

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, November 21, 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
James Cornwell, County Attorney
Crystal Whay, Clerk to the Board and Building/Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 matter to be discussed in the closed meeting is Personnel, § 2.2-3711.A.1 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).

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 November 21, 2019 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Personnel, § 2.2-3711.A.1 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 taken on the closed meeting matter.

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

Mr. Bellows led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Grayson Jennings, a resident from Morattico, stated that he had emailed a copy of a second amendment resolution to the Board members and wanted to make sure that it would be on the agenda at next month’s meeting. He stated that there will be bills filed in the next session of the General Assembly that are not second amendment friendly. He stated that other localities have already adopted this resolution.

Jimmie Carter, a White Stone resident, referred to the prior work session and stated that he was encouraged by the Board not letting the projections of the UVA study sway them. He stated that he had been a real estate developer in the area for fifty years and he thought the County has a unique opportunity to do something and he knew the Board was trying to figure out ways as well. He stated that, obviously, what the County needs is jobs and he thought what they will see in the following presentations are ways to try to turn things around. He stated that, if there is a place in eastern rural Virginia where a transformation can happen, he thought it was in Lancaster County. He thanked the Board for its positive outlook.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mike Bryant, the Brookvale Superintendent, stated that they were preparing for the snow season and getting their equipment and contractors together.

Mr. Bryant referred to a traffic study on Windmill Point Road and stated that Mr. Gill would have to make a request and the expense would come out of funds allocated for the County.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought some studies had already been done on Windmill Point Road.

Mr. Bryant stated that what the citizen had requested was a different portion of the road than what had been done in the past.

Mr. Bellows stated that it would be nice to know what had already been studied and the results. He stated that he did not want to pay for something that is not needed.

Mr. Bryant stated that he would try to find out that information.

Mr. Gill stated that the studies in the past have gone from the Fleets Island Bridge to the end of Windmill Point Road. He stated that Mr. Lang and his neighbors want a study done from Foxwells Lane.

Mr. Bellows stated that the speed limit is already 45 through the Palmer section of the road and then increases to 55 until almost the end of the road when it is reduced again to 25. He asked if VDOT only relies on the studies or does this Board have any control to override that.

Mr. Bryant replied that he would ask Alvin Balderson about that. He stated that Mr. Balderson was present and will be filling in for Steve McKeever during his medical leave.

Mr. Lee referred to the payment of the studies coming out of funds allocated for the County and asked if that would take away from something else that they might want to plan on doing.

Mr. Bryant replied that it could.

Mr. Bellows stated that when they approved the Secondary Six-Year Plan, there was a line item for engineering studies and the money would come from that. He stated that he did not want the County to pay for another study and would like to see the results of the original study if possible.

Mr. Palin asked about his request concerning the stretch of road coming out of Kilmarnock towards Good Luck Road.

Mr. Gill replied that the process has changed and VDOT now needs a written request for the studies. He stated that he has not submitted a written request for the Good Luck Road study because it will take away funds from other projects, so he wanted the Board to tell him, for sure, that is what they want. He stated that if the potential schools are built in that area, these types of studies will be done at that point. He stated that it was important to keep in mind that these studies could be done at the detriment of other needed projects in the County.

Mr. Bellows asked about the cost of the studies.

Mr. Bryant replied that he had been told that the studies' costs can range from \$400.00 to \$5,000.00 and it is done case by case.

Mr. Balderson stated that traffic studies can range from full blown studies to just traffic count or accident counts. He stated that they do not need a resolution from a locality, just a letter.

Mr. Bellows stated that if they did not like the results of the study, what power does the Board and its citizens have to go against the recommendations of VDOT to say that they want the speed limit changed anyway.

Mr. Balderson stated that he did not think that would happen. He stated that there were statutory limits and they have to abide by them, like how many homes are in the area. He stated that he would get the Board an answer about any previous traffic studies that are on file and for what areas. He stated that he will also get the answers about how the traffic study actually works, from start to finish, and if the Board has any recourse with the study results.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had requested looking into installing a flashing turn signal at Harmony Grove Church in Middlesex County some time ago. He stated that he was told that a study had been done and the flashing turn signal could be installed, but that there was no funding source for it. He asked if they could find out where they were concerning the funding for that light. He stated that light creates a traffic back-up in the County, especially in the Town of White Stone.

Mr. Balderson formally introduced himself and described his background. He stated that Steve McKeever was out on extended leave, he was the Acting Residency Administrator for the Northern Neck Residency. He stated that he was looking forward to working with the Board.

Mr. Larson referred to Route 626-Chownings Ferry Road in District 1 and stated that there was a dip in the road when heading to Towles Point that, in the past, was only a problem if there were high tides or storms. He stated that it is now becoming a regular problem and the result is that people are being cut off because of the water in the road. He stated that he thought the road would need to be built up.

Mr. Balderson stated that he would have Mr. Bryant look at it and see if they can raise sections of the road.

Mr. Gill stated that, for clarification, he was not aware of any speed study that had been done from Foxwells Lane to Fleets Island Bridge, so he thought they were safe in requesting a study for that area.

Mr. Bellows stated that he wouldn't request the study yet, but rather see what they already have before they pay for more.

Mr. Gill asked for direction concerning Mr. Palin's request.

Mr. Palin replied that because studies would automatically be done with the future school site, he was withdrawing his request.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Broadband Authority Update

Margie Armen, a member of the Broadband Authority, stated that they were continuing to develop a project management plan that will be presented to the Department of Housing and Community Development in connection with the telecommunications planning grant that they have been approved for. She stated that they plan to present the plan in January.

Ms. Armen stated that their Request for Information will be closing on November 22nd. She stated that those proposals will be to assist in developing a comprehensive plan to address the deployment of broadband.

Ms. Armen stated that they have held two public meetings on November 4th and 9th to share the results of the community needs assessment survey.

Ms. Armen stated that the Broadband Authority is beginning to formulate their financial plans for the next calendar and fiscal year and at the same time, they also continue to prepare to make additional grant applications in the first and second quarters of calendar year 2020. She stated that these grant applications can be expected to require them to secure matching funds.

Ms. Armen stated that their regular December meeting dates are the 4th and the 18th and in addition, they have scheduled a special meeting on December 11th at 3:00 p.m. to offer FOIA training. She stated that any County employee that wanted to attend is welcome.

Ms. Armen stated that the Broadband Authority continues to pursue a number of contract related matters with Atlantic Broadband and others.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the Broadband Authority had a sense of when matching grant funds may be needed.

Ms. Armen replied that she thought matching funds may be required, for planning purposes, in the next or following fiscal years. She stated that she can't say for certainty what all of the requirements will be.

Mr. Bellows stated that at the recent VACo conference they found out about how different localities are using a fee that can be imposed to support running the fiber. He stated that some boards have decided not to wait on the grants, but to pass an ordinance and impose the fee and use those funds to pay for a bond to put the cables in. He asked where they were concerning looking at something along those lines.

Ms. Armen replied that they have discussed that issue, but it would need to be on the referendum next November.

Mr. Bellows stated that, from his understanding, it could pass by an ordinance from the Board, but he will do some more research on that.

2. Economic Development in Lancaster County

Paul Sciacchitano stated that he would like to discuss some things that a small group of people have been talking about concerning the County. He stated that some of the things that are causing concern are declining school enrollments and declining property values. He stated that the purpose of his presentation is to show some demographics and for the County to consider hiring an Economic Development Officer. He stated that they would also like the County to consider researching and approving incentives for new business entry into the County and most of all, they would like the supervisors to take the lead in educating the public on the need for economic development.

Mr. Sciacchitano referred to the Strategic Plan that the Board of Supervisors adopted on February 28, 2019 and stated that in the Vision Statement it reads that elected and appointed officials must continue to engage both business and community leaders to work together to provide opportunities and quality services to all citizens and decisions must be consistent in promoting economic opportunities and services. He referred to the Strategic Initiatives and stated that the first one was to Promote Community and Economic Well Being and under that, the action agenda item 1 says to support local businesses and entrepreneurs through a focused business retention and expansion program. He stated that action agenda item 2 says to develop and adopt an economic development strategy for Lancaster County. He stated that item 5 says to support and broaden tourism development efforts and item 7 says to appoint a business relations advisory committee that will aid the County in its business development commitment.

Mr. Sciacchitano referred to Initiative 3 and stated that it was entitled Strengthen Community Engagement. He stated that item 1 says to develop fact sheets for major policy issues and share them with the public and the media, item 4 says to appoint a Lancaster County Commission on the Future to craft and partner with county citizens a 2035 Strategic Plan for the County. He stated that Initiative 4 entitled Fund the Future, action item 4 says to identify all revenue sources that the County can use to finance and pay for programs and determine which revenue sources Lancaster County should utilize. He stated that to fund the future, they need to expand the tax base.

Mr. Sciacchitano showed some slides in his presentation. He stated that he had some good news and some bad news. He stated that, in the area of tourism, from 2007 to 2018, the County is higher now in tourism revenue. He stated that the unemployment rate in the County is at 4.3 percent, which is higher than the Virginia and United States average, but there is a lot of seasonal work here. He stated that the rate has improved since 2008.

Mr. Sciacchitano stated that Lancaster County has continued to lose its population, even with the Commonwealth of Virginia growing. He stated that the County continues to have less young people and many more older citizens. He stated that 24 percent of the children in the County live in poverty. He stated that the number of building permits were also down.

Mr. Sciacchitano stated that, in summary, his group feels like Lancaster County needs a strategic plan to encourage economic growth. He stated that they would encourage the County to look at tax incentives to make it competitive with other localities. He stated that they would also like the County to consider hiring a full-time Director of Economic Development and also forming a citizen committee to help develop the strategic initiatives for economic development.

3. Enterprise Zones and State and Local Incentives

Michael Locher stated that he was a Certified Public Accountant and he helps businesses pursue, identify and claim all sorts of federal, state and local tax incentives. He stated that he wanted to discuss what should be one of the County's primary economic development tools called the Enterprise Zone. He stated that the Enterprise Zone is a program that has been in Virginia for quite awhile. He stated that Lancaster County shares an Enterprise Zone with other communities in the Northern Neck. He stated that it goes as far north as Colonial Beach and as far south as the Town of Kilmarnock.

Mr. Locher stated that the Enterprise Zone can be a powerful economic development tool and he was surprised that people don't take advantage of its opportunities. He stated that the Enterprise Zone is funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development and is administered on the Northern Neck by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission and Jerry Davis.

Mr. Locher stated that the County's Enterprise Zone does not have a "carved in stone" boundary and localities are allowed to amend their boundary once every calendar year. He explained some of the grants that were available for new businesses or expanding businesses as well as businesses that have created jobs. He stated that in addition to state incentives, each locality is charged with offering a slate of local incentives to address their County's or Town's needs. He stated that the Board may want to consider what kind of incentives might coincide with the strategic plans, so if a new business wants to come into the community, there can be incentives for them that the County does not have to write a check for.

Mr. Locher stated that he would like to have a future conversation with the Board if they wanted. He stated that he helps businesses all over the state and he talks with many businesses as they look at possibly coming to Virginia. He encouraged the Board to look into some of the resources that he had provided.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had been doing some research and had found that there were four categories of tax incentives that the County could offer.

Mr. Locher stated that was correct.

Dr. Westbrook stated that there were six non-tax incentives that he had found.

Mr. Locher stated that there could be, but literally the sky is the limit. He stated that there can be many incentives. He stated that the state has some parameters, but there is some flexibility.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the County needed permission for its specific plan.

Mr. Locher replied no, but the County would want to have the incentives as part of its ordinances to make it more uniform. He stated that he had discussed this with Mr. Gill and also suggested looking at what other localities had done.

4. Lancaster County Website Upgrades

Glenn Rowe, Director of Information Technology, stated that regarding the Board's interest in seeking improvements to the County's website, he appreciated the opportunity to come before the Board to demonstrate the capabilities of the current website with a few modifications that will increase the visual appeal. He stated that the current website was redesigned and launched in March of 2016 and is a dynamic database driven website. He stated that almost all of the content is either stored in or manipulated by a central database and fed to the public through a small number of templates. He stated that it is very similar to WordPress and other similar systems.

Mr. Rowe demonstrated some of his suggested changes and stated that this was by no means a finished product. He showed that he had enlarged two photographs on the home page, but the page could have a gallery of photographs that can be changed. He stated that he had taken the photograph of the bridge, but suggested that they may want some professional pictures taken. He described some of his other changes and demonstrated them, including having a frequently asked questions section and how he had changed some colors on the pages to help draw the reader's attention to important topics. He showed the Board different sections of the website and what could be done differently, such as having more local pictures scrolling or historical information.

Mr. Rowe stated that the current website, from its initial launch in 2016, was developed using a concept known as responsive design, which means that the site works

well on smartphones, too. He stated that all of his suggested modifications would also be tablet and smartphone compatible. He showed how the website would look when viewing it from a smartphone. He stated that what he has shown are only minor modifications to the existing site and as such, could be launched literally within the hour.

Mr. Bellows stated that the website looked much more visually appealing and he thought that Mr. Rowe had done a great job. He asked if there was a way to have a social media feed on the website with this platform.

Mr. Rowe replied yes.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like to see more pictures of different places in the County under the section entitled "About Lancaster County".

Mr. Rowe stated that was possible. He stated that his recommendation would be that they hire a professional photographer to take a portfolio of pictures that can be changed out from time to time for the website.

Dr. Westbrook suggested posting the incentives for economic development that had been discussed earlier.

Mr. Rowe stated that all he needed was the content and he could make it work.

Mr. Larson stated that Mr. Rowe had done a great job with the modifications. He referred to the GIS and asked if there were still multiple layers where one could access, for example, the zoning maps.

Mr. Rowe replied that they still maintain the GIS and it is an entirely separate website. He stated that it has a number of available layers such as soils, zoning and flood zone mapping.

Mr. Bellows suggested overlaying the Enterprise Zone map on the GIS as well.

Mr. Bellows asked when can the modified website be launched.

Mr. Rowe replied he could do it tomorrow.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like for them to get more photographs, so that Mr. Rowe can use them for the website.

Mr. Gill stated that, as Mr. Rowe had said earlier, all he needs is the content. He stated that he hoped that the Board has seen that they have the expertise in-house. He stated that he could find some money in the budget to have some professional pictures done for the site.

Mr. Bellows suggested asking local photographers, such as Yours Truly, who probably already have some of the photographs they would want.

The consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Rowe launch the revised website as soon as possible.

CONSENSUS DOCKET

1. Minutes for the October 31st Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

2. Abstract of Votes – General Election for Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, Lancaster Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, Treasurer, Board of Supervisors (Districts 2, 3 and 4), School Board (Districts 2, 3 and 4), Soil and Water Conservation District Directors and White Stone Town Council Held on November 5, 2019

Recommendation: Approve abstracts as submitted

Mr. Bellows made a motion to approve the Consensus Docket. Dr. Westbrook stated that he had one word in the minutes that he would like changed and would approve with that change.

Mr. Bellows amended his motion to approve the Consensus Docket with the one correction in the minutes.

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

CONSIDERATION DOCKET

The Board considered the following items on its Consideration Docket:

1. Approval of November 2019 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for November 2019 in the amount of \$301,098.70 and invoice listings for November 2019 in the amount of \$477,231.18*.

- *Loan Payments - \$6,075.00
- *Capital Improvements - \$1,258.00

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

2. Supplemental Appropriation of Federal School Improvement Grants

Mr. Gill stated that he had included a memorandum from Whitney Barrack, the School Director of Finance, which stated that the Lancaster Primary and Middle Schools had been awarded Federal School Improvement Grant Funds totaling \$230,821.04. He stated that there are no additional local funds required to utilize these grant funds. He stated that they were reimbursable grants, as are most grants. He stated that neither Superintendent Russell, nor Mrs. Barrack could attend the meeting because of prior obligations, but he would try to answer any questions.

Mr. Larson stated that it was pretty straightforward and the schools were asking the Treasurer to enter these grants into the budget and no local funds are involved.

Mr. Gill stated that they do have to pay the expenses first and then be reimbursed.

Mr. Palin made a motion to Approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Federal School Improvement Grants.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Palin made a motion to reappoint Terrance Taylor to the Building Codes Appeals Board.

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 and Mr. Bellows attended the Rural Coastal Summit at VIMS this summer. He referred to the slide show that he was presenting and stated that in the corner of the slide was the sponsor of the summit, which was the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). He stated that VEDP was named as an entity twenty-four years ago and one of their stated goals was to make sure that every region participates in the growth of the Commonwealth, but that is not happening. He referred to another box on the slide, which said there was supposed to be practices to enhance economic development opportunities in underserved and distressed communities in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Westbrook referred to another slide concerning VEDP and stated that it says that it was formed twenty-four years ago by the General Assembly and was supposed to focus on business recruitment and expansion. He stated that the VEDP is also supposed to help businesses find the needed resources. He stated that the next slide states that the most vital resource needed is broadband and that Dominion Energy with the cooperation of the General Assembly may be able to help with that. He stated that some of the members of the board of VEDP were the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Finance for the Commonwealth, both co-Directors of the Virginia Senate Finance Committee, the Director of the House Appropriations Committee and the President and CEO of Dominion Energy.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, at the VACo conference, they heard what they are doing in Prince George County concerning broadband and they have given up on chasing grants and decided they would do it on their own with their electric cooperative. He stated that they have an arrangement with their Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and gave them a million dollars with the understanding that the IDA would give that money to the subsidiary of the electric cooperative, because as he understands it, the electric cooperative cannot provide broadband, but can have a subsidiary that will take

over. He stated that Halifax County is doing essentially the same thing with their electric cooperative.

Dr. Westbrook stated that if it is the mission of the VEDP to help businesses and to find resources for them and the President of Dominion Energy is on the board, then he thought it would be worth their lobbying both the General Assembly and the VEDP. He stated that the Broadband Authority is trying to get as many grants as possible and it is a struggle and they are also running parallel tracks with anything the electric utilities can pursue. He stated that the General Assembly did not throw up roadblocks, but they have requirements of Dominion Energy that does not make it easy for them if they wanted to help with broadband. He stated that he would like to see them join with every other county in the Northern Neck to lobby the General Assembly and VEDP to amend the legislation and take away any impediments to allow Dominion Energy to do what they would need to do to help with broadband.

Mr. Larson referred to Suzanne Novak's presentation last month concerning the County considering becoming a drone zone and stated that Ms. Novak is in attendance at tonight's meeting and he thought the discussion needed to continue. He stated that, in his past experience in Planning and Land Use, a zone meant that in a particular area, there are some things allowed and some things not allowed. He asked if that was what this was about or simply having the County classified as drone friendly. He stated that the bottom line was that he did not want Ms. Novak's request to go unanswered.

Suzanne Novak stated that she was not talking about a zone by regulatory requirement, but a marketing opportunity to impact economic development. She stated that it can help the County's message be that it is "open for business."

Mr. Bellows stated that it could be like an Enterprise Zone for drones.

Ms. Novak agreed. She stated that the County could offer incentives for drone companies.

Mr. Larson asked Mr. Cornwell if this was something that could be handled as a consideration item or as a public hearing.

Mr. Cornwell replied that he would look into it.

Mr. Larson stated that he would request that Mr. Cornwell report to them on this in December and hope to have it on the agenda in January.

Mr. Gill stated that he had talked with Ms. Novak and had thought the Board could pass a resolution simply declaring the County a drone zone.

Mr. Cornwell agreed and stated that they could follow what Allegheny Highlands did.

Mr. Larson asked if it could be handled by resolution.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Mr. Costello stated that the citizens of the County don't have a clue as to what this is about. He asked what Ms. Novak was looking to do. He stated that he thought they needed more information before moving forward.

Mr. Bellows stated that it was his understanding, that this resolution would be saying that the County is open for drone business.

Mr. Larson stated that he understood Mr. Costello's comments, but he did not want to let the issue go by without addressing it and understanding it.

Mr. Bellows agreed. He stated that the resolution can be put on the agenda for the public's review.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they had discussed earlier, a referendum to increase the sales and use tax. He asked when the next General Assembly session began.

Mr. Gill replied in January.

Dr. Westbrook asked if they needed to have something in advance, so that they might consider the increase.

Mr. Bellows replied yes.

Dr. Westbrook asked if they needed specifics.

Mr. Bellows replied that a bill has to be written and that is happening now.

Mr. Cornwell asked if they wanted to add Lancaster County to the bill.

Mr. Bellows replied that what he would like to see is a blanket authority given to every locality in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Cornwell stated that a request would have to be made to our legislators.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had no problem for the Board to send a letter or resolution to Margaret Ransone to endorse such a bill.

Mr. Gill stated that Mrs. Ransone had called him today and said that she was starting to put together her bill package for the upcoming session and asked for specifics for Lancaster County.

Mr. Bellows stated that bill concerning increasing the sales and use tax was definitely one for her to include.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought they should also see if the General Assembly might modify those regulation requirements for Dominion Energy to make it more favorable for them to be able to offer broadband.

Mr. Bellows stated that it might be a good idea to get someone from Dominion Energy to come before the Board and explain where they are in the broadband process. He stated that the General Assembly has done some things with Dominion concerning the Grid Modernization Act.

Mr. Gill stated that he would contact Dominion Energy to ask a representative to come and discuss what they are doing as far as broadband is concerned. He stated that he would convey to Delegate Ransone that at least Lancaster County, if not all of the counties, be added to the Halifax bill to allow a referendum on increasing sales tax with the increase going towards school construction.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Gill stated that all three Board members that were up for reelection are coming back for another four years. He asked if the Board wanted to have the organizational meeting in December.

The consensus of the Board was that they would like to have the 2020 Organizational Meeting on December 12th following the regular meeting.

Mr. Gill stated that he wanted to remind the Board that next week was Thanksgiving week and the offices will close at noon on Wednesday and be closed Thursday and Friday. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bellows stated that he wanted to congratulate Dr. Westbrook on completing the Supervisors Certification Course.

Mr. Gill stated that he wanted to congratulate Mr. Bellows on becoming the Second Vice-President of the Virginia Association of Counties.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to adjourn.

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

Jack D. Larson Aye

William R. Lee Aye

Robert S. Westbrook Aye