



Mathews County Board of Supervisors
Budget Work Session
Historic Courthouse
27 Court Street, Mathews, VA 23109

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION

Ms. Charlotte Kelly provided the invocation

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

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

Board of Supervisors Members Absent:

Staff Present:	Mrs. Ramona Wilson, County Administrator
	Mrs. Judi Green, Deputy Clerk/Office Manager

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Roll Call Vote:
Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair - Aye
Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye
David Jones, Supervisor - Aye
Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye
Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye

6. APPOINTMENTS

A. County Administrator Appointments: Emergency Services Deputy Director, MP-Juvenile Detention Commission, Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority, Community Policy and Management Team, MP-Public Access Authority

MOTION: On Motion of Melissa Mason, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of

Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Jackie Ingram, Melissa Mason, Dave Jones, Mike Walls, Paul Hudgins - aye; None - nay; to Appoint Ramona Wilson, County Administrator to the aforementioned committees.

Roll Call Vote:

Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye
Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair - Aye
Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye
David Jones, Supervisor - Aye
Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye

7. BRIEF PRESENTATION BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Ramona Wilson began by saying she would like to schedule a 30 minute weekly call with each of the Supervisors for a time that works with them. The presentation has some corrections that need to be made since it was created. Ms. Wilson did note that we are waiting for the state to finalize their budget before we can make any final decisions. Supervisor Jones asked about the Procurement Officer position, Ms. Wilson stated that she is able to take care of that since she previously served as a Procurement Officer in her prior position. Mr. Walls had spoken with Les Hall (Commissioner of Revenue) to see if there was a way to ease the "hit" on the tax payers on used vehicles. Originally, the tax was 37.4% and now it is 40%. The Real Estate tax increase is projected to be 40%. Mr. Walls would like to see the county stay revenue neutral if at all possible. If we are able to maintain the same level of taxes this year to help the tax payers, they would all have to be made aware that next year, if there was an increase, we would have to take the hit then. Sheriff Barrick was called to the podium to discuss the Marcus Alert (HB5043) Supervisor Walls asked if the bill had gone away and Sheriff Barrack stated that it had not, that only some of the language had changed.

8. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISCUSSION – BUDGET PRIORITIES AND GOALS

Mike Walls met with Les Hall regarding the tax increase and if there is a way to stay revenue neutral. The used vehicle tax has had a major increase due to inflation and shortages. It is imperative that for this year we keep the taxes down, and next year, when the tax increases, the tax payers will have to be prepared for that increase.

Ramona spoke to Les Hall and his recommendation was from \$3.70-to \$3.20 (approximately a .50 decrease.

Dave Jones asked for some clarification on the school budget. The FY21/22 school budget adopted 8906860 to include meals tax finding (page 46). Federal funding was reduced for schools and the state was increased.

Rev. Dr. Mason asked Ms. Welch for some clarification regarding the budget request. Nancy reminded everyone that there is no state budget as of right now. The difference between the house and the senate is 3 billion dollars.

Finishing the broadband project will decrease the schools budget immensely -the school is paying an exorbitant monthly payment for internet right now. Broadband completion would stimulate economic development as well. Nancy feels as though they may not get clarification from the state until the end of May. We need to hold our representatives at the senate level accountable.

Just because we are a rural county does not mean we should be last in line. COVID created a loss of 100 students attending our school.

The tax is 64.5 and a half a cent causes an accounting nightmare.

Ronnie Lewis from the MVFD explained that the additional request is to help pay for the truck that is being delivered in June. The fire department has been making payments for the truck that will arrive in June for 2 years. They would like to pay this one off so they can start the process of ordering the next one since it takes over 2 years to build one.

Ramona stated that when the state releases it's budget there may need to be changes made to the county budget.

Dave Jones asked for clarification on the increase request submitted by the Library. Rev. Dr. Mason suggested everyone write to the state and let them know about their budget concerns. Wendy Stewart asked the Board to consider adjusting the Real Estate Tax by half of a cent. It is currently .645 and the 1/2 cents throw the books off every year.

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS *(One opportunity of 3 minutes per speaker, alternating between in-person and written comments)*

Mr. Donnie Lewis - wants to express his support for adding a second dispatcher to the 911 call center - this has been tremendously helpful.

Sheriff Mark Barrick told the BOS that he understands how tough it is for the supervisors to make the right decisions. Mr. Barrick submits 2 budgets, Sheriff and 911 Center. Sheriff Barrick read a letter out loud that he attached to his budget submission in December. He is very concerned that what was true then is not true now. The fuel charges alone are insurmountable. He is very concerned that it could cause a safety issue i.e. not patrolling the county as usual to save on fuel. Inflation and the availability of much needed items are also causing a strain on the budget for everyone. Our first responders are always needed, in good times and bad. It is his hope that the supervisors keep these factors in mind when considering the budget. The sheriff had a meeting with the interim county administrator and deputy county administrator about the compensation plan. The sheriff gives evaluations yearly and would like to offer merit-based increases for those who deserve them.

Bob Dodson
P.O. Box 541

Cobbs Creek, VA 23035 - I agree with everything you all have said tonight. There are so many other things we have to contend with, like bathroom signs and so forth that have nothing to do with educating a child. We need every dime that we can get to educate the children. There are too many unnecessary state level programs that they are wasting funding on. We need to sell this county to people and show them what a good life Mathews County has to offer.

Ronnie Lewis - shared copies of an equipment cost list just to show what some of the expenses are faced with.

Sonny Fauver - Bavon, VA The reality of a tax payer - the BOS does have a tough road ahead of them as well as the tax payers. Any decisions made come out of the citizens' pockets. For clarification - the increase in PP tax is causing a hole in my pocket. I am in full support of staying revenue neutral for the year and seeing what happens next year. I am not in support of employee pay increases that comes out of my pocket as well. Level funding - I despise this term, we need to cut the fat and decrease the budget by 5% from last year. Budget appropriations should be made before salaries are increased.

10. 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: Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Melissa Mason, Dave Jones, Mike Walls - aye; None - nay; to Adjourn .

Roll Call Vote:

Jackie Ingram, Vice Chair - Aye
Melissa Mason, Supervisor - Aye
David Jones, Supervisor - Aye
Mike Walls, Supervisor - Aye
Paul Hudgins, Chairman - Aye



Ramona Wilson, County Administrator



Judi Green, Deputy Clerk / Office Manager



Paul Hudgins, Chairman
Mathews County Board of Supervisors