

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, January 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 and
Planning/Land Use Director
Crystal Whay, Clerk to the Board and
Building/Land Use Assistant

Mr. Bellows called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

SPECIAL CALLED OPEN MEETING

Mr. Bellows stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Board of Supervisors’ mission statements and strategic initiatives.

Dr. Westbrook made a motion to amend the agenda to allow public comment for the discussion on the mission statements and strategic initiatives.

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| 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 Board of Supervisors will accept public comment.

Nick Ferriter, a District 1 citizen, stated that he had reviewed the 2015 document concerning the mission statement and strategic initiatives. He stated that there were good ideas, but he did not think many of them had been accomplished. He stated that his objection was that the vision statement needed to be in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, stated that the Planning Commission was currently reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and he understood that they were going to wait to finish the introduction that contained the vision statement until after the review of the subsequent chapters. He stated that, in his opinion, the vision statement should be done first because it can set the tone for everything else. He stated that he thought that public comment would be important to finalizing the Board of Supervisors' mission statement and strategic initiatives.

Mr. Bellows closed the public comment period.

Mr. Lee stated that it was his thought when he attended the last Planning Commission meeting that the two groups needed to come together when discussing the vision for the County.

Mr. Bellows stated that when he looked at the listed action items, they do correlate with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Bellows stated that in 2015 the Board of Supervisors met at a retreat and went through the process of setting goals and initiatives. He stated that every Board member answered a questionnaire and they got together again that May and finalized the mission statement and action agenda items. He stated that it was his thought that they could go through the questions at tonight's meeting to see what the current Board members think about how the items relate to the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that they could put the document out for public review and take public comment at future Board meetings.

Mr. Bellows stated that the first questions was "why does the Board of Supervisors exist?" He read the following answers: the Board of Supervisors is a voice for the citizens, the Board of Supervisors addresses the public health, safety and welfare needs of all citizens, the Board of Supervisors provides oversight for county programs and services and the Board of Supervisors serves the citizens of the county by creating policies and adopting ordinances. He stated that the consensus was that the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors exists to provide for the citizens' well-being, transact county business and represent the interests of the citizens.

Mr. Larson suggested adding the word "plans" before the word "policies" in the last bullet point, so that the statement reads "The Board of Supervisors serves the citizens of the county by creating plans, policies and adopting ordinances".

Mr. Lee stated that he thought all of the points were still relevant.

Everyone agreed.

Mr. Bellows read the second question, which was “what does the Board of Supervisors produce?” He read the following answers: the Board of Supervisors produces a budget and policies for the county, the Board of Supervisors provides quality government for the citizens and the Board of Supervisors makes possible the provision of services for county residents. He stated that the consensus was that the Board of Supervisors sets public policy for the county and secures the revenue needed to provide services to county residents.

It was the consensus of the Board to keep that wording as it was.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, which was “what kind of image does the Board of Supervisors project?” He read the following answers: the public likely views the Board of Supervisors as a united body serving county citizens, the business community likely views the Board of Supervisors in a similar light and because perception is viewed as reality, the Board of Supervisors needs to foster a positive image in the county. He stated that the consensus was by developing a strategy that envisions Lancaster County’s future, the Board of Supervisors will convey a forward looking and anticipatory image.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the third bullet point and stated that he would add the word “continues” in place of the word “needs” so that the statement reads “Because perception is viewed as reality, the Board of Supervisors continues to foster a positive image in the county.”

Mr. Bellows read the next question, which was “identify the Board of Supervisors’ strengths.” He read the following answers: a. we work well together as a board, b. we respect each other, c. we are committed to doing good things for the county, d. we are responsible stewards and e. we address the needs of the entire county and just district based needs. The consensus was the addition of the word “not” to e. to read “we address the needs of the entire county and not just district based needs.”

Mr. Bellows read the next question, which was “identify the Board of Supervisors’ weaknesses.” He read the following answers: a. we need to do a better job planning for the future, b. we need to agree on a vision/direction for the county, c. we need to do a better job engaging the public in community matters, d. we need to do a better job educating the public about county government and e. we need to address the NIMBY mindset. He stated that the consensus was that, as a Board of Supervisors, we need to develop and adopt a vision/mission statement and as a Board of Supervisors, we need to engage/educate the public regarding local government matters.

Mr. Larson asked about the last item that refers to the NIMBY mindset. He stated that he knew what the acronym meant, but wanted to know what was meant by needing to address it.

Mr. Bellows replied that it was about outreach to the community, like they did during the Windmill Point Boat Ramp process. He stated that they got staff out to the

neighbors that would be affected to answer questions and try to anticipate any issues that might happen.

Mr. Lee stated that it was being proactive, instead of reactive.

There was discussion about using another term besides NIMBY.

Mr. Palin stated that the statements were given by the individual board members, while the consensus statement that follows was what was agreed upon as the answer to the question.

Mr. Bellows stated that, in the final document, the action items will be the main point. He stated that what they were going over now is considered part of the developmental phase and wouldn't be a part of the final document.

Mr. Bellows stated that his notes on this one included making a better effort to reach the public like Mr. Larson's recent town hall meeting and having a local government week by proclamation and include the schools.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, "what are two things you want to accomplish as a member of the Board of Supervisors?" He read the following answers: a. bring new business and jobs to the county, b. create/establish public access sites along the water, c. maintain the county's fiscal integrity and d. move the school system to a higher level of performance.

Mr. Lee stated that he was surprised that broadband was not included.

Mr. Bellows read the consensus statement "Lancaster County needs a strategy for economic development and education and Lancaster County needs a strategy for public access." He stated that the groundwork has been laid for these.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, "what makes you Lancaster County proud?" He read the answers: the people of Lancaster County, our community programs and activities, the sense of community that permeates the county and the fact that we live in a beautiful place.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, "what things bug you about Lancaster County?" He read the answers: the lack of good paying jobs, our declining population and we have not helped the public understand how our government works. He read the consensus statement for the previous two questions: "we are proud of our citizens, our programs and our community. However, the Board of Supervisors needs an economic development strategy to bring jobs to the county and the Board of Supervisors needs to forge a partnership with the public to help them better understand their locality and their local government."

Mr. Larson suggested the word "trouble" instead of "bug" in the last question.

Mr. Lee suggested adding another bullet point that would say “the condition of the school facilities”.

Mr. Bellows read the next question “what are the top three opportunities facing Lancaster County?” He read the following answers: the opportunity to attract new business/jobs to the county, provide public access at Windmill Point, extend broadband access across the county and develop the county-owned 30 acre Norris property on Route 3. He stated that he struck the second item, because there is now a boat ramp at Windmill Point.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the Norris property and stated that they needed to have a plan for all county-owned property and not just that one. He stated that one of those plans could be to sell the parcel.

Mr. Bellows suggested that the last statement read “develop a plan for all county-owned property.”

Mr. Bellows read the next question “what are the top three problems facing Lancaster County?” He read the following answers: we are losing population and we are aging, we lack high speed broadband, we need new/diversified businesses and jobs and we need public access to the water. He stated that he had inserted the word “more” to public access because they have already done some of that. He suggested that they also add something about upgrading school facilities to this as well.

Mr. Bellows read the next question “what issues will dominate as Lancaster County concerns for 2019-2020?” He read the following answers: the impact of declining school age population on school funding, maintaining our existing businesses and attracting new businesses, stemming our loss of population and our ability to fund needed services if revenues remain flat. He stated that he had made note that the reassessment showed some growth.

Mr. Bellows read the consensus statement “the Board of Supervisors needs a strategy focused on growing the local economy and bringing new jobs to the county. The county needs a broadband strategy. The Board of Supervisors needs a strategy for delivering services that will be needed in the future with limited revenue.”

Dr. Westbrook stated that he was not okay with the words “limited revenue”. He stated that if they create new jobs, they will have increased revenue. He suggested deleting the words “limited revenue” in the consensus statement.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought those words were placed there because at the time, they were in the middle of a recession.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they can get out of the downward spiral by taking positive actions to increase their economic prosperity. He stated that when they have

broadband they will have a better possibility of jobs and that will mean more people and the revenue stream will increase.

It was the consensus of the Board to strike the words “with limited revenue.”

Mr. Bellows read the next question “is there a consensus regarding Lancaster County’s mission/purpose as a local government?” He read the answer which was “we have a mixed view, but do agree we want the best and most efficient services for our citizens.” He read the next question “is there a consensus regarding the county’s fiscal policy?” He read the answer, which was “we are conservative and we want to provide good services.”

Dr. Westbrook referred to the previous question concerning the mission and purpose of local government and stated that, in his opinion, one of the main purposes for having this document is for the Board to determine and agree on what they are about as a government. He stated that he thought their responsibilities to the citizens they serve is to do three things and they are public safety, emergency services and education. He stated that it should be their mission to support and optimally fund those three things. He stated that it should be stated in this document.

Mr. Larson agreed and stated that they must focus on the core responsibilities of county government.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they spend a lot of money on very worthy services for non-governmental agencies that come to the Board and out of tradition, they have been helped with their funding. He stated that their work is worthy, but they are able to raise their own funds.

Mr. Lee asked if Dr. Westbrook would like to identify the three services in place of the words “efficient services.”

Dr. Westbrook replied yes. He stated that he would like the sentence to read “we agree that our core responsibilities to the public are to provide optimal public safety, emergency services and education.”

There was discussion that the word “efficient” should be left in the sentence.

Dr. Westbrook stated that they needed to have trust in the department heads of those three services to give them their budget estimates that they need to run their departments. He stated that does not mean that there is not oversight of those departments, but there is trust and transparency for everyone.

Mr. Bellows asked what the difference was between public safety and emergency services.

Dr. Westbrook replied that public safety would include the Sheriff's Department and emergency services would include the rescue squads, both paid and volunteer, as well as the fire departments.

Mr. Larson stated that they cannot leave out traditional administration because that is what carries out these things.

Mr. Bellows stated that, in his opinion, the court system would also fall under public safety.

Mr. Palin stated that he agreed with the three core responsibilities, but there are situations where they need to go farther and he did not want to narrow it down and be locked in.

Mr. Bellows stated that he did not think they have a definitive answer, but they should move on for now.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, "list in order the priority of the core services Lancaster County should offer its residents." He read the answer, "public education, law enforcement, emergency services, parks and recreation and land use."

Mr. Bellows stated that the only item that would be discretionary in that list is parks and recreation.

Mr. Larson asked about the order of priority.

Mr. Lee stated that when that list was made, they did not intend for any item to be more important than the other.

Mr. Larson suggested that they strike the words "in order" from the previous question.

Mr. Bellows read the next question, "is there a consensus regarding the county's desired future?" He read the answer, "we need a long range vision that will address our declining population, help attract jobs and enhance our education system."

The consensus was that was a good answer.

Mr. Bellows read the vision statement for Lancaster County, "The character of Lancaster County is reflected in its natural beauty, rich history, rural heritage and its relationship with the river and the bay. The promise that is Lancaster County is delivered by community, business and government leaders who work in tandem to create a legacy of healthy, beautiful places where opportunities and quality services are accessible to all citizens."

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought the vision statement was in line with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Bellows read the mission statement for Lancaster County, “It is the mission of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors to provide county citizens, businesses and visitors alike with needed public services consistent with the prudent use of public funds.”

Dr. Westbrook stated that he would like the three primary responsibilities of public safety, emergency services and education to be included in the mission statement.

Mr. Lee suggested adding a sentence to the existing mission statement to include the three responsibilities. He stated that he did not think that would lock them in and prevent them from doing anything else.

Mr. Bellows read the next item, which were the Lancaster County values. He read “integrity, respectful, stewardship, accountable, transparent, teamwork and trust.”

The consensus was that they were in agreement with those values.

Mr. Bellows referred to the next section of the document: Lancaster County Strategic Initiatives/Action Agenda 2019-2020 and stated that the initiatives are: 1-Community and Economic Well-Being, 2-Practice Good Governance, 3-Strengthen Community Linkages and 4-Fund the Future.

Mr. Bellows referred to strategic initiative one and stated that the document read “Capitalize on Lancaster County’s location, heritage, healthy mix of assets and natural resources to grow, diversify and strengthen the economic well-being of county residents and county businesses.”

Mr. Bellows read the action agenda for initiative one, “1. Support local businesses and entrepreneurs through a focused business retention and expansion program, 2. Develop and adopt an economic development strategy for Lancaster County, 3. Develop a five-year infrastructure policy plan, 4. Develop a master plan for the Norris tract on Route 3, 5. Support and broaden tourism development efforts, 6. Support efforts focused on developing value added agriculture and aquaculture enterprises in the county, 7. Appoint a business relations advisory committee that will aid the county’s business development commitment and 8. Advocate for and support a technical workforce training initiative available through the public school system and the community college.”

Dr. Westbrook referred to the third item in the list and asked how they would develop a five-year infrastructure policy plan.

Mr. Larson stated that it would be difficult.

Mr. Gill stated that they already have the five-year Capital Improvement Budget.

Mr. Larson agreed and stated that is the instrument by which the capital items are considered.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fourth item on the list and stated that he had revised it to state to develop a master plan for all county-owned property, not just the Norris property.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fifth item on the list and stated that he had added that they have supported the River Realm branding and oyster trail initiatives concerning tourism efforts.

Dr. Westbrook suggested modernizing the county website and making it more attractive to visitors.

Mr. Larson agreed and stated that it was a good website, but could be more inviting to help draw people to the county.

Mr. Bellows stated that they would add that as another action item to initiative one.

Mr. Bellows referred to item seven on the list and stated that he had made some notes that the county has an Economic Development Authority and possibly sometime in the future, someone could be hired to work on economic development in the county.

Mr. Palin stated that he agreed with hiring someone for that position.

Dr. Westbrook stated that position may eventually be possible, but in his opinion, they would have nothing to sell right now. He stated that once they get broadband and the schools that are needed, there will be something to offer.

Mr. Palin stated that he was thinking of a person who could coordinate with other localities to work together for economic development.

Mr. Bellows stated that the position could possibly be combined with the finance position in the future.

Mr. Bellows referred to item eight on the list and stated that he had made some notes concerning the STEM program, a new welding training center and Rappahannock Community College's workforce development program.

Mr. Larson stated that one of his suggestions was to talk with the local contractors and tradesmen about the possibility of apprenticeships for students.

Mr. Bellows stated that apprenticeships and things of that nature are now requirements of graduation for some students.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had added a ninth item which was “make a 21st century county designation with a goal of working with all levels of government and utilities to bring fiber level access to every home in the county within ten years.”

Everyone agreed with the statement.

Mr. Bellows stated that the tenth item would be to “update and modernize the county website.”

Mr. Bellows referred to strategic initiative two, practice good governance and read “Good governance means focusing on the county’s mission, performing defined roles and government functions effectively and being accountable to the citizens of Lancaster County.”

Mr. Bellows read the action agenda for strategic initiative two, “1. Place a Board of Supervisors’ message on the county’s website and in the local newspaper on a semi-annual or quarterly basis. 2. Develop and annually adopt a Board of Supervisors’ Code of Performance that documents the Board’s commitment to witnessing the values inherent in good governance. 3. Develop in partnership with county administration an employee staffing plan and succession plan, which reflects the county’s fiscal and public service priorities. 4. Prepare and share a state of the county score card annually. 5. Develop an annual county report, inclusive of a citizen’s guide to county government developed in partnership with Lancaster County High School government classes and share it with county residents and businesses alike. 6. Initiate discussions with the School Board and the county school system focused on finding ways to economize and streamline costs by working collaboratively. 7. Explore options for delivering county services and programs in collaboration with other public entities, as well as private sector providers, in order to stretch and/or save county funds.”

Dr. Westbrook referred to the first agenda item and asked what would the message be.

Mr. Bellows replied that he thought it would be an update of what is going on in Lancaster County and what has been accomplished.

Dr. Westbrook suggested to send messages as they do things and not wait to send a message quarterly or semi-annually.

Mr. Bellows stated that they could strike the words “on a semi-annual or quarterly basis.”

Mr. Bellows referred to the second item concerning a Code of Performance and stated that he thought that was covered with the existing Code of Conduct.

Mr. Larson referred to the third item on the action agenda and stated that this was really important and the area of staffing needed more planning. He stated that some employees seemed to have more workload than others.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fourth item on the action agenda and stated that he thought the score card idea was a good one, especially during the budget process.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fifth item on the action agenda and stated that it was about the process of educating the public on what local government does.

Mr. Larson stated that at practically every Board of Supervisors' meeting years ago, there were high school students in attendance as part of their assignments. He asked what had happened to that practice.

Mr. Palin replied that Dr. Blake, a former teacher, had retired.

Mr. Bellows stated that attendance of the meetings used to be a requirement of the former government teachers, but he did not know about the requirements now.

Mr. Bellows referred to the sixth item on the action agenda concerning discussions with the School Board and stated that the Board of Supervisors has been doing that.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had two additions to the action agenda for this strategic initiative that he would like to discuss. He stated that he would like the eighth item to be "to set an adequate tax rate to provide optimal delivery of all responsibilities". He stated that he would like the ninth item to be "to wean the non-governmental organizations from government funded dependency."

Mr. Larson referred to Dr. Westbrook's eighth item and asked him how he defined the word "adequate."

Dr. Westbrook replied that the Board covers what it needs to cover to give optimal support to its core responsibilities. He stated that if they trust the people who run those departments, then they give them what they need.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought Mr. Larson was saying that the word "adequate" is subjective. He stated that it was hard to define something that is subjective in an action item.

Mr. Larson stated that he had a problem with it being an action item because setting the tax rate was part of what they do in the budget process each year. He stated that, after presentations and deliberations, they set a tax rate that covers the budget and gives the County the seven percent reserve that the Board agreed upon. He stated that he did not see where it was necessary to use the words "adequate tax rate".

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought they could cover the funding issues with initiative four.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he did not mind striking the words “adequate tax rate” if that was what was wanted.

Mr. Bellows referred to strategic initiative three-Strengthen Community Partnerships and read “To be successful the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors must have a positive and interactive relationship with county residents and must be committed to helping county citizens gain a greater understanding of and connection with their county government.”

Mr. Bellows read the action agenda for strategic initiative three: 1. Develop fact sheets for major policy issues and share them with the public and the media, 2. Sponsor a Lancaster County Local Government Academy to help citizens learn about their county government and government operations, 3. Sponsor a Lancaster County government open house annually, 4. Sponsor a business appreciation day/week by way of a Board of Supervisors’ proclamation, 5. Appoint a Lancaster County Commission on the Future to craft, in partnership with county citizens, a 2035 strategic plan for the county and 6. Sponsor community listening sessions to learn about citizen concerns and to share information with citizens.

Mr. Bellows referred to the second item concerning an academy and stated that he thought it was something like a seminar or in conjunction with the schools.

Mr. Larson stated that he thought the word “seminar” should be used instead of “academy” to be more realistic.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he thought their outreach to the public would be greatly improved by televising their meetings on the public access channel. He stated that he would be interested in finding out what that might cost.

Mr. Bellows suggested striking the first words in the second item and saying “develop a pamphlet that educates citizens about local government and government operations.”

Mr. Palin stated that information could also be provided on the County’s website.

Dr. Westbrook referred to the second item and suggested saying “sponsor a method to help citizens learn about county government and government operations.”

Everyone was in agreement.

Mr. Lee referred to the third item concerning an open house and stated that, in the Lead Northern Neck program, someone from local government would talk with the participants each year.

Mr. Bellows suggested that they use the wording “continue partnership with Lead Northern Neck to provide lessons on local government” in the third item.

Mr. Gill stated that there was an open house daily where citizens can come in and learn what they need to know.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fourth item and stated that he thought they could partner with local shops and make a proclamation that helps to promote local businesses.

Mr. Bellows referred to the fifth item concerning appointing a commission on the future and stated that the Comprehensive Plan review should cover that.

Mr. Bellows referred to the sixth item concerning community listening sessions and stated that Mr. Larson’s recent town hall meeting was an example of doing that.

Dr. Westbrook suggested having two public comment periods, one at the beginning and one at the end of the Board meetings.

Mr. Bellows stated that they could consider that.

Mr. Bellows stated that the fourth and final initiative was called fund the future. He read the following statement: “To make the future happen in Lancaster County will require a commitment to identifying and utilizing the range of county revenue options authorized by the Code of Virginia.”

Mr. Bellows read the action agenda for initiative four: 1. Draft and adopt a fiscal policy statement for Lancaster County, 2. Develop a 5-year revenue and expenditure forecast focused on services and programs sponsored by Lancaster County inclusive of personnel, support and capital costs, 3. Add a capital maintenance component, inclusive of life cycle costs, to the Lancaster County Capital Improvement Program and 4. Identify all revenue sources the county can use to finance and pay for programs and determine which revenue sources Lancaster County should utilize.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he would like to add a statement that says to trust the department heads that manage the three primary responsibilities of public safety, emergency services and education and fund them optimally. He stated that he sees this as fundamental to funding the future.

Mr. Larson referred to the second item concerning a five-year revenue and expenditure forecast and asked if they were talking about a detailed five-year budget or more of a summary.

Mr. Bellows replied that he thought it would be a summary.

Mr. Larson stated that he thought that should be clarified.

Mr. Lee suggested adding the word “core” in front of the word “services” in the same statement.

Mr. Bellows referred to the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors Code of Performance and stated that he wanted to read it line by line to familiarize everyone with the document. He read the following: 1. Attend all regularly scheduled and called meetings as well as committee meetings relevant to your office, 2. Make a conscientious effort to be prepared for each meeting relevant to your office, 3. Maintain an attitude of courtesy toward colleagues, county staff and citizens during meetings, discussions and deliberations, 4. Be tolerant. Allow colleagues, county staff, as well as citizens, sufficient opportunity to present their views and perspectives, 5. Be respectful and attentive. Avoid comments, body language or distracting behavior that conveys a message of disrespect or lack of interest, 6. Avoid the use of abusive, intimidating or threatening language or gestures directed at your colleagues, the county staff or citizens, 7. Create a positive atmosphere during public meetings wherein citizens and county staff feel welcome and comfortable as participants and/or observers, 8. Respect, honor and adhere to all local, state and federal laws affecting your elected office, 9. Respect the principles inherent with closed Board sessions by not discussing or sharing what was discussed in such sessions with anyone, 10. Supervisors should respect the position and authority of county administration and limit requests for information to department heads directly responsible for such information, 11. Discharge the duties and responsibilities of your office in an impartial manner without fear or prejudice toward any person or group.

Mr. Bellows stated that Dr. Westbrook had added another statement to the Code of Performance. He read “Understand that each supervisor is but one of five and has no power or authority as an individual.”

Everyone was in agreement with adding Dr. Westbrook’s statement.

Mr. Bellows stated that he and Mr. Gill will put together the final document to present to the Board of Supervisors at next month’s meeting.

Mr. Gill stated that he thought that because there were two vision statements, one for the Board of Supervisors and one for the Comprehensive Plan, it might be confusing. He suggested having just one vision statement.

Dr. Westbrook suggested the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission having a joint meeting to discuss the vision statement.

Mr. Lee stated that, after the last Planning Commission meeting, he thought it might be a good idea for both groups to get together to discuss the vision statement.

Mr. Palin suggested that the Planning Commission look at the Board of Supervisors’ vision statement as well.

Mr. Gill stated that the Planning Commission had decided at its last meeting, that the Comprehensive Plan introduction would be revisited after the entire review was finished.

Mr. Bellows suggested that Mr. Gill arrange a meeting with the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors an hour before the regular Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, February 21st, if everyone was agreeable.

Mr. Gill stated that he would contact the Planning Commission members.

Mr. Bellows called a brief recess until 7:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Charlie Costello, a District 2 citizen, stated that he had been a volunteer in the school system for over twenty years. He stated that he had witnessed tensions between the prior School Boards and the Boards of Supervisors over the years. He stated that, in his opinion, the current school superintendent is the best that the County has had in twenty-five years. He stated that he understood now that Dr. Parker's contract might not be renewed and, in his opinion, the contract needed to be renewed. He stated that he thought the Board of Supervisors, individually as citizens of the County, need to make sure that the best is done for the County and help to assist in renewing his contract.

Bill Warren, a District 3 citizen, stated that he wanted to echo what Mr. Costello had said. He stated that when he heard that Dr. Parker's contract might not be renewed, he was shocked. He stated that he had spoken with approximately forty community leaders and couldn't find one person that did not think that Dr. Parker was doing a great job. He stated that they were all in disbelief at the idea that Dr. Parker's contract might not be renewed. He stated that he was alarmed and saddened and he thought it would do tremendous harm to the County.

Mr. Warren stated that he had written a letter to the School Board expressing his concerns. He stated that the County needs new or renovated schools desperately and the timing of this situation with Dr. Parker, in his opinion, could make the Board of Supervisors want to consider a "time-out" and see what the new superintendent would have to say on the subject. He stated it would hinder the process. He asked the Board of Supervisors to consider anything that they could do to intercede individually or possibly as a board to stop this process. He stated that he would greatly appreciate it.

Jack Neal, a Weems resident, stated that he wanted to speak on behalf of his friend, Steve Parker. He stated that he was in charge of the Verlander Foundation that currently has 148 students in college. He stated that over 600 children from the County have benefited from the Verlander Foundation over the years. He stated that approximately seven million dollars has been spent since 2001 on these students'

education. He stated that, until Dr. Parker became the County's school superintendent, not one of the other superintendents was ever interested in the Verlander Foundation and what it did. He stated that Dr. Parker is responsible for good things happening at the school, like the Early College Academy. He stated that Dr. Parker is well respected in his field and he hoped that the Board of Supervisors could help in keeping him in the County.

Chris Braly, a District 5 citizen, stated that originally he came to speak and show his support for new school facilities and is against renovating the existing school buildings. He stated that the operational costs will be much higher if they try to renovate instead of build new buildings. He stated that he would also like to show his support for Dr. Steve Parker. He stated that a lot of good things have happened since Dr. Parker became the school superintendent.

Jamilah Sawyer, a District 3 citizen, stated that she was representing the Lancaster County Virginia Education Foundation. She stated that there were seventeen people on their board and they feel very strongly about supporting new school facilities in a campus setting as proposed. She stated that she supported Dr. Parker and all of the work that he has done for the schools.

Neill Shultz, a District 4 citizen, stated that he wanted to show support for the construction of new schools. He stated that he was a former student of Lancaster schools and he thought they needed to be replaced years ago. He stated that he liked the combined campus idea as well.

Mary Posey, a District 3 citizen, stated that she wanted to show her support for new schools, but mainly her support for a great superintendent, Steve Parker. She stated that she had written down some things that make a great superintendent, which are a clear vision for the district, an instructional leader, effective communicator, good manager and listener, flexible and well respected by administration and teachers. She stated that to not renew Dr. Parker's contract would be devastating for the community. She stated that the new schools would also be pushed back farther. She stated that morale will decrease as well.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Broadband Authority Update

Kevin Bean, a member of the Broadband Authority, stated that since the last Board of Supervisors meeting, they have had two meetings with two Board members each concerning the status of the cable television franchise license. He stated that the Broadband Authority has opened a public funds account at Chesapeake Bank. He stated that the Broadband Authority would like to make a modest request of \$1000 for start-up

expenses. He stated that, earlier in the month, the Authority gave the Economic Development Authority a presentation and requested \$30,000 to help the Broadband Authority with funds for a grant match. He stated that the request was granted. He stated that their website has had some technical issues, but they were working on it.

Mr. Lee asked when the Broadband Authority would be receiving the \$30,000 from the Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Gill replied next week.

Mr. Lee asked what the \$1000 request would be used for.

Mr. Gill replied the money would be used for administrative expenses. He stated that he could find the money in the existing planning and land use budget if the Board approved.

Mr. Palin made a motion to grant the \$1000 request for the Broadband 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 he had attended the Local Government Day with VACo at the General Assembly earlier in the day. He stated that they went over some bills, including HB 2961 put forth by Delegate Quinn that will establish a pilot program that requires both Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power to submit proposals to the State Corporation Commission to provide or make available broadband capacity to non-governmental internet service providers in areas of the Commonwealth that are underserved. He stated that, under the program, the utility will expand available internet capacity in conjunction with their plans to modernize the electric grid by installing fiber optic telecommunication cables between generation transmission and distribution points. He stated that this was something he wanted to bring to the attention of the community.

Jim Cornwell, County Attorney, stated that his recommendation to the Board of Supervisors was to issue a request for proposals for cable television services and perhaps work with the Broadband Authority to get it issued. He stated that the proposal would be independent of broadband services. He stated that the County needs a cable television franchise, even if it is with the existing company. He stated that they have been provided with, in his opinion, a generic agreement from Atlantic Broadband.

Mr. Bellows asked if the County could take the agreement and add or delete what it wants in the agreement and tell Atlantic Broadband that if it does not accept it, they will issue a request for proposals.

Mr. Cornwell stated that the negotiating process is at a stalemate. He stated that he would rather issue a request for proposals and if Atlantic Broadband wants to participate, then it will.

Mr. Larson stated that he would support the RFP process as long as broadband services were included.

Mr. Cornwell stated that what he was suggesting was a request for proposals for the television service, broadband service and any other services that the provider wishes to propose. He stated that the County needs to authorize the RFP to be issued.

Mr. Lee made a motion to authorize a Request for Proposals for cable television service, broadband service and any other services that the provider wishes to propose for Lancaster County.

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

2. Update on Existing School Facilities Condition

Mr. Bellows stated that there have been many comments made in the past about sick buildings and maintenance costs on the existing school facilities. He stated that he had asked the School Board Chairman to ask Dr. Parker to give the Board of Supervisors an update on the buildings and projected maintenance costs, so they can plan accordingly.

Dr. Steve Parker, Lancaster County School Superintendent, stated that he had handed out to the Board a list of deferred or non-projected maintenance, which will eventually need to be done to the existing school buildings.

Mr. Lee asked if the repairs on the list needed to be done right away.

Dr. Parker replied not all of them. He stated that the items on the list have not been put on the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that the total for all of the items listed is \$4,891,000 with \$213,000 for the primary school, \$2,050,000 for the

middle school and \$2,198,000 for the high school. He stated that this is what has been deferred or not projected while they wait on a master plan.

Mr. Larson stated that one of the things that prompted the Board of Supervisors to ask Dr. Parker for this information were the comments made at his town hall meeting three weeks ago that the school buildings were sick. He stated that he wanted to get to the bottom of it, because while they may disagree on how they go about renovating facilities or providing new facilities, they will agree that they need to deal with any situation that may jeopardize the health of anyone in the buildings and he would like some clarification.

Dr. Parker stated that he had heard the same concerns, specifically about the primary school as being a sick school. He stated that they do not have higher student or staff absences at the primary school. He stated that, last December, they had two independent air quality tests performed and the air quality was fine. He stated that they have radon remediation pumps in nine classrooms and also run several dehumidifiers.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the air quality was fine because of the measures being taken with the dehumidifiers and pumps.

Dr. Parker replied yes.

Mr. Larson asked if any statement made that our schools are sick and exacerbating existing respiratory problems or causing respiratory problems would be incorrect.

Dr. Parker stated that he would say that they have no evidence of that in their testing.

Dr. Westbrook stated that a true statement is that the school is sick, but undergoing treatment.

Dr. Parker stated that would be a true statement. He stated that the existing data supports that they have remediated any potential risks.

Mr. Larson stated that he thought it was important to say that they are taking the actions necessary to make sure that these problems do not exist right now.

Dr. Parker stated that was correct.

Dr. Westbrook asked if they could continue to defer the items on the list while they go through the process for new schools. He stated that he understood that some of the items would have to be completed regardless of the timeline.

Dr. Parker replied that the roof at the middle school will have to be replaced because it is past its useful life. He stated that he believed that the drains are lined with

lead and the lead is eroding which is a potential issue. He stated that is an approximate two million dollar fix.

Dr. Westbrook stated that the point is that some money will have to be put into the existing schools to make them as safe as they can while the new schools process is going on.

Dr. Parker agreed and stated that they were trying to conserve as much as they could.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the roof replacement for the middle school will be on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Dr. Parker replied no because they may be able to make do until they have a master plan. He stated that they are patching it as often as needed.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Robert Harper, VDOT Superintendent, stated that they have completed the installation of the pipe on Route 222 (Weems Road) and plan to surface treat the area next week.

Dr. Westbrook asked about the progress on the intersection between the two pharmacies in Kilmarnock.

Mr. Harper replied that Steve McKeever, the VDOT Residency Administrator, attended a meeting recently in Fredericksburg and learned that the intersection project did not make the Smart Scale project list.

Dr. Westbrook asked if there was anyway that a locality, such as the Town of Kilmarnock, could get a waiver or supercede VDOT, so that the turn lane could be restored.

Mr. Harper replied that would be a question for the district engineers in Fredericksburg. He stated that he could have them contact Mr. Gill concerning the issue.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he would just like a solution. He stated that VDOT set the requirements for the intersection and it was built to VDOT standards and then trucks that were making the turn on James B. Jones Memorial Highway were running over the curb at Walgreens and killing the grass. He stated that, rather than moving the curb, VDOT eliminated the turning lane onto Route 3. He stated that anything that Mr. Harper could do would be appreciated.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had been asked by some residents on Windmill Point Road for a speed study through the 45-mile per hour zone and potentially expanding it to

Oyster House Road. He asked if the information from the speed studies was available to the public.

Mr. Harper stated that he would get that speed study done and the information from the speed study would be available to the public.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Application for Change of Zoning District Classification – Carter Financial Corporation

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

Mr. Gill stated that the issue was an application for change of zoning district classifications from R-2, Residential to C-1, Commercial, Conditional by Carter Financial Corporation for a recently subdivided 4.282-acre portion of Tax Map #28-86. He stated that this property is part of the former King Carter Golf Course and is located adjacent to the Lancaster County Youth Club Ball Park off Irvington Road in District 4.

Mr. Gill stated that the Planning Commission has forwarded this request to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for approval.

Mr. Gill stated that the applicant wishes to sell this subdivided parcel to an existing business in the county, which has outgrown its current location and wants to relocate to this site, but cannot do so under the current R-2 zoning. He stated that, as a result, the applicant seeks to rezone this parcel to C-1 Commercial and to help his request, he has also taken the list of permitted uses in the C-1 District and lined through the unwanted ones. He stated that the applicant has indicated that he will present a signed and notarized copy of the list to the Board of Supervisors to formalize this conditional rezoning request.

Mr. Gill stated that this parcel is the site of the maintenance building for the former King Carter Golf Course. He stated that there is an existing paved entrance off of Irvington Road, an existing paved access road to the facility, as well as ample paved drives and parking areas around the facility. He stated that there is an existing vegetative buffer along the access road and around the building, as well as an earthen berm on two sides of the building. He stated that the parcel has an existing septic tank and drainfield and is connected to the Town of Kilmarnock water supply. He stated that the 160 feet by 60 feet structure contains offices, bathrooms and a kitchen, as well as ample conditioned workspace with overhead doors and concrete floors. He stated that the existing structure is well suited for the proposed use.

Mr. Gill stated that he had included the rezoning application, GIS map, aerial photo, surveyed plat of the subdivided area and the C-1 District list of permitted uses with undesired uses highlighted and lined through in the Board members' packages.

Mr. Gill stated that staff believes this rezoning request can be considered reasonable and appropriate given the fact that nearby parcels have business or commercial uses. He stated that this parcel is directly across the road from a similar shaped C-1 parcel that was rezoned on August 25, 2016 for a small service/repair shop. He stated that the parcel is located within a half-mile of two commercial properties: a C-2, Commercial Limited property, which is Nationwide Insurance Company and a C-1 Commercial property, which is Moubray/Savoy Boat Repair and Service, which was rezoned to C-1 on July 31, 2014. He stated that, in addition, the Dreamfields Ballpark is adjacent to the proposed rezoning parcel. He stated that the parcel is also located in close proximity to the Lewis General Repair Shop, which is an authorized non-conforming use on an R-1 parcel and Shear Pleasure and Progressive Insurance, which are R-1 parcels that received Special Exception approvals for professional offices. He stated that the parcel is also located in close proximity to the County Refuse Site for the Kilmarnock area and Ransone's Nursery and Maintenance Headquarters, which is an authorized non-conforming use on an A-2 parcel. He stated that there are other C-1 Commercial properties at the intersection of Weems Road and Irvington Road as well as two C-1 parcels off Harris Road.

Mr. Gill stated that the Comprehensive Plan suggests that commercial activity be located in or near the towns and in or near traditional village areas. He stated that this parcel is less than a mile from the Kilmarnock town limits and is within the county's Primary Growth Area, the triangular shaped area between the three incorporated towns of Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone.

Mr. Gill stated that the Planning Commission held its public hearing on this request at its January 17, 2019 meeting and has forwarded it to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for approval by a vote of 5-0-1.

Mr. Gill stated that adjoining property owners had been notified and advertising conducted as required by law and to date, there had been no input from the public.

Mr. Bellows opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Bellows closed the public hearing.

Mr. Lee made a motion to Approve the Application for Change of Zoning District Classification from R-2, Residential to C-1, Commercial (Conditional) on the subdivided 4.282-acre portion of Tax Map #28-86 and Accept the Proffered Conditions.

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

Jack D. Larson	Aye
William R. Lee	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

CONSENSUS DOCKET

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

1. Minutes for December 4, 2018 Special Meeting and December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting and Organizational Meeting

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

2. Wetlands Board Activity Report 2018

Recommendation: Approve report as submitted

3. Board of Zoning Appeals Activity Report 2018

Recommendation: Approve report as submitted

4. FY 19 School Budget Supplemental Appropriation Request for Approved Capital Improvement Local Match Funds and Non-County Funds Received from the Virginia Department of Education School Security Equipment Grant Program

Recommendation: Approve request

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 December 2018 and January 2019 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for December 2018 in the amount of \$283,194.32 and invoice listings for December 2018 in the amount of \$883,967.76*.

*Capital Improvements - \$446,664.96

Mr. Palin continued his motion to approve the salaries for January 2019 in the amount of \$285,025.27 and invoice listings for January 2019 in the amount of \$1,596,550.38*.

*Loan Payments - \$752,374.50

*Capital Improvements - \$269,186.24

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 Setting a Joint Meeting Date with the School Board to Receive the VMDO Architects Report on the Proposed New Schools Study

Mr. Gill stated that the School Board has not suggested any dates, yet.

Mr. Bellows stated that they can table the issue until they get some dates to choose from.

Mr. Gill asked if the Board of Supervisors would like to come up with some dates to offer the School Board.

Madison Franks, a Rappahannock Record reporter, stated that the School Board is having VMDO present the plans to the public on February 5th.

After discussion, Mr. Bellows asked Mr. Gill to see if the School Board could meet on Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the VMDO plans.

Mr. Lee asked what would be presented on February 5th.

Dr. Parker replied that there was a public meeting on Tuesday, February 5th at the middle school and the architects will present their schematic design of their master plan, but will not have a price tag attached. He stated that they will be seeking public input. He stated that the price is expected to be given to the School Board at its February 12th meeting. He stated that the costs will be shown in phases.

3. FY 19 Budget Mid-Year Review and Consideration of Supplemental Appropriations for the following: Board of Supervisors Health Insurance - \$6,864 and Board of Equalization - \$5,000

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

Mr. Gill stated that he wanted to discuss the FY 19 Budget Mid-Year Review and the consideration of two supplemental appropriations. He stated that he had provided, in the board members' packages, the FY 19 Budget Synopsis page with a column containing the FY 19 Adopted Revenues and Expenditures and a far right column added to show where they stand half way through this fiscal year. He stated that the handwritten numbers to the left of each category correspond to highlighted amounts located within the detailed revenue and expenditure summary that follows the synopsis page.

Mr. Gill stated that the figure of \$3,274,064 that they are starting FY 19 with is the audited figure. He stated that figure is \$426,158 more than what was projected during the budget process. He stated that this gives them 10 ½ percent for the reserve.

Mr. Gill stated that, generally speaking, half way through the fiscal year, one would expect to have collected at least fifty percent of anticipated revenues and spent no more than fifty percent of approved expenditures. He stated that for the broad categories listed on the synopsis page, the totals suggest that we have collected seventy-one percent of anticipated revenues and spent forty-three percent of approved expenditures. He stated that specific departments have been highlighted in the detailed revenue and expenditure summary, so it can be seen how each department is doing half way through the year.

Mr. Gill referred to the Capital Improvement Budget and stated that the Board of Supervisors amended it through the purchase of the Animal Control vehicle and the purchase of the forklift for the Solid Waste and Refuse Department.

Mr. Gill went through the detailed budget summary and how it corresponded with the synopsis page. He stated that Mr. Larson had asked about the other local taxes and charges for fire and rescue services and if those revenues were low for

this point in the fiscal year. He stated that he had spoken with the Treasurer about it and she said that she did not see anything abnormal there.

Mr. Gill stated that Mr. Larson had asked about the victim witness grant reimbursement and why it was zero at this point in the fiscal year. He stated that the County gets reimbursed once a year and that will come in July.

Mr. Gill referred to the Revenue Anticipation Note that the County borrowed in August to help cash flow until tax collection time and stated that the Treasurer had told him that, according to the Uniform Financial Reporting Manual because the County is a government entity, that principal amount should be shown on the revenue side. He stated that it is zeroed out now because the loan was paid off in December. He stated that the money was borrowed at less than two percent interest and the Treasurer invested it at a higher rate, spent it as needed and earned some money on it. He stated that there were expenses associated with the loan, such as with Sands and Anderson and Davenport and Company, but the net expense was \$5,219.

Mr. Larson stated that, with all due respect to the Treasurer, he disagreed with a loan being considered revenue.

Mr. Gill referred to expenditures and stated that the Board might want to look at the convention and education line item as well as the mileage line item. He stated that this Board has taken advantage of more educational opportunities than prior Boards. He stated that they were okay now, but would need to continue to watch those figures and possibly consider a supplemental appropriation later.

Mr. Gill referred to the books and subscriptions line item under County Administration and stated that they had found that some Fair Labor Standards Act literature and posters needed to be updated, so that is the reason behind the increase there.

Mr. Gill referred to the legal services line and stated that there was almost ninety percent remaining in that category, which was very good.

Mr. Gill went through each department reviewing the percentages of approved expenditure funds remaining for each. He stated that another department which may need future consideration for a supplemental appropriation is the Solid Waste Department, since those expenses are dependent upon the volume of waste generated which tends to increase when the economy improves.

Mr. Gill stated that one Board member decided to join the county's health insurance plan after the budget was adopted, but nothing was budgeted under the Board of Supervisors "Hospital/Medical Plan" line. He stated that, as a result, a supplemental appropriation needs to be made in the amount of \$6,864 to correct this situation.

Mr. Gill stated that the Board of Equalization has been appointed by Circuit Court Judge McKenney to hear appeals regarding the recent reassessment, but nothing was budgeted for this when this budget was adopted. He stated that, as a result, a supplemental appropriation needs to be made in the suggested amount of \$5,000 to correct this oversight. He stated that he suggested \$5,000 because the last Board of Equalization met seven times and each of the five members was paid \$100 per meeting which equals \$3,500 for compensation. He stated that the Board of Equalization will also need to place various advertisements in the Rappahannock Record, so he estimated \$1,500 for that, which totals \$5,000.

Mr. Larson stated that he thanked the Board for supporting him when he advocated the idea of having a mid-year review of the budget. He stated that he thought it was very important and helps to set them up for the budget work that will begin next month. He stated that he would also like to commend Mr. Gill for his work and the level of detail that he had provided.

Mr. Lee stated that the presentation had been done well.

Mr. Larson made a motion to Approve the Supplemental Appropriations for the Board of Supervisors Health Insurance in the amount of \$6,864 and the Board of Equalization in the amount of \$5,000.

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. Larson stated that he held a town hall meeting three weeks ago and he felt like it was successful and well attended. He stated that it was a lively exchange of ideas, concerns and thoughts. He stated that there were some things that have come out of the meeting that he plans to move forward with. He thanked Mr. Bellows and Mr. Lee for attending.

Mr. Bellows stated that he thought it was a great meeting.

Mr. Larson stated that he wanted to commend Madison Franks with the Rappahannock Record because she covered the meeting very well.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he did not attend the town hall meeting because he was concerned about it being a public meeting if more than two supervisors were there.

Mr. Larson stated that they did not make any decisions during the town hall meeting.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he understood that if public business is discussed with more than two supervisors, then it is considered a public meeting.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he was aware of the town hall meeting, but was not aware that more than two Board members would be in attendance.

Dr. Westbrook stated that the possibility is that there will be more town hall meetings, so the Board members need to know if they can attend as part of the crowd and do more listening than talking.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he thought he should give his answer in writing for everyone's safety.

Mr. Larson stated that he considered it no different than attending the VACo conference.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he agreed with that analysis. He stated that his understanding was that Board members participated in the discussions and not just listened.

Mr. Larson stated that was correct.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he thought they could resolve the issue and he will put something in writing.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he would like to read his written comments:

“As many of you know, I served on the School Board for 4 years and I remain as deeply committed to the fate of our children's education as I am deeply committed to the future of Lancaster County!

I applaud those of you who have spoken out tonight about your concerns and those who have written letters to the editor about the suspicions, unrest and turmoil within our community. I feel compelled to share with you my concerns not only as a citizen, but also as a Supervisor elected to do what I believe is best for those I serve.

I have known Dr. Parker since our School Board hired him almost 5 years ago. Over the years I have come to know and admire the abilities and the true character of Dr. Parker and I realize the inestimable value of this man to our children, to our school division and to our community. I agree with those who spoke tonight that he is far and

above the best Superintendent we could possibly have in Lancaster County and I am deeply committed to the present well-being and the future fate of Dr. Parker.

I wish my words could allay the fears of those of you who are suspicious of the motives of some members now serving on the School Board but I cannot, for I have been witness to some small pieces of the puzzle and they trouble me greatly. I have sought advice-and I have been advised- to not engage in innuendo or supposition, myself, so here are seven facts you can verify:

Fact #1: If you read Madison's front page story in the January 17th edition about some parents' concerns expressed at the January 8th School Board meeting you will note the last sentence in the article states, "Board Chairman Audrey Thomasson later indicated Dr. Parker's contract is up for renewal; however, a decision has not yet been made."

Fact #2: Our Chairman, Mr. Bellows, called me on or about January 3rd and told me that the School Board Chairman, Ms. Thomasson, had phoned to advise him that Dr. Parker's contract would not be renewed. Note that this was approximately 5 days before that January 8th School Board meeting.

Fact #3: Madison also wrote a companion article on page 2 of that paper that accurately reports what was said by a School Board member concerning her opinions on racial diversity. It was an accurate article but sometimes the written word does not adequately convey the passion of the speaker. If you want to hear her vehemence for yourself take a flash drive to the School Board Office and ask the FOIA officer for a copy of the audio tape of that January 8th School Board meeting. You will hear approximately seven minutes of her slandering Dr. Parker's accomplishments and denigrating our schools' academic ratings and our students' academic performances during his tenure.

Dr. Parker's leadership is unfavorably compared to our previous Superintendent, Dr. Lukich, solely because there are no African-Americans presently employed as administrators as the central office and none are serving as a school principal.

These types of comments favoring people based on their skin color are totally inappropriate for anyone to make, but are especially egregious for a sitting School Board member to state publicly in front of school employees, teachers and staff, and most shamefully, parents sitting with school-aged children!

Fact #4: Here is what you will not hear on the tape: You will not hear the Chairman of any other Board member chastising her or calling her to task for inappropriate comments. You will not hear any of them expressing their opinions regarding the relative importance of skin color as it relates to competence or caring or character or as it influences a person's teaching or administrative abilities or qualifications.

Fact #5: While you are at the School Board office, also ask the FOIA Officer to make a copy of the budget portion of the January 29th workshop meeting and listen to the

School Board Chairman’s questioning of Dr. Parker’s dissertation regarding Early Childhood Intervention, a program that we initiated under Dr. Parker and that has shown its value with every cohort.

Fact #6: All of Dr. Parker’s evaluations have rated him as HIGHLY EFFECTIVE. I signed three of them as School Board Chairman and the fourth one was signed by Ms. Thomasson not quite three months ago, when he earned a score of 4.9/5.

Fact #7: There is a legal process whereby citizens can sign petitions that will ask the court to remove elected officials from office and the court will comply if the facts warrant that action.

I have shared these facts with you publicly because I sincerely hope that our newspaper will write an expose and inform their readership of what is going on to the detriment of our Superintendent, our children’s future and our county.”

Mr. Bellows stated that there were two bills before the General Assembly that are related to the replacement of the Norris Bridge. He stated that they are Senate Bill 1749 and House Bill 2784. He stated that it was basically setting up a special transportation fund to pay for major infrastructure projects. He stated that, considering this was a major impact to our localities, he would like for the Board of Supervisors to support these bills.

Mr. Lee made a motion to Support Senate Bill 1749 and House Bill 2784 concerning the Norris Bridge.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Gill stated that he wanted to give the Board an update on the anti-littering initiative. He referred to the littering signs and stated that the ten sign locations have been approved by VDOT and the signs have been ordered. He stated that each sign will cost \$124.71 and are expected to arrive around the third week of February. He stated that the County maintenance staff will install the signs. He stated that he has also updated Judy Ripley.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the County’s ordinance stated that it was illegal to have trash that is not confined, such as trash blowing out of the back of a pickup truck.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he could not answer the question off the top of his head. He stated that he believed the state law says that the load shall be confined, but he would have to check on it.

Mr. Gill stated that Matt Smith, Chief of Emergency Services, wanted to make sure that each Board member received the Emergency Operations Plan draft that was emailed to them. He stated that it would need to be adopted by March 31st. A few of the Board members had not received it. He stated that he would resend the document, so they could discuss it at next month's meeting.

Mr. Gill stated that, last July, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a new ambulance to help support the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad. He stated that the ambulance has been delivered to Richmond and should be in the County next week. He stated that Chief Smith thinks having the new equipment will help with volunteer recruitment and retention.

Mr. Gill stated that he had several requests to have the American flag and the Virginia flag displayed in the meeting room. He stated that he could find the money for that purchase if it is the wish of the Board.

It was the consensus of the Board of Supervisors to approve the purchase of the American flag and the Virginia flag for display in the meeting room.

CLOSED MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. Lee 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 Legal Matters, § 2.2-3711.A.8 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.8 (for the consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.)

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 January 31, 2019 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Personnel, § 2.2-3711.A.1 and Legal Matters, § 2.2-3711.A.8 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. Bellows 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.

Actions taken:

Mr. Bellows made a motion to amend Section 5 of the County Administrator’s contract to correct a typographical error regarding carryover of unused annual leave which should read 140 hours, instead of days, to match the county personnel policy.

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

Mr. Bellows made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation to the salary line of the Sheriff’s Office budget in the amount of \$6,337 to equalize pay for deputy positions not funded by the State Compensation Board after a recent pay increase for State Compensation Board funded deputy positions created the inequality.

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

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