

King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2024
7:00 P.M.

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 OF AMERICA

Mr. Simpkins provided the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AND FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AND MARCH 11, 2024 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Alsop approving the February 20, 2024 minutes of the Board.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: J.L. SIMPKINS

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Norman approving the February 26, 2024 minutes of the Board.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: J.L. SIMPKINS

A motion was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Billups approving the March 11, 2024 minutes of the Board.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAIN: J.L. SIMPKINS

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF APRIL WARRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to approve the April County warrants and payroll, subject to audit.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS
NAYS: NONE

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Mr. Berry to approve appropriations to the School Fund in the following amounts, subject to audit:

1. January 2024 \$758,678.57
2. February 2024 \$769,786.83

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS
NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Cynthia Johnston/St. Stephens Church District – Expressed her concern that the county has removed itself from the Pamunkey Regional Library and that citizens will not be able to use the West Point branch after June 30th. She also expressed concern over the lack of Parks and Recreation in the county and the need for the county to adopt tax exceptions for the elderly and disabled.

Thereas Weber/St. Stephens Church District – Questioned the vehicle license tax, what is she paying for and what does she get for it? She also questioned why the county does not prorate personal property taxes. She sold a car in February and still had to pay taxes on it for the whole year.

Patricia Case/St. Stephens Church District – Expressed that anyone 65 or older or disabled should not have to pay personal property taxes. Maintenance on vehicles has gotten more expensive and older people should not have to pay for this. Taxes are getting so high that she is being taxed out of her home. She also expressed that VDOT should maintain the private road in her subdivision. Residents pay their dues to the HOA for maintenance, but it is not enough to maintain it like VDOT would. She also thinks that she should get a discount on her taxes since her grass and road are not maintained for her. She also expressed concern over the fact that the sheriff many years ago told her that because she lived on a private road that they could not do anything about a neighbor that was causing disturbance in the neighborhood.

Charles Tompson/St. Stephens Church District – Advised that he has still received no response on his questions regarding the county employee charging their electric vehicle at the library. He wants an answer.

Annie Carter/St. Stephens Church District – Kudos to the Board members who held town hall meetings. Citizens are concerned about things going on especially with the schools. She suggested a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Planning Commission and Library Board to plan for the future. It should be open to the public and have the architect and engineer for the school project present as well.

Lisa Chandler/Buena Vista District – Thanked Mr. Simpkins for taking her concerns with the postal service seriously and for letting citizens know. She thanked the Board members for having town hall meetings and also thanked the Board for waiting on construction of the fire station.

Kim Carlton/Stevensville District – Advised that she was very dismayed at first when she heard about the county leaving the Pamunkey system but is now excited because now there are a lot of new and good ideas, programs and thanked the board for supporting the new county library. The county can't control what Pamunkey does regarding not letting citizens continue to use their facilities.

Gloria Banks/Stevensville District – She agreed with the comments of Ms. Case and Ms. Johnston. The county does not have any tourism and development to support this tax increases proposed. The county is double dipping by having salaries separated.

Patricia Case/St. Stephens Church District – She does not understand why she is paying school tax when she does not have children in the schools. What is she paying for when it says school tax? She is from New Jersey and there they don't pay school tax if they don't have children in the schools.

**Lee McKnight with VDOT was present and provided the following update to the Board:

- Paving season has begun and there will be paving on Rtes. 33 and 360 soon.
- Resurfacing on secondary roads will begin soon also.
- The funding for unpaved roads goes through 2029.
- Bridge replacement on Rt. 628 (Spring Cottage Road) will go advertisement this month with construction beginning soon after once the contract is awarded.
- Supervisor requests on Tastine, Mt. Elba and Iris Roads have been looked into and either addressed or forwarded for further review.
- Pipe replacements on Rt. 14 and secondary roads are scheduled for this summer.

Supervisors made the following requests:

Mr. Berry asked for direction on how to proceed with No Thru Truck restrictions on several roads including Mt. Elba.

Ms. Billups asked for a timeframe on the paving on Rt. 33. It should be done within the next 2 months.

Ms. Norman asked for clarification on why there are roads on the unpaved plan won't begin until 2026. This is based on funding allocations. The paving cannot begin until the entire paving project is funded.

Ms. Alsop asked to have potholes addressed on Indian Neck Road and Bradley Farm Road.

Mr Simpkins asked to have the standing water issue at the intersection of Rt. 360 and Rt. 721 looked into. The standing water is causing the pavement to crumble.

PUBLIC HEARING – CALENDAR YEAR 2024 TAX RATES

Chairman Simpkins opened the public hearing on the proposed tax rates. He noted that the only increases proposed are a .03/\$100 value on real estate, mobile home and public service

corporation rates. He asked anyone speaking to state their name, district they are from and to keep comments to three minutes.

Ann Marie Voight/Stevensville District – Expressed that she felt the real estate rate was already to high. She thanked the board members for having town hall meetings. One of the things mentioned at the meetings were that the population is projected to decline. If not one is moving in, how can values increase and how can people sell if they want to. Tax increases hit citizens very hard and the Board should consider lowering the rate instead of increasing it.

Patricia Case/St. Stephens Church District – Ms. Case asked for clarification on whether or not personal property rates were going up. Mr. Simpkins advised that they are not.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed. Chairman Simpkins reminded everyone that no action would be taken on the tax rates tonight. The Board must wait at least seven days to vote.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chairman Simpkins opened the public hearing the proposed budget. He noted that the General Fund budget is 17,597,691 and is made up of many categories. He asked anyone speaking to state their name, district they are from and to keep comments to three minutes.

Cynthia Johnston/St. Stephens Church District – Questioned the need for a fulltime Zoning Administrator at a salary of \$74,000 when King William is advertising for one at \$54,000. Why isn't this position part-time? The county does not need a tourism department. Why is Economic Development going from \$25,000 to \$75,000? This position should only be part-time. She feels that this is putting the cart before the horse because we don't have any development. Why are salaries being paid equal to King William when they are much larger? Why are the County Administrator and County Attorney the same person? Isn't this a conflict? The county should hire outside counsel to hold everyone accountable. The Board was elected to hold the best interests of the citizens.

Ann Marie Voight/Stevensville District – She agreed with some of the things that Ms. Johnston said but not all. She is thankful the county has the combined County Administrator and County Attorney positions. This has been very good for the county for many years. She does not feel that tourism should be in the budget. The EMS department has requested \$1 million more than the Sheriff. Do we need all of that? Salaries going from \$54,000 to \$74,000 in one year is excessive. The EMS department does not need extra vehicles. Please review the budget of \$5.5 million for the fire station, this is excessive. Look at the whole budget and make cuts where appropriate.

Theresa Weber/St. Stephens Church District – People on a fixed income, retired or otherwise are struggling to make it. We don't need tourism. Please take the citizens into account when raising the budget.

Lisa Chandler/Buena Vista District – As a former volunteer fire and EMS provider she agrees that there needs to be funding for EMS and also for training. When the tone goes off and it is

your loved ones you realize how important it is. The budget doesn't need a lot of extras but it does need to support fire and EMS.

REQUEST FOR JUNETEENTH PARADE APPROVAL

Ms. Seay advised that she received a request for approval of a parade in celebration of Juneteenth. The planned route is to be from the courthouse to the high school, similar to the route for Community Pride Day. Since this is a new request and includes use of county property she is requesting approval from the Board prior to responding to the group wishing to hold the parade.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to approve the parade permit and allow use of county property for staging of the parade on June 22nd.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Authority/Shanghai District – Tabled

Social Services Advisory Board/Shanghai District – A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Mr. Berry to appoint Kim Sadler.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

Planning Commission/St. Stephens Church District to replace Milton Watkins term expiring December 31, 2024 – A motion was made by Mr. Simpkins and seconded by Ms. Alsop to appoint Ed Wilson.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Seay provided the following updates:

- She has received a request from Dominion for a change in the right of way on the telework center property. Utilities need to be relocated as part of the construction process and they will be located outside of the existing right of way.
A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Alsop to approve the new right of way.
AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS
NAYS: NONE
- Advised the Board that VDOT will be at the May meeting for the Secondary Six Year Plan adoption. There has been discussion regarding whether or not a public hearing is needed. The Board may still hold a hearing even if not required and she asked for

direction on whether or not to tell VDOT to advertise either way. It was the consensus of the Board not to hold a hearing if it is determined not to be required.

- Also advised that the county election ordinance will need to be updated to reflect the relocation of the polling place from the auditorium at Marriott School to one of the rooms inside the library area. This should be on the May agenda also.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. Norman had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for their comments and concerns. Please keep the Board in your prayers as they make decisions on things facing the county.
- Wished everyone a safe trip home.

Ms. Billups had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for participating and attending the town hall meetings. The Board wanted to educate everyone on what is going on and answer questions that they could.
- Asked that people understand that when she is taking notes and may have a blank face, to understand that she is listening. Please understand that the decision the board makes are not done on a whim. There is always lots of discussion first. The decision may not be what you want or even what the board wants, but please listen to the whole story. Citizen voices do make a difference.
- Wished everyone a safe trip home.

Mr. Berry had the following comments:

- Advised that there were 30 to 40 people that the town hall meeting that he and Ms. Lee held. There was a lot of good dialogue.
- Asked that citizens know that he may not agree but will listen and will tell why he is voting the way he did.
- He wanted to address the comments made regarding the Weldon Cooper Center projection that the county population go down. The board is attempting to take actions that would make the county more appealing and have people come here instead.
- The community meetings that have been held have educated in both ways, the citizens and the board members.
- Past boards have made decisions that have been very good for the county, like the internet and other things. The board must weigh all things when making decisions. We do need more businesses, but it needs to be smart growth that will take the burden off the taxpayers.
- Reminded everyone to call him anytime with questions about the budget or other things.
- Thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe trip home.

Ms. Alsop had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and agrees with all things the other members have said.

- Noted that in regard to the population projections that the PDC recently did a study that sited King and Queen for growth now due to the internet. The board tries to incorporate planned growth and put development where it is appropriate and look at the whole picture when making decisions.
- She agrees with Ms. Chandler that the “bells and whistles” may not be needed by there must be support for volunteers and emergency services.
- The Commonwealth Transportation Board is holding a meeting on May 9th in Fredericksburg. She plans to attend to speak on the need to address the “dip” in the middle of the intersection of Rt. 721 and Rt. 360.
- Advised that she would like to have the board look into changing the business license ordinance to allow for an exemption of the fee for businesses that earn less than \$10,000 annually. They would still need to register but the fee would be waived.
- Expressed thanks for thoughts and consideration while she has been sick. She has completed radiation and is back and healthy.
- Wished everyone a safe trip home.

Mr. Simpkins had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and expressing their thoughts and opinions. The board will consider all comments before making a decision.
- Reminded everyone of the guidelines for public comment period.
- In regard to the comments about salaries, he expressed that this is a real struggle, the need to maintain good staff and not have the hired away by other counties. He attended a Middle Peninsula Alliance (regional economic development) meeting this week where it was stated that 77% of the work force living on the Middle Peninsula commute elsewhere. We need to be able to keep our workforce here.
- Agreed with Mr. Berry’s comment about growth. We need to do things that will make the county attractive to families and businesses.
- Wished everyone a safe trip home and hopes to see everyone next month.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Billups to enter into closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3711(A)6 for discussion of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected and Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8) consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, the subject being the acquisition of real property in the Stevensville Magisterial District of King and Queen County, Virginia.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman that each member of the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors certify 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, (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors, and (iii) no action was taken in the closed meeting.

AYES: S.C. ALSOP, J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS
NAYS: NONE

IT IS ORDERED THAT THE BOARD BE ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Alsop to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk of the Board