



Mathews County Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

Historic Courthouse

27 Court Street, Mathews, VA 23109

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION

Chairman Hudgins asked Rev. Dr. Mason to provide the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Board of Supervisors Members Present: Paul Hudgins, Chairman
Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair
Melissa Mason, Supervisor
Dave Jones, Supervisor
Mike Walls, Supervisor

Board of Supervisors Members Absent: None

Staff Present: David Schlosser, Interim County Administrator
Mrs. Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk
Mrs. Judi Green, Deputy Clerk/Office manager

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: On Motion of Dave Jones, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Dave Jones, Mike Walls - aye; None - nay; to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye

Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye

Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye

David Jones, Supervisor - Aye

Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye

6. BRIEF PRESENTATION BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Interim Administrator Schlosser stated that the Board had heard from the Constitutional Officers, outside agencies requesting funding, and that tonight he would like to hear from the Board to get a feel for the Board's goals and priorities. Mr. Schlosser asked how the Board wants to go about funding generally, just broad guidance. Mr. Schlosser stated that he had heard from Board members individually. He noted that the County has some liability exposure, some of which is controllable, some not. An example he provided was anticipating an 8.5 percent increase in health insurance premiums. Mr. Schlosser addressed unknown expenses related to the current economy, such as fuel costs and general increases in overhead costs. He stated that some line items such as travel and training may increase because it has been put on hold for so long due to the pandemic. Mr. Schlosser addressed the two newly created staff positions, noting that salaries and fringe benefits have not yet been factored in. He stated that when looking at adding these positions, it is not just as simple as their annual take-home expenses, but fringe benefits such as health care, FICA, and VRS retirement need to be factored in as well. He stated that his greatest caution is to anticipate the economy will impact this budget. He cautioned the Board to consider shortfalls that will only need to be corrected later.

7. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISCUSSION – BUDGET PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Chairman Hudgins stated that he would like staff to use the adopted 2018 budget for comparison purposes when creating the upcoming fiscal year budget. He asked that level funding be considered wherever possible. He stated that consideration will be given to all requests received, but noted that it would most likely not be feasible to fund all of those requests.

Supervisor Jones stated that he agreed with level funding. He noted the \$7.3 million dollar surplus and stated that either things are not being maintained or the citizens are being overtaxed. He addressed maintenance issues and the need to look at ways to cut taxes if possible. He stated that he would not consider raising taxes.

Supervisor Walls asked Chairman Hudgins about the School Division budget. Mr. Schlosser stated that a meeting was held with Mrs. Welch, Division Superintendent, last week and that the final budget is expected on Friday, February 18th. Discussion ensued around the School Division budget, costs per pupil inflation, population decline and the decline in enrollment.

When asked, Supervisor Mason stated that the School Board pushes out the process as far as possible in order to allow for all information to trickle in. She noted that the General Assembly is still in session so funding from the Commonwealth is still an unknown at this time. She stated that as far as salaries go, the Division recently reported being fully staffed and since they were not fully staffed when the current budget was adopted, it is only natural for there to be an increase in the lines associated with salaries. She stated she was in support of all requests that were for level funding and noted that increases would need additional consideration. Supervisor Mason stated that consideration of increases will boil down to justification and need.

Supervisor Jones stated the need to look at the Contingency fund. He also stated the need to revisit the request from the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department, explaining that the additional request of \$100,000 could be shifted to the CIP if it is in fact for capital outlay. Chairman Hudgins stated that the Fire Department has already received additional funding through the Meals Tax fund and that he will consider an increase, but it may not be the full request.

Responding to Chairman Hudgins, Mr. Schlosser stated that the CARES Act audit is underway, and that all information was submitted to the State. He stated that there were a couple of recordkeeping issues raised, but nothing substantive. He stated that he felt fairly confident that the County would not be hit by any unpleasant surprises.

Supervisor Walls questioned the request for two additional deputies. Supervisor Jones stated that the initial request was going to be for two additional deputies, but when the Marcus Alert mandate was introduced, Sheriff Barrick changed his request to two additional dispatchers.

Supervisor Jones questioned the increase requested by Mrs. Bette Dillehay. He noted that he had not had a chance to discuss this with Mrs. Dillehay but that he would meet with her soon as see if he could negotiate

her request back to level funding. Supervisor Mason, responding to Supervisor Jones, stated that the increase was for staffing and salaries.

Supervisor Walls stated his concern for the increased IT expenditures and noted that if this is not monitored, it could quickly get out of hand. Discussion ensued around contracting IT services versus hiring staff.

Supervisor Jones revisited the Contingency Fund. He stated that any requests that have been coming out of Contingency should be budgeted for the sake of transparency. He noted that hiring a procurement person will pay for itself. The proposed contract with Premiere Broadband was discussed, specifically severability options and ongoing fees. Mr. Schlosser explained that software requires subscriptions now and are paid on a monthly basis. Vice Chair Ingram stated that she wanted more information on the ongoing fees. Supervisor Walls stated that he had obtained 29 invoices from staff and offered to forward that information to Mr. Schlosser and Supervisor Ingram. He noted that invoices early on were explicit while later ones were broad or vague.

Chairman Hudgins stated that discussions regarding the IT position will continue next week.

Supervisor Walls stated that he had received two phone calls from citizens concerned about raising taxes due to the presentation by Commissioner of the Revenue, Les Hall, last week. Chairman Hudgins stated that no one on the Board would entertain raising taxes but noted that car values have increased this year and that they most likely would go back down soon.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT *(One opportunity of 3 minutes per speaker, alternating between in-person and written comments)*

Mrs. Jennifer Hule, 564 Gayle Lane, Mathews, cautioned the Board to review the contracts related to IT services carefully and to seek guidance from the County Attorney. She also asked that the Board listen to all constituents, not just some.

Mr. Sonny Fauver, 186 Shore Road, Port Haywood, stated that level funding is not appropriate and again asked the Board to reduce the budget by 5 percent overall.

9. RECESS or ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: On Motion of Melissa Mason, seconded by Dave Jones, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Dave Jones, Mike Walls - aye; None - nay; to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye

Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Aye

Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye

David Jones, Supervisor - Aye

Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye

Paul Hudgins, Chairman
Mathews County Board of Supervisors

David Schlosser, Interim County Administrator

Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County
Administrator/Clerk