

**VIRGINIA:**

A meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

- Members Present: Jason D. Bellows, Chair  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair  
F. W. Jenkins, Jr., Board Member  
William R. Lee, Board Member  
B. Wally Beauchamp, Board Member
- Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator  
Don G. Gill, Planning and Land Use Director  
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Bellows stated that he wanted to congratulate Chief Terry McGregor for receiving the Russell Lowery, Jr. Award for Outstanding EMS Administrator for eastern Virginia.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Ron Mihills, an Irvington resident, stated that he wanted to comment on the boat tax issue. He stated that the discussion had been about keeping boats in the County, but the real issue is attracting more customers to Lancaster County. He stated that just a partial tax reduction would have minimal effect and probably not bring about any significant change. He stated that not only will there be a benefit to the marinas, but there will also be an indirect benefit to other businesses as well.

Mr. Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, stated that he thought the boat tax should stay the way it is. He suggested reconsidering the motion to advertise 76 cents per \$100 tax levy for boats that was voted on in the work session. He stated that it was not right to increase property taxes to pay for the boaters. He stated that he was a boater and the boat tax did not bother him, but the increase in real estate taxes would hurt many citizens. He stated that the Board should take a look at the poverty level in the County. He stated that \$400,000 a year is a lot of money to try to make up.

Mr. George Bott, a District 1 citizen, referred to the Norris Bridge Transmission Project and asked why the lines could not be underground or run under the bridge to keep it from being an eyesore.

Mr. Bott stated that he had spent a lot of time on the County budget and had many discussions with the Treasurer and other County staff. He stated that the latest version of the budget keeps a sufficient fund balance. He stated that the \$825,000 or so deficit is almost exactly equal to the payments for the borrowing of the lease bonds. He stated that the pay increases and boat tax reduction have been paid for and the tax increase that they are proposing would be to pay the debt service.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Norris Bridge Transmission Line Project-Dominion Virginia Power**

Mr. James Beazley and Mr. Greg Mathey of Dominion Virginia Power were in attendance to discuss the Norris Bridge Transmission Line Project.

Mr. Beazley stated that currently, Dominion Virginia Power operates an overhead 115 kilovolt transmission line that crosses the Rappahannock River via a combination of structures in the river and attachments to the Norris Bridge. He stated that it was a critical line that services about 19,000 customers. He stated that the line was built in 1962 and has reached the end of its life. He stated that the main benefit of rebuilding is the reliability aspect.

Mr. Mathey stated that the plan was to rebuild 2 miles of line across the Rappahannock River. He stated that they plan to upgrade the line and remove it from the bridge. He stated that the line will be located on 10 steel structures with concrete foundations in the river. He stated that the line will be approximately 100 feet east of the bridge. He stated that they are awaiting permits from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that they anticipate the completion of the project by the end of 2017.

Mr. Lee asked about the decision not to submerge the lines.

Mr. Mathey replied that a submerged line with the channel depth of the river would result in much lengthier repair times than with the overhead line. He stated that the costs are also greater with the submerged line.

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Six Year Plan-Secondary System of Highways-Public Hearing**

Mr. David Brown, the Northern Neck Residency Administrator, stated that the Code of Virginia requires county boards and VDOT to formulate a secondary six-year improvement plan. He stated that tonight's public hearing is being conducted for the 2016-2021 plan. He stated that the plan is only for improvements and new construction and does not incorporate maintenance work. He discussed the funds for the County and stated that there had been a \$6500 increase in funding for Lancaster since last month's meeting.

Mr. Bellows opened the public hearing for the Six Year Plan-Secondary System of Highways.

There was no public input.

Mr. Bellows closed the public hearing.

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to Approve the Six Year Plan for the Secondary System of Highways for 2016 through 2021.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

Mr. Brown stated that VDOT is currently doing their mowing operations. He stated that after that is completed, they will be working on paving, repairs and cutting back vegetation.

Mr. Lee asked about trash pick-up.

Mr. Harper replied that will be completed in June.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### 1. Application for Special Exception-Stephen and Julie Perkins

Mr. Gill stated that the issue was an Application for Special Exception by Stephen and Julie Perkins to expand/enlarge an existing authorized non-conforming residential

structure on a 0.484-acre parcel described as Tax Map #32-18. He stated that the property is zoned R-1, Residential General and located at 514 Wharton Grove Lane in District 5.

Mr. Gill stated the residential structure on this parcel existed prior to the effective date of the Lancaster County Zoning Ordinance, June 1, 1975, and therefore is an authorized non-conforming structure. He stated Article 12-4-1 allows for the expansion/enlargement of existing authorized non-conforming structures, with a special exception, if the setbacks of that zoning district can be met.

Mr. Gill stated that the existing authorized non-conforming structure encroaches in the southern sideyard 5.9-feet instead of the required 25-feet, and the Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area Buffer 82-feet instead of the required 100-feet. He stated that the proposed addition is located outside of the 100 foot RPA buffer and does not encroach further into the southern sideyard, so no variance is required from the Board of Zoning Appeals. He stated that it meets all other requirements of the R-1 District. He stated that the existing septic system would accommodate the addition.

Mr. Gill stated that adjoining property owners had been notified and advertising conducted as required by law and to date, he has had no response from the public. He stated that the homeowner, Julie Perkins, was present.

Mr. Bellows opened the public hearing.

There was no public input.

Mr. Bellows closed the public hearing.

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to Approve the Application for Special Exception by Stephen and Julie Perkins to expand/enlarge an existing authorized non-conforming residential structure on Tax Map #32-18.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**CONSENSUS DOCKET**

Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins to approve the Consensus Docket and recommendation as follows:

1. Minutes for April 21<sup>st</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> Meetings

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**CONSIDERATION DOCKET**

The Board considered the following items on its Consideration Docket:

1. Approval of May 2015 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for May 2015 in the amount of \$246,361.46 and invoice listings for May 2015 in the amount of \$436,787.31\*.

\*Capital Improvements - \$5,090.00

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

2. Lancaster County Electoral Board Proposal and Request for Public Hearing to Move the Polling Site Locations for Precincts 301, 302 and 401

Mrs. Marilyn McGlamary, Secretary for the Electoral Board, stated that she was requesting an amendment to the ordinance that was presented at last month's meeting. She stated that she had found out from the White Stone United Methodist Church that their council did not approve the usage for a polling site, but that the White Stone Baptist Church has agreed to it.

Mrs. McGlamary stated that the Electoral Board was presenting an amended ordinance to the Board of Supervisors that moves Precinct 301 from the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department to the White Stone Baptist Church.

Mr. Pleva stated that if the Board of Supervisors agrees, it should authorize the advertisement of the amended ordinance.

Mr. Lee made a motion to advertise the revised Ordinance Amending §22-2 of the County Code of Lancaster County, as to Certain Election District Precinct Polling Places.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

3. Replacement of County-wide Emergency Communications Radio System and Equipment

Chief McGregor stated that he had prepared a memorandum in response to questions that had been raised after the proposed radio system presentation. He stated that one of the questions was the need for a four-channel system compared to the three-channel system that Northumberland has. He stated that the four-channel system will provide additional capacity for the law enforcement and fire-rescue communications without interfering with the other. He stated that the proposed system will also provide redundancy for large scale events and allow his department to manage day-to-day operations as well as have dedicated space for other events that may be going on.

Chief McGregor stated that another question that had been raised was the cost benefit for the school system. He stated that the total cost for school related items

for the first three years of the system, including the equipment, was \$102,494. He stated that if the school system chose to lease the equipment, the initial cost in the first year would be \$80,700 and an additional \$12,600 for each following year.

Chief McGregor stated that the system would do several important things for the school system. He stated that it would replace the cellular phone communication and utilize county-owned handheld equipment. He stated that the proposed system would provide GPS tracking in real time for the entire school transportation fleet. He stated that it would also provide direct emergency access to law enforcement from each of the school buildings and buses.

Mr. Jenkins asked where they were on doing their due diligence in interviewing other localities about their opinion of the system.

Chief McGregor replied that he had spoken to colleagues in Northumberland and they were pleased with the system. He stated that there were some “bugs” at first, but that Radio Communications quickly resolved them to their satisfaction. He stated that he had a list of references and would be following up with them.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he had some conversations with the Northumberland staff and they had stated that they were pleased with Radio Communications and their performance.

Mr. Beauchamp asked John Mann his opinion on the proposed system.

Mr. Mann replied that he liked the hand-held radios because they could be utilized anywhere in the schools. He stated that in natural disasters, the first thing to get jammed up are cellular phones, so the radio system will be more reliable in those situations.

Mr. Mann stated that it will be nice to know exactly where the buses are without having to communicate with the bus drivers. He further stated that long term, it makes more sense to purchase the system instead of leasing it and he stated that they would love to have the system.

Mr. Pleva stated that the school board had passed a resolution endorsing the proposed radio system.

Mr. Lee asked about the down time during the switch over from old to new.

Mr. Will Smithson of Radio Communications replied that there would be minimal time to switch over and that would be coordinated with the staff so there would be available channels for everyone.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had received a lot of public comments in support of the proposed project.

Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to Accept the Proposal for the Replacement of County-Wide Emergency Communications Radio System and Equipment as presented by Radio Communications of Virginia.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Palin stated that he would like for the Board to discuss the tax levy advertisement on the boat tax more. He stated that by advertising the 76 cents rate, the levy on boats has already been reduced before the public hearing has been conducted. He suggested that they amend their motion to \$1.52 per \$100 until there has been more discussion.

Mr. Jenkins asked Mr. Palin if he voted on the motion for the advertisement.

Mr. Palin replied yes.

Mr. Jenkins stated that since Mr. Palin had made an affirmative vote for the motion, he could ask for a motion to reconsider.

Mr. Palin made a motion to reconsider the boat tax levy of 76 cents per \$100 portion of the prior motion to advertise the proposed tax levies for calendar year 2015.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that Mr. Palin was correct in the fact that the prior motion automatically reduced the boat tax.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Nay
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

VOTE: 4-1 Motion carried

Mr. Palin made a motion to advertise the boat tax levy at \$1.52 per \$100 for calendar year 2015.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Nay
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Nay
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

VOTE: 3-2 Motion carried

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to adjourn to Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	F. W. Jenkins, Jr.	Aye
	William R. Lee	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye