



Mathews County Board of Supervisors
Reconvened Meeting from Tuesday, March 27, 2021
Historic Courthouse
27 Court Street, Mathews, VA 23109

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rowe called the meeting back to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Supervisors Members Present: Michael Rowe, Chairman
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor
Amy Dubois, Supervisor

Board of Supervisors Members Absent: Melissa Mason, Vice Chair
(at the time of Roll Call)

Staff Present: Mrs. Melinda Conner, County Administrator
Mrs. Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk
Ms. Andrea G. Erard, Esq., County Attorney
Mrs. Caroline Oxley, Communications Manager/Deputy Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Dubois offered a motion to approve the agenda. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Rowe questioned why there was no second to the motion. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the agenda had been changed at the last minute and that was not acceptable. He noted that the amended agenda was not published to the public either and that he felt he could not go forward with the meeting. County Attorney Erard explained that she amended the agenda at the direction of the Chairman and that the changes only further delineated what would be discussed in the closed meeting, and that the changes were not substantive. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the agenda was changed at the last minute and that it was inappropriate to make last minute changes without the Board's or public's knowledge. He further stated that he felt a need to discuss personnel and that the amended agenda no longer allowed for this discussion. County Attorney Erard stated that the discussion concerning the County Administrator's evaluation remained on the agenda. Supervisor Hudgins stated that he wanted to discuss other personnel.

After further debate, Supervisor Hudgins offered a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Ingram seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Jackie Ingram - Aye

Michael Rowe - Nay
Amy Dubois - Nay
Paul Hudgins - Aye

The motion died due to the vote resulting in a tie.

Chairman Rowe stated that the meeting needed to move forward, and that business needed to be addressed. Supervisor Hudgins stated that it was unacceptable for him to continually get information at the last minute. When questioned about why he felt he did not want to go through with the meeting, he stated that the original agenda allowed for more freedom of discussion, specifically noting that a discussion was necessary under the statute for personnel that would allow for a broader discussion. When asked which personnel he wanted to discuss, he stated that the Board needed to discuss recent communication between the Commissioner of Revenue and the Board, and that the amended agenda removed that option. It was noted that the Board does not have authority to discuss an elected official in closed meeting because that official is not staff.

Vice Chair Mason arrived at 1:12 p.m. and asked to be brought up to speed. Chairman Rowe stated that Supervisor Dubois provided a motion to approve the agenda which died for lack of a second. Supervisor Dubois stated that Supervisor Hudgins provided a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Supervisor Ingram, but that it also died on a tie vote.

Vice Chair Mason asked Supervisor Hudgins to explain his issue. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the public needed more notice. Vice Chair Mason asked County Attorney Erard whether the County Administrator and Personnel were considered the same. County Attorney Erard stated that notice is good but that any closed meeting discussion cannot be left open, that the topic of discussion must be clearly identified on the agenda. Vice Chair Mason stated that she had just left her ill mother and asked whether the Board could continue with the business identified on the agenda and plan another day for other discussion.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2-0 to schedule another date for closed meeting, as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman - Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair - Nay
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor - Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor - Nay

Vice Chair Mason asked for forgiveness from all. She stated that in over a year and some months, the Board continues to have the same conversations. She noted that they are not going to get everything correct and that all of them are still learning the process. She stated that they need to stop hurting one another and speak for the entire county, not just a fourth of the population. She stated that she was tired and noted that the Board needed to do something to move forward. She directed her comments to Supervisor Hudgins and Supervisor Ingram and then to the rest. She asked that the Board do some self-reflection and release any biases or prejudices brought to them that are fueled by people that have no business. Vice Chair Mason stated that there needs to be some form of introspection and self-examination because what they are doing now is not serving the county.

Supervisor Hudgins put forth a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Ingram seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Mason asked what they were doing. Supervisor Dubois stated that there are two Board members who do not wish to conduct business. Vice Chair Mason read aloud the amended reasons for the closed meeting. A lively debate continued with County Attorney Erard offering to work with Supervisor Hudgins to change the motion to enter closed meeting. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the Board needs to have a discussion about the Commissioner of Revenue. Chairman Rowe stated that he was not comfortable moving forward with this meeting because of "these two" who continue to disrupt meetings. Another lively debate began with Chairman Rowe banging the gavel at Supervisor Hudgins and calling him to order.

Chairman Rowe called for the vote.

Vice Chair Mason stated that she does not agree to another date and asked that the Board revisit this matter. County Attorney Erard stated that the Board cannot discuss the Commissioner of Revenue in closed meeting because he is not staff, he is elected. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the Board could talk about the Commissioner's staff. Vice Chair Mason stated that the Board is not allowed to discuss this in closed meeting because they are not staff like the County Administrator is. She then stated that if the reason for not continuing the meeting was due to the Board not being permitted to discuss the Commissioner of Revenue in closed meeting, then this is not a qualified reason to stop the meeting. The discussion became quite lively again. Mrs. Conner stated that she has addressed the matter with the Commissioner directly. Chairman Rowe stated that the Commissioner tried to go through Supervisor Hudgins instead of dealing directly, noting that it was his responsibility to address this matter with Mrs. Conner. Mrs. Conner stated that she will provide an update at the next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The motion to adjourn standing, Chairman Rowe called for the vote.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2-0 to adjourn the meeting, as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman - Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair - Nay
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor - Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor - Nay

Michael C. Rowe, Chair
Mathews County Board of Supervisors

Melinda Conner, County Administrator

Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County
Administrator/Clerk