

King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Monday, October 15, 2024
7:00 P.M.

King and Queen County Courts and Administration Building
General District Courtroom

“Minutes of the Meeting”

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Simpkins call the meeting to order noting that four members were present in person and one member was present virtually. Mr. Berry stated that he was attending from South Carolina for personal reasons, Mr. Simpkins approved his virtual attendance. Chairman Simpkins provided the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE AUGUST 26, 2024 AND SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Billups approving the August 26, 2024 and September 9, 2024 minutes of the Board with the correction to the September 9, 2024 minutes to include Ms. Norman’s comments.

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

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF AUGUST WARRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to approve the October 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 Ms. Billups to approve the quarterly appropriation to the School Food Service Fund in the amount of \$138,366, 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 Ms. Norman to approve the following appropriations to the School Fund for FY24:

- June Revenue \$1,339,792.25
- July, August and September Revenue \$382,239.79
- School Construction Funds \$461,813.90

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

NAYS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Stephanie Dabny, Newtown District – She is opposed to the closing of Lawson Marriott and sending the children to the campus at Central High School. The babies are too small, and the bus rides will be too long. For Pre-Kindergarten up to 6th grade they are too young. Please keep their school open, they love their school. She understands that King and Queen Elementary needs a school but being together will have too many students in each class. She also asked that they not put the children in the trailers as has been proposed. There isn't much for the children to do in King and Queen and Lawson Marriott is all they have. If the board want to spend money, they should put it into a middle school.

Jackie Robinson, Newtown District – Advised that she is a certified babysitter with many years' experience. The closing of Lawson would be hard on the babies. It's too early in her opinion to get them up to ride the bus, they are just too young. Please leave their school alone. Use money to be spent on buses. Keep Lawson open for the babies.

Jonathon Wainright, Stevensville District – He is in favor of keeping the elementary school above Rt. 360 open. The board needs to have a professional evaluate the project and to plan for growth potential in the future. Think of the miles and hours that the children will travel. He also advised that there are grants available to help pay for facilities.

John Robinson, Newtown District – Advised that if there is helped, funds or people needed to help with not having to close Lawson that he wants to help. He is 100% in the corner of the children learning. He feels that a 2-hour bus ride to and from school is senseless. He is willing to help.

Lawanda Travis – She is a grandparent of five children in the schools. She has seen the property at the high school. She stated that attendance need to be higher and that the board needs to provide adequate help to educate the children. If not, the children will suffer from longer bus rides. She also asked if parents have been polled or surveys sent out to hear what the parents want so a better decision can be made. She also advised that the military will help and that there are grants available.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO VDOT TO RESTRICT THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON RT. 632, RT. 633 AND RT. 634

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

Ms. Seay advised that this request relates to the public hearing that was held last month. The addition of Rt. 634 to the areas proposed necessitated another hearing. Several years ago the Board restricted traffic on Rt. 631 (Bunker Hill Road and Stevensville Road) but there are still issues with truck traffic on Rt. 632, Rt. 633 and Rt. 634 which allows truck traffic to be on the roads between Walkerton and Rt. 14 in the courthouse area.

Chairman Simpkins opened the public hearing.

Ann Marie Voight, Stevensville District – She does not support the restriction on Mantua Road from Rt. 14 to Hockley Neck Road but does support the restriction on the other roads. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed. Both she and her husband have been run into the ditch on these roads and something needs to be done.

Teresa Weber, St. Stephens Church District – She requested that the Board add Rt. 621 (Bruington Road) to be restricted. It is a very narrow road and there are children and animals on it.

Patricia Case, St. Stephens Church District – Please add Rt. 621 (Bruington Road) VDOT recently did a lot of work to that road and a VDOT worker told her that the bridges on the secondary roads are not made for truck traffic. She doesn't have a problem with where they are going but they need to be off these roads. There is no room to pass when you meet the trucks, and it is being used as a cut through short cut and the citizens are paying for it.

Sheriff Balderson – He was asked by the Board at the last meeting to gather information related to traffic incidents on these roads. There were seven reportable (over \$2,000 damages) crashes during 2022 to 2024. Two were overturned trucks. There were eleven non-reportable (under \$2,000 damages) during the same period. There were three mirror strikes, four were a tractor trailer left the road, two cars run off the road by a tractor trailer and two people who called in to dispatch but left the scene prior to arrival of assistance.

Bruce Taylor, Walkerton – Advised that his questions related to farm vehicles were answered by the county administrator during her comments.

Ms. Alsop requested clarification on the point made by Ms. Voight regarding trucks on Rt. 633 Mantua Road.

Ms. Seay explained that that she has spoken with Lee McKnight at VDOT and he stated that if in the example given of a deliver onto Rt. 632 (Hockley Neck Road) then there would be no way for a truck to get there if Rt. 633 were restricted that a delivery vehicle in that instance would not be considered a through truck on Rt. 633 because they did not travel the full distance of the road which would be from Rt. 14 to Rt. 620 (Walkerton Landing Road). This would also apply to log trucks or farm vehicles that had business on the roads under consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Norman to adopt the following resolution and send it to VDOT:

A RESOLUTION OF THE KING AND QUEEN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REQUESTING THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RESTRICT THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON STATE ROUTES 632, 633, AND 634

WHEREAS, many public roads in King and Queen County are dangerously narrow with poor drainage and oftentimes with crumbling shoulders; and

WHEREAS, many of those narrow roads should be used by large trucks only when necessary to reach local destinations and never as shortcuts; and

WHEREAS, best practices notwithstanding, some of those narrow roadways that are the least suitable for truck traffic are utilized as shortcuts by large trucks, thereby undermining road condition as well as creating hazardous travel conditions; and

WHEREAS, in fact, just recently two larger trucks traveling on the roads which are the subject of this Resolution have overturned, illustrating just how inappropriate those roads are for frequent truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the guidance and authority in Chapter 580 of the Virginia Administrative Code, the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors deems it to be in the best interests of the citizens of King and Queen County to request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board, acting through authority delegated to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation, restrict through truck traffic on those route identified below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That the Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board, acting through authority delegated to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation, restrict through truck traffic on State Route 632 from the intersection of State Route 631 to the intersection of State Route 633; State Route 633 from the intersection with Route 14 to the intersection with Walkerton Landing Road; and State Route 634 from the intersection with State Route 633 to the intersection with Walkerton Landing Road.
2. That the Board of Supervisors has determined the restriction of through truck traffic on the routes set forth in paragraph 1 will promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth without creating an undue hardship on any users of the transportation network.
3. That the alternate route with the same termini is Route 14, The Trail directly to or from Walkerton Landing Road.
4. That the King and Queen County Sheriff's Office will enforce the through truck restrictions.

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

**THRIVE VIRGINIA – DECLARATION OF OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

No one was present from Thrive but they provided the following proclamation in advance:

**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all races, ages, gender, and income levels; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is widespread and affects over four million Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, one in three Americans have witnessed an incident of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop to this heinous crime; and.

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED by the King and Queen County Board of Supervisors the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and ask the citizens of King and Queen County to work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Norman to adopt the proclamation.

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

Ms. Alsop added that she ran a shelter for 10 years and know the importance of this proclamation and for October to be domestic violence awareness month. If you know of someone in this situation, please let them know about the resources that are available to help.

APPROVAL OF BEAD LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RIVERSTREET NETWORKS

County Administrator Vivian Seay advised that this request was received from Robert Taylor with Riverstreet Networks. He has advised that he has been notified that they may be eligible for BEAD (Broadband Equity and Deployment) funding for King and Queen County. He is unsure that they will receive any funding since the county has already provided fiber access to the entire county, however he is requesting support from the county if there truly an unserved or underserved area within the county.

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Alsop to approve the submission of a letter of support for Riverstreet's BEAD application.

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

Ms. Billups asked that the Board be notified if Riverstreet does receive any funding.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quarterly reports were received from the following department heads and agencies:

1. Meredith Adkins, Commonwealth Attorney (report was provided in advance)
2. Sheriff Balderson, Sheriff's Office and Animal Control
3. Lee McKnight, VDOT (report was provided in advance)
4. Quentin Mascari, Building Inspections (report was provided in advance)
5. Monty Willaford, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Berry and seconded by Ms. Alsop to reappoint Mr. Robbie Coleman to the Planning Commission this term will expire December 31, 2024 in order to align the terms of members to provisions in the Code of 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. Billups and seconded by Ms. Alsop to reappoint Mr. Robbie Coleman and Mr. Edmond Wilson to four-year terms beginning on January 1, 2025 and expiring on December 31, 2028.

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

VOTING CREDENTIALS – ANNUAL VACO CONFERENCE

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Norman authorizing Sherrin Alsop as the voting member representing King and Queen County.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Alsop authorizing Ms. Billups as the alternate voting member for King and Queen County.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Seay had the following comments:

- She has been contacted by VDOT regarding the Rural Rustic designation for Rt. 617 (Exol Road) they are in need of the following resolution in order for work to begin on the project:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-332 of the *Code of Virginia*, permits the hard surfacing of certain unpaved roads deemed to qualify for designation as a **Rural Rustic Road**; and

WHEREAS, any such road must be located in a low-density development area and have no more than 1500 vpd; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of King & Queen County, Virginia (the "Board") desires to consider whether Exol Road, Route 617, 2.61 mile, From: Route 614 To: Route 616 (the "Road) be designated a Rural Rustic Road; and

WHEREAS, the Board is unaware of pending development that will significantly affect the existing traffic on the Road; and

WHEREAS, the Road is in the Board's six-year plan for improvements to the secondary system of state highways; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the Road should be so designated due to its qualifying characteristics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby designates the Road a Rural Rustic Road, and requests that the Residency Administrator for the Virginia Department of Transportation concur in this designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that the Road be hard surfaced and,

to the fullest extent prudent, be improved within the existing right of way and ditch-lines to preserve as much as possible the adjacent trees, vegetation, side slopes, and rural rustic character along the Road in their current state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator.

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Alsop to adopt the resolution as presented and provide it to VDOT.

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

- Advised that now that the telework center is nearly complete, a name for the facility needs to be chosen so work can begin on the signage for the site as well as inside the building.
- The leases for the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission and Sentara will need to be approved prior to them moving into the facility. This requires a public hearing, and she requested that this be held at the November regular meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Alsop and seconded by Ms. Billups setting the November 13th board meeting as the date for the public hearing on leases for the telework center.

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

- Responses to the RFP for master site plan design for the school campus were due last Thursday, six responses were received. The review and selection committee is set to meet next week.
- Advised that there are some scheduling issues with the annual dinner hosted by the Historical Society, but she will get out the date as soon as it is set.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Norman had the following comments:

- She appreciated everyone coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns and opinions. The school project weighs on everyone's mind and they are considering all comments heard.
- Reminded everyone of Community Pride Day
- Wished everyone a safe trip home.

Ms. Billups had the following comments:

- She suggested that a good way to get information out regarding things like where to pay taxes would be in the churches.
- It is great to hear people coming forth to offer to assist the children, parents, teachers, and making suggestions regarding grants etc. She asked if citizens are reaching out to the PTA and the School Board regarding their concerns also. To the citizen who

spoke about getting professionals to assist, the Board is doing that with the selection of the firm to prepare the master plan.

- She thanked everyone who came and spoke, the Board does listen.
- Wished everyone a safe trip home.

Ms. Alsop had the following comments:

- She thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Board for their patience and consideration while she was out sick recently with COVID.
- She stated that she is always glad to talk with citizens about their concerns. She may not agree with them, but she does listen.
- Advised that the Board is working closely with the School Board on the coming projects and that many of the concerns raised are under the authority of the School Board not the Board of Supervisors such as student transportation. In her opinion running two schools is not the most efficient way to spend taxpayer dollars. There are other needs such as EMTs and deputies that the Board has to consider as well. Many don't realize that there is only one pot of money, and the Board has to make decision that are the best for everyone. Small counties do not have the same resources as large ones but have the same responsibilities to the citizens. Where will the taxes come from if citizens don't want businesses? Hard decision must be made.
- Wished everyone a good evening and a safe trip home.

Mr. Berry had the following comments:

- He appreciated being allowed to attend remotely.
- The school project has become quite contentious and there is some inaccurate information circulating. He asked citizens to reach out to their Board members to get the accurate information.
- The Board must live within its means and make decisions with that in mind.
- He will not be having his community meeting in October as planned, will try to have it after the holidays in January.

Mr. Simpkins had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and speaking up. There are many decisions that still need to be made regarding the school project. He and other Board members mean it, please call them to get the accurate information. What is out there on Facebook is not correct.
- In regard to the staffing shortage in Emergency Services he asked that a review of EMT salaries be looked at and see if there are funds within salary contingencies to do something.
- He attended the Sheriff's office ceremony held at Marriott School, it was a very nice event.
- He also attended Walkerton Day and there was a surprise visit from Governor Youngkin and Delegate Hodges. He was able to spend time with both and talked about some of issues facing King and Queen County as well as other rural communities.
- Advised that the information provided by the Schools on the football game Friday night is at West Point not at Central High School.

- Thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe trip home.

IT IS ORDERED THAT THE BOARD BE ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Alsop to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk of the Board