Course’ and keep doing the things to slow the spread of the virus.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Morris and seconded by Mr. Burns to enter into closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3711A8 for consultation with legal counsel for the purposes of obtaining legal advice as it relates to the solar farm siting agreement and zoning related issues.

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

NAYS: NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Burns and seconded by Mr. Bailey to enter into open session with each member certifying by individual vote that only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

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

NAYS: NONE

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Burns to set the October 13, 2020 regular meeting as the date for the public hearings on the solar siting agreement, CUP & Site Plan and the application of appeal of the denial of substantial accord.

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

NAYS: NONE

Mr. Swartzwelder asked if the Board wanted to continue to allow the public to virtually participate in meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Burns to stop allowing the public to call in to meetings after tonight’s meeting.

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

NAYS: S.C. ALSOP

IT IS ORDERED THAT THIS BOARD BE ADJOURNED

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

J. Lawrence Simpkins, Chairman

Clerk of the Board