

A REGULAR WORK SESSION WAS HELD BY THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 28TH DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN NEW KENT, VIRGINIA, AT 9:00 A.M.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thomas W. Evelyn called the meeting to order.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Present
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Present
Patricia A. Paige	Present
Ron Stiers	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

All members were present. Mr. Evelyn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

IN RE: MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX – COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE’S NEW EFFECTIVE DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE AND RECOMMENDED RATE REDUCTION

Commissioner of the Revenue Laura M. Ecimovic reviewed a 2019 Proposed Depreciation Schedule for Machinery and Tools. She reported this was something Director of Economic Development Matthew Smolnik and she had worked on since early summer. She also reported New Kent had one of the highest machinery and tools tax rates in the area and with so few accounts, suggested this would be the time to act. She suggested that from an economic development perspective a rate reduction would make the County more competitive with surrounding localities. The current rate was \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed value and Ms. Ecimovic suggested this rate be reduced to \$0.75. If New Kent chose to make this move, they would have the lowest effective rate in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Davis noted Henrico had recently lowered some tax rates and asked who had been behind that reduction. Ms. Ecimovic suggested Mr. Davis was talking about Henrico’s reduction in machinery and tools tax and indicated she was not sure how they had gone about the reductions. She noted that in New Kent the tax rate was set by the Board and the depreciation rates were set by the Commissioner of the Revenue. She pointed out that Henrico had a Director of Finance instead of a Commissioner of the Revenue. She also pointed out New Kent was in competition with Henrico County from an economic development perspective and Henrico used their website to emphasize they had the lowest effective rates for machinery and tools in the Commonwealth. Ms. Ecimovic reported revenue from machinery and tools tax had been \$160,000 the previous year. She noted this was not insignificant but suggested a rate reduction would encourage business growth particularly in the larger manufacturing sector. Mr. Smolnik joined the discussion and reported having one of the highest tax rates was a problem when attempting to draw business to the County and noted that with the current rate, New Kent was not competitive in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Ecimovic suggested any decision to reduce the rate should be a cooperative decision between the Board and her office. Mr. Davis asked how her office set the depreciation rate schedule. Ms. Ecimovic indicated she used percentage of cost to establish the schedule and pointed out that machinery and tools had longer depreciations ranging from 20 to 30 years. She indicated the overall life of the machinery or tool (how many years it would be taxed) was also a consideration. Rates in surrounding

counties as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia were also studied to aid in determining what would be good for New Kent County. The depreciation rate would have a direct impact on the effective rate. She suggested that the Board and her office working together to achieve a reduction would send the message that New Kent was open for business. Ms. Ecimovic also suggested the Board needed to decide if they would be happy with a rate that would make New Kent more competitive or if they wanted to be able to say they had the lowest rate in the Commonwealth. She suggested a rate reduction would be a bold move and noted it would be necessary for the Board to "buy in". Noting Ms. Ecimovic was suggesting reducing the rate to \$0.75, Mr. Davis asked how a rate of \$1.00 would compare to Henrico County. Ms. Ecimovic indicated that initially a rate of \$1.00 would be lower than Henrico but several years into the depreciation schedule the two localities would be more competitive. She suggested businesses would be more concerned with the impact of rates for the first ten years. Mr. Davis asked how betting machines would be taxed. Ms. Ecimovic indicated betting machines would be considered business equipment and as such would be taxed at the higher personal property tax rate of \$3.75 per \$100 of assessed value. Ms. Ecimovic suggested the depreciation schedule needed to be adjusted which could be done by her office but a tax rate reduction would be up to the Board. Mr. Evelyn indicated he was aware of some businesses who had considered locating in New Kent but had concerns regarding the tax rates. He suggested the proposed changes would put New Kent on a more level playing field with Henrico County. Ms. Ecimovic suggested the Board could make plans to include a machinery and tools tax reduction in this budget year. Mr. Stiers indicated he had requested this a year ago and had suggested the County do away with the BPOL (Business, Professional and Occupational License) tax entirely. Ms. Ecimovic noted BPOL was a different subject and had also been included on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Tiller asked if there had been any consideration to lowering tax rates on business equipment. Ms. Ecimovic pointed out that had also been included for discussion on the agenda. Mr. Evelyn asked Ms. Ecimovic if she was asking for guidance from the Board. Ms. Ecimovic indicated she was going to move forward with implementing the proposed depreciation schedule but did not want to do so without first making the Board aware. She suggested the proposed schedule was what was fair and competitive with other localities. Ms. Paige suggested the County couldn't keep having discussion about wanting to encourage business in the County without reducing these rates. She also noted she would love to be able to attend regional meetings and be able to say that New Kent now had the lowest rates. Ms. Ecimovic again noted that she and Mr. Smolnik had been working on this from an economic development perspective and she wanted the Board to be aware of her plans before developing the next budget. Ms. Paige suggested that although it appeared there would be a loss of revenue, a lower rate could bring more business and result in no loss. Ms. Ecimovic agreed and suggested there would be a loss the first year but this could be made up by the ability to attract new businesses.

County Attorney Brendan Hefty noted the Board would have to change the rates as a part of the budget process. He suggested the Board should consider a motion to direct staff to plan for a rate reduction in the next budget cycle. County Administrator Rodney Hathaway consulted with Assistant Finance Director Larry Clark and indicated rates effective for FY20 would be impacted by the depreciation schedule in effect on January 1, 2019. Ms. Ecimovic agreed and noted that because New Kent does not prorate taxes, the machinery and tools would have to be in operation on January 1, 2019 to be impacted.

Ms. Paige moved to direct staff to prepare for a rate reduction for machinery and tools tax to \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed value effective January 1, 2019. The members were polled:

C. Thomas Tiller, Jr. Aye

Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Nay
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

Mr. Davis noted for the record that he agreed a rate reduction was in order but had voted "Nay" because he preferred the \$1.00 rate.

IN RE: BPOL (BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE) GROSS RECEIPTS LIMITATION ON RATE OF LICENSE TAX POPULATION AND REDUCTION OF LICENSE RATE FOR CERTAIN CLASSIFICATION

Commissioner of the Revenue Laura M. Ecimovic reviewed 2019 Proposed Business Property Rates. She noted that section 58.1-3706 of the Code of Virginia used population levels to set limits on the rates for BPOL taxes. Localities with populations over 25,000 but not more than 50,000 were required to use a minimum gross receipts threshold of \$50,000. New Kent continued to fall under the 25,000 population threshold but was moving closer to that mark. The Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service had reported New Kent's population as of July 2017 as 21,709 and the County had been reported to be the second fastest growing County in the Commonwealth. Ms. Ecimovic pointed out it was uncertain when New Kent would reach the 25,000 threshold but noted the County would have to enact the rates required by code for the larger population whenever the threshold was met. She suggested the Board needed to be prepared for the anticipated revenue loses that would be associated with the new rates. Under New Kent's current rate schedule, businesses subject to licensure were not taxed a license fee on any amount of gross receipts less than \$10,000. Ms. Ecimovic suggested this not be changed and noted this practice helped support smaller home businesses. She also pointed out the minimum business license cost was \$30 and suggested this also not be changed. She recommended that once the County met the 25,000 population threshold, the rates should be set as follows:

- Gross Receipts Under \$10,000 - \$0.00
 - Gross Receipts of \$10,000 to \$50,000 - \$30.00
 - Gross Receipts Over \$50,000 - Pay on Gross Receipts
- Based on Associated Class

Ms. Ecimovic drew attention to the 2019 Proposed Business Property Rates sheet included in the meeting materials. She pointed out that reductions in associated class rates were being recommended for many of the classes. Recommended class rates for 2019 were as follows:

- Contractor Rates - From \$0.12 to \$0.10
- Retail Rates - From \$0.15 to \$0.14
- Wholesale Rates - Remain at \$0.04
- Service/Misc. Rates - From \$0.27 to \$0.23
- Professional/
Real Estate Rates - From \$0.44 to \$0.32
- Utility Rates - Remain at \$0.42

She suggested the proposed rate reductions would result in a net loss in revenue of approximately \$100,000 the first year. Using average growth rates for the past five years and keeping the \$30 license fee, the estimated loss was approximately \$85,000. If the fee was increased to \$50, the estimated loss was approximately \$77,000. Ms. Ecimovic noted that although the \$50 business license fee was allowed by law, she did not recommend an increase. She noted it was up to the Board to decide if they wished to address this now or

wait until the Weldon Cooper figures for 2018 were released in January. At any rate, the Board would have to take action to change the rates and approve a new ordinance.

Mr. Evelyn suggested that all Board members were in favor of doing something with the BPOL tax. Mr. Davis suggested the BPOL tax was the most aggressive tax collected by the County. Ms. Ecimovic indicated she would never recommend doing away with the \$30 license fee. She pointed out that applicants were required to file for a certification of zoning prior to submitting a business license application and keeping this process in place would help with zoning compliance. She suggested that if the Board wanted to reduce or eliminate these taxes, it should be done over a period of ten years. She noted the County was able to offer incentives to new businesses and reported frequently hearing from established businesses, "What about us?" She suggested reducing rates would be a way to thank established businesses for being here.

Ms. Ecimovic drew attention to the bottom portion of the rate sheet and noted she would argue that business property tax was the most aggressive tax. She reported that every piece of business property was taxed at a rate of \$3.75 per \$100 of assessed value. She noted shelving and freezers in grocery stores as well as anything not permanently a part of the real estate was taxed as business property. The rate sheet indicated reducing the rate to \$3.25 would result in a revenue loss of approximately \$73,000 and reducing the rate to \$3.00 would result in a loss of approximately \$109,000. She indicated this information had been provided for the Board's review and to aid them in providing direction to staff. She suggested the County should be proactive and noted she thought New Kent would be very close to the 25,000 population threshold this year. She suggested the Board should consider adopting the \$50,000 gross receipts threshold and reducing various class rates and the business property rate. Mr. Evelyn indicated the Board would take this information into consideration and suggested the Commissioner should bring more proposals on the impact of rate reductions. He noted his only concern with rate reductions was that any revenue losses not be put back on the citizens. Mr. Davis noted that if all of the proposed reductions were adopted, the total revenue loss would be approximately \$340,000. Ms. Ecimovic suggested it was important to note the rate reductions would be for everyone and would give some relief to existing businesses. She also suggested lower rates would encourage a higher percentage of business growth.

Mr. Davis asked how solar panels were taxed. Ms. Ecimovic indicated solar facilities were not taxable by New Kent County. She reported facilities under 20 megawatts were exempt from taxation and facilities over 21 megawatts were taxable through the State Corporation Commission. She noted there would be some increase in real estate tax revenue because the property on which the solar facility was placed would become commercial property.

Mr. Evelyn called for a brief recess at 9:51 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:59 a.m.

IN RE: STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD CORRECTIVE ACTION AGREEMENT

Environmental Director Justin Stauder presented information on the County's actions to come into compliance with the State Water Control Board's notice of violation for its Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Program. He presented an outline of events leading up to this point. He reported a compliance review had been initiated in June 2016 and staff had met with DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) in the fall of 2016 to review files and to carry out field investigations. The DEQ had issued a compliance review report to the County in February 2017. This report had also included a Corrective Action Plan that outlined seven recommended conditions/actions. Since that time, staff had worked with the

Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, County Administrator and various other organizations to remedy the conditions. Steps taken included:

- Adoption of O-22-17 regarding plat notations.
- Adoption of R-32-17 regarding Comprehensive Plan modifications.
- The plan of development process had been overhauled and revised to include updated forms, applications and internal policies which would provide reviews and approvals consistent with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA).
- Staff had worked with the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) to revise the agricultural component of the CBPA program and had revised the Memorandum of Understanding between the CSWCD and New Kent County.
- A Water Resources Element had also been developed for adoption into the Comprehensive Plan.

The DEQ had issued a Notice of Violation in September 2018 for the outstanding items and had provided a Corrective Action Agreement to the County for review and approval in November. Mr. Stauder pointed out two conditions which had not been met had been noted in Appendix A, Schedule of Compliance, of the Corrective Action Agreement. The Schedule of Compliance included:

- Submitting the proposed Water Resources Element to the DEQ for review and approval by December 31, 2018. Once the Water Resources Element was approved by the DEQ, it would then need approval by the Planning Commission and adoption into the Comprehensive Plan by the Board of Supervisors. New Kent would be required to ensure that the adopted Comprehensive Plan contained all elements required under 9 VAC 25-830-170 no later than 90 days after receiving approval from DEQ.
- The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Board shall consider ordinance requirements and submitted documentation, inclusive of the WQIA (Water Quality Impact Assessment) and proposed mitigation by April 1, 2019. If the Board does not receive applications for exceptions in time to meet the April 1, 2019 deadline, the DEQ will extend the deadline until applications have been received and reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Stauder suggested the Comprehensive Plan amendment was a big item and noted the Water Resources Element had been included in the Water Resources Plan with Public Utilities but had not been adopted into the Comprehensive Plan. He indicated he was seeking the Board's authorization for the County Administrator to sign the Corrective Action Agreement and to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan amendments. Mr. Evelyn asked what would happen if the Board didn't agree to the Corrective Action Agreement. County Administrator Rodney Hathaway pointed out the Agreement outlined penalties that could be assessed for failure to meet any of the terms of the Agreement (\$5,000 per day not to exceed \$20,000 per violation). Mr. Stiers asked how the environment was being harmed by any of the conditions that had not been met. Mr. Davis drew attention to page 22 of the meeting packet noting that "protection of the potable water supply, including groundwater resources" had been listed as an item discussed in proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. He asked if this was in regard to New Kent County water or Newport News water (Newport News was drawing water from several New Kent water sources). Mr. Stauder indicated this was in regard to New Kent County water. Mr. Davis noted all public water in the County was in deep wells and suggested there was no threat. Mr. Stiers agreed. Mr. Stauder suggested the Corrective Action Plan Status Update was to be used as a guiding document to facilitate discussion. Mr. Stiers suggested this review was a bunch of bureaucrats "trying to make our life miserable." Mr. Davis asked if any of what he referred to as "blatant violations" had drawn attention to New Kent. (It was noted for

the record that the blatant violations referred to by Mr. Davis had been violations by a citizen and not New Kent County.) Mr. Stauder indicated these violations had nothing to do with the review and reported the review had already been in process when the violations had occurred. He indicated reviews were conducted every five to seven years and once the remaining conditions were met, New Kent should not be reviewed again until five to seven years had elapsed. Mr. Stiers asked if any other Counties had been threatened in this manner. Mr. Stauder indicated, "Not to my knowledge." Mr. Stiers asked if any other Counties had been sued. Mr. Stauder again indicated, "Not to my knowledge." Mr. Stiers asked if there were any Counties who had refused to comply. Mr. Stauder suggested, "Ultimately it's State Code and State Code wins." He noted he was looking for the Board's authorization for Mr. Hathaway to sign the agreement to start the process of getting this to the Planning Commission and back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Davis moved to authorize the County Administrator to sign the State Water Control Board's Corrective Action Agreement on behalf of the County. The members were polled:

Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ron Stiers	Nay
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

Mr. Evelyn thanked Mr. Stauder for the work he was doing in the Environmental Division and reported he was hearing positive comments from the community.

IN RE: FIRE STATION #3 BAY REMODEL

Fire Chief Rick Opett reported New Kent County had taken over operation of the Weir Creek Volunteer Fire Station now known as Station #3 approximately ten years ago. He also reported the living area in the station had been remodeled just prior to his employment with New Kent County. The bay area of the facility was in need of a remodel and he suggested funds that would be generated from the sale of surplus equipment could be used for this purpose. He distributed pictures of Station #3's current condition and noted it did not represent New Kent very well. The bay area had no insulation and was heated by a propane heater which Chief Opett suggested ran non-stop in the winter months. He distributed pictures similar to how the facility would look once the remodel was complete. He also noted the proposal included replacing the existing gravel parking area with a concrete apron and asphalt parking area. The facility was also in need of new doors, new siding and roof work. Some structural repair work was also needed but there would be no expansion to the facilities. Roof prices had been coming in higher than expected and he suggested issues with the roof may need to be addressed at a later time. Ms. Paige asked if the roof was leaking. Chief Opett indicated the roof was leaking in a few places. Ms. Paige asked if the roof could be painted. Chief Opett indicated they were currently looking into that as a possibility. Ms. Paige asked the age of the building. Mr. Davis suggested the building was 20 years old. Chief Opett reported he had been given a price of \$109,000 for the roof work alone. He reported that with new apparatus scheduled to arrive soon, there would be some surplus equipment which he estimated could be sold for \$175,000. He suggested revenue from surplus sales could be designated for the Station #3 remodel project. He assured the Board that any remodel work on the facility would stay within the confines of the available funds and they would maximize the funds as much as possible. He suggested a new roof

was probably out of the picture given the price quote but noted other suggested remodel work would buy the County some more time in this facility. Mr. Davis reported the County had received this property for nothing. Chief Opett reported the property had originally been comprised of three separate parcels but the parcels had been consolidated into one. He also reported Fire-Rescue planned to burn and remove the remains of a house trailer located on the property. County Administrator Rodney Hathaway asked the Board to consider approving the appropriation of funds from the sale of surplus fire apparatus for the renovation of Fire Station #3. Mr. Evelyn asked if the renovation would result in any interruption of service. Chief Opett indicated it would not.

Mr. Davis moved to appropriate funds from the sale of surplus fire apparatus for the renovation of Fire Station #3. The members were polled:

Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: DHS – STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY GRANT (SAFER)

Fire Chief Rick Opett reported the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency) grant period would open on December 15, 2018 and would remain open for a thirty day period ending on January 15, 2019. Information which had been received through a recent staffing study submitted to the Board of Supervisors in September 2018, had revealed significant staffing shortages. Chief Opett indicated a SAFER grant could help to address the priorities which had been listed in the study report. He indicated this would be a three year grant and if New Kent wished to apply, he would request twelve firefighter/EMT(ALS) positions. If New Kent received an award, the County's share would be \$144,000 (20%) and the Federal share would be \$576,000 (80%) for FY20 and FY21. The percentages would shift in FY22 with the County's share being \$468,000 (65%) and the Federal share being \$252,000 (35%). By FY23 the entire \$720,000 annual expense would be the County's responsibility. Chief Opett reported his department's budget request for FY20 would include staffing for Station #5 and if we were awarded a SAFER grant, it would be necessary to budget for both in FY20. Mr. Davis asked when the SAFER awards would be announced. Chief Opett indicated we could have a decision on our application as early as July 1, 2019 or as late as September 30, 2019. Mr. Tiller noted the County's share of \$144,000 in FY20 would be equal to approximately one half of one cent of the real estate tax rate. Ms. Paige pointed out the FY20 \$144,000 share in support of a SAFER grant did not take into consideration any staffing for Station 5. Mr. Evelyn asked if applying for a SAFER grant was an annual opportunity. Chief Opett indicated the application window for SAFER grants was open for a period every year. Mr. Evelyn suggested the County should hold off on applying for a SAFER grant. Mr. Davis asked why. Mr. Evelyn indicated he was concerned about the County's \$720,000 share of the funding in FY23. Mr. Davis asked if all twelve SAFER grant positions would be absorbed with the new station. Chief Opett indicated they would. Ms. Paige asked for clarification noting it was her understanding that Chief Opett intended to apply for twelve positions through the SAFER grant and would also be asking for twelve positions in his FY20 budget request. Chief Opett suggested that he couldn't have twelve positions in the budget and also apply for twelve positions through SAFER. He noted if funds for twelve positions for Station #5 were already included in the County's FY20 budget,

the County would not be able to use SAFER grant funds for any of those positions. He indicated he would not be asking for twelve SAFER positions and twelve budget positions and asked if the Board wanted to go forward with applying for a SAFER grant. Chief Opett noted agreement with Mr. Evelyn and suggested the County should "pause" on the application for a SAFER grant and move forward with staffing Station #5. He reported the department had already received 190 more calls than the previous year and with one more month to go, he expected they would end the year with a more than 400 call increase. Mr. Davis suggested it was time for New Kent to receive a grant. Noting that New Kent had returned a SAFER grant several years ago, Chief Opett suggested some "scar tissue" may remain. He suggested the Board should wait a year or so and then apply. Mr. Davis noted he disagreed.

Mr. Davis moved to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency) Grant. The members were polled:

W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Nay
Ron Stiers	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Nay

The motion carried.

Chief Opett suggested he would not put any positions in his FY20 budget request if twelve positions were being requested through SAFER.

IN RE: JANUARY 2019 MEETING DATE DISCUSSION

Mr. Evelyn had requested the Board consider deviating from its regular meeting schedule for the January 2019 business meeting. He reported he had since discovered he did not have a conflict with the January 14, 2019 date and wished to withdraw the agenda item. Mr. Stiers noted he had agreed to change meeting dates on numerous occasions to accommodate vacation schedules for other Board members. He suggested the January meeting should be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 to avoid a potential conflict with a ball game involving his favorite team.

Mr. Stiers moved to set the January 2019 meeting for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building. The members were polled:

C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Abstained
Thomas W. Evelyn	Nay

The motion carried.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS - GRAND ILLUMINATION COMMENTS

Mr. Evelyn thanked everyone who had been involved in the recent Grand Illumination. He reported the event had been very well attended and he had received many positive comments. He thanked the various businesses, organizations and individuals who had

sponsored this event and specifically recognized Ms. Sandi Gauthier in the audience. Gauthier Vineyard had been a sponsor and had served free hot cider at the event.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS – GRANT OPPORTUNITY WITH COX COMMUNICATIONS

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reported New Kent had the opportunity to partner with Cox Communications in applying for a Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant to expand broadband in the County. The objective of the VATI was to provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector broadband service providers in partnership with local governments to extend service to areas that were not served by any broadband provider. Mr. Hathaway reported \$4 million was available to be awarded across the state and noted he believed small “last mile” projects would be favored. He also reported the White House Farms and Talleyville Road area of the County had been identified as the area with the best potential for grant approval. He suggested an expansion project in this area could provide broadband service to 50 to 60 homes. Mr. Stiers suggested the same situation existed in Barhamsville. Mr. Hathaway noted Barhamsville was different and pointed out the White House Farms area was more densely populated. Mr. Hathaway indicated he was looking for the Board’s authorization to move forward with a grant application. Grant applications were due by December 14 and it would be necessary to run an advertisement at least fifteen days prior to submission notifying the public of New Kent’s intent to apply and providing an opportunity for the submission of written comments. The grant would fund 80% of the cost and Cox would fund 20%. There would be no cost to New Kent County. Ms. Paige noted this grant would address the needs in this particular area and asked if Cox was willing to have a discussion regarding Route 618 (Olivet Church Road) where she reported some homes had cable service but residents in the next home had been told it would cost \$50,000 to connect. Mr. Evelyn noted he had been involved in a broadband discussion session at the VACo conference and reported he believed New Kent would see some change as a result of the Governor’s initiative. Mr. Hathaway pointed out there was a great need for expansion of broadband services across the County but the intention of this grant application would be to focus on an area with the most potential.

The general consensus was to move forward with advertising and submitting an application for a VATI grant.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS – 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA APPROVAL

Action on the 2019 Legislative Agenda had been deferred at the November 14, 2018 business meeting to allow for additional revisions and discussion.

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway distributed copies of the draft Legislative Agenda. He drew attention to Position Statement 2-2 regarding increasing the size or weight of trucks. He reported VACo (Virginia Association of Counties) had included a similar statement in their legislative agenda and VML (Virginia Municipal League) had taken the same position. He asked Board members if they wished to follow this language, revise it or remove it. Ms. Paige suggested the Board should not support anything that would increase traffic on Route 249. She also noted there were many low hanging branches along this roadway which she felt would be a safety issue with big trucks. Mr. Evelyn suggested VML was not considering the impact this would have on the mill (WestRock paper mill in West Point) and suggested truck weight/size was more of a local concern although it was being regulated by the state. Mr. Hathaway noted he was hearing the Board did not want to take the same position as VACo and suggested Position Statement 2-2 be removed from the agenda. Mr. Stiers noted

Position Statement 2-6 indicated New Kent County was supporting the VACo 2019 Legislative program and he suggested this should also be removed.

Mr. Davis moved to adopt the 2019 Legislative Agenda as presented with the exception of Position Statements 2-2 and 2-6. The members were polled:

Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Evelyn announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors would be held at 6:00 p.m. on December 10, 2018 in the Boardroom of the County Administration Building. The Board would also hold a joint meeting with the Economic Development Authority at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at the Trojan Grill, 11833 Aspengraf Lane, New Kent, Virginia. There would be no December work session.

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

Ron Stiers	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.