

VIRGINIA:

A Special Called Meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held via a conference call on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would call a roll call to establish the quorum.

ROLL CALL

- Bellows - Present
- Palin - Present
- Larson - Present
- Lee - Present
- Westbrook - Present

OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. Bellows asked Jim Cornwell, County Attorney, to read the opening statement.

Mr. Cornwell stated that they were holding this special meeting to discuss the Declaration of Local Emergency that was entered into on March 18th and to consider the Emergency Ordinance for other issues relating to the emergency.

Mr. Cornwell stated that:

- During a disaster, the Code of Virginia requires and allows governing bodies of localities and other public entities to conduct their meetings in manners which are consistent with providing continuity of government and for the safety, health and welfare of not only the governing body, but all attendees and interested parties consistent with open government.
- The COVID-19 virus makes it impractical and unsafe, even life-threatening, for a quorum of the Board of Supervisors to physically assemble in one location.
- The COVID-19 virus also makes it impractical and unsafe, as well as life-threatening, for the public and the county staff, to gather in the same location to participate in a meeting.
- Declarations of Emergency have been made at all levels of government, including Lancaster County.
- A “disaster” exists which requires Lancaster County to assure continuity of its government.
- As a result, this meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors is being held by electronic communication means in accordance with Section 2.2-3708.2 (A) (3) of the Code of

Virginia, 1950, as amended, through the GoToMeeting platform. The public can join the meeting on their computer, tablet or smartphone. The public can also join the meeting through any telephone. However, it is my understanding that public comment will not be taken at this meeting.

- Public notice of this meeting and copies of the documents to be considered at this meeting have been posted at the County Administration Building and on the County website in accordance with Section 2.2-3707 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

- An audio recording is being made of this meeting.

- All votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes. The Chair has called the roll at the beginning of this meeting. Any Board member who desires to make any comment during the meeting is asked to verbally identify themselves. Any Board member leaving the meeting prior to adjournment must verbally note that they are leaving.

Mr. Cornwell asked if any of the Board members had questions about the process.

There were no questions.

CONSIDERATION DOCKET

1. Confirmation of the Declaration of Local Emergency for the County of Lancaster Due to the Threat to Public Health from COVID-19

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to present the first item.

Mr. Gill stated that, on March 18th, the Director of Emergency Management, Dr. Robert Westbrook, the Emergency Services Chief, Matt Smith and the County Administrator met to discuss how the COVID-19 emergency was going to affect Lancaster County and actions that they should take. He stated that, at the end of that discussion, Dr. Westbrook found that the COVID-19 coronavirus posed a threat to public health of sufficient severity and magnitude to require a governmental response and therefore proclaimed that an emergency existed throughout the County on that date.

Mr. Gill stated that part of this declaration authorizes the County Administrator to commit County funds, not to exceed \$50,000.00, in a Disaster Response account. He stated that this was important because as expenses are incurred related to this disaster, they will have the opportunity to file for reimbursement through FEMA at a percentage to be determined later. He stated that could become a big number if EMS is involved with transporting anyone who has tested positive for this virus.

Mr. Gill referred to the declaration and stated that the Board of Supervisors is required to confirm the declaration at its first meeting after the declaration is proclaimed. He stated that this was the first meeting and he was requesting that the Board confirm the declaration.

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER, VIRGINIA, DUE TO THE THREAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FROM COVID-19

On this date, March 18, 2020, I do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the County of Lancaster due to the threat of a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19. COVID-19 was detected in China in December 2019, and has since, spread to more than 100 locations worldwide, including the United States. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency. On March 12, 2020, due to multiple cases of COVID-19 having been confirmed in Virginia, Governor Ralph S. Northam declared that a state of emergency and disaster existed in the Commonwealth, and further, on March 13, 2020 Governor Northam ordered temporary closure of public schools throughout the Commonwealth to prevent further spread of the virus and asked local governments not to meet and the public not to gather in crowds of more than 10.

As the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Lancaster I do hereby find that COVID-19 poses a threat to public health of sufficient severity and magnitude to require a coordinated governmental response to mitigate the spread of the disease and emergency means to ensure the continuity of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that an emergency does now exist throughout Lancaster County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Emergency Management Organization of Lancaster County shall be prescribed by State Law and the Ordinances, Resolutions, and approved plans of Lancaster County in order to mitigate the effects of COVID-19; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during the existence of said emergency, the Emergency Coordinator or County Administrator is authorized to commit County funds, in sums sufficient and not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the said emergency, and that such funds are hereby appropriated in the amount of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to the *Disaster Response* account (32403-5899).

Robert S. Westbrook, DDS Date
Director of Emergency Management
County of Lancaster
Commonwealth of Virginia

Attest: _____
Don G. Gill
County Administrator
County of Lancaster
Commonwealth of Virginia

Mr. Bellows made a motion to Approve the Declaration of Local Emergency for the County of Lancaster Due to the Threat to Public Health from COVID-19.

VOTE: Jason D. Bellows Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
Jack D. Larson	Aye
William R. Lee	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

2. Consideration of An Emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated With Pandemic Disaster

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to present the ordinance.

Mr. Gill stated that the Code of Virginia allows the Board of Supervisors to adopt emergency ordinances in situations like this. He stated that he was not going to read the entire document, but will give a highlighted summary. He stated that the pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one location for public bodies including the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and all local and regional boards, commissions, committees and authorities created by the Board of Supervisors or to which the Board of Supervisors appoints all or a portion of its members. He stated that any meeting or activity may be held through real time electronic means without a quorum physically present in one location. He stated that they still have to provide public notice of at least 3 days in advance of the electronic meeting and also have to provide a way for the public to participate. He stated that they have to state on the agenda that it will be an electronic meeting and have to identify members physically and/or electronically present. He stated that, for matters requiring a public hearing, we intend to solicit comments ahead of time by email, but they have to provide a way for comments to be solicited during the meeting as well.

Mr. Gill stated that this ordinance also allows that any deadlines requiring action by a public entity can be suspended during this emergency and disaster. He stated that the ordinance also allows that non-emergency public hearings and action items of public entities can be postponed. He stated that the ordinance gives the County Administrator some authority in lieu of calling the entire Board together to have a meeting and those details were outlined on page 4 of the document. He stated that the County Administrator must keep the Board of Supervisors apprised of decisions, in advance, of any proposed actions. He stated that he would do so.

Mr. Gill stated that the ordinance also asks each incorporated town, within Lancaster County, to declare its own state of local emergency or incorporate the County's declaration and to adopt an ordinance for the continuity of town government.

Mr. Gill stated that this ordinance will be effective for a period of 60 days and can be amended, rescinded or readopted, but in no event shall it be effective for more than 6 months.

Mr. Gill stated that he had two revisions to the draft ordinance that he would like the Board to consider. He referred to page 1 and stated that Dr. Westbrook asked that the paragraphs be placed in chronological order and stated that he thought that was a good recommendation. He referred to the bottom of page 2 and stated that he would like to add the Community Policy Management Team to the list of public bodies that would need to meet electronically. He stated that the Community Policy Management Team is the body that meets to discuss and approve the funding for the Children’s Services Act.

Mr. Gill stated that the Board had the draft ordinance for their review and he would like their consideration with the two revisions.

There were no comments.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One ordered implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to provide assistance to local governments, and authorization for executive branch agencies to waive “any state requirement or regulation” as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, in accordance with Virginia Code § 44-146.21, the local director of emergency management for Lancaster County declared a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting using electronic participation at 3:00 pm on April 1, 2020 and confirmed, pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.21 the declaration of emergency in Lancaster County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code §44-146.16 being a “communicable disease of public health threat;” and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a locality may, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity of government in the event of a disaster for a period not to exceed six months; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 44-146.21(C) further provides that a local director of emergency management or any member of a governing body in his absence may upon the declaration of a local emergency “proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to performance of public work;” and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) allows, under certain procedural requirements including public notice and access, that members of the Board of Supervisors may convene solely by electronic means “to address the emergency;” and

WHEREAS, the open public meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) are limited only by a properly claimed exemption provided under that Act or “any other statute;” and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Health Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the President of the United States have recommended suspension of public gatherings of more than ten attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Virginia issued an opinion dated March 20, 2020 stating that localities have the authority during disasters to adopt ordinances to ensure the continuity of government; and

WHEREAS, this emergency ordinance in response to the disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic promotes public health, safety and welfare and is consistent with the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Lancaster County, Virginia:

1. That the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one location a quorum for public bodies including the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Policy Management Team and all local and regional boards, commissions, committees and authorities created by the Board of Supervisors or to which the Board of Supervisors appoints all or a portion of its members (collectively “Public Entities” and individually “Public Entity”), or for such Public Entities to conduct meetings in accordance with normal practices and procedures.

2. That in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, and notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, general or special, the following emergency procedures are adopted to ensure the continuity of government during this emergency and disaster:
 - a. Any meeting or activities which require the physical presence of members of the Public Entities may be held through real time electronic means (including audio, telephonic, video or other practical electronic medium) without a quorum physically present in one location; and
 - b. Prior to holding any such electronic meeting, the Public Entity shall provide public notice of at least 3 days in advance of the electronic physically and/or electronically present; identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment; and identify notice of the opportunities for the public to access and participate in such electronic meeting; and
 - c. Any such electronic meeting of the Public Entities shall state on its agenda and at the beginning of such meeting that it is being held pursuant to and in compliance with this Ordinance; identify Public Entity members physically and/or electronically present; identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment; and identify notice of the opportunities for the public to access and participate in such electronic meeting; and
 - d. Any such electronic meeting of the Public Entities shall be open to electronic participation by the public and closed to in-person participation by the public; and
 - e. For any matters requiring a public hearing, public comment may be solicited by electronic means in advance and shall also be solicited and provided through telephonic or other electronic means during the course of the electronic meeting. All such public comments will be provided to members of the Public Entity at or before the electronic meeting and made part of the record for such meeting; and
 - f. The minutes of all electronic meetings shall conform to the requirements of law, identify how the meeting was conducted, members participating, and specify what actions were taken at the meeting. The Public Entities may approve minutes of an electronic meeting at a subsequent electronic meeting and shall later approve all such minutes at a regular or special meeting after the emergency and disaster has ended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that notwithstanding any provision of law, regulation or policy to the contrary, any deadlines requiring action by a Public Entity, its officers (including Constitutional Officers) and employees of its organization shall be suspended during this emergency and disaster, however, the Public Entities, officers and employees thereof are encouraged to take such action as is practical and appropriate to meet those deadlines. Failure to meet any such deadlines shall not constitute a default, violation, approval, recommendation or otherwise.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that non-emergency public hearings and action items of Public Entities may be postponed to a date certain, provided that public notice is given, so that the public is aware of how and when to present its views.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that, in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public or county staff, the County Administrator of Lancaster County is empowered to restrict members of the public from entering or congregating around county-owned buildings, facilities and real property and may cancel, postpone or reschedule any events scheduled for any county-owned building, facility or property.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that to the extent of unobligated funds available in excess of appropriations in the approved budget, the County Administrator of Lancaster County is empowered to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to protect the health and safety of persons and property and to provide emergency assistance to persons affected by this disaster and may proceed with such contracts and expenditures without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring obligations, employing workers, renting equipment, purchasing supplies and materials, and other expenditures of public funds, provided, however that he shall keep the members of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors apprised, in advance, of any such proposed expenditures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that the County Administrator of Lancaster County may temporarily take any of the following actions: waive or reduce fees imposed by County Ordinance; waive enforcement, in whole or in part, of any County Ordinance and modify, limit, waive suspend or amend any County program, service, function, process or procedure on a uniform basis, provided, however, that he shall keep the members of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors apprised, in advance, of any such proposed actions,

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that each incorporated town within the boundaries of Lancaster County is encouraged, authorized and/or directed to declare its own state of local emergency and disaster or incorporate by reference the County's local state of emergency and disaster and to adopt an ordinance for the continuity of town government.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that the provisions of this Emergency Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for a period of 60 days, unless amended, rescinded or readopted by the Board of Supervisors in conformity with the notice provisions set forth in Virginia Code §15.2-1427, but in no event shall such ordinance be effective for more than 6 months. Upon rescission by the Board of Supervisors or automatic expiration as described herein, this emergency ordinance shall terminate and normal practices and procedures of government shall resume.

Nothing in this Emergency Ordinance shall prohibit Public Entities from holding in-person public meetings provided that public health and safety measures, as well as social distancing, are taken into consideration.

An emergency is deemed to exist, and this ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to Adopt the Emergency Ordinance with the two revisions.

VOTE: Jason D. Bellows Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
Jack D. Larson	Aye
William R. Lee	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

3. Consideration of Rescheduling Meetings That Were Postponed Due to the Ongoing COVID-19 Emergency

Mr. Gill stated that the Board of Supervisors adopted a budget calendar at the January meeting and they were on track to get through the budget process in record time, but since the coronavirus issue, they have already had to cancel two budget meetings. He stated that he had provided some revised dates on the draft budget calendar. He stated that, at the Board’s April 30th meeting, they would hold the public hearing for the school budget and then adopt it a week later on May 7th. He stated that the school budget must still be adopted by May 15th according to the Code of Virginia. He stated that they would have the public hearing on the FY 21 County budget and CY 20 tax rates on May 14th and then adopt them at the Board’s regular meeting on May 28th. He stated that he asked for the Board’s consideration on the revised budget calendar.

Mr. Bellows stated that what they realize now is that the situation that everyone is in does not allow them to have the budget process that is needed. He stated that it was his recommendation that, this year, they agree to adopt a level-funded budget that they had in place from the last fiscal year and keep the tax rates the same. He stated that they can handle any adjustments to the budget after they can meet together in person again. He stated that he did not think this kind of platform was going to work well to engage the public.

Mr. Palin stated that he agreed with Mr. Bellows.

Mr. Larson stated that the issue he had dealt with the legality of what Mr. Bellows was suggesting. He stated that what Mr. Bellows was suggesting was a continuation of the funding levels for the current fiscal year. He stated that he had issues with some of the current funding requests. He stated that he did not have so much of a problem with what Mr. Bellows was suggesting because they can make adjustments as needed later on, but he thought it was very important that the wording be correct. He stated that he thought what they were suggesting was a continuation of funding that we have in the current fiscal year and not “level funding” of what was requested for the coming year. He stated that there was a distinction there.

Mr. Bellows stated that was his point as well, in that whatever the current funding levels are from the current budget would carry over to the next budget year. He stated that they would still hold the required public hearings and adopt the budgets, but no numbers should be adjusted from the previous year.

Mr. Larson asked if it was a fair statement to say that what they were going to be holding the public hearings on was not what they had in their current budget books.

Mr. Bellows replied that was a fair statement. He stated that they really did not know what impacts this emergency would have or what money they may have to spend, so they need to be conservative. He stated that by level-funding, it would give them time to see how things go and then execute whatever changes may need to happen throughout the fiscal year on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Larson stated that he agreed. He stated that he would recommend that they appropriate on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Bellows stated that they could have that discussion at a later date.

Mr. Lee stated that after Mr. Bellows and Mr. Larson's discussion, he was clear on the direction that the budget should be set at the current level.

Mr. Bellows stated that was correct.

Dr. Westbrook suggested combining the public hearings for the school budget and the County budget into one meeting. He stated that he was confused about how they were going to have a public hearing considering this platform.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to clarify how the schedule would work.

Mr. Gill stated that they could combine the school budget public hearing with the County budget public hearing and the tax rates public hearing. He stated that they would have to wait a week and come back to adopt them all. He stated that he could provide revised worksheets to show the expenditures at approved FY 20 levels. He stated that the school budget is different from last year, but they are basically asking for level funding in local money. He stated that the schools have been able to figure out how they can handle their raises within their budget, so he does not see a problem there.

Mr. Gill stated that they will need to separate the Capital Improvement Budget from the Operating Budget, just like they did two years ago. He stated that the Capital Improvement Budget for FY 21 is very different from FY 20. He stated that there is an item on the FY 21 budget for \$8.3 million dollars, which is the match for the Rural Utilities Services Grant should the Broadband Authority be successful in obtaining it. He stated that they could tackle the Capital Improvement Budget at a later date.

Mr. Gill stated that he suggested that they hold a public hearing for the school budget, the County operating budget and the tax rates at the Board of Supervisors' April 30th meeting and at the May 7th meeting, a week later, adopt the budgets and tax rates. He referred to holding a public hearing by electronic means and stated that he and Mr. Rowe have been discussing the subject for a couple of weeks and Mr. Rowe has a good plan for handling public comments. He stated that the County has a fairly new phone system and with its queue system, the public would be able to call in to make comments. He stated that, within the public hearing advertisements, they will stress the

need to receive comments ahead of time by email and that could become part of the discussion at the meetings.

Mr. Larson stated that Mr. Gill had made some good points and they may have to use this system for awhile.

Mr. Lee stated that he was in agreement with Mr. Gill's suggestions.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to Hold Public Hearings on the FY 21 County Operating Budget, FY 21 School Budget and CY 20 Tax Rates as discussed today at the Board of Supervisors' April 30th meeting.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Cornwell asked Mr. Gill if that date would give him enough time for advertising.

Mr. Gill replied yes because they have to advertise one week ahead of time before the budget public hearings. He stated that he could possibly advertise two times in April.

Mr. Cornwell stated that, under these circumstances, he would recommend advertising twice.

Mr. Gill stated that he would try to advertise the public hearings twice in an effort to reach more citizens.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, when the public hearings are advertised, he would like it to be emphasized to the citizens of how they can participate and encourage them to use cameras if they have access.

Mr. Gill stated that they would do their best to tell citizens how they can participate in the public hearings. He stated that the procedure is not hard to do if someone has a smartphone, but they can also just use a regular phone to call in.

Mr. Larson stated that he liked what they have decided as far as the schedule for the budget public hearings. He referred to the current budget books and stated that there were several things in there that he would like to see changed. He asked if they were free to send their thoughts and comments out by email concerning the budget and possible changes before the public hearing.

Mr. Bellows stated that the public hearings on April 30th will be based on the budget approved for FY 20.

Mr. Larson stated that, for example, will the new non-governmental organizations that have come forward with a budget request this year, but did not ask for money or was not given money last year be a part of the public hearing.

Mr. Gill stated that what he has heard from the Board is that they want to consider what they adopted last year, so any new entities requesting funds this year would not be included and any entity that asked for funding last year and was denied would not be included. He stated that he would revise the sheets for FY 21 to reflect the approved amounts from FY 20.

Mr. Larson asked Mr. Gill if his interpretation was that they would simply re-advertise the FY 20 budget as the budget for FY 21.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Lee stated that was his understanding as well.

Mr. Larson stated that was fine with him.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, last year, they amended the funding request from the library and wanted to be clear on what they were saying about that.

Mr. Gill stated that the library funding would be the amount that was approved for FY 20 which was \$122,995.00.

Mr. Larson asked if that was part of the budget advertisement because his recollection was that they increased the library funding after the public hearing.

Mr. Gill stated that he would have to go back to check the dates, but it was the final approved figure for FY 20.

Mr. Gill stated that he had just pulled up the budget adoption resolution that was approved on June 27, 2019 and it shows the library's funding at \$122,995.00.

Mr. Bellows stated that was the number that needed to be put in for the current budget.

Mr. Larson stated that he had a problem with that because that was not what was in the FY 20 advertisement. He stated that he thought the initial amount was \$112,995.00. He stated that he did not support giving the library \$122,995.00. He stated that, in his opinion, level funding for the library should be \$112,995.00.

Dr. Westbrook stated that was his recollection as well.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought the question was whether or not they are talking about proposing what was advertised or what was adopted for FY 20. He stated that there seems to be two different thoughts going on.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought they could solve it by advertising what was adopted in FY 20 and then discussing it at the public hearing.

Mr. Gill added that the budget advertisement that is published in the local paper does not specifically list every entity.

Mr. Larson stated that, in his opinion, the library's funding request should be advertised at \$112,995.00.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would do a roll call vote as to which way the Board would like to advertise the FY 21 operating budget.

ROLL CALL

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Adopted
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Adopted
	Jack D. Larson	Advertised
	William R. Lee	Adopted
	Robert S. Westbrook	Advertised

Mr. Bellows stated that was a vote of 3-2 to advertise the adopted FY 20 budget for FY 21.

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Cornwell if he should make an official motion concerning the vote.

Mr. Cornwell replied that what the Board had done was fine and they have given direction to the County Administrator. He stated that the Board's decision of whether to adopt the budget will be made after the public hearing.

UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN LANCASTER COUNTY

Mr. Bellows asked Chief Matt Smith to give the Board an update.

Chief Smith stated that Lancaster County has reported one positive case of Covid-19. He stated that the biggest issue right now concerns the schools' feeding program. He stated that FEMA has stated that they will be reimbursing those costs as long as it is tracked appropriately, which they are doing. He stated that there has been some confusion because a date has not been set to end the program. He stated that the last time he spoke to Superintendent Dan Russell, he was told that they are providing approximately 1800 meals a week.

Chief Smith stated that, currently, the Covid-19 count for Virginia is 1484 positive cases with 34 deaths. He stated that in the local health district, Three Rivers, there were 14 positive cases with no deaths. He stated that, currently, all emergency services departments are operating at full capacity and no one has been asked to quarantine yet.

Mr. Bellows asked Chief Smith if the County had the needed personal protection equipment for medical personnel.

Chief Smith replied that they had a pretty decent stockpile of supplies, but they are running low on goggles and gowns. He stated that, in order to maintain their supplies, they are implementing their reuse policy to get them through the next few months because he did not know when more supplies would be coming.

Mr. Bellows asked Chief Smith if there had been a spike in call volume.

Chief Smith replied that their call volume has actually dropped for all of the EMS agencies in the County. He stated that the nursing homes are also not calling as frequently as they were before.

Mr. Bellows asked Chief Smith if the County had any pending cases.

Chief Smith replied that he could not release that information at this time.

Mr. Larson asked Chief Smith how many Lancaster County residents have been tested to date.

Chief Smith stated that he was not sure because they were not tracking those statistics right now. He stated that there were so many people involved with the testing process, it would be hard to say.

Mr. Larson asked if the testing was being done through private companies, such as LabCorp.

Chief Smith stated that testing has been done by either a private contractor or the northern office of the Department of Health.

Mr. Larson asked, from Chief Smith's point of view, does it appear that local citizens are adhering to the guidelines put out by the state, such as social distancing.

Chief Smith replied that, so far, it seems that citizens are following the guidelines.

Mr. Larson asked Chief Smith if he needed any additional support.

Chief Smith replied not at this time.

Mr. Lee stated that it had been brought to his attention that a nail salon in Kilmarnock may still be operating after the state's order for only essential businesses to remain open during this time. He stated that when he has driven by that business, it does seem to have a lot of cars out front.

Chief Smith stated that he had noticed that as well. He stated that the business has their open sign turned off, but it looks like a lot of traffic in that area.

Mr. Lee asked if this was something that the Town of Kilmarnock would get involved in.

Chief Smith stated that he would ask the Kilmarnock Police Department to check it out.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he thought the town would have to get involved. He stated that they could also ask the state police and the health department to look into it.

Mr. Gill stated that they will contact the appropriate authorities about the situation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Palin stated that, since the regular Board of Supervisors' meeting on March 26th was cancelled due to the pandemic emergency, he would like to take this time to make a motion to reappoint Glenn Pinn to the Planning Commission. He stated that Mr. Pinn's term expired on March 31st and he would like to take this action before the next Planning Commission meeting that will be electronically held on April 16th.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

Mr. Gill stated that the Board had planned on having the County-Wide Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 25th, but given the concern about Covid-19 and gatherings of more than 10 people, he assumed that the Board would want to cancel that event. He stated that would be his recommendation, but would like some feedback from the Board.

Mr. Bellows stated that he agreed with Mr. Gill.

Mr. Lee stated that he agreed as well.

Mr. Bellows stated to Mr. Gill that he could carry on with that cancellation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bellows made a motion to adjourn the meeting until Thursday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye