

**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, October 31, 2019.

Members Present: Jason D. Bellows, Chair  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair  
Jack D. Larson, Board Member  
William R. Lee, Board Member  
Robert S. Westbrook, Board Member

Staff Present: Don G. Gill, County Administrator  
Brian D. Barnes, Planning/Land Use Director and  
Environmental Codes Compliance Officer  
Crystal Whay, Clerk to the Board and  
Building/Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CLOSED MEETING**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to enter into closed meeting to discuss matters exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The subject matters to be discussed in the closed meeting are Personnel, § 2.2-3711.A.1 and Contract Negotiations, § 2.2-3711.A.29 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. The subject and purpose falls within the following exemption(s) under § 2.2-3711.A.1 (for the discussion and consideration of the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance or salaries of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the public body) and § 2.2-3711.A.29 (for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body).

VOTE:	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye

William R. Lee	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

**RECONVENE**

Motion was made by Mr. Palin to reconvene the open meeting.

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

**CERTIFICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors convened in a closed meeting on October 31, 2019 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Personnel, § 2.2-3711.A.1 and Contract Negotiations, § 2.2-3711.A.29 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

**WHEREAS**, § 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the board of supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Motion was made by Mr. Palin to certify the closed meeting.

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number 1 and number 2 above? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure. There was no comment.

Hearing no further comment, Mr. Palin called the question. A roll call vote was taken:

ROLL CALL

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

This certification resolution is adopted.

No action was taken on the closed meeting matters.

Mr. Bellows led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Daniel Lang, a District 3 citizen, stated that he wanted to ask the Board of Supervisors to consider asking VDOT to lower the speed limit in the Foxwells and Fleets Island areas on Windmill Point Road. He stated that he understood that this issue has been brought forward in the past by other citizens. He stated that some of his neighbors are also in favor of the reduction in the speed limit in that area. He showed some photographs of the area at the end of Windmill Point Road where there is already a 25 mile per hour speed limit. He stated that he would like to see that speed limit extended approximately two and a half more miles to the north towards the Town of White Stone. He stated that he knew the Sheriff’s Department had been contacted many times concerning speeders in this area and had been responsive.

Mr. Bellows stated that the board will ask VDOT about this issue when the representative comes up later in the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Broadband Authority Update

Gary Silverman, a District 1 citizen and a member of the Broadband Authority, stated that their Request for Information (RFI) was published as planned on September 30<sup>th</sup> and it appeared on the CIT and Commonwealth Connect websites. He stated that there was a delay in getting it on eVA, the official state-wide procurement site, so they have decided to extend the response period until mid-November to allow for maximum exposure and participation. He stated that they have received the official notification of

their approval for the second phase of the Telecommunications Planning Grant and are already working on compliance and reporting to assure release of the full amount of the grant funds.

Mr. Silverman stated that Margie Armen participated in the Broadband Communities Conference in Old Town Alexandria on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated that Cassie Thompson and he met with Senator Warner's Regional Director to discuss improvements in the federal grant process that would allow Lancaster County to be more competitive in the allocation of grant funds by the Rural Utilities Service.

Mr. Silverman stated that the Broadband Authority has scheduled two public meetings to share the results of the needs assessment survey and those meetings will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Lancaster Public Library. He stated that they will hold an extra meeting at 1:00 p.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup> to attend to grant related matters. He stated that they have rescheduled their regular meeting from Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. to Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. to allow Authority members to attend an all-day event sponsored by GO Virginia Region 6 on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lee stated that he has heard a lot of questions lately about what the County is doing about broadband. He stated that he was glad to hear that there will be some upcoming public meetings, but he thought that more information to the public via the local newspaper or radio might be another good idea to get the word out that this issue is being worked on.

Mr. Silverman stated that he would recommend telling citizens about the Broadband Authority's website, too.

Mr. Bellows referred to the vacancy on the Broadband Authority and asked where they were as far as filling that spot.

Mr. Silverman replied that they are still searching and have placed an ad in the Rappahannock Record.

Mr. Bellows stated that there was a gentleman from his district that had expressed an interest in the authority and he would forward his name to them.

Mr. Larson suggested that the Broadband Authority put their monthly update to the Board of Supervisors on the County's website for the public to review.

Mr. Silverman stated that could be done as well.

## 2. Lancaster County as a Drone Zone?

Suzanne Novak of Erudyne, Inc. stated that her company has launched a drone flight school locally and has been awarded a drone services contract with the state of Virginia. She stated that she wanted the Board of Supervisors to consider an opportunity for the County to officially declare itself a drone zone. She stated that the Alleghany Highlands area has declared itself a drone zone and Lancaster County could use them as a model. She stated that a drone zone is an innovative research, economic development and innovation center designed and implemented to support the expansion of the next generation technology of unmanned aerial systems. She stated that her company helps support public safety and the military and has started some programs in the local schools. She stated that the designation of a drone zone could lead to more economic development by attracting more businesses to the area and creating more jobs in the County.

Ms. Novak stated that her request was that Lancaster County consider making an official declaration that it is a drone zone and then possibly creating a website similar to the one being used in the Alleghany Highlands area. She stated that she has also spoken with the School Superintendent about possibly integrating the drone school into the STEM program or into a vocational program.

Ms. Novak stated that an official declaration could be used as a marketing strategy that the County is open for business. She stated that Lancaster County is a great location because it is situated near Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads and Richmond. She stated that she was not asking for funding, but simply asking for a more formalized marketing approach when it came to the County declaring itself a drone zone. She stated that she would be willing to work with the County to try to obtain grants as well.

Mr. Lee suggested that something be built into the County's existing website.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought the next step may be, if the Board is inclined, to pass a resolution that officially declares Lancaster County a drone zone. He stated that, between Ms. Novak and himself, they could craft the language because there is no state designation.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, at next month's meeting, Michael Locher will be addressing the Board on enterprise zones and Ms. Novak's request fits in with that issue. He stated that he was hopeful that they will have a concerted, focused effort to bring businesses here to the area.

Ms. Novak stated that she would be excited to be a part of that. She stated that she would attend next month's meeting.

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill about moving the VDOT report ahead of presentations on the Board's agenda in the future.

Mr. Gill stated that he would take care of that.

Mr. Bellows referred to Windmill Point Road and stated that a speed study was supposed to have been done there some time ago. He asked if Mr. Bryant knew the status of that study.

Mr. Bryant replied that he did not know the status and the Board would have to make a request.

Mr. Bellows stated that the request had been made at least a few months ago.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought they would have to follow up on the request with someone from the Haynesville office. He stated that he knew that speed studies have been done on that road in the past.

Mr. Bryant stated that he would check on that.

Mr. Bryant stated that they were also going to install some permanent high water signs in that area and some other areas within the County.

Mr. Lee stated that he appreciated Mr. Bryant's responsiveness.

Mr. Palin referred to the intersection at Good Luck Road and Route 3 and stated that there have been some accidents when drivers are coming up the hill from the Town of Kilmarnock. He stated that he thought there should be a study conducted to see if it would help to have the speed limit of 45 extended further from town to the Hill Crest Heights area.

Mr. Bryant stated that the Board would just have to make the request.

Mr. Palin stated that, if it is alright with the other Board members, he would like to make it a formal request.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, years ago, the Irvington Town Council asked for a speed limit reduction on King Carter Drive. He stated that it finally happened, but it was a struggle. He stated that he wanted to ask a procedural question and that was if VDOT just follows their guidelines and procedures when it comes to speed limits or does it consider the will of the governing body and citizens.

Mr. Bryant replied that his department is more on the maintenance side and speed studies are handled by traffic engineering.

Mr. Bellows asked when the speed studies are done, who gets to see the results and if it is public information.

Mr. Bryant replied that he would think it would be public information, but he would have to check on that as well with traffic engineering.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**CONSENSUS DOCKET**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to approve the Consensus Docket and recommendations as follows:

1. Minutes for the September 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

2. Resolution Supporting the Candidacy and Election of Jason D. Bellows to the office of Second Vice-President of the Virginia Association of Counties

**IN SUPPORT OF CHAIRMAN JASON D. BELLOWS  
CANDIDACY AND ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE  
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia and has been doing so since 1934; and

**WHEREAS**, VACo divides the state into thirteen regions for more effective local advocacy, education, membership engagement and business development with each region having at least one member on the VACo Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, Lancaster County is a part of VACo Region Two along with Essex, Gloucester, James City, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland and York counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Lancaster County Board of Supervisors' Chairman Jason D. Bellows is currently serving a two-year term as the Region 2 Director on the VACo Board of Directors and has served as Chairman of VACo's Education Committee and a member of VACo's Resolutions Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Bellows' public service record includes serving on the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors from 2012 to date, serving two years as Chairman and three years as Vice-Chairman and is unopposed in his re-election bid this year, serving as Chairman of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, County

Representative to the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and completion of VACo's Certified County Supervisors' Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Bellows now seeks to expand his public service and has announced his candidacy for the office of Second Vice-President of the Virginia Association of Counties;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports the candidacy and election of Jason D. Bellows to the office of Second Vice-President of the Virginia Association of Counties.

Recommendation: Approve resolution as submitted

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

Dr. Westbrook stated that he was abstaining from the vote on the minutes because he was absent at the September meeting.

**CONSIDERATION DOCKET**

The Board considered the following items on its Consideration Docket:

1. Salaries and Invoices – October 2019

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for October 2019 in the amount of \$299,190.45 and invoice listings for October 2019 in the amount of \$562,414.00\*.

\*Loan Payment - \$6,075.00

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



2. Request for Permit Fee Waiver or Reduction – Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library

Karen Hart, Executive Director of the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, stated that, about a year and a half ago, her organization came in front of the Board of Supervisors to tell them about the expansion of their new History and Genealogy Research Library. She stated that their fund raising goal was \$350,000.00 and they have raised \$150,000.00 so far. She stated that her request was that the Board grant a waiver of the permit fee for the sign they would like to install that will advertise the building and their fund raising efforts. She stated that fee is \$80.00.

Mr. Lee stated that it was only \$80.00 and asked if they really needed the money.

Ms. Hart replied that they are doing whatever they can to reduce their expenses. She stated that she submitted her request through the County Administrator and he told her that only the Board of Supervisors could authorize a waiver of fees.

Dr. Westbrook stated that this request is against a policy that has been in place since 1994.

Mr. Lee stated that there were things that the Board can and cannot waive.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought granting the request would set a bad precedent, in his opinion.

Ms. Hart stated that she apologized for wasting their time.

Mr. Gill stated that she had a right to request a waiver, but the policy has always been not to waive fees for non-profit organizations. He stated that the Board has waived the fees for a couple of non-profits over the years.

Mr. Larson stated that he would not support the request. He stated that the precedent issue was a real concern for him.

Ms. Hart stated that she understood. She left some literature about the project with the Board members.

Dr. Westbrook asked where they stood with the portrait identifications for the meeting room.

Ms. Hart replied that she had recently provided some information to Mr. Gill about the portraits. She stated that she has asked which were more of a priority and they would work on those first. She stated that one of her board members suggested involving some high school students in the project as well.

Dr. Westbrook stated that was a good idea.

Dr. Westbrook made a motion to Deny the Request for a Permit Fee Waiver for the Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library.

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

3. Review of Bid and Consideration of Award of Wood Waste Management Facility Contract

Mr. Gill stated that the Board of Supervisors had authorized him to issue a Request for Proposals for the management of a wood waste facility in the County and he had done so. He stated that the proposals were due back on October 29<sup>th</sup> and he received only one response. He stated that the Board has seen this bid proposal and it is complete. He stated that he would ask the Board to approve the bid and award the contract to R. L. Self Timber, Inc.

Mr. Lee made a motion to Approve the Bid and Award the Contract to R. L. Self Timber, Inc. for the Management of a Wood Waste Facility in Lancaster County and Authorize the County Administrator to Execute that Contract.

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

**BOARD REPORTS**

Dr. Westbrook apologized for missing last month’s meeting and stated that he was both glad and equally concerned that everyone was able to carry on without him. He stated that, to make up for his absence, he had five items to discuss tonight.

Dr. Westbrook stated that his first item was to propose Hunter Sledd be appointed for the remaining alternate member vacancy on the Wetlands Board. He stated that Mr. Sledd has been active with the Master Gardeners program and is well regarded by Mr. Barnes for his knowledge of wetlands-related issues.

Dr. Westbrook made a motion to Appoint Hunter Sledd as an alternate member on the Lancaster County Wetlands Board.

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

Mr. Palin made a motion to appoint Andy Ransone as an alternate member on the Lancaster County Wetlands Board. He stated that Ms. Waddy has indicated that she would like someone to replace her as an alternate member.

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

Dr. Westbrook stated that he was sorry to report that Frank Tetrick will be moving out of the county and the Board will need to appoint someone to take his place on the Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission-Merrimac Center. He stated that Mr. Tetrick had done an excellent job of representing us on that commission and they had been very fortunate that he agreed to serve in that capacity. He stated that he did not have anyone else in mind at the present time.

Dr. Westbrook stated that his second item was that on February 28, 2019, this Board adopted the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors Strategic Plan which identified four very important strategic initiatives that we felt were necessary to help us focus our efforts in a proactive way to meet our responsibilities to those we serve. He stated that those initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Promote Community and Economic Well-Being
- 2) Practice Good Governance
- 3) Strengthen Community Engagement
- 4) Fund the Future

Dr. Westbrook stated that he was very appreciative that Mr. Michael Locher will give a presentation on the Enterprise Zones at our November 21<sup>st</sup> Supervisors' meeting. He stated that Mr. Lee, Mr. Palin and Mr. Gill have heard Mr. Locher speak on this subject and he believes that his presentation before the entire Board will help us in our efforts to fulfill Strategic Initiative number 1-Promote Community and Economic Well-Being. He stated that, in addition to that presentation helping our efforts, he was pleased to announce that he was invited to meet with Paul Sciacitano, Julien Patterson and Jimmie Carter regarding their wish to further the economic success of our County. He stated that they have reviewed the Strategic Plan and are voluntarily forming the nexus of a Business Relations Advisory Committee, called for in Action Item #7 of that same Strategic Initiative #1. He stated that Mr. Sciacitano, on behalf of the advisory committee, has asked to address us on November 21<sup>st</sup> to present their thoughts of how we can work together to improve our economic vitality, promote our community's well-being and help the public recognize the positive aspects of living in Lancaster County. He stated that he believed Mr. Sciacitano's comments will complement Mr. Locher's remarks and he applauds these three gentlemen for what they are already doing within our County.

Dr. Westbrook referred to his third item and stated that each of them received an email from a vendor who will be present at the VACo Annual Conference next month. He stated that the email invited them to request a meeting with them at the conference and receive a complimentary Retail Gap Analysis for Lancaster County. He stated that he would like for them to agree to do this.

Dr. Westbrook referred to his fourth item and stated that, as Mr. Larson told the Board last month, he and Mr. Larson had been working together to find ways to diversify our tax structure and, in doing so, provide more fairness to our taxpayers. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Larson that it would be very desirable to complete our budget discussions in May, rather than June and they believe their recommendations to the Board will be ready for Board discussion and decision prior to the normal round of budget discussions.

Dr. Westbrook stated that Mr. Larson will speak for himself, but he believes if they want to lessen the relative tax burden for each individual, we must attract new residents to help share the load. He stated that they need to add new businesses that will employ more of our people and invest money that they have not previously invested. He

stated that, in addition to funding new investments, they know that they will face new funding requirements above and beyond what we have faced to date. He stated that being responsible stewards of the public's money, while also truly committing themselves to be able to fund the future, requires them to position the County to be better prepared to meet all anticipated appropriate financial challenges.

Dr. Westbrook stated that each Board member has received a copy of the book Virginia Local Tax Rates, 2018, with information compiled by Weldon Cooper and published by LexisNexis. He stated, using that book, he and Mr. Larson compared the tax rates for Lancaster County to those of Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland and Middlesex counties and Mr. Larson also included Essex County in his research. He stated that another valuable resource is A Budgeting Guide for Local Government, which is a textbook from the VACo-sponsored Supervisors' Certification Course that presents ideas regarding equity and tax diversification.

Dr. Westbrook stated that Appendix C of Virginia Local Tax Rates, 2018 shows that, as of FY 2017, 77.7 percent of our total local taxes came from real property, while the revenue derived from our personal property tax accounted for only 8 percent of our total. He stated that, by contrast, the percentages of the total local taxes derived from personal property for the four other neighboring counties in this comparison range from 13.6 percent to 17.1 percent.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, in 1997, the General Assembly passed the Personal Property Tax Relief Act, also known as the car tax. He stated that Table 9.6 of the Virginia Local Tax Rate book shows that Lancaster County changed from a personal property tax rate of \$3.80 in 1997 to \$2.04 by 2018. He stated that Mr. Gill has found our present tax rate of \$2.04 has remained unchanged since 2007. He stated that, in contrast, Middlesex stayed at \$3.50 from 1997 to 2018, Northumberland stayed at \$3.60, Richmond County went from \$3.50 to \$3.75 and Westmoreland went from \$2.50 to \$3.25.

Dr. Westbrook stated that to help them meet the future increased financial requirements that we know are coming and that should benefit all of us in the long run, while simultaneously reducing our relative reliance on the real property tax, he believes they should adjust the county's personal property tax parameters to be more comparable with our neighbors.

Dr. Westbrook referred to his last item and stated that at a March 9, 2015 joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Boat Tax Committee, Mr. Thomas Murray, then Associate Director for Advisory Services at VIMS, presented a report on "Evaluation of a Recreational Marine Hub in Lancaster County". He stated that based on that report and after additional public meetings and much further discussion, the boat tax was eliminated in two stages. He stated that, consequently, Lancaster County has been without a considerable and significant amount of revenue every year and has chosen to increase the real property tax rate to make up for the shortfall.

Dr. Westbrook stated to the Chairman that, as a necessary component of them being able to responsibly fund the future, he believes it is appropriate for them to convene a series of special called meetings to discuss and determine a fair personal property tax rate that will position them within the middle range of the neighboring counties and to simultaneously reduce our relative financial dependence on the real property tax. He stated that, as a follow-on, but very integral part of those personal property tax discussions, he anticipates that they will interview the original Boat Tax Committee members and all relevant parties to determine whether the benefits enjoyed by that industry because of not having a boat tax have balanced the annual loss of revenue county-wide.

Dr. Westbrook moved that the Board call a special meeting as soon as possible in November to begin the discussion of a tax rate for all personal property, except boats, that will position the county more fairly with our neighboring counties, to be followed, as soon as possible, with another special called joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the original Boat Tax Committee members and all relevant parties to discuss a proper tax rate, assessment value concept and assessment ratio for boats that should not hurt the financial stability or continued growth of the marine industry, but will result in a fair benefit shared with the entire county.

Mr. Larson asked if he could speak before the question was called.

Mr. Bellows replied yes.

Mr. Larson stated that he joined Dr. Westbrook in calling for a comprehensive review of Lancaster County's tax structure. He stated that he would ask the rest of the Board to not only support this effort, but to also commit to have the agreed upon adjustments in place for setting the tax rates in the coming calendar year. He stated that, as it stands now, the manner in which they raise revenue to meet the costs of goods and services places a disproportionate amount of the burden on certain taxpayers. He stated that a case in point is the real estate property tax, where Lancaster County raises a greater percentage of its local revenue from this source than any other locality, city or county, in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He stated that the only exception is Highland County, which now, very likely has a lower percentage than Lancaster County, given our roughly ten percent increase in the real property tax effective this year.

Mr. Larson stated that real property taxes have been the only one in which increases have been levied for as far back as one would want to look. He stated that the problem is made worse by actions such as eliminating the boat tax, without a corresponding decrease in expenditures. He stated that now is the time to do something about it, instead of waiting. He stated that they now raise 96.7 percent of the county's revenue from four sources and there are another fourteen sources from which they are permitted by law to raise revenues. He stated that he would admit, as a relatively small rural county, they might not be able to dramatically effect the present balance by readjusting the tax burden across more, if not all, of these categories, but that does not mean that they should not try. He stated that he supported Dr. Westbrook's motion.

Mr. Bellows asked if the motion was to hold those joint meetings at a particular time in November.

Dr. Westbrook replied that his motion was, that as soon as possible in November, they begin the process by calling a special meeting to discuss personal property taxes, not counting boats, and then have another special called meeting with the original boat tax committee to talk about the boat tax. He stated that he believed the marine industry has benefited from the county having no boat tax and he believed that there was a tax rate that would be fair and not hurt the marine industry, but would be more fair to everyone else in the county and he thought they should find out what that rate is and that comes about with discussions with the public.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they should look at vehicles first and compare this county with neighboring counties and attempt to position themselves in the middle at the first meeting. He stated then he would like a joint meeting with the Boat Tax Committee and the public to discuss the boat tax. He explained how the tax rates are multiplied by various values, which becomes the adjusted effective tax rate.

Mr. Palin asked for clarification of the motion.

Dr. Westbrook stated that his motion was that the Board call a special meeting, in November, to discuss the tax rate for all personal property, except boats, and then have a follow-up called joint meeting with the original Boat Tax Committee and all relevant parties to discuss a tax rate assessment value concept and assessment ratios for boats.

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

There was some discussion about potential meeting dates.

Mr. Larson suggested that these first meetings be part of the Board's regular meetings.

Mr. Gill agreed and suggested having the first meeting regarding personal property taxes, except boats, as part of the November meeting and the second meeting regarding personal property taxes on boats as part of the December meeting with work sessions prior to those meetings.

Mr. Bellows stated that, at the November meeting, they could have their first budget work session and convene around 5:00 p.m. as they have done in the past.

There was a consensus to start the November meeting at 5:00 p.m. with a work session on personal property taxes.

Mr. Lee made a motion to reappoint Lewis Conway to the Lancaster County Economic Development Authority.

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

Mr. Bellows stated that the cupola on the top of the Administrative Building needed painting.

Mr. Gill stated that painting the cupola was a part of the Capital Improvement Budget and they have received three bids. He stated that a contractor has been chosen and the work will be starting shortly.

Mr. Larson stated that there were more election signs out than he had ever seen and his suggestion was, as people collect them after the election, that they also pick up litter in the area. He asked for people to spread that word to the candidates.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Gill stated Michael Locher is available to talk about Enterprise Zones on November 21<sup>st</sup> and wanted to confirm that was a good date for all Board members.

There was a consensus to have Michael Locher speak at the next regular Board meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Gill stated that, as he did last year, he wanted to state publically that all five members of the Board of Supervisors will be attending the Virginia Association of Counties' Annual Conference being held at the Omni Hotel in Bath County on November 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> for educational purposes. He stated that public business matters may be discussed, but no actions or votes will be taken.

Mr. Gill stated that, at last month's meeting, Mr. Lee discussed the proposed cameras for littering and how one had been purchased for a trial run. He stated that the



camera did not have the capabilities that they needed and Mr. Sadler has contacted Verizon and found that the same set-up as Tazewell County has, but on a much smaller scale, has a camera cost of approximately \$500.00 with a monthly fee of approximately \$150.00. He stated that they are going to try to incorporate it in the existing budget, without any additional appropriation, and buy two cameras. He stated that it will probably not happen until the first of the year.

Mr. Bellows asked if they had any information on Tazewell's results.

Mr. Gill replied that he did not have that information currently, but he will work on getting that.

Mr. Gill stated that Dr. Westbrook was not present at last month's meeting, but he had read the minutes and the information given to the Board concerning short-term rentals and a company called Host Compliance that manages short term rentals' compliance with local ordinances. He stated that, at the last meeting, there was not a general consensus to get a quote from that company, but Dr. Westbrook pointed out that getting a quote was free, so he was in the process of getting that done.

Mr. Lee stated that he had recently attended the conflict of interest training course and wanted everyone to be aware that the three supervisors that are reelected have to take the course twice. He stated that all elected officials must complete it by December 31, 2019 and if reelected, must take it again within two months of taking the office for their new term.

Mr. Gill referred to the VACo Annual Conference and stated that Chairman Bellows is currently the Region 2 Director and sits on the VACo Board of Directors. He stated that Chairman Bellows is running for the office of Second Vice President which will be determined at the conference. He stated that graduates of the Supervisors' Certification Course are also recognized at the conference and Dr. Westbrook has completed all five modules for that certification and should be recognized as well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to adjourn the meeting.

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