

**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, March 29, 2018.

- Members Present: William R. Lee, Chair  
Jason D. Bellows, Vice Chair  
Jack D. Larson, Board Member  
Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Board Member  
Robert S. Westbrook, Board Member
- Staff Present: Don G. Gill, Assistant County Administrator and  
Planning/Land Use Director  
Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Assistant  
Jim Cornwell, County Attorney

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Recognition of 2018 State Champion Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team

The Board presented plaques to the Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team. Mr. Lee congratulated the team and stated that the Board was honored to have the team at its meeting.

**Recognizing the 2018 State Champion  
Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team**

**Whereas**, the 2018 Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team was the Northern Neck District Regular Season Champions and Tournament Runners-Up, and Region 1A Tournament Champions, qualifying for the Virginia High School League Group 1 State Championship Tournament; and

**Whereas**, the 2018 Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team finished their season with 22 wins and 6 losses, culminating as the Virginia High School League Group 1 State Champions; and

**Whereas**, the 2018 Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team was led by Head Coach Tim Rice, Assistants Coaches Jason Williams, Troy Henderson, Javonte Smith and Mark Saunders and consisted of the following student athletes:

# 1	Calvin "Charlie" Henderson	Center/Forward
# 2	Corey "CJ" Smith	Guard
# 3	Terence "TJ" Frisby	Guard
# 4	Christian Sutton	Guard
# 5	Terren Hardin	Guard/Forward
# 10	Jamond Thompson	Guard/Forward
# 11	Santese Ball	Guard
# 12	Jalen Forrest	Guard/Forward
# 20	Javion Robinson	Guard/Forward
# 21	Martez Davis	Forward
# 23	Darius Reed	Guard/Forward
# 24	Tae'Shawn Veney	Guard/Forward
# 25	Arik Clayton	Guard/Forward
# 30	Benjamin "BJ" Lee	Forward

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Board of Supervisors of Lancaster County hereby recognizes the exemplary dedication and determination of, and expresses its admiration to, the 2018 Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team for the outstanding accomplishments attained this season culminating as the Virginia High School League Group 1 State Champions; and

**Be It Finally Resolved**, that a copy of this resolution expressing the sense of the Board of Supervisors of Lancaster County on this matter be conveyed to the Lancaster County School Board, the Lancaster High School Athletic Director and be spread upon the meeting minutes of said Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to adopt the Resolution Recognizing the 2018 State Champion Lancaster High School Boys Basketball Team.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Gene Underwood, a District 1 citizen, stated that he was representing the Greenvale Creek Maintenance Association. He stated that he wanted to update the Board on the re-opening of Greenvale Creek. He had a presentation, which included the history. He stated that the United States Corps of Engineers indicated in September 2016 that the Rappahannock River portion of Greenvale Creek had been experiencing shoaling. He discussed the dredging efforts that had been completed over the years. He stated that, after the survey, the Coast Guard notified the County that the aids to navigation would be removed in Greenvale Creek. He stated the removal of the aids was done in June 2017 and the Greenvale Creek Maintenance Association replaced the aids with civilian aids shortly thereafter.

Mr. Underwood stated that in June 2017, the Greenvale Creek Maintenance Association started the joint permit process to extend the existing jetty and do another dredging project. He stated that, in December 2017, the permits were approved and the jetty was extended. He stated that from late February until almost the end of March, the dredging job was on-going. He stated that, today, the Corps of Engineers did the post dredging survey and they hoped to have those results the following week. He stated that the survey will either confirm or deny that they have the necessary depth for a navigable channel. He stated that, if it does not have the depth, the dredging company has agreed to stay in place and repair any discrepancies. He stated that another dredge survey may also be required.

Mr. Underwood stated that after those things have been accomplished, they plan to ask the Coast Guard to replace the aids to navigation, since it was a federal channel. He discussed future plans for buoys and a replacement sign for the Greenvale Creek Boat Launch sign. He stated that his group is very thankful for the help that has been provided by the County.

Judy Ripley, a District 1 citizen, stated that she represented the Littering is Illegal in Lancaster initiative and spoke about it at last month's Board meeting. She stated that she was impressed because she was used to government agencies being hard to reach and hard to get responses from, but this Board has been wonderful and she hoped it continued. She stated that she was pleased that some of the Supervisors have driven around the County to see the littering problem. She stated that she was just informed that there is an announcement in the local paper that listed the littering penalty and she hoped that would continue to run. She stated that punishing the littering violators could be a source of revenue and she hopes that the initiative does not fade. She thanked the Board for its attention to the issue and stated that she would be watching.

Laura Stoddard stated that she lived in the upper part of the County and hoped that the Board members had seen her letter to the editor in the Rappahannock Record approximately three weeks ago. She stated that the letter was based on a February 25<sup>th</sup> event in which her husband was having heart attack symptoms. She stated that she called 911 and about fifteen minutes later a medic showed up and began doing an EKG, administering medicines and determined that a helicopter was needed to get him to a facility. She stated that an ambulance also showed up as well. She stated that they all did a wonderful job, her husband was flown out to a facility where he underwent an operation to clear a blockage. She stated that, after that incident, she found out that the County was reducing the level of medic services, so she wrote her letter to the editor and the next day, Chief McGregor called her. She stated that Chief McGregor told her that the level of care is the same, but the level of service has been decreased. She asked Chief McGregor to explain the statement. She stated that after awhile, her interpretation was that the medic van was parked, the medic is put on an ambulance and the van is not being used during the day, so there is one less emergency vehicle available in the County during the day. She stated that Chief McGregor had told her that he had informed the Board of Supervisors of the change with a memo before the change occurred. She stated that she asked for a copy of the memo and received it. She stated that she believed the memo stated that the van was parked, but it was not clear.

Mrs. Stoddard stated that medics are able to provide advanced life support. She stated that they are able to administer medications, they can make triage calls and can bring in helicopters if needed. She stated that this level of care started in 2012. She stated that the first time her husband and she experienced this level of care was in 2014, when it was determined that he needed to be flown to a hospital in Richmond. She stated that the fact that level of service has been reduced is disturbing. She stated that she has needed to call 911 two more times since she wrote her letter to the editor.

Mrs. Stoddard stated that the change means that there are two emergency ambulances to cover the County and if there is a third emergency, they have to wait. She stated that the County's demographics have shown that it is one of the oldest median age counties in the country and we are rural. She stated that does not mean they should have a lower than acceptable level of care. She stated that the County now has less emergency response vehicles serving the public than it did six years ago. She stated that the first priority of this County should be the safety and protection of its citizens. She stated that fiscal responsibility was critical, but to cut emergency responders to save the budget as a first response was unacceptable. She stated that Chief McGregor's organization was staffed with wonderful and talented people and she thought she could thank them for saving her husband's life. She stated that the County's volunteers are incredible, too. She stated that she found the memo and the way it was introduced without public input or knowledge was disturbing. She stated that she was frustrated that after her letter to the editor and her calls and the fact that the Board of Supervisors was aware of the situation a month ago, the situation was still not fixed. She stated that she was present at the meeting because her family needs these services and she was also there because there are citizens in this County that do not know that the emergency service vehicles have been reduced during the day.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought the entire Board agreed with Mrs. Stoddard and they just had a lengthy conversation with Chief McGregor prior to the meeting. He stated that he believed some of it was a communication issue and they have a better understanding than they did just a couple of hours ago.

Mr. Palin stated that he wanted to let Mrs. Stoddard know that her remarks are being heard and he thanked her for her time.

George Bott, a District 1 citizen, referred to the sign identifying the Greenvale Creek Boat Launch and stated that he had spoken to Robert Harper with VDOT about it last July and was put in touch with someone in the signs department, who stated that the sign would be replaced last November. He stated that the latest update is that the sign may be replaced this spring.

Mr. Bott stated that today, by the Governor's Proclamation, was a day set aside in Virginia for the recognition of Vietnam veterans. He also stated that he would like to see the American flag displayed in the meeting room.

Howard Kyzer, a District 3 citizen, stated that if it were not for the Rappahannock Record, he did not know if he would ever know what is going on in the County. He asked if it had been decided whether or not they would be building all new schools.

Mr. Lee replied that the final decisions had not been made.

Mr. Kyzer stated that, if the decision had not been made and it would be the largest debt at the feet of the Lancaster County taxpayers, shouldn't they be asked if they want to go down that road. He asked if the Board thought it should go through the referendum process. He stated that three Board members could vote to bury the County in debt. He stated that a referendum would be the right way to do it.

Mr. Palin stated that the Board was in the beginning stages of discussing the schools.

Mr. Kyzer suggested a more conservative answer for the schools, such as building one school at a time, pay for it and then move on to the next. He stated that would be better than burying the County in forty years of debt.

Mr. Lee stated that several options have been discussed, including the referendum.

Mr. Kyzer stated that he thought the real estate tax rates would explode. He stated that he thought the citizens of the County should have a say in something so expensive.

Dr. Westbrook asked if Mr. Kyzer was aware of the two years' worth of public meetings with the facilities committee that happened around the County that tried to inform the public of the state of our present schools and what was possible with building

new schools. He stated that he believed Mr. Kyzer was one of the people who spoke at one of those meetings and had agreed that new schools were needed, but not sure how they would be paid for.

Mr. Kyzer stated that he thought he had said that he would like to see a more conservative approach and replace the worst building, pay for it and move on to the next one. He stated that way the ages of the schools would be staggered and the County would not be in the same position forty years from now with the schools all the same age and outdated.

Dr. Westbrook stated that there was another consideration and that was that quality schools was one of the main drivers of economic prosperity and the state of our economy would be improved and the tax base would be increased. He stated that they can plan for the future or just keep going like they have been going with a diminishing population to pay the same taxes. He asked Mr. Kyzer which he would rather do.

Mr. Kyzer stated that he disagreed with Dr. Westbrook about putting the schools before the jobs.

Dr. Westbrook stated that every study showed that quality schools were the number one driver for economic prosperity and employment opportunities are number two.

Mr. Kyzer stated that our neighbor, Northumberland County, recently built new schools. He stated that Northumberland County had many similarities to Lancaster County, such as sharing the Chesapeake Bay, the same service oriented economy and the same poor salaries. He stated that there had been no influx of people, or businesses, or small manufacturers since the schools were built and the school population is still down this year. He stated that was Northumberland's "after" and we were talking about Lancaster's "before". He asked someone to explain that.

Kenya Moody, a District 2 citizen and School Board member, stated that she had children who attend the public schools. She stated that she owned property and vehicles in Lancaster County and paid taxes on all of it. She stated that about a year or two ago the County passed the no boat tax issue and there was no referendum done on that. She stated that no one's opinion was asked about that. She stated that there was no referendum on the new courthouse, either and she thought that everyone should be able to voice their opinions on everything.

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Lee stated that he had received a call earlier and there were no representatives available from the Virginia Department of Transportation at the meeting.

Mr. Larson asked if Mr. Gill would contact VDOT concerning the branches, fallen trees and debris, especially along Route 201. He stated that he thought more effort needed to be put into clearing the edges of the road.

Mr. Lee asked if Mr. Larson was referring to the storm debris from a few weeks ago.

Mr. Larson replied yes.

Mr. Gill stated that he would contact Robert Harper about the issue.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**CONSENSUS DOCKET**

Mr. Bellows made a motion to approve the Consensus Docket and recommendations.

Mr. Larson stated that he would like one minor correction on the fifth statement on page thirteen of the March 13<sup>th</sup> minutes. He asked that the word “he” be struck and the words “the judge” be inserted in its place. He stated that would make the sentence clear that it was the judge who asked for the increase in the contribution and not himself.

Motion was amended by Mr. Bellows to include Mr. Larson’s requested correction.

1. Minutes for February 22, 2018 Joint Budget Work Session with School Board and Regular Meeting and March 13, 2018 Budget Work Session

Recommendation: Approve minutes as amended

2. Affirmation of Declaration of Local Emergency on March 2, 2018

Recommendation: Approve affirmation as submitted

3. Sheriff’s Office – Transfer and Appropriation of Funds from the K-9 Account to the Drug Enforcement Account

Recommendation: Approve as submitted

4. Request to “Release” an American Chestnut Tree on County Owned Land

Recommendation: Approve the request

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye

Robert S. Westbrook Aye

**CONSIDERATION DOCKET**

The Board considered the following items on its Consideration Docket:

1. Approval of March 2018 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for March 2018 in the amount of \$276,292.18 and invoice listings for March 2018 in the amount of \$592,508.07\*.

\*Loan Payments - \$4,872.09

VOTE: William R. Lee Aye

Jason D. Bellows Aye

Jack D. Larson Aye

Ernest W. Palin, Jr. Aye

Robert S. Westbrook Aye

2. Resolution Approving the Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update

Chief McGregor stated that for the Board's consideration was the draft of the Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for 2017. He stated that, as the memorandum advised, this was required under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 in order for localities to qualify for certain hazard mitigation grant programs under the Stafford Act and the Flood Insurance Act. He stated that it was a regional collaboration between all of the counties and incorporated towns on the Northern Neck. He stated that, in January, they received approval from FEMA and now present it to the Board for its consideration.

Chief McGregor stated that he understood there were some concerns about the list of names included in Table 1-1. He stated that the names reflect the people who were on the committee at the time the document was drafted. He stated that to address those concerns, he thought it would be appropriate to create an addendum and insert it with the correct contact information of the respective personnel,



including the current Board of Supervisors and County staff. He asked if that would be acceptable.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought that should be done.

Chief McGregor stated that he would make those changes. He stated that he can insert the page between the title page and the table of contents.

Dr. Westbrook stated that all that was needed was to include a sheet with the corrections, the date and who made the corrections. He stated that every government document he had seen has that.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he was opposed to the plan because there is no useful information in it and it was obviously a bureaucratic requirement. He stated that, in his opinion, the government strong arms the localities so they can be eligible to apply for grant money at a later time. He stated that he was willing to accept it as a historical document of how they arrived at this piece of paper.

### **Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update**

**Whereas**, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop, adopt and update natural hazard mitigation plans to receive certain federal assistance, and

**Whereas**, a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) comprised of representatives from the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland and the towns of Colonial Beach, Irvington, Kilmarnock, Montross, Warsaw and White Stone was convened to study the risks from and vulnerabilities to natural hazards and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the Northern Neck region; and

**Whereas**, a request for proposals was issued to hire an experienced consulting firm to work with the LEPC to update the *Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update*; and

**Whereas**, the efforts of the LEPC members and the consulting firm of Dewberry, in consultation with members of the public, private and non-profit sectors, have resulted in an update of the 2011 Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, including Lancaster County.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** by the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors that the *Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update* is hereby approved and adopted for Lancaster County.

Mr. Lee made a motion to Adopt the Resolution Approving the Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017 Update.

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

### 3. Treasurer’s Office – Revision of Investment Policy

Bonnie Dickson, County Treasurer, stated that she was presenting a new investment possibility for the County. She stated that she did not invest in it right away, because all that was available were long-term investments of two-years, five-years and longer. She stated that, unfortunately, Lancaster County doesn’t have the excess funds to invest for that long of a term. She stated that the Virginia Investment Pool is now offering a short-term option called the Stable NAV Liquidity Pool. She stated that the investment allows for immediate access to funds when and if needed.

Ms. Dickson stated that a couple of years ago, she was able to get very good rates from two of the local banks at .6 percent, which at the time was a good rate. She stated that with this new option, as of February, the rate of return was 1.55 percent and a more recent email stated that the rate had increased to 1.75 percent. She stated that she could not ignore those rates. She stated that she just needed the Board’s approval for the change to the investment policy.

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had attended the VACo Supervisors’ Forum last weekend and asked a question about school funds, which are left over at the end of the year and whether or not it was legal to put that money in a special fund for the schools to have the following year with the Board of Supervisors’ blessing. He stated that, after speaking with Beau Blevins, Director of Government Consulting at VML/VACo Finance, he had found out that the County can have subfunds. He stated that, if the school funds could be placed in a subfund for them to use the following year, it would be huge.

Dr. Westbrook asked what the interest rate was on the Poorhouse Tract funds.

Ms. Dickson replied that the Poorhouse Tract funds were currently in a three-year certificate of deposit which will be up for renewal this year and she would be negotiating that rate again.

Mr. Palin made a motion to Approve the Revision of the County’s Investment Policy.

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

4. Formal Presentation of Proposed FY 19 School Budget

Dr. Steve Parker, Lancaster County Public Schools Superintendent, stated that the budget was the same one that was presented at the joint work session in February. He referred to the expenditure summary sheet and stated that the total budget expenditures proposed for FY 18-19 were \$16,859,039. He stated that amount included the instruction amount of \$11,836,595 and represented a 3.29 percent increase. He stated that the total also included \$293,668 in attendance and health, which was a decrease of almost 6 percent. He stated that the figure for administration was \$644,832, which is a 9.87 percent increase, \$1,222,396 for pupil transportation, which was a 6.43 percent increase, \$1,657,465 for maintenance, which was a 6.93 percent increase. He stated that they had no debt service. He stated that the figure for technology was \$543,877, which is a decrease of 7.67 percent. He stated that the school nutrition fund was \$548,320 and the textbook fund was \$120,988.

Dr. Parker referred to the revenue summary sheet and stated that nearly four million dollars in revenue were coming from state funds, \$893,763 was coming from federal funds and \$11,277,662 from local funds, which is an increase of \$505,410. He read the school food funds totals and the textbook funds totals. He stated that the total revenues added up to \$16,859,039. He stated that revenue estimates were based on Governor McAuliffe’s proposed budget, which has been forwarded by Governor Northam for the General Assembly’s consideration. He stated that the General Assembly was returning on April 11<sup>th</sup> and hopefully cast their votes on April 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he was not very optimistic that they will see anything come out of the General Assembly for the Governor’s signature before May. He stated that the caveat was that there was about a \$278,000 difference between what they would get under the Governor’s proposed budget versus the Senate version. He stated that his guess was that they would come down somewhere in the middle, but it was all up in the air right now.

**BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Larson made a motion to nominate William (Bill) Clark to the Building Codes Appeals Board as the District 1 representative.

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

Dr. Westbrook stated that he had two items for the Board’s consideration. He stated that his comments were rather long, so he asked for indulgence while he read from his notes in hopes that he would have less of a chance of making a mistake.

Dr. Westbrook stated that as an assignment for the Supervisors’ Certification Course he attended on March 16<sup>th</sup>, he had been reading the County’s Comprehensive Plan. He stated that, to paraphrase Dr. Michael Chandler, Professor Emeritus of Virginia Tech and the course director, the Comprehensive Plan is supposed to bridge the gap from where we are to where we want to go. He stated that the plan will eventually go under review by the Planning Commission this coming fiscal year, but the copy he had was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2013 from a 2012 review of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. He stated that, interestingly, it stated the following: Given the fact that the economy has been stagnant since the 2007 update, it was determined that the issues raised during that review are still applicable today. He added that they have been consistently admonished by our own Comprehensive Plan for the past eleven years to “Pursue economic development and increase the number of jobs with benefits and higher paying opportunities.”

Dr. Westbrook stated that every study shows that the two main drivers of economic prosperity for any community were quality schools and employment opportunities. He asked, after eleven years, where were they in this pursuit. He stated that in regard to quality schools, the quality of our students’ academic performance and achievements is continually improving, sometimes remarkably so, and deserves our heartfelt thanks to our teachers; to Dr. Parker and his administration and staff; to our wonderful volunteer mentors and tutors; and to the School Board for their tireless dedication as they champion our students’ present needs and their future success. He stated that the quality of the physical plant itself was a question that this Board will soon decide.

Dr. Westbrook stated that regarding the second driver, which were employment opportunities, Chapter 7 of our Comprehensive Plan is titled *Land Use and the Economy*. He stated that page 28 of that chapter specifies that: “Absolutely essential to the creation of any employment opportunities is the provision of high-speed internet service throughout the County.” He stated that, for years, we have relied on a regional approach to achieve adequate broadband coverage for our County, but an exhaustive review of the minutes of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission’s Broadband Committee and those of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission itself will reveal that, a. the many meetings that have been held over the years on this subject have yielded little progress, and b. broadband efforts have stalled at the

regional level. He stated that he believed it was time to take on this vital issue at the County level. He stated that he had emailed each Board member information regarding individual efforts that were taking shape within the County regarding broadband and he believed it was incumbent upon them to gather and consolidate all of this information in a useful form if they are to ever fulfill the officially stated desire of increasing our economic prosperity. He referred to Chapter 7, page 34 and stated that they were directed to “name citizen groups to help implement various elements of the Plan.” He stated that he, therefore, asked that they form a Lancaster County Broadband Advisory Group as soon as possible by taking the following steps: 1) He proposed that they ask persons to serve on an informal broadband committee and that we 2) charge them with reviewing the by-laws of similar organizations successfully formed in Fauquier County and Louisa County and 3) present to us no later than our regular May meeting recommendations for by-laws that we could discuss and approve and 4) incorporate into the formal implementation of a Lancaster County Broadband Advisory Group. He stated that he would be happy to put that in the form of a motion if the Chairman so desired.

Mr. Lee referred to the committee and stated that he felt all of the Board members should have input on who was asked to be on the broadband committee. He stated that each member would need to come up with some names and that could not be done at the meeting tonight.

Dr. Westbrook stated that the idea could be sanctioned tonight.

Mr. Bellows suggested following something similar to the boat tax committee from a couple of years ago.

Mr. Lee stated that if all the Board members were in favor of forming a committee, that could be accomplished tonight. He stated that he thought they should have ten days or so to come up with some names for suggested committee members.

Dr. Westbrook stated that at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, he was sure that the topic of suggested names for the informal broadband committee could be included on the agenda.

Mr. Lee stated that he had no problem with that suggestion and Mr. Bellows agreed.

Dr. Westbrook made a motion to name citizens to an informal committee to research by-laws of a possible broadband advisory group and bring those names to our next meeting on April 11, 2018.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye

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

Dr. Westbrook stated that, in his opinion, the BoardDocs presentation and the budget presentations that they have experienced have pointed out a distinct need for better visual clarity and resolution for all electronic presentations provided to them and intended to be seen by their constituents and the general public who sit in the audience. He stated that he knew from personal experience sitting in the audience that he could not read the budget material projected on the screen that was behind the Board. He stated that he could not recently read what was on the screen in front of them and was glad that he had a paper copy to follow along. He stated that Mr. Gill, Mr. Rowe and he met Monday with a local audio-visual expert to learn what might be done to accomplish the objectives of better resolution and clarity of electronic presentations for the Board and the audience. He stated that the gentleman made very straightforward recommendations and Dr. Westbrook stated that he had asked for an estimate for those recommendations-knowing that it would require the full Board's approval for Mr. Gill to contact two other appropriate providers of this service to receive additional estimates.

Dr. Westbrook stated that it was his personal hope that the Board could agree on the worthiness of this project for them and their constituents and that they would decide to improve the renovations to be made and the enabling equipment to be installed as soon as possible for the benefit of all participants during future presentations.

Mr. Gill stated that the audio-visual person that was contacted was the same person who installed the current equipment in 2011. He stated that he received an estimate of the proposed work yesterday, which included a larger television with better resolution to be placed in front of the Board, a new projector with better resolution and a larger screen. He stated that the estimate totaled \$7600. He stated that he had spoken with the Information Technology Director, Glenn Rowe, and stated that Mr. Rowe thought a lot of the work could be done in-house which could possibly save up to \$3,000.

Mr. Bellows asked if the estimate included recordings or videos of the meetings.

Mr. Gill replied that the meetings are already audio recorded. He stated that they did discuss potentially video broadcasting the meetings over the public access channel, but two cameras would be needed and they are not included in this estimate.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would like to see what their options are with broadcasting the meetings.

Mr. Lee stated that they wanted to keep in mind that they are in the budget process and were asking everyone to cut their budget. He stated that he did not think it was the time to spend money on this.

Dr. Westbrook asked what good was it if a citizen was sitting in a public meeting and could not see a thing that the Board was talking about. He stated that they were there for the citizens.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought it was a good idea, but probably not a good time during the budget process.

Dr. Westbrook stated that there was no difference between saying that they wanted to do it for the public now or six months from now.

Mr. Bellows stated that regardless whether they do it or not, they can look into it and investigate the options and possibly put it on the Capital Improvement Budget. He stated that it did not need to be done this year.

Mr. Larson stated that he shared Mr. Lee's concerns. He stated that he did not see how they were going to get where they need to be in the first place.

Mr. Bellows stated that BoardDocs may possibly save money.

Mr. Palin stated that he agreed with Mr. Lee. He stated that he was not in favor of spending more money when they are asking individuals and organizations to trim their budgets. He stated that he is receiving calls from his constituents asking him to please not raise their taxes and he would not be in favor of raising taxes, so they need to balance the budget and not add any more expense to it.

Mr. Lee stated that Mr. Bellows made a good point to research the issue and he had no problem with that. He stated that he did not agree with spending more money at the present time.

Dr. Westbrook stated that all he was talking about was doing the research and asking other people for their opinions. He stated that then a discussion could be had considering all options.

Mr. Lee stated that they would ask Mr. Gill to look into the issue.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he has represented many counties and you don't have to reinvent the wheel. He stated that all counties have their way of recording its meetings and displaying information to the public and they would be happy to show Lancaster what works for them.

The consensus was that Mr. Gill and his staff would explore ideas for improving the meeting room equipment.

Mr. Palin referred to solar farms and stated that he thought they should try to get ahead of the curve and start thinking about them. He stated that he thought it would be in front of them sooner than later.

Mr. Bellows asked if there were any ordinances pertaining to solar farms.

Mr. Gill replied that solar farms would only be permissible today under the M-1 Industrial zoning.

Mr. Bellows stated that he had heard that Northumberland County was looking into solar farms.

Mr. Gill stated that he could contact Stuart McKenzie in Northumberland County and see what they are doing concerning solar farms.

Mr. Larson suggested asking the Planning Commission to research the issue.

Dr. Westbrook stated that, as a result of the Supervisors' Certification Course that he had attended, it seemed obvious to him that it would be very beneficial if they offered to the Planning Commission at least a one-day course in what a Planning Commission was supposed to be about and how planning and land use has evolved over time. He stated that they could contact Dr. Chandler to see if he would come to the County to teach the course. He stated that if we decide it is a good idea, then possibly the Planning Commissions for all three incorporated towns, along with the County's Planning Commission, could possibly all participate together.

Mr. Lee stated that he thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Cornwell stated that he had taught the course himself. He stated that Dr. Chandler teaches a two-day course, but could probably condense it into one day.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the Board would like him to email Dr. Chandler about the idea.

Mr. Lee stated that he would like for Dr. Westbrook to consult with Dr. Chandler about his schedule and the idea of a course being taught in the County.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Gill stated that the littering announcement was in the Rappahannock Record in today's edition based on the input that was presented last month in the public input session. He stated that he tried to find the most pertinent points to include in the ad. He stated that he will continue to run the ad as long as the Board desires. He stated that Ben Lewis, the Assign-a-Highway coordinator at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission had sent him the January and February totals of trash that his group,



which include people who have been assigned community service, had collected. He stated that Lancaster County is third out of the four counties in tonnage collected. He stated that he will be giving Mr. Lewis one road from each of the districts once a month to add to the pick-up list and will take suggestions from any of the Board members. He stated that during his travels each month when he delivers Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors' packages, he has become more aware of the trash along the side of the roads and was taking notice, so he can make suggestions to Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Larson asked about littering signage.

Mr. Gill replied that the quickest thing to do for signs was to possibly add a hang-on sign to our Welcome to Lancaster County signs at Chinns Mill, at the Norris Bridge in White Stone and on Route 200 coming in from Northumberland County. He stated that he did not have the estimates for the hang-on signs yet, but will be checking into it.

Dr. Westbrook asked if the Sheriff was on board with this initiative.

Mr. Gill replied yes.

Dr. Westbrook asked if someone was behind a truck in which trash was blowing out and they called the Sheriff's Department to report it, does the department have the manpower to respond to such a call.

Mr. Larson stated that he didn't know, but there are deputies on the road at all times, so it wouldn't hurt to call.

Mr. Lee stated that he had spoken to Sheriff McCranie about the issue and he was willing to work with them and to punish the offenders.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to enter into closed meeting to discuss matters exempt from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The subject matters to be discussed in the closed meeting are Real Property, § 2.2-3711.A.3, 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.3-Acquisition of Real Property (for the discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose (proposed school capital project), where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body), § 2.2-3711.A.1-Personnel (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-Legal Matters (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:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	Jack D. Larson	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Robert S. Westbrook	Aye

**RECONVENE**

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

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

**CERTIFICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors convened in a closed meeting on March 29, 2018 pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss Real Property, § 2.2-3711.A.3, 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. Lee called the question. A roll call vote was taken:

ROLL CALL

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

This certification resolution is adopted.

Mr. Lee asked the County Attorney, Jim Cornwell, to summarize the proposed land purchase contract.

Mr. Cornwell stated that the Board of Supervisors was considering a contract to purchase Tax Map #23-33, consisting of 156.59 acres owned by Howard W. Beale, for \$795,000 for the purpose of future public schools and other public access opportunities. He stated that he had reviewed the contract and recommended that the last sentence of statement 3 be removed, since it gave Mr. Beale the ability to terminate the contract, at will, by returning the deposit, regardless of expenses incurred by the County performing its due diligence prior to closing.

Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the contract, contingent on Mr. and Mrs. Beale agreeing to the removal of the last sentence in statement 3 by 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2018.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Bellows to adjourn.

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