

At a regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held at the Administration Building on March 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Gary D. Walker, Chairman
Will Garnett, Vice Chairman
Robert L. Shook, Jr
Kay M. Pierantoni
Tony Reeves
Donna Fore

Absent: Garland H. Hamlett, Jr.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Pierantoni gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni, seconded by Supervisor Garnett and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni and seconded by Supervisor Fore and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to approve the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. *The amendment to the February minutes was to include a motion made by Donna Fore, seconded by Tony Reeves, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the Black History Month Proclamation.*

Supervisor Garnett read a letter received from Mr. Jake Kezele, Incident Commander, National Capital Incident Management Team. Mr. Kezele thanked Charlotte County for the opportunity to assist during the ice storms and commented what a warm welcome was received. Mr. Kezele wished to thank Administrator Witt and Garland Hamlett for their devotion to working with his team and the excellent job by first responders and other organizations and members of the community.

Chairman Walker recessed the meeting for a public hearing.

After due notice was given the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to receive public comment on the amended School Budget for FY 2021.

Superintendent Mason addressed the Board and stated the additional CARES II funding was received from the Federal Legislations that was passed in January 2021 and must be spent by September 20, 2023. Superintendent Mason stated these are reimbursable funds and the Schools must submit a plan prior to April. Superintended Mason stated the money must be spent on COVID related expenditures. Superintendent Mason stated this money will be used for continuation of remote instruction, updates for software, classroom PPE, and ventilation updates at schools and on buses. Superintendent Mason stated funds must be spend on the front end and there is a 30 – 45-day reimbursement period to receive reimbursement.

There being no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

Chairman Walker adjourned the public hearing and called the Board meeting back to order.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to approve the proposed amendment to the School Budget and appropriate the funds requested.

Committee Reports:

Kay M. Pierantoni – Supervisor Pierantoni stated the Planning Commission met last Thursday and the next meeting is March 23rd. Supervisor Pierantoni stated Administrator Witt will have an update later in the meeting. Supervisor Pierantoni stated Facilities has not met recently and she would like to discuss and issue later in the meeting.

Robert L. Shook, Jr. – Supervisor Shook stated Social Services met last month and will meet again on Thursday.

Tony Reeves – Supervisor Reeves stated there were no damage on buildings from the ice storm.

Donna Fore – None

Will Garnett - None

Gary D. Walker – Chairman Walker stated the CRC is continuing to help Charlotte County with Emergency Management due to the ice storm and is continuing to work with the Town of Phenix on their water situation.

Public Comment:

Larry Clark addressed the Board with comments on the Committee that may be formed to address the issue of the Confederate Monument. Mr. Clark stated if a Committee is formed, he does not believe any Board members should be appointed to the Committee it should be citizens only.

Being no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

Erin Sandow with the Piedmont Alliance for Prevention of Substance Abuse addressed the Board by phone. Ms. Sandow stated PAPSA recently conducted a seven-county wide campaign called Rooted in Positivity. Ms. Sandow stated the purpose of the campaign was to spread positive messages throughout communities to combat the increased isolation and mental health issues related to COVID-19 restrictions and provide mental health and suicide prevention via the BeWellVA website.

Ms. Sandow stated PAPSA is currently in the midst of our Lock and Talk Campaign. This campaign encourages community members to properly secure medications and firearms to prevent both suicide and accidental overdose. Ms. Sandow stated more information is available at the Lock & Talk website at lockandtalk.org.

Ms. Sandow stated during the month of February PAPSA partnered with all of the local pharmacies to distribute locking timer caps to anyone receiving a medication that had a potential for abuse or misuse. The timer caps are designed to prevent substance abuse by displaying the time passed since the top was last opened on the pill bottle. Pharmacies also placed a sticker on all medication bags with links to our BeWellVA resource page.

Mrs. Sandow stated starting this week PAPSA has partnered with most of the local pizza restaurants in the seven-county area. They have agreed to put our Lock and Talk stickers on all of their to-go pizza boxes during the months of March and April.

Ms. Sandow requested a Board member be appointed to the Piedmont Alliance for Prevention of Substance Abuse Board.

Chairman Walker appointed Donna Fore to the Piedmont Alliance for Prevention of Substance Abuse Board.

Scot Frederick with VDOT addressed the Board by phone. Mr. Frederick stated crews have been working diligently cleaning up from the ice storm in February. Mr. Frederick stated Charlotte County and Prince Edward County received significant damage and VDOT is working with Emergency Management for reimbursement on expenses. Mr. Frederick stated the plan is to remove the debris and have it piled up for a contractor to chip and dispose of it. Mr. Frederick stated 2500 cubic yards of debris so far has been collected and removed from the roadways and 6 more weeks of clean up is projected. Mr. Frederick stated the plan is to have the turn around completed at Shady Oakes by the end of August and crews continue with routine work orders, replacing signs, pothole repair and normal maintenance of the roadways.

Gene Stewart with the Department of Emergency Management provided an update on the recent ice storm. Mr. Stewart stated the state of Virginia is divided into 7 regions and Charlotte County is in Region 3. Mr. Stewart stated he has been working with Charlotte County for 10 years and the primary function of VDEM is to get resources into the County as soon as possible. Mr. Stewart stated request are received thru WEBEOC and are reviews by him. VDEM deployed two Risk Management Teams, the first team was from Southwest Virginia and the second team was from Northern Virginia and the Tidewater region. Mr. Stewart stated VDEM records a complete timeline of the event.

Mr. Stewart stated an outside contractor will charge approximately \$15,000 to put together an after-action report for the County, but VDEM is offering to do it for free of charge is agreed upon by the County. Mr. Stewart stated after all information is gathered from all sources within the County the after-action committee will finalize a report and it will be provided to the County.

Mr. Stewart stated it was great to work with a small community and amazing to see how everyone helped.

Motion was made by Supervisor Fore, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to adopt the Emergency Declaration as presented.

WHEREAS, Garland H. Hamlett, Jr., is designated as the Director of Emergency Services for Charlotte County; and,

WHEREAS on February 13, 2021, the Director of Emergency Services issued a “Declaration of Local Emergency” in response to a winter storm with ice accumulations that resulted in substantial damage to infrastructure and property throughout the county; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Code §44-146.21, it is the responsibility of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors to formally confirm the declaration of a local emergency; and,

WHEREAS, due to the occurrence of the February 2021 Winter Ice Storm, Charlotte County faced conditions of extreme peril to the lives, safety and property of the residents of Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, that as a result of this extreme peril, the proclamation of the existence of an emergency was necessary to permit the full powers of government to deal effectively with the condition of peril; and

WHEREAS, during the existence of this emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the Emergency Services organization and functions of Charlotte County were carried out as prescribed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the ordinances and approved plans of Charlotte County in order to mitigate the effects of said emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors hereby confirms the declaration of a local emergency made by the Director of Emergency Services on February 13, 2021 and reaffirms the declaration of local emergency.

Motion was made by Supervisor Shook, seconded by Supervisor Reeves and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to adopt the Sales Tax Ordinance as presented.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that the effective date of the sales tax ordinance adopted on December 14, 2020, is hereby changed from May 1, 2021, to July 1, 2021.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDAINED that the expiration date of the sales tax ordinance adopted on December 14, 2020, is hereby changed from August 1, 2050, to June 30, 2040.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDAINED that except for the effective date change and expiration date change set forth above, all other terms of the sales tax ordinance adopted on December 14, 2020, shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni, seconded by Supervisor Reeves and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to set a Budget Work Session for March 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Shook and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to set a public hearing on the Consolidated Budget for April 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Supervisor Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Reeves and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to set a joint public

hearing with the Planning Commission on April 12th at 6:05 p.m. to hear comments on the proposed conditional use permit for Kerwin and Beverly Kunath.

Litter Pick Up Discussion:

Administrator Witt addressed the Board. Administrator Witt did not advertise the Litter Pick up for March due to the ice storm. Administrator Witt stated staff recommends moving the Litter pick up to the month of April, giving VDOT time to clear debris from the roadways.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni, seconded by Supervisor Garnett and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to advertise the month of April for litter pickup and adopt the following resolution as presented.

WHEREAS "litter" is all discarded trash or other matter which is unsightly and/or excessive in accumulation and creates a hazard to the public welfare of Charlotte County's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Charlotte County take pride in their communities and their County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, said unauthorized dumping and littering on public and private property and county roadways degrade the environment and community, and cause environmental, health and safety hazards; and

WHEREAS, beautiful public spaces enhance aesthetic appeal and positively impact the lives of area residents, visitors, businesses and institutions; and

WHEREAS, job development in Charlotte County is also impacted by positive or negative impressions of our physical surroundings; and

WHEREAS, the heedless and illegal littering of our highways is a detriment to our quality of life and our efforts toward progress; and

WHEREAS, the cost incurred by Charlotte County to clean up said unauthorized dumps and scattered litter creates an undue burden upon the taxpayers of Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, local citizens have recognized this impact and have begun a Spring Clean Up to clean up their own properties and those in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the positive impact of their efforts benefits not only the individuals who keep our County beautiful, but their neighbors as well; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the value of these independent, individual commitments to improve life in Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, we want to acknowledge the efforts of these citizens and encourage everyone to take pride in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the month of April 2021 as Charlotte County Clean-Up Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the expressed intent of the Board of Supervisors and of this Resolution to promote high quality public health, safety, and welfare to secure a safe and enjoyable environment for the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Charlotte County.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Garnett and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to approve a letter of recommendation for the Buckingham Cattleman's Association.

Monica Elder, Staff Representation for the Planning Commission addressed the Board with an update on the zoning amendments. Ms. Elder stated at the February 8, 2021, Board meeting, the need to update zoning regulations for utility-scale solar facility setbacks and vegetative buffers were discussed. Ms. Elder stated the request was presented to the Planning Commission at their March 3, 2021 meeting (which had been postponed from February due to the local emergency.)

Ms. Elder stated the issues were heavily discussed, the Planning Commission chose to table additional discussion until their next regular meeting, scheduled for March 23rd at 7:30 pm.

Ms. Elder stated the Planning Commission also evaluated requirements for utility-scale solar applicants to conduct a public meeting prior to the Planning Commission review. Ms. Elder stated staff provides written notification to all adjacent landowners by letter prior to public hearings and advertises hearings in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-2204, citizens had expressed an interest in receiving notification earlier in the review process, therefore, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of an amendment that would accomplish this. Ms. Elder stated the Planning Commission will request the proposed amendment be considered at the same time any recommendations related to solar facility setbacks and buffers are reviewed and staff will require anyone submitting a new utility-scale solar application to conduct this type of public meeting to provide early notification to adjacent landowners and the surrounding community.

Confederate Monument Discussion:

Administrator Witt stated this was first introduced at the July 13, 2020 board meeting and discussed at the August 10, 2020 meeting. Administrator Witt stated at the August meeting it was tabled until the January meeting, but it was overlooked by staff. Mr. Witt stated Mr. Larry Clark brought the need for the discussion up during a public comment period.

Administrator Witt stated several other Counties in the state handled it as a referendum on the ballot and information is provided by the County Attorney in the Board packet of the options available to reach a decision.

As suggested by Supervisor Pierantoni, the Board consented to the Facilities Committee consisting of Supervisor Reeves and Supervisor Pierantoni head up a community meeting to discuss the Confederate Monument.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Witt updated the Board on the radio communications system, which is moving forward, also information was provided to the Board on Solar, the ongoing school renovations, broadband, CARES funding and a recent COVID update from the Virginia Department of Health.

Supervisor Pierantoni requested Administrator Witt bring the Board up to date on the revenue side of the Solar projects, the various laws pending and energy storage systems.

Administrator Witt stated once the Governor signs the new legislation, he can request Advantus Strategies come before the Board and present the new legislation and answer questions from the Board.

Supervisor Pierantoni requested when Administrator Witt receives the new guidelines for the CARES ACT they be forwarded to the Board.

Administrator Witt stated all business's that received the grants now must provide a spread sheet stating exactly what the money was spent on, previously it was only required they fill out the application and with a generalized description of what the money would be used for.

Supervisor Pierantoni requested from Administrator Witt when a representative from DHCD would be presenting to the Board concerning enterprise zones and if any business's that were interested should Administrator Witt be the point of contact.

Administrator Witt stated he has made a request from DHCD to have a representative address the Board either at a work session, Board meeting or via zoom, and will keep the Board updated on when that may be.

Supervisor Shook requested when Administrator Witt attends the Keysville Town Council meeting to make the Council aware the CRC is available for help with grant funding, etc.

Supervisor Fore requested from Administrator Witt when will the amendments to the zoning ordinance for solar be available for review by the Board and are there any other changes to the zoning ordinance that does not include solar.

Administrator Witt stated the Planning Commission had discussed the changes for 2 hours at the last meeting and have not come to a consensus for the changes proposed. Administrator Witt stated the Planning Commission did decide to have the public information meeting prior to the 2232 review.

Supervisor Fore asked if applications will not be accepted or approved until the Planning Commission makes the changes to the zoning ordinance.

Administrator Witt stated there is no moratorium present and if legal counsel were consulted it would be advised without a moratorium in place applications should be accepted. Administrator Witt stated the CUP conditions are still in place.

Administrator Witt stated the deadline for B2X in Campbell County is the end of March. Supervisor Fore requested an update from B2X in the April meeting.

Supervisor Fore asked if a dollar amount has been determined for the storm damage.

Administrator Witt stated approximately \$326,000 has been submitted on WEB EOC. Administrator Witt stated expenses are still being reported.

Public Comment:

Larry Clark addressed the Board during the closing public comment period. Mr. Clark stated the Electoral Board will need to find another polling location for the Saxe/Bacon District. Mr. Clark asked if anyone had any suggestions please forward those to the Electoral Board.

Mr. Clark stated there will be two different opinions concerning the Confederate Monument and ask the Board to make sure there is diversity for the committee if formed.

Motion was made by Will Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Shook and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent and all other members present and voting yes to approve the invoice for payment in the amount of \$1,255,491.65.

Motion was made by Supervisor Pierantoni, seconded by Supervisor Fore and carried with Supervisor Hamlett absent, and all other members present and voting yes to approve the following appropriations for FY 2021;

		Expenditure	Revenue
10-3102-5409	Sheriff's Department-Police Supplies	800.00	
10-510101	Transfer from General Fund		800.00
20-7301-7019	LVA-CARES	12,009.93	
20-330301	LVA-CARES- funds have been received		12,009.93
Total		12,809.00	12.809.93

Board Comments

Supervisor Pierantoni – Supervisor Pierantoni stated it is her intention to have the Facilities Committee meet concerning the Confederate Monument and plans to include citizens with different opinions and wants it to be an informal round table discussion.

Supervisor Pierantoni stated concerning the budget due to the refinancing there is extra money in the budget. Supervisor Pierantoni stated she hopes all the Supervisors are careful with spending this year as they have been in the past years.

Supervisor Shook - None

Supervisor Reeves – None

Supervisor Fore – Supervisor Fore question the Animal Control Report provided. Administrator Witt stated it was for informational purposes. Supervisor Fore stated the Phenix Convenience center has significant potholes and requested Administrator Witt contact maintenance to see

which type of gravel was used to make repairs. Supervisor Fore would like to see future applications for solar be handled carefully and all information is provided.

Supervisor Garnett – None

Chairman Walker – None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.