

A REGULAR MEETING WAS HELD BY THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 14TH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 6:00 P.M.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thomas W. Evelyn called the meeting to order. He welcomed those in attendance as well as those joining virtually.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

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| Thomas W. Evelyn | Present |
| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Present |
| Patricia A. Paige | Present |
| Ron Stiers | Present |
| John N. Lockwood | Present |

All members were present.

IN RE: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Paige gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented as follows:

1. Minutes
 - a. April 12, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes
 - b. April 28, 2021 Work Session Minutes
 - c. May 10, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes
2. Miscellaneous
 - a. Approval of Easements for Extension of Water & Sewer Services South on Route 106
 - b. Approval of Agreement for Sherwood & Whitehouse Water Storage Tank Renovations
 - c. Approval of New Development Street Names for FONK Land Bay 1, Section 4
 - d. Pine Fork Park Change Order Approvals
3. Refund
 - a. REFUND – Real Estate Tax – Veteran Exemption
4. FY21 Supplemental Appropriations
 - a. Animal Shelter Donations, \$540.
 - b. Gifts & Donations to Fire/EMS (\$1,765) and to Victim Witness (\$50), \$1,815.
 - c. Funds Received from VRSA Insurance, Sheriff - Claim # 02-20-36927-1-AP DOL 4/13/21 (\$1,471.08); Claim # 02-20-37453-1-AP DOL 4/20/21 (\$1,032.50); Claim # 02-20-37282-1-AP DOL 5/10/21 (\$1,772.55);

Claim # 02-20-32821-1-AP DOL 8/4/20 (\$150); Claim # 02-20-36414-1-AP DOL 3/10/21 (\$446.24), \$4,872.37.

- d. Veterinarian Expense Restitution Received, \$2,259.27.
- e. Sheriff Extra Duty - Colonial Downs 3/26/21 - 4/3/21 (\$1,768.96), Scene Security 8/19/20 (\$132.20), Colonial Downs 4/9/21 - 4/16/21 (\$1,326.72), Half Marathon 5/1/21 (\$3,394.20), Colonial Downs 4/23/21 - 5/1/21 (\$1,768.96) and New Kent High School 4/3/21 (\$387.54), \$8,778.58.
- f. Farmers Market Registration Fees, \$460.
- g. Central Virginia Transportation Authority Funds, \$326,692.78.
- h. Vending Machine Sales - Sheriff's Office (\$23.51) and Administration (\$75.55), \$99.06.
- i. VDCJS Body Worn Camera Grant - (Local Match in Kind -\$3,645), \$3,645.
- j. Additional Funds Received from DSS, \$1,646.

\$350,808.06 - Total
(\$18,824.28) - Total In/Out - General Fund (1101)
(\$3,645.00) - Total In/Out - Grants (1106)
(\$1,646.00) - Total In/Out - Social Services (1201)
(\$326,692.78) - Total In/Out - Capital (1302)

- 5. FY 21 Interdepartmental Budget Transfers
 - a. Administration - From Reserved for Contingency to Professional Services, \$100,000 (Salary Study).
 - b. Administration - From Reserved for Contingency to Contract Services, \$2,600 (tent and portable toilet rental for primary election).
 - c. Human Resources - From Reserved for Contingency to Printing and Binding, \$6,000 (New Kent Safety Manual).
 - d. Information Technology - From Salaries & Wages - Regular to Hospital/Medical Plans, \$6,500 (for new position added 1/2021).
 - e. Information Technology - From Reserved for Contingency to GIS Equipment, \$5,000 (Maptitude GIS Software for redistricting).
 - f. Public Utilities - From Sherwood Backup Well (\$35,650) and From BB Cary Well Replacement (\$38,904), \$74,554 to Water Storage Tank Replacement, \$74,554 (Sherwood Estates/Whitehouse Farms Tank Replacement).
 - g. School Board Office - From Appropriation of Funds from Prior Years, \$87,878 to Student Services (\$22,878) and to Basin Pond (\$65,000), \$87,878.
 - h. School Board Office - From Appropriation of Funds from Prior Years to HS HVAC Repair, \$30,000.
 - i. Sheriff's Office - From Sheriff-Fire Arms Range Construction to Sheriff-Electronic Summons Software, \$67,937.55.
- 6. FY 22 Interdepartmental Budget Transfers
 - a. Information Technology - From MIS Upgrades to Surveillance Cameras, \$225,000.00.
- 7. Treasurer's Report: Cash as of April 30, 2021, \$69,671,990.27 including escrow funds.

Mr. Tiller moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and that it be made a part of the record. The members were polled:

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| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Aye |
| Patricia A. Paige | Aye |
| Ron Stiers | Aye |
| John N. Lockwood | Aye |
| Thomas W. Evelyn | Aye |

The motion carried.

IN RE: CITIZENS COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Evelyn opened the citizens comment period and provided brief instructions. He called New Kent County Public Schools (NKCPs) Superintendent Dr. Brian Nichols of 5056 Kings Pond Court, Providence Forge to the podium. Noting this had been one of the toughest years in education, Dr. Nichols thanked the Board and stated NKCPs could not have accomplished what they had without the partnership when it came to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), vaccinations and utilizing the high school as a vaccination center. He noted the County was building a new elementary school in the middle of this pandemic and reported he had recently visited the site and the project was on target and under budget. He also expressed appreciation for the Board fully funding the NKCPs FY22 budget request. He reported an individual speaking at a recent School Board meeting had suggested Superintendents coming to New Kent would leave for some place bigger and better. He had been offended by this comment and stated, "you can find some where bigger but you are not going to find better." He reported the School Board had recently discussed an extension to his contract and he had jumped at the opportunity. He and his family had chosen to establish deep roots and a firm foundation by buying a home in New Kent. He reminded the Board that one of the first meetings he had attended in New Kent had been a Board meeting in this very room where he had promised partnership with the Board. He thanked the Board for that partnership which he stated had been returned ten-fold. He added that he had come from a large district and bigger was not always better. He noted if the Board's offices were anything like his, they probably didn't have many dropping by just to say thank you. He closed by stating, "I'm "all in" in this community and "all in" in this partnership." He thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Evelyn thanked Dr. Nichols for his comments and closed the citizens comment period.

IN RE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) – RESIDENCY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

VDOT Resident Administrator Marshall Winn noted a written report on items completed over the past thirty days had been provided and reported on a variety of work at various locations including pothole/asphalt/sinkhole repair, grading gravel roads, shoulder repairs, pipe repair/replacement/cleaning, ditching, tree removal, grass moving and litter pickup. 49 work orders had been received and 30 completed. There had been six emergency after hours call outs involving sinkholes, dead animals and nails in the roadway, washouts and limbs hanging over the roadway. The first cycle of primary route mowing had been completed and crews were now working on secondary roads. He also reported there had been some success on Farmers Drive with 32,082 feet of pipe having been cleaned and 7 miles of ditches having been pulled. Three crews had worked together on this project and he felt it had been successful. Pavement marking on Olivet Church Road had also been

completed. Patching was ongoing on Route 60 and once complete, this section would be paved. He noted this would leave one more section to be paved the following year.

Mr. Winn drew attention to the Project Development portion of the report.

- A Smart Scale shoulder widening (shared use path) project for Route 155 from Route 249 to Kentfield Parkway was currently in utility relocation and had been advertised the previous week. This project was estimated to start in late September or early October.
- Latex modified surfacing on Route 249 was expected to begin in the next month. Slurry Pavers had begun patching operations in early May in preparation for this project.
- A contract for additional resurfacing on Route 60 had been awarded to Allan Myers. A pre-construction meeting had been held on May 4th.

Mr. Winn also reported he had met with Mr. Lockwood and Chief Deputy Lee Bailey the previous week in regard to the speed limit change on Route 30. Signs posting the new 50 MPH speed limit as well as "Reduced Speed Ahead" signs had been ordered.

Board members provided the following comments and reported the following concerns:

Mr. Stiers thanked Mr. Winn for being present and for all of the work VDOT was doing. He reported recently speaking with Area Superintendent Joe Tarry regarding the removal of trees along the western edge of Route 155. The subject property had recently been timbered and several remaining trees were leaning into the roadway. He was hopeful to coordinate with VDOT and Dominion Energy (temporary power disconnection) to have them removed. The logger would come back to remove the remaining trees and the New Kent Sheriff's Office would be on standby to close the road during the removal. Mr. Stiers reported he had received many calls about these trees and would like them removed as soon as possible. Mr. Winn indicated VDOT would be prepared to assist.

Mr. Tiller thanked VDOT for the quick response to repair potholes he had recently reported. He asked if there were any updates on pending work on Henpeck Road. Mr. Winn reported VDOT had received the pipe and the work would probably be done in July. He noted the pipe size would be increased and, as a result, the road surface would also be raised.

Ms. Paige indicated she had nothing to report.

Mr. Lockwood expressed appreciation for the recent work on Farmer's Drive. He reported this had been an incredible improvement and thanked the crews involved. He also thanked Mr. Winn for recently meeting with him and Chief Deputy Lee Bailey regarding new speed limit signage in the Barhamsville area.

Mr. Evelyn noted he had nothing to report and thanked VDOT for being present.

IN RE: CENTRAL VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Before the Board for consideration was a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) and New Kent. County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reported the 2020 General Assembly had created the CVTA and the agreement before the Board involved the distribution/use of CVTA funds under Chapter 1235 of the Code of Virginia. The CVTA was administering funding generated through the imposition of an additional 0.7 percent sales and use tax (began in October 2020) and a wholesale gas tax of 7.6 cents per gallon of gasoline and 7.7 cents per gallon of diesel fuel

(began in July 2020). 50% of revenues would be returned to the locality in which it was collected. 35% of revenues would go into a regional transportation fund and 15% of revenues would go to the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC). New Kent had received a little over \$1.3 million to date and was averaging \$160,000 to \$180,000 per month. The majority of New Kent's CVTA revenue was derived from gas tax and the monthly average was expected to increase during the summer months. The agreement indicated funding could be spent on staffing, road improvements, maintenance and new road projects. The agreement also noted an annual report and certification would be required. Mr. Hathaway noted the New Kent Financial Services team had been participating in CVTA Finance Committee meetings and would be taking care of these requirements. He reported New Kent should have no problem meeting the reporting requirements and he was recommending the Board approve the Agreement. All nine CVTA localities were being asked to adopt the same Agreement. He entertained questions.

Ms. Paige reported the CVTA had established a policy board and Assistant County Administrator Justin Stauder was serving as New Kent's representative. She further reported she would be serving on an ad hoc committee to consider setting up additional personnel including an Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director and Finance personnel. The policy board would be establishing financial guidelines for localities and projects would be funded based on priority. She pointed out the Agreement included a provision for 15% of the funding to go to GRTC. She noted our area was currently served by Bay Transit but noted this funding would result in a greater connection to GRTC which may lead to a way to connect New Kent residents with Richmond, Petersburg and Hopewell.

Mr. Lockwood stated it would be critical to have a clearly defined process/priority to be sure the funds were utilized properly. He specifically noted funds should not be utilized for areas considered to be a part of VDOT's maintenance/repair responsibilities. Mr. Evelyn agreed and asked Mr. Hathaway who would be formulating the project priority list. Mr. Hathaway reported staff was working on a process to bring before the Board at a later date and the CVTA was working on a ranking process which he indicated New Kent would want to mirror. He also noted the County's Board of Road Viewers could be used as a tool for citizen engagement and be tasked with developing a priority list of projects to be considered. He also envisioned the County hiring a Transportation Planner and noted the salary for this position could be funded by CVTA funds. This position would serve as staff support to the Board of Road Viewers as well as be responsible for reporting and project management.

In response to Mr. Lockwood's comment, Ms. Paige noted a criteria and a ranking process would be in place. She also reminded everyone that I-64, which was a hurricane evacuation route running through the County, was in need of widening. She added that although 35% of the funding would be going directly to CVTA, they may look to the locality to provide some funding in support of this project.

Ms. Paige moved to direct the County Administrator to execute the proposed Central Virginia Transportation Authority Memorandum of Agreement. The members were polled:

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| Patricia A. Paige | Aye |
| Ron Stiers | Aye |
| John N. Lockwood | Aye |
| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Aye |
| Thomas W. Evelyn | Aye |

The motion carried.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF NEW VIRGINIA COMPENSATION BOARD ALLOCATED POSITION
FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reported New Kent had received notice from the Virginia Compensation Board after published notice for the FY22 Budget public hearing, that the Sheriff's Office would be receiving additional funding in the amount of \$35,149 for law enforcement personnel. Because this notice had been received late in the budget process, the decision had been made to hold on making a decision until after budget adoption. He noted acceptance of this funding was totally at the Board's discretion and there were two options for how the funding could be used if the Board decided to accept. One option would be to supplement existing position salaries and another option would be to partially fund a new position. Total salary cost of a deputy position was approximately \$60,000, therefore an additional \$25,000 would be need to fully fund the position. Sheriff Joe McLaughlin had indicated he could make up the difference within his existing FY22 budget and therefore no additional funds were needed. Mr. Hathaway also reported \$195,000 had been approved in the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) for police vehicles so no additional funding would be needed for a vehicle for this position. An additional cost of \$5,000 for equipment and supplies would also be covered within the existing department budget. He closed by stating he felt there was a staffing issue in the Sheriff's Office and he recommended the Board approve this position as outlined. He entertained questions.

Mr. Stiers asked if the Virginia Compensation Board funding was one time money. Mr. Hathaway reported this would be ongoing funding received from the Compensation Board. Mr. Evelyn reported he had recently spoken with the Sheriff and had learned some of the funding for this position would be available due to staff retirement. Sheriff McLaughlin also reported they would not be filling a part-time position and funding designated for that position would be used to support the new full-time position.

Mr. Stiers moved to approve the proposed new deputy position for the New Kent County Sheriffs Office. The members were polled:

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| Ron Stiers | Aye |
| John N. Lockwood | Aye |
| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Aye |
| Patricia A. Paige | Aye |
| Thomas W. Evelyn | Aye |

The motion carried.

IN RE: ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Mr. Stiers reported the 2021 New Kent graduating class had a Prom this year. He noted this had not been a school-sponsored event and the group of organizers had been fortunate to be able to use the Rockadome at Rockahock Campground. The event had been catered and a DJ had provided music. He reported some of the attendees had not seen each other in a year and the looks on their faces had been priceless. The event had been a great success and he was glad students had been able to get a little closer to back to normal. Mr. Evelyn expressed appreciation to Mr. Stiers for his involvement in planning the Prom.

Mr. Tiller indicated he had nothing to report.

Ms. Paige reported on a number of items including:

- Announcing Colonial Downs and Rosie's would be sponsoring a job fair each Saturday during the month of June. They were seeking to fill seasonal positions and were offering a \$500 incentive to be paid at the end of the racing season.
- Congratulating the New Kent High School Class of 2021 and noting how great it had been to have New Kent graduation in New Kent County. She thanked School Board members and School Superintendent Dr. Brian Nichols for their efforts to provide this class with a formal ceremony.
- Expressing appreciation to staff for their patience and cooperation during the recent office transitions while HVAC work was being done in the County Administration Building.
- Announcing New Kent County was now home to a Little Free Pantry (LFP) which was located in the parking lot of the Health and Human Services Building. The LFP would offer a new way for New Kent neighbors to take what they needed and to give what they could. Items available in the pantry would include shelf-stable food, personal hygiene items, small household supplies and pet food. More information was available at www.littlefreepantry.org.
- Reporting that the Capital Area Work Force had reported the unemployment rate in New Kent County had been 8.5% in April 2020 and a year later that figure had dropped to 2.98% which included 351 individuals who had not given up on looking for a job.
- Expressing condolences to the Four Seasons community on the recent passing of Linda Martin. She noted Ms. Martin had been an outspoken individual who loved New Kent County and she would truly be missed.

Mr. Lockwood reported the New Kent High School graduation ceremony had been a wonderful way to end this school year. It had been an incredibly positive turnout with many enthusiastic parents cheering on their graduates and he had been awestruck by four young ladies who had performed the National Anthem. There had been a real sense of community and he thanked Dr. Nichols and the School Board for such a great ceremony. He also reported Rosie's and Colonial Downs had been great community partners and were currently partnering with Virginia Natural Gas in a "Fill a Bag for Proclaiming Grace" food drive. Those participating would be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Coach bag and \$250. He noted this was just another example of how Rosie's, Virginia Natural Gas and others were partners in our community. He closed by wishing all the fathers in the community as well as those who were no longer with us a Happy Father's Day.

Mr. Evelyn wished the 2021 Graduating Class of New Kent High school all the best and noted he was sorry he had not been able to attend due to an emergency situation. He offered them sincere congratulations.

IN RE: STAFF REPORTS – RAPPAHANNOCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE & GO VIRGINIA
GRANT OPPORTUNITY

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway distributed copies of a draft letter to the GO Virginia State Committee. He reported Rappahannock Community College (RCC) had approached him about the possibility of leasing the 4,000 square foot Historic School cafeteria space for the establishment of a welding and machining training program. RCC was in the process of applying for grant funding through the GO Virginia Program and he had recently learned a local match was required. RCC had requested that the County consider waiving the existing lease for a period of five years as that match. Mr. Hathaway was proposing that instead of waiving the entire current lease amount that the Board consider waiving the lease for the new space to be used for the program. Given the current lease rate, the additional 4,000 square feet would generate \$32,680 in annual payments

totaling \$163,400 over five years. If the Board was in agreement with this proposal, the letter before them would be signed and included with the grant application. He noted he was bringing this to the Board in this fashion because he had just learned of the local match requirement the previous week and the application was due by the end of the week.

Ms. Paige expressed concerns over the fact that months had been spent in preparing the FY22 budget which had just recently been adopted and now RCC was requesting a match for this grant. She noted RCC had requested use of the space and the County had agreed. She also noted that lease payments for RCC's use of existing space in the Historic School had been waived for as long as she had served on the Board. She expressed appreciation for RCC operating a campus in New Kent County but noted she had not seen anything indicating New Kent residents were receiving any tuition reductions. She asked if RCC couldn't pay its current rent, how would they be able to pay rent for additional space. She noted she had done some research and reported she was not sure this type of use would be appropriate in the space requested. She added that if a match was required, the whole story should have been shared when use of the space had been requested. She further added that getting the information in bits and pieces was not a good way to do business and made it difficult for her to fully support the request. She stated this was not a good situation in which to put the Board.

Mr. Tiller thanked Ms. Paige for her comments and noted agreement. He stated RCC had requested lease waivers for as long as they had been in New Kent. Mr. Hathaway agreed but noted they were paying for services such as electricity and water/sewer. Mr. Tiller stated that RCC's request for more space would indicate students were enrolling and suggested perhaps they were not charging enough if they could not afford to pay rent.

Noting RCC was a community college, Mr. Lockwood asked if they received most of their funding from the state in addition to tuition. Mr. Hathaway noted RCC was a part of the Virginia Community College system and did receive some funding from the state but indicated he did not know the level of funding. Mr. Lockwood asked if the build out for the welding classroom would be at RCC's expense. Mr. Hathaway confirmed. Ms. Paige stated it would not be totally at RCC's expense because they were seeking grant funding and a match from New Kent County. Mr. Evelyn noted RCC was asking for a waiver of rent rather than money from the County. Ms. Paige stated not paying rent was asking for money. Mr. Lockwood noted Ms. Paige had suggested the facility may not be adequate for what RCC was proposing. He reported an indoor welding facility would require extensive ventilation and controls which would be expensive and he wanted to be sure RCC would have sufficient funding to address those needs. He asked if they modified the space and then couldn't use it as planned, who would be left holding the bag. He added that the need for qualified and certified welders was phenomenal and this would be an amazing opportunity for young people to learn this trade. He asked if the students would receive any type of certification. Mr. Hathaway reported students would receive certification but he was not sure what that would entail. He noted this request for a match had been a surprise to staff. He also noted a part of the grant application process required letters from businesses supporting the program and RCC had letters speaking highly for this skill set in the community.

Mr. Evelyn stated he knew first hand that there was a huge need for welders in the community. He reported three classmates of his son who had graduated high school the previous year were currently enrolled in welding school. He added it was a much needed trade and could be very lucrative for those possessing that skill.

Mr. Lockwood asked if there was any opportunity for discussion about the reduced tuition Ms. Paige had previously mentioned or for RCC to provide something that recognized what New Kent County was doing for them. Mr. Evelyn noted there was a need for this skill and he fully supported establishing a welding program but he too was not sure the former cafeteria space would be appropriate. Mr. Lockwood asked at what point would the County be paying rent to someone else for needed space and added the Apex building was a good example resulting in the County taking money from its pocket and putting it into RCC's.

Referencing comments regarding the budget process made at a previous meeting, Ms. Paige stated that for her, it was all about the process. Summarizing, she noted RCC had come to the County asking for something and the County had agreed. They had then come back saying they needed something more from the County. They had indicated they didn't need money because they would have enough if the County didn't charge them rent. She asked if RCC had not paid rent in five years, how were they going to pay rent now. She added that she understood the need for welders, carpenters and diesel mechanics. She expressed concerns regarding RCC's need for a decision by the end of the week and noted this gave the Board no time for research or due diligence before making a decision regarding taxpayers' money. She did not believe everyone was meant for a four-year institution and she supported technical programs but had no idea what it would take to make the requested space safe enough for a welding program. She stated, "I can't support it."

Mr. Lockwood asked if RCC would pay \$32,680 of their original lease if the Board agreed to waive rental on the additional space. Mr. Hathaway noted the Board had not waived the upcoming lease payment of \$65,000 for 8,000 square feet which was due August 1st. Mr. Lockwood noted that historically the Board had always waived this lease payment. Mr. Hathaway agreed but noted the Board was not committed to do so again this year.

Mr. Evelyn stated there didn't seem to be much support for the grant application.

Mr. Stiers stated New Kent was fortunate to have RCC and students were coming from neighboring communities for the programs offered. He noted the County was not currently utilizing the requested space. Mr. Hathaway agreed and noted the space was currently used by Bridging Communities for storage. Mr. Stiers stated he was in agreement with what had been said and that welders were needed nation-wide. He added that he was sure RCC would make the building safe before offering any such program.

Mr. Evelyn asked if the old art classroom could be a possible solution. Mr. Hathaway reported the School Board was currently renovating that space for additional offices for the Special Services Department. Mr. Lockwood indicated he would like the Board to find a way to support this but also find a way to collect some rent for the space RCC was using. Ms. Paige stated that there wasn't enough time to do that because a decision was needed tonight. Mr. Lockwood indicated he understood that but noted two leases would be involved and a decision regarding waiving the first lease would not be necessary for a couple of months. He again stated he would like the Board to find a way to generate some rental revenue from this project.

Mr. Stiers asked County Attorney Brendan Hefty if RCC would be able to offer discounts to some students (i.e., New Kent residents) and not to others. Mr. Hefty indicated that was a good question and would be one for RCC to answer.

Ms. Paige asked how many scholarships New Kent County students had received from RCC. She then noted she served on that (the RCC Educational Foundation Board) and the answer to the question was none.

Addressing School Superintendent Dr. Brian Nichols, Mr. Evelyn asked if the schools may have any space in the maintenance shop that could accommodate a welding program. Dr. Nichols reported all of the space was currently utilized and they were renovating the former art room with plans to relocate some staff currently in the School Board Office into the renovated offices. He noted agreement with the Board's sentiments that the proposed space was less than ideal for a welding program. He further noted his concern with RCC was that there had been limited conversations with Superintendents to get their support for the program. He noted that although they had not been in the loop in regards to planning, the School Board had been asked to sign a letter of support. He added that he supported the trades and reported his oldest son was in aviation maintenance. He thought this could be a great program which he would love to sponsor or be a part of and he would like for New Kent students to have first rights to seats in the program.

Mr. Evelyn stated he didn't feel there was sufficient support for the request.

(Mr. Evelyn left the meeting briefly during the presentation of this item. The floor was turned over to Vice Chair Tiller during his absence.)

IN RE: STAFF REPORTS – POWHATAN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway distributed copies of a letter from Powhatan Board of Supervisors Chair Karin Carmack requesting regional support for petitioning Governor Ralph Northam to lift the current supplemental unemployment payments. Mr. Evelyn noted he fully supported unemployment for people who needed it but he also fully supported this request. He reported he had lost two employees who had been making \$17 an hour because they could make \$17.50 and stay at home. He noted he could hire twenty-five people now and he was hearing similar comments from other small business owners.

Ms. Paige reported discussions on this had been frequent at Richmond Regional Tourism meetings and it had been suggested the current unemployment guidelines were making it difficult for Richmond and the region to rebound. She also reported there had been similar discussions at a recent Capital Region Workforce meeting where it had been noted many people were not applying for jobs. A recent update to the unemployment guidelines was now requiring that recipients seek employment from at least two employers each week in order to continue receiving benefits. She further noted there were people who had been struggling to take care of their families since March 2020. For some, their work hours had been reduced and they were receiving no support. Businesses were struggling to get people to come to work because they could make more money sitting at home. She stated she fully supported sending a letter.

Mr. Evelyn noted the letter provided was what the Powhatan Board was proposing to send to the Governor. He suggested Mr. Hathaway and County Attorney Brendan Hefty could draft a similar letter from New Kent for the Board's consideration. Mr. Hathaway reported Powhatan would like to include New Kent County in a letter that would be from localities within the region and they had reached out to the other localities with a similar request.

Mr. Lockwood reported some of his work involved restaurants and hotels and there were some restaurants that could not open for lunch or were closing early due to the lack of staffing. He stated he was hearing over and over, "I have the business, I just don't have the employees to fill the need." He added that when looking at states who had refused the additional unemployment funding, you would find they were rebounding at a much quicker rate. He stated there were thousands of jobs that could be filled tomorrow if people would show up to work and although the supplemental unemployment benefit was set to expire in September, in the meantime, it was killing businesses. He fully supported sending a letter.

Mr. Stiers noted he also fully supported sending a letter and asked if a motion was needed to move forward. Mr. Hefty noted a general consensus would be sufficient but the Board could also choose to approve a motion authorizing the County Administrator to send a letter on their behalf.

Mr. Evelyn reported he had recently spoken with Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring and she had indicated she was hearing this same concern all across the state. She had indicated the Governor was working on this and starting this week, unemployment recipients would have to prove they had been applying for jobs.

Mr. Tiller moved to authorize the County Administrator and County Attorney to draft a letter supporting Karin Carmack with Powhatan County. The members were polled:

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| John N. Lockwood | Aye |
| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Aye |
| Patricia A. Paige | Aye |
| Ron Stiers | Aye |
| Thomas W. Evelyn | Aye |

The motion carried.

IN RE: STAFF REPORTS – LOGGERS ASSOCIATION AND ELDERLY TAX RELIEF

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reminded the Board that in recent months they had heard a presentation from the Loggers Association as well as a presentation from him on the elderly and disabled tax exemption. The Loggers Association had requested the waiver of personal property tax on certain logging equipment. Ordinance amendments which would require public hearings had been prepared and if there were no objections, he would schedule this for consideration in July.

Mr. Tiller asked if these amendments would also be on the next Planning Commission agenda. Mr. Hathaway indicated the Planning Commission would be considering some other items at their next meeting which would come to the Board at their July meeting but it was not necessary for tax amendments to go to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Paige asked if the Board had received any numbers on the projected impacts of these amendments. Mr. Hathaway reported numbers on the elderly and disabled amendment had been provided by the Commissioner of Revenue but nothing had been provided on the logging exemption.

Mr. Lockwood indicated he had not realized the discussions had been in regard to a full exemption for logging equipment. Mr. Hathaway reported the request from the Loggers Association had been that they be treated the same as farmers which would be a full

exemption. Mr. Evelyn noted loggers would still pay tax on trucks and trailer and only the equipment used in the woods would be eligible for exemption. Making full disclosure, Mr. Evelyn stated his logging equipment and business were in Charles City County and he would abstain from any action on this subject.

Ms. Paige asked if she could also abstain because she would meet the qualifications for those exempted from personal property tax. County Attorney Brendan Hefty indicated if she would meet the qualifications for an exemption, she could choose to abstain.

Mr. Evelyn asked Mr. Hathaway if he could have the Commissioner of Revenue provide some information on the impact of these personal property tax changes. Mr. Hathaway indicated the information presented on elderly and disable did contain impact information but no information had been presented on the logger exemption. He indicated he would provide additional information to the Board.

Mr. Stiers asked when the changes would go into effect. Mr. Hathaway reported the changes could not go into effect until the next fiscal year. The deadline to apply for the elderly and disabled reduction had been May 1st and because the information had not been presented to the Board until April, there had not been sufficient time to implement the change this year.

IN RE: APPOINTMENTS – DELEGATED BY DISTRICT

There were no appointments delegated by district.

IN RE: APPOINTMENTS – NOT DELEGATED BY DISTRICT

There were no appointments not delegated by district.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

IN RE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Evelyn announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors would be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 12, 2021 and the next work session would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, both in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building. The Board would also meet for a Broadband Retreat with RiverStreet Networks at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021 in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building.

Mr. Tiller moved to adjourn. The members were polled:

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| C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. | Aye |
| Patricia A. Paige | Aye |
| Ron Stiers | Aye |
| John N. Lockwood | Aye |
| Thomas W. Evelyn | Aye |

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.