



## **Mathews County Board of Supervisors**

Regular Meeting Held Electronically

via the Zoom Platform

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to Section 4.000(g) in HB30, this meeting will be held electronically per Governor Northam's amended Executive Orders 63, 67, and 72 which impose limitations on the gathering of more than 10 people, and per the Continuity of Government Ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on December 15, 2020.

Due to technical difficulties, the live meeting will only be available for viewing on Facebook at the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/MathewsCountyVA/>. A recording of the meeting will be uploaded to the Mathews County Meeting Portal immediately following its conclusion: <https://www.mathewscountyva.gov/355/Meeting-Portal>

## **MINUTES**

### **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

A. Public Participation Guidelines

### **2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **4. ROLL CALL**

Board of Supervisors Members  
Present:

Michael Rowe, Chairman  
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair  
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor  
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor  
Amy Dubois, Supervisor

Board of Supervisors Members  
Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Mrs. Melinda Conner, County Administrator  
Mrs. Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk  
Mr. Charles S. Huntley, Technology Director  
Mr. Thomas D. Jenkins, Planning, Zoning and Wetlands  
Director  
Mr. Kevin Zoll, Building Official

Ms. Andrea G. Erard, Esq., County Attorney  
Mrs. Caroline Oxley, Deputy Clerk

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** On Motion of Melissa Mason, seconded by Paul Hudgins, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None - nay; to approve the agenda, as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman - Aye

Melissa Mason, Vice Chair - Aye

Paul Hudgins, Supervisor - Aye

Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye Amy

Dubois, Supervisor – Aye

**6. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mrs. Conner stated that there were several agencies represented and noted that this is a good opportunity for the Board to hear about the important work they do and their contributions to the local community.

**7. FLOOR OPENED FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON FY22 BUDGET**

**A. FY21-22 Budget Requests from Outside Agencies**

Ms. Krystal Reagan of Three Rivers Health District stated that they are requesting level funding in FY22, they did not anticipate any increases.

Ms. Arlene Armentour of the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic stated that despite the challenge of the pandemic, not one patient had gone without care or medications. She stated that her agency adopted new ways to care for patients such as tele-medicine. Ms. Armentour requested level funding in FY22. Ms. Armentour stated that 63 Mathews County residents were served this year which equated to over \$252,000 in onsite care and medications. She reported that there was a slight decline in patients over the previous year due to the pandemic and Medicaid expansion. Ms. Armentour stated that the Care Clinic has reopened the dental clinic at end of last year and partnered with Rotary to purchase equipment to do blood pressure and glucose readings and community health screenings.

Vice Chair Mason stated her appreciation for the work being done by the Care Clinic. Chairman Rowe stated that he was looking forward to the Casino Night fundraiser and asked how much was raised at the last event. Ms. Armentour stated that over \$120,000 was raised.

Mrs. Linda Hodges of the Community Services Board requested level funding. She acknowledged Board appointee Ms. Edith Turner and provided an update on services her agency provides.

Ms. Kathy Vessley-Massey, President and CEO of Bay Aging, recognized Board appointee Ms. Lynda Smith and noted that she is coming up to speed quickly and is a great advocate for Mathews County citizens. She stated that COVID has greatly affected her agency, noting that 90% of deaths attributed to COVID come from the over 60 population. She stated the great need to help people remain in their homes due to fears of the pandemic. Ms. Massey stated that Bay Aging saw a 30% increase in requests for services. Ms. Massey stated that Bay Aging is requesting a 1% increase in funding to offset cost of living increases to equal \$14,040, level funding in the Housing Voucher program equating to \$3,724 and deferred to Mr. Ken Pollack to talk about Bay Transit.

Ms. Massey stated that the Meals on Wheels program saw the largest increase during the pandemic

with 234 seniors requesting service, equating to 26,000 meals being served. She stated that this was a 40% increase. She also stated that an additional program called Helping Neighbors added an additional 76 seniors and 2,000 meals. Ms. Massey stated that they had to close the Active Adult Lifestyle Center due to the pandemic and the Governor's directives for safety purposes. Of all the statistics provided, Ms. Massey stated that 185 volunteers continued to help her agency provide services locally in spite of COVID. She expressed her appreciation to school cafeteria manager, Nelda Gibbs, and her staff. Vice Chair Mason echoed those sentiments.

Mr. Ken Pollack of Bay Transit stated that this has been the most challenging year in 25 years of operation. Mr. Pollack stated that upon learning of COVID, they began discouraging riders from riding except for essential health rides and essential workers. He stated that the reduced bus capacity from 14 to three passengers to adhere to social distancing, suspended fares, and made sure there was no driver interaction with passengers. Mr. Pollack stated that they required occupants to wear face masks, cleaned buses several times a day, constructed plexiglass dividers between seats and around the driver which then increased capacity to seven. Mr. Pollack stated that they are now encouraging people to ride again and started a new "Good to Go" campaign, noting that they are trying to get the word out that it is safe to ride again.

Mr. Pollack stated that Mathews County had a decrease in ridership of 35% and that they are working hard to restore ridership for FY21. Mr. Pollack requested \$41,208 local match funding in FY22, noting that includes a 2% cost of living adjustment increase over FY21. Mr. Pollack reported that due to some CARES act funds earmarked specific to public transit, Bay Transit was able to waive the local match requirements in FY21. He noted that a few weeks ago, they returned Mathews County's first quarter payment. He stated that there will be no cost for riders for all of FY21. The Board commended Mr. Pollack on the important service Bay Transit provides the citizens of Mathews County.

Ms. Shannon Kennedy, President of Rappahannock Community College, introduced Mr. Mike Beavers, Mathews County's appointee to their Board. She stated that he is very engaged and always participates. Mr. Beavers stated that RCC is one of the biggest benefits that Mathews has. Ms. Kennedy also introduced Ms. Tara Walker as their Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services. Ms. Kennedy requested level funding for FY22 of \$7,270 and provided a slide show presentation outlining services the college offers to Mathews County citizens.

Ms. Kennedy stated that RCC received the largest gift from a resident of Mathews County, Dr. Stuart Flanagan, of \$2.7 million dollars. She noted that this endowment will fund three full time high school navigators who will work with low-income families to help them navigate the pathway to college. Ms. Kennedy stated that RCC was working with the Three Rivers Health District to assist with administering COVID shots, noting that the nursing students are able to get clinical hours for this work. Ms. Kennedy reported on a new program called Virginia Ready which assists unemployed people get into an approved credentialed program and upon earning that credential, is awarded a \$1,000 incentive. Another program offered is REV Re-employing Virginians. Funding for this program was provided by CARES funds, and now that the CARES Act deadline has been extended, the program will continue. Vouchers are available for \$1,500 for part time students to \$3,000 for full time students. 87 students qualified in the first round, four of those are from Mathews. Ms. Kennedy also stated that the welding program is going well and that there had been a waiting list.

Mr. Ricky Wiatt, Present of Mathews Little League requested level funding. Mr. Wiatt reported on how COVID has impacted the league, noting how important the County's funding is as they were unable to do normal fundraising efforts this year and operating expenses still needed to be covered. He stated that since play was suspended, they took advantage of the opportunity and performed much needed maintenance and repairs to the fields and water system.

Ms. Pam Doss, Director of the Bay School stated that the school had closed in March for two months due to COVID. Ms. Doss requested an increase in funding due to service level increases and due to a decline in funding from the state. She noted that the biggest shortfall was in salaries, although she was able to keep everyone employed through the pandemic. Ms. Doss stated that with increasing staff hours and the increase in minimum wage, an increase in local funding would be necessary in order to increase salaries. She informed the Board of a partnership with Main Street and MCVIC to increase market weekends.

Ms. Emily Allen, Director of the Mathews County Visitor and Information Center, stated that she was really looking forward to the increase in the transient tax, noting it is a necessary step in making tourism more intentional. Ms. Allen stated that her budget request for FY22 is requesting an additional \$5,000. She noted that MCVIC has been the County's tourism liaison for many years now and has organized many events. She stated that the local funding contribution provides annually salary assistance, pass through grant and marketing assistance. Ms. Allen stated that responsibilities have increased over the years and that operation costs have increased as well. She reminded the Board that her agency is nonprofit and asked for additional operating assistance this year.

Mrs. Conner stated that the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission was not presenting and noted that they are requesting level funding.

Mr. Samuel Markwith from the Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District requested an increase in funding. He noted that his agency is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth and provided background on the types of services his agency offers. He acknowledged Mr. Ronnie Lewis and Mr. George Rogers as Mathews County representatives.

Ms. Rachael Morris, Extension Agent, requested a slight increase in funding which would be used to cover a small portion of salary for an agricultural and natural resources agent, who has been hired and housed in Middlesex. This new position will provide the ability for better service to the local communities. She noted that there were unspent funds in FY20, noting that was a result of schools closing which in turn resulted in their services decreasing. She stated that the residential camp did not happen due to COVID. She also noted that now that schools are moving forward with a hybrid approach, her services will increase. Ms. Morris stated that she will be on maternity leave in early summer.

Mr. Buzz Lambert, Executive Director of the YMCA stated that an impact statement was provided in the Board's packet. He stated that the Y had to shut down for 12 weeks due to COVID but that closure did not cease operations. Mr. Lambert stated that his staff is very dedicated and that they addressed immediate needs of the community. Mr. Lambert reported on partnerships with the County, Social Service, MCVIC, and schools, to provide a clean, safe licensed childcare program, which provided a critical service to the community. He noted that it was no small task to get licensed. He stated that the Y will continue to serve while adhering to a safe and clean environment

in all facilities. Mr. Lambert stated that the YMCA partnered with Hands across Mathews last year, two food drives were held which yielded over a ton of food that was then distributed to the Mathews community. Mr. Lambert also reported on other partnerships with local community civic agencies. He requested level funding in FY22.

Ms. Lakisha Ward, representing Versability Resources, thanked the Board for their continued support and noted that they were requesting level funding. She had technical difficulties during her presentation. It was noted that the request was included in the meeting materials.

B. Submitted Written Comments

Mrs. Conner noted that Mrs. Reed Lawson, President of the Mathews County Historical Society, had submitted a written comment.

**8. COMMENTS FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEMBERS**

Mrs. Conner stated that the Board had a chance to hear from everyone. She noted that everyone has worked hard to make adjustments this year in order to continue services, and that it was obvious a lot of people continued working really hard to serve our citizens.

**9. ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Amy Dubois, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None - nay; to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:13 p.m.

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Michael C. Rowe, Chairman  
Mathews County Board of Supervisors

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Melinda Conner, County Administrator

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Julie A. Kaylor, Clerk

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board of Supervisors Budget Public Input Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 11:13:28 AM

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## Board of Supervisors Budget Public Input Comment

Mathews County Board of Supervisors Public Comment Submission  
*Please enter the required information below before submission.*

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| Date and Time | 1/27/2021 11:00 AM |
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| Name | Reed B. Lawson |
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| Address | P.O. Box 888 |
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| State | VA |
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(Section Break)

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### Public Questions, Comments, and/ or Concerns

*Here, members of the public may submit questions, comments, or concerns to the Mathews County Board of Supervisors for their consideration during regularly scheduled meetings. Please note that citizens may submit one (1) comment per meeting, multiple comments for one (1) comment period will not be considered. Public comments must be submitted no later than 12 NOON on the day of the Board of Supervisors' meetings, unless otherwise advertised (The Board of Supervisors Budget Public Input Meeting deadline is 12 NOON on January 27th, 2021), in order to be considered. Please be aware that late or incomplete forms will not be included into the record.*

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### Answer Below

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice-chair, members of the Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Conner and Staff:  
I am Reed Lawson 143 Tall Pines Lane Mathews.  
County-owned Tompkins Cottage, which was constructed prior to 1820 and saw commercial and domestic usage, is situated in close proximity to Put-In Creek, a tributary of the East River. It is located in a low-lying area that is vulnerable to tidal flooding, a storm surge during a Category 1 hurricane and more intense storms. The cottage, which is built upon brick piers that are less than a foot high, is less than 5 feet above sea level and is in flood zone AE, where it is susceptible to flooding. Because of poor drainage and the composition of the soil on which the Tompkins Cottage was built, moisture tends to accumulate. As a result, exterior siding and door and window sills are in dire need of repair. The interior has sustained damage and the building has settled significantly. Its ridge beam is bowed and its chimneys

and windows are no longer plumb and square. Plaster walls are disintegrating. The floors, which have begun to buckle and sag, require substantial reinforcement and the building as a whole should be elevated above the reach of flood waters and saturated soil. The Tompkins Cottage's two large brick chimneys must be raised and stabilized when the rest of the building is elevated.

An excellent example of early folk Tidewater architecture, distinctive interior features include beaded beams, original flooring, batten doors, wrought iron hardware and an unusual 'coffin' door at the turn in the stairway. Tompkins Cottage, an important tourist attraction that draws hundreds of visitors a year, plays a vital role in the fabric of the Mathews Downtown Historic District. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register, which is public recognition of its significance in American history. The Tompkins Cottage preservation is critically important because of its role in the county's unique cultural heritage and in local tourism.

I speak as president of Mathews County Historical Society which leases the cottage and opens it to the public. I ask that much needed repairs and elevating the building be funded as soon as possible to mitigate further damage to this Mathews County treasure.

Thank you.

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