

**King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2024**

6:00 P.M.

**Regular Meeting
King and Queen County Courts and Administration Building
2nd Floor Conference Room A and B**

Minutes of the Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Lawrence Simpkins called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken with member Carolyn Billups being absent.

Chairman Simpkins also approved Mr. Berry's attendance of the meeting electronically from his home due to a medical issue.

APPROVAL OF RECURRING WARRANTS

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to approve the recurring warrants for the month of July, subject to audit.

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: C.R. BILLUPS

DISCUSSION – BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Ms. Seay advised that the Director of Maintenance is out of the office right now but noted that he has received a second proposal which includes more items than the first one. He is reviewing both proposals to have brought back to the board later with a recommendation.

Mr. Simpkins asked what the maintenance staff would be doing if all the grounds maintenance was done by an outside company. He also asked if it would be possible to get proposals for a spring and fall "spruce up" and then have staff maintain once it is caught up. Mr. Berry expressed the same feelings, that since there wasn't funding for a full contract to do the landscaping.

DISCUSSION – EMERGENCY SERVICES (DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND FACILITIES)

Ms. Seay asked, in light of current discussions, that the goal of the Board is for maintaining career staffing for emergency services.

Mr. Hunter added that since the current model has been in place since 2015, maybe the new Board has a new intended direction.

Ms. Alsop expressed concerns that have been brought by citizens as well as concerns that the volunteer crews, specifically Rescue 5 aren't getting toned for calls.

Mr. Berry expressed concern that the new fire station was originally budgeted for \$1 million back in 2015 and is now estimated at \$6 million. Is this the best way to spend county funds for a medic crew? He suggested working with Central Fire Department to make improvements to their facility which would benefit both and be significantly less expensive. He has discussed it with Chief Otto and they are willing to come up with a plan to propose to the county.

MR. Simpkins asked Mr. Hunter to review the current model and then maybe the Board could set the plan for the next 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Hunter reviewed the current model of having three stations located approximately equal distance throughout the county to maximize resources for response times and having crews available for “second calls” in each area. All staff are required to have a minimum of Firefighter II certification in order to support the volunteer fire companies. He expressed the current challenges faced by emergency services being low morale, less than ideal sleeping quarters (the crew stationed in the center of the county is quartered in the file room of the emergency services office in the courthouse) and geography.

Ms. Billups arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Simpkins asked for a listing of county emergency services apparatus. Mr. Hunter advised that we currently have 3 ambulances (not including the one held jointly with Rescue 5), 1 Duty Officer truck, 5 other response vehicles (Ford Explorers) and 1 spare response vehicle (also an Explorer)

Ms. Seay asked what the Board’s direction is to staff regarding the construction of a new facility for the centrally located crew. There was discussion by the Board relating to the current estimate of \$6 million for the new station and how much they are willing to spend on a solution, the feasibility of working with Central Fire and concerns with making an investment on property not owned by the county.

After lengthy discussion of these concerns, it was the consensus of the Board to set \$1.5 million as the amount they are willing to spend on the project. Mr. Berry said he will continue to work with Central Fire on a proposal for improvements to their facility and County staff was directed to have a proposal for a facility on the county owned property that was purchase for this purpose.

DISCUSSION – VEHICLE USE POLICY

Sheriff Balderson and Chief Hunter provided copies of their current vehicle use policies and lists of vehicles and who they are assigned to, this included any exceptions that have been granted (or denied) and record keeping of fuel usage and vehicle maintenance.

There were questions from the Board and discussion related to the allowable distances included in the policies, concerns for vehicles being out of the county and not available for use by other staff, and the current arrangement for Mr. Hunter where he is responsible for paying for a certain portion of his fuel costs which is an exception to the policy.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Alsop to approve the County paying for all of Mr. Hunter’s fuel usage.

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

NAYS: C.R. BILLUPS

ABSENT: NONE

DISCUSSION – COMBINED COURTS (GENERAL DISTRICT AND JDR)

Sheriff Balderson further updated the Board on conversations related to this option. The first discussion being to separate the Victim Witness position from King William County. Separating the courts would provide better and more efficient service to the citizens. He also stated that this action is supported by the Circuit Court clerk, Commonwealth Attorney and Victim Witness Coordinator. The first action would be the adoption of a resolution by the Board that would go to the General Assembly since ultimately the General Assembly would make the decision to allow for this since the proposal would separate the Clerks of both courts (GD and JDR) from King William County and then the Clerk of each county would then be the Clerk of the combined court.

The Board directed Ms. Seay to work with the Sheriff on moving this recommendation forward.

DISCUSSION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POSITION

Ms. Seay noted that there are currently three options for this position. Fulltime as included in the budget, parttime and continuing the contracted arrangement that has been in place for about 18 months.

Mr. Longest, Chairman of the EDA expressed that there is currently a very good momentum in economic development and that whatever decision the Board makes he hopes that it will allow the EDA and staff to keep that momentum and continue to move forward.

Ms. Ammons expressed her opinion that even though staff and the EDA have been able to make things work and continue to accomplish things that it has not been as effective as it was when there was a fulltime Economic Director. Having a fulltime employee that is dedicated to the goals of the county gets “the best bang for the buck”.

After brief discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to hire the economic development director part time at \$4,000/moth through June 2025.

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

NAYS: NONE

DISCUSSION – BOARD RETREAT

Ms. Seay advised that the retreat will be November 15th and 16th at the library. She has confirmed The Berkley Group for that day. She stated that staff is compiling a list of items and for the Board to let staff know if they have any items for the agenda.

ITEMS BROUGH BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Berry advised that there was a meeting on July 15th regarding the Dominion sub-station. Staff and concerned citizens participated in the meeting and some good resolution were brought to address concerns raised. There was nothing presented to address the storm water issues so Dominion is going to go back and look into that issue and come back with solutions.

IT IS ORDERED THAT THIS BOARD BE ADJOURNED

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk of the Board