

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF NEW KENT
VIRGINIA**

R-23-20

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of New Kent, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building in New Kent, Virginia, on the 13th day of April, 2020:

Present:	Vote:
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.	Aye
Patricia A. Paige	Aye
Ronald P. Stiers	Aye
John N. Lockwood	Aye

Motion was made by Mr. Evelyn, which carried 5:0, to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE PROCESSING OF
AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT
APPLICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020**

WHEREAS, the Board adopted and has subsequently amended the Agricultural and Forestal Districts Ordinances (“Ordinance”) for New Kent County (“County”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Ordinance, as stated in section 62-31 of the New Kent County Code is, inter alia, to conserve and protect and to encourage the development and improvement of the agricultural and forestal lands in the County for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products; and

WHEREAS, as an incentive to landowners to place their land in agricultural and forestal districts, the land lying within any such district and used in agricultural or forestal production will qualify for use-value assessment pursuant to section 62-42 of the New Kent County Code; and

WHEREAS, the County much like other localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is undergoing significant fiscal stress and uncertainty due to anticipated decreases in tax revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors must balance the need to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of the County’s agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products with the need to maintain and expand sources of revenue; and

WHEREAS; the potential impact that the creation and expansion of agricultural and forestal districts will have on the County's revenue is a relevant factor for the Board of Supervisors to consider in evaluating applications to create or expand agricultural and forestal districts; and

WHEREAS, upon balancing the County's fiscal stress against purposes of the Ordinances, the Board finds that it would not be in the best interests of the County to approve the creation or expansion of any districts during the 2019-2020 application cycle, even if the lands subject to such applications are of agricultural and forestal significance; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors finds that it is in the best interests of the County to see if the County's fiscal situation improves over the next year before determining whether resume the processing of agricultural and forestal district applications; and


WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that it is not in the best interest for the County to use County resources to carry out the mandatory advertisements, notices, and public hearings associated with processing of applications to create or expand agricultural and forestal districts when the Board has found that it will not approve any such districts event if the lands proposed for inclusion in the districts are of agricultural and forestal significance; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the County to refund the application fee paid by those individuals who have already submitted applications for the 2019-2020 application cycle.

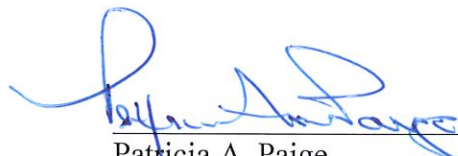
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of New Kent County, Virginia hereby suspends the processing of all applications or proposed applications for the creation or expansion of agricultural and forestal districts pursuant to the Ordinance for the 2019-2020 application cycles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to refund application fees to applicants who have submitted applications for the 2019-2020 application cycle.

Adopted this 13th day of April, 2020.



Rodney A. Hathaway
County Administrator



Patricia A. Paige
Chairwoman