

King and Queen County
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Monday, December 15, 2025

Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M.

King and Queen County Courts and Administration Building
General District Courtroom

“Minutes of the Meeting”

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order, noting that the meeting was rescheduled from Monday, December 8, 2025 due to inclement weather. It was also noted that member Sherrin Alsop was absent.

Mr. Simpkins provided the invocation followed by the Please of Allegiance to the Flad of the United States of America.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2025 AND NOVEMBER 12, 2025 MINUTES OF THE BOARD

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Mr. Simpkins approving October 27, 2025 minutes of the Board.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Mr. Simpkins approving September 22, 2025 minutes of the Board.

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

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF WARRANTS AND APPROPRIATIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Mr. Simpkins approving the December 2025 County warrants and payroll.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Simpkins and seconded by Ms. Norman approving the following appropriations to the School Fund:

- July Revenue \$314,772.97
- August Revenue \$368,753.21
- September Revenue \$568,323.40
- October Revenue \$537,305.34

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (This item was moved up on the agenda)

Charles Tompson, St. Stephens Church District – Requested that the Board consider live broadcast of their meetings so people who are not able to come to the courthouse could hear what is going on. He stated that there is a good crowd here tonight but that is not always the case, there is usually only a few people. He also asked if there would be an opportunity to speak to Delegate Hodges and would he have meetings in the community.

Spencer Cheatham, West Point Rotary – Informed the Board that the WP Rotary has received a grant in the amount of \$2,200 to place a ladder and lifesaving ring at the county pier in Mattaponi. He told the story of a fisherman who fell from the pier and had to hold onto a piling until someone saw him and help arrived. The Board expressed their thanks to the Rotary for providing this to the citizens of the county.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – KEITH HODGES

Delegate Hodges provided an update on the prior General Assembly as well as the upcoming session and the state budget.

Chairman Berry requested that he come back again after the next General Assembly session and give another update. He also noted that one of the main concerns that the county has with the state budget is the pushing down to localities of unfunded mandates.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

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

1. Erin Lazar, Community Programming, Library and Tourism
2. Kelly Lumpkin, Commissioner of Revenue (not present, provided report in advance)
3. Stephanie Sears, Treasurer (not present, provided report in advance)
4. Betty Dougherty, Human Resources

5. Tina Ammons, Finance
6. Jeff Davison, Republic Services (not present, provided report in advance)
7. Kelly Evko, Economic Development

APPROVAL OF RADIO PURCHASE

Greg Hunter, Emergency Services Chief and Regional Radio System Manager provided the Board with information on year-end reduced pricing from the radio vendor. The reduced pricing reflects a savings of \$3,500 per radio. He also offered the following options for purchases if the Board wants to make these purchases now, understanding that this is an out of budget cycle request but the savings are significant on items that will need to be purchased at some point in the future.

1. Purchase 50 portable radios to outfit volunteer fire and emergency services apparatus only with multi-band. This would leave approximately 80 Tait single band portables for primary volunteer fire responder use, with limitation, but ensure key breathing apparatus can connect to the radios and multiband capability exists on most frontline fire apparatus.
 - a. Estimated Cost with accessories (vehicle charger and NFPA speaker mic)
\$185,000 with shipping
(Compare to standard purchase price =\$335,000)
2. Purchase 85 portable radios expanding to ensure the top 3 volunteer fire leaders in each department (volunteer fire chief, assistant chief/deputy chief and/or captain) have multi- band radios, plus address a small number of remaining sheriff and emergency services needs, and outfit key fire breathing apparatus which can connect to the radios and multiband capability exists on most frontline fire apparatus. This would leave most fire responders with Tait radios for use in county
 - a. Estimated Cost with accessories (vehicle or desk charger and speaker microphone, standard or NFPA as appropriate)
\$314,000 with shipping
(Compare to standard purchase price =\$569,500)
3. Purchase 130 portable radios and replacing all active responder radios including outfitting key fire breathing apparatus which can connect to the radios and multiband capability exists on most frontline fire apparatus. Some Tait radios would remain for low priority admin, support, or non-public safety use.
 - a. Estimated Cost with accessories (vehicle or desk charger and speaker microphone, standard or NFPA as appropriate)
\$481,000 with shipping
(Compare to standard purchase price =\$871,000)
4. Purchase 160 portable radios completely transitions all Tait portable radios to the L3Harris platform and includes outfitting key fire breathing apparatus which can connect to the radios and multiband capability exists on most frontline fire apparatus.
 - a. Estimated Cost with accessories (vehicle or desk charger and speaker microphone, standard or NFPA as appropriate)
\$592,000 with shipping
(Compare to standard purchase price =\$1,072,000)

Discussion included the need to updated mobile radios (in vehicles) as well as portable radios since there is also reduced pricing on those. After discussion of all options and the financial impact, a motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Norman to authorize Option 3

(\$481,000) with the addition of purchasing 65 mobile radios with a cost not to exceed \$260,000 for a total of \$741,000.

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: S.C. ALSOP

VA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UPDATE & INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Turner Minx, Extension Agent apologized for missing the last meeting and provided an update on activities in Cooperative Extension. He introduced Christine Rodes who is the new 4H agent for King and Queen and King William.

APPROVAL OF ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ZA24-02

Chairman Berry asked Board member for their comments on this amendment prior to acting.

Mr. Simpkins stated that the county still does not know how the Walnut Solar project will affect the county and does not think they should take action to make changes until it is finished so they can learn from it and make changes then to approve the process.

Ms. Norman stated that she feels the Board should separate the actions for solar facilities and data centers. They should move forward with the amendment for solar facilities and have further discussion and more information before acting on data centers.

Ms. Billups stated that she detests solar farms but wants to make sure that approval stays a local authority, she doesn't want the state to approve legislation that would take away that authority. Allowing solar farms in any way is a hard pill to swallow and she wonders if knowing what the board knows now would it have been approved. She thinks that data centers and solar should be separate actions. The board needs to fight for preservation of local authority on these actions, regardless of the outcome of the decision made tonight.

Mr. Berry stated that he feels this is a multi-pronged issue. There are concerns over locality push-back, the state mandate for green energy and property owner rights. He cited an example of Industrial zoned property on Powcan Road (an old ash dump) that reflects what happens when "pockets" of industrially zoned properties are created in the middle of rural areas. Once a property is rezoned to industrial it is an extremely difficult process to down-zone. In speaking with other counties, they are using the conditional use process for solar applications and have successfully denied them so he thinks it is a good tool to use. He agrees with separating the action on data centers also, that more information and community input is needed before a decision is made.

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Mr. Berry to approve ZA24-02 section *Allow utility scale solar facilities in the Agricultural zoning district with a conditional use permit* only and not the portion related to data centers.

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

Motion failed. No further action was taken.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Simpkins and seconded by Ms. Billups reappoint Comer Jackson to the Planning Commission representing the St. Stephens Church district to a four-year term expiring December 31, 2029.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Simpkins and seconded by Ms. Norman to appoint Ann Glubiak to the DSS Advisory Board for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2029.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Seay had the following comments:

- She reminded the Board of the joint meeting with the School Board on January 20th.
- The school construction work group will be meeting in early January.
- The EDA has asked to meet with the Board regularly and has suggested meeting in January and July at the regular workshop meetings.
- Stated that Mr. Berry had suggested a gift to all county employees for the holidays. She has discussed this with HR and Finance, and the consensus was to provide a gift certificate to all employees. It was suggested to purchase a \$50 gift card for each employee. The cost would be approximately \$6,000 and there are funds available that can be used for this.

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Ms. Billups to purchase \$50 gift cards for each employee as a holiday gift.

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Norman had the following comments:

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to have a safe trip home.

Ms. Billups had the following comments:

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and remember to be thankful this holiday.
- Everyone stay warm in the cold weather.

Mr. Simpkins had the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and for the reports.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Berry had the following comments:

- Reminded everyone that Walkerton Fire is having a Hunter's Lunch on Saturday.
- The Rock Spring Road bridge replacement is finished and open.
- Congratulated King and Queen resident Othell Hall for promotion to Superintendent for VDOT in King and Queen.
- Expressed that the Tavern event and county tree lighting were very nice events.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for coming.

CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Norman and seconded by Mr. Simpkins to enter into closed meeting pursuant to the following:

- a. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(5) for discussion concerning the expansion of an existing business where no previous announcement has been made of the business expanding its facilities in the community, the subject being a business located in the Stevensville Magisterial District; and
- b. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3) for consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, the subject being real property located in the Newtown Magisterial District; and
- c. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion of salaries of specific County employees in county administration and the Department of Social Services; and
- d. Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice, the subject being a real estate purchase contract.

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Norman to enter into open session with 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: J.L. SIMPKINS, M.R. BERRY, M.H. NORMAN, C.R. BILLUPS

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: S.C. ALSOP

IT IS ORDERED THAT THE BOARD BE ADJOURNED:

A motion was made by Ms. Billups and seconded by Ms. Norman to adjourn the meeting to Monday, January 12, 2026, for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the King and Queen 242 Allen's Circle, King and Queen Court House, Virginia, first floor courtroom.

Chairman

Clerk of the Board