

A REGULAR WORK SESSION WAS HELD BY THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE 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
John N. Lockwood	Present

All members were present.

IN RE: HERITAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATE

Heritage Public Library (HPL) Director Chandra McPherson thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She noted a three-page report providing statistical information for the previous year had been provided. She stated the "silver lining" of the pandemic had been discovering a third virtual library branch was viable and it had generated many new library users through electronic means. She praised library staff for the outstanding job they had done continuing to serve and meet the needs of residents.

Ms. McPherson noted HPL had been on track for an excellent year prior to the pandemic shutdown. The pandemic had presented a number of challenges including the need to change hours of operation and services provided, the cancellation of some programs, moving some programs to online formats and lost fees and donation income. She drew attention to a table comparing March through June 2020 statistics with the same time period in 2019. Increases had been seen in the number of e-books borrowed (up 33%), Facebook daily visits (up 84%) and WiFi use (up 66%). Declines were noted in material circulation (down 554%) and the number of new library cards issued (down 177%). She also reported HPL had found it necessary to increase its WiFi bandwidth and range. New databases, online teaching aides, more e-books and e-audiobooks had been added to better serve all ages of homebound learners. They had also worked to continue providing services throughout the pandemic by increasing online books and programs as well as providing curbside service. She encouraged Board members to reach out to her if they ever had any questions or suggestions and noted she welcomed their input.

Ms. McPherson reported the HPL budget request for FY22 was the same as the previous year's request and noted they really could use an increase if they were to expand their mission. She also indicated it would be helpful to have more than one fulltime employee. The report suggested that based on the County's current population and a median value of \$12.23 per capita, the full local contribution based on State aid requirements for New Kent County would be \$281,290. New Kent's current contribution was approximately \$7.78 per capita. She noted she understood what was going on with the new school and park projects but stated she stood by the HPL request for additional funding and was hoping for at least level funding in FY22. She reported grants had been very good and noted if PPP (CARES Act

Payroll Protection Program) funds were included, approximately \$100,000 had been received. She also noted they were very excited about many new initiatives and announced HPL was one of 130 libraries across the nation selected to participate in the Community Webs Archive-It program. This program was designed to aid public libraries in building archives of web-published sources documenting local history and underrepresented voices. HPL would receive software, training and half a terabyte of storage space. She welcomed input on what should be collected for this database. She entertained questions.

Referencing the Community Webs program, Ms. Paige asked what type of information would be included. Ms. McPherson reported HPL would receive training to be sure they understood how the program worked. The project would focus on often neglected local history found in electronic communications. Time would be set aside weekly to search County websites, Facebook, newspapers and other resources. The contents could be open to anything and could include focused collections or targeted topics. Mr. Lockwood asked if this would be archiving historical data or current events. Ms. McPherson described it as a proactive means of capturing local history in the moment. She stated, "yesterday is history" and noted this would be a way to save information on what was going on in the County.

Mr. Evelyn noted the report indicated WiFi use has been up almost 70% and asked if this had been due to school student use. Ms. McPherson reported the increase had largely been students and noted the HPL internet was available 24/7 so it could be used regardless of the library's schedule. Home workers, teachers and students had all been making use of this service and HPL had made a point of pushing information on WiFi availability. HPL had also been added to the state's map of available WiFi locations and to the County's website.

Mr. Evelyn thanked Ms. McPherson for the budget update. She again thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and noted she would be happy to answer questions at any time.

IN RE: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM PRESTON HOLLOW CAPITAL TO
 SUPPORT THE ISSUANCE OF NEW SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reported Preston Hollow Capital had asked the Board of Supervisors to begin the process for the issuance of new special assessment bonds in Land Bays III, IV and V of the Farms of New Kent (FONK) Planned Unit Development (PUD). These bonds would fund site development and infrastructure with the goal of accelerating development. A copy of their proposal had been included in the meeting package and he provided a brief overview. Preston Hollow was proposing to borrow approximately \$100 million in bonds. It would be necessary for the Board to take action to create a special assessment district and the County would be responsible for collecting assessments to repay those bonds. He noted Mr. David Guy, Managing Partner of GS Companies LLC, was present and may wish to share additional information. The request before the Board was to move forward with the process to establish the special assessment districts and the issuance of the special assessment bonds. The first step would be to hold a public hearing and the Board was being asked to take action to determine if they would move forward with the public hearing process. Mr. Hathaway noted this was a more involved process than the usual zoning public hearing process with which the Board was familiar. Noting a series of public notices and notification of each property owner would be required, he suggested the earliest possible date for a public hearing would be April or May. He drew attention to an attachment in the meeting packet describing the new bonds and a \$2 million contribution Preston Hollow was proposing to make to the County to be used for improvements of Pine Fork Park or other public projects the County designated.

Mr. Evelyn thanked Mr. Hathaway for the presentation and asked Mr. Guy if he had any additional information to add. Mr. Guy indicated he had nothing more to add but for clarification, stated \$100 million would be the total project development cost and the new money to be borrowed was \$44 million. He noted appreciation for the Board's consideration and patience in going through this process and stated that in all other respects, Mr. Hathaway's representation of the request had been accurate. Mr. Evelyn thanked him for the clarification and noted the Board had seen this presentation and had met with Preston Hollow numerous times. He stated the goal of today's vote would be for Preston Hollow to know if they could move forward with confidence in the Board's support for the bonds.

Ms. Paige stated her major concern was the collection of the special assessment. She had asked Preston Hollow to find a way for the special assessment to not be included in the New Kent County tax bill. She was concerned those FONK residents would not only be faced with real estate and personal property taxes but also a \$1,200 special assessment added to their tax bill. She noted she had tried to explain to Preston Hollow about the number of calls Board members and County staff would receive regarding the special assessment. She noted some residents would understand but suggested pool-side conversations would lead to the question of "why are we paying extra money for the same thing that you all have?" It had always been her desire that another way be found to collect the special assessment. She indicated she didn't know the cost of infrastructure but whether or not there was a special assessment paid once a year or throughout the year, they would be selling homes in the FONK. She expressed appreciation for this development but noted her objection was still the collection of these assessments through the County Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Lockwood noted agreement with Ms. Paige and stated he had no desire for the County to be collecting debt or having to explain the purpose of the special assessment for the next 30 years. He noted he saw nothing that would make him want to support this request.

Mr. Tiller concurred with Ms. Paige and Mr. Lockwood. He pointed out that in the past people who attended public hearings were usually those who would be affected by whatever was being considered. If the Board moved forward with this process and held a public hearing, people who were not yet residents of New Kent County would be affected. He stated he felt this would be passing on another tax to people who did not live here and would not have a voice in this. He stated he felt a public hearing would be a waste of time.

Mr. Stiers noted the FONK was not in his district and none of the current Board Members had been serving at the time this community had started but pointed out they had come a long way since breaking ground in 2006. He noted the 2006 bonds had gone into default in 2012 and Preston Hollow had put forth the effort to keep the project going while other developments in the County had not been as fortunate. He noted Preston Hollow had done a lot for the County and read from a list Preston Hollow had presented at the Board's January 27, 2021 work session. The list included:

- Contributing ten acres for the construction of a new fire station.
- Donating land and infrastructure for the Farmers Market.
- Completing a permanent water solution for the development at a cost of \$605,000.
- Addressing various maintenance concerns at a cost of approximately \$350,000.
- Completing the final paving of streets throughout Land Bay IV at a cost of \$275,000.

Mr. Stiers noted Preston Hollow was asking the County to help them and they were willing to donate \$2 million which he noted would go a long way on capital projects. He pointed out the special assessments would be explained up front to the buyer and it would be noted in their contract that they would be paying an additional \$100 per month. He stated he did not know why any of the homeowners would call the Treasurer's Office or anyone else to

complain. Referencing Mr. Tiller's earlier comments, Mr. Stiers suggested he had mentioned people would be paying the tax before they moved to New Kent. He noted the special assessments would not become due until they purchased the home. He supported this request even though it appeared he may be the only one and he would like to see the project continue to move forward. He noted Mr. Guy had said in a previous meeting that it would not be a hardship if the Board did not approve this bond issuing request but it would slow down the development. He again noted he was in support of approving the request.

Ms. Paige agreed that no current Board member had been serving in 2006 but noted that as a resident, she had watched the conversations between the Planning Commission and the FONK and had seen the objections as well as support. She wanted Preston Hollow as well as her constituents in the FONK to understand she wanted them to have their amenities and she wanted them to benefit through the promises in the PUD proffers. She stated it was easy to say we will not be receiving phone calls but noted supervisors had received many calls over the years regarding the Bottoms Bridge Ad Valorem Tax and continued to receive calls asking for relief. This was a special assessment and not an ad valorem tax but she pointed out there were approximately 200 homes in the mentioned land bays which had paid assessments when purchasing their homes. She was not aware of any complaints about paying the assessments and she had no interest in becoming a collection agency for a developer. This did not mean she did not appreciate the improvements that had been made and it did not mean New Kent County did not appreciate the promises made through the PUD. Her request had always been to find another way to collect the special assessments.

Mr. Evelyn stated he believed Mr. Guy had come to the Board with a request about three years ago. Mr. Guy indicated he had been working on this project for about six years. Mr. Evelyn stated the County had been working with the bond holders and residents for several years to make the community better and specifically noted the size of some homes had been reduced and there had been other steps taken so residents could get their amenities quicker. He stated he too had issues with the County collecting the special assessments. He noted appreciation to Mr. Guy for all that had been done in the FONK and stated he believed he remembered Mr. Guy had said if the PUD amendments were approved, the Board would not see him again. He added he thought there would have been no problem approving this if it had not been for the County being expected to collect the assessments.

Mr. Tiller moved to deny the request from Preston Hollow Capital for the issuance of new special assessment bonds for Land Bays III, IV and V of the Farms of New Kent Planned Unit Development. The members were polled:

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Guy thanked the Board for their consideration. He expressed his appreciation for the comments and noted he understood the reasons for denying the request. He stated he wanted to make sure this was not a denial of the refinancing but a denial of the method of collecting assessments. Mr. Evelyn confirmed. Mr. Guy again expressed appreciation for the Board's time and effort taken to consider this request. He noted he was looking forward to continuing to move forward in the FONK.

IN RE: ENVISION NEW KENT COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

Strategic Plan Steering Committee Chair Terri Peterson noted the Board of Supervisors had appointed twelve citizens to the Steering Committee to assist Arnett Muldrow and Associates with developing a Strategic Plan. She reported committee members had been engaged and had worked diligently over the past year to develop a draft plan. There had been significant public engagement through a community survey, tracking of participation promotion, post cards mailed to residents, two virtual workshops, Zoom meetings, Facebook live videos, etc. which had resulted in nearly 5,700 public touch points. Arnett Muldrow and the committee had used the information collected to develop a vision statement reflecting the common vision of the community. The input had been narrowed down to five core themes including: infrastructure, growth management, quality of life, governance and resiliency. The committee used the themes to develop a series of goals and strategies to achieve the vision while laying the foundation for implementation and incorporating the Strategic Plan into an updated Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Peterson noted copies of the draft plan had been provided to Board Members and Consultant Aaron Arnett would be providing an overview. The Steering Committee was looking forward to getting the Board's input and sharing the draft plan with the public. She noted she would not be able to stay for the presentation due to a prior commitment and turned the floor over to Mr. Arnett.

Mr. Arnett thanked Ms. Peterson and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to present the draft Strategic Plan. He reported the draft plan was the result of an extensive process and the Steering Committee and he wanted an opportunity to share it with the Board and receive input before sharing with the general public. He would share what had been done thus far, review the draft vision/strategies and then discuss next steps.

Mr. Arnett reported this had been a five phase process which had begun in late January 2020. The phases included:

- Phase 1: Project Initiation – including background review, project coordination and project kickoff.
- Phase 2: Public Engagement - Although Public Engagement was listed as the second of the five phases, it had actually been ongoing throughout the process. This phase had included branding the plan, developing a public engagement strategy, establishing a Facebook page for the project and developing a community input survey.
- Phase 3: Strategic Assessment – including summarizing the community input, defining the market, preparing a demographic profile, conducting a market analysis and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis which had aided in the development of the five core themes.
- Phase 4: Visioning – Two very well attended community workshops were held which had helped with the development of the draft vision.
- Phase 5: Strategic Plan – The process was now in the "Draft Plan" portion of Phase 5. Phase 5 would also include a draft plan workshop, plan review and a final plan.

Mr. Arnett expanded on each of the phases starting with Public Engagement. He stated that although COVID had impacted the timeline, there had been "tons of input throughout the process" and referenced the following facts:

- 12 citizen committee members had been appointed. Members had met a dozen or more times and had been extremely accessible and helpful throughout the process.
- 60 individuals had attended the project kickoff.

- 1,037 individuals had participated in the community survey. He had been doubtful they could reach the goal of 1,000 responses. The success was largely due to the work of the committee and County Administration staff getting the word out to the community.
- 561 individuals were following the project's Facebook page. The Facebook page had been used throughout the process to inform people of what was going on as well as serving as the delivery mechanism for many of the virtual tools used.
- 120 stakeholders had participated in the visioning workshops. Zoom had been used to conduct ten focus group roundtable meetings.
- 3,900 had viewed the Community Design Workshop. This workshop was a two-week process with a number of live and prerecorded online public input presentations. Participants had been able to ask questions and comment during the live presentations.
- These all totaled close to an impressive 5,700 public touch points during what Mr. Arnett referred to as a "robust public process."

Mr. Arnett reported the charge from the beginning had been to develop a Strategic Plan which would be the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Strategic Plan Framework included:

- Being a bridge to the Comprehensive Plan update. This had resulted in a hybrid Strategic Plan with typical strategic planning elements as well as non typical elements with a planning focus.
- Collecting dynamic community input.
- Developing a broad-based vision and goals.
- Developing implementation strategies.
- Doing all of this with a planning focus including vision development, market analysis/business strategy and market position/branding.
- Developing draft strategies.

Strategic Assessments & Visioning

The online survey had assessed community input based on the community character, the perception of the community including quality of life and governance, general vision and needs. Respondents had also been asked to share what they thought the perceptions were of those living outside of New Kent. New Kent varied greatly from east to west and it had been extremely important to get a good response from all areas. Survey participation had been tracked and post cards encouraging participation had been sent to residents in under represented zip codes. He noted that although there were still be some gaps, there had been robust participation. Survey findings had aided with developing workshop discussions.

A comprehensive market analysis had been conducted. This had included a market definition study as well as a demographic profile. A market assessment considering trends and opportunities for commercial and residential development was also conducted. This information was then overlayed with the input received through the community survey. This had helped with forming the economics portion of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Arnett reported conversations had been driven by the question "how do we grow in this rural county and still protect our rural character?" Character Boards depicting the vision for each County development pattern were developed. Development patterns included, village, hamlet, crossroads, interstate interchange, business park, New Kent Courthouse, countryside and residential development. This design vision was a direct result of the two-week workshop and should be incorporated directly into the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Arnett also reported they had focused on expanding the County's Brand. They had not recreated the brand identity/marketing but had focused on updating and refreshing it and

incorporating the vision of the Strategic Plan into the branding/marketing. The main logo had been tweaked and logos representing the communities of Barhamsville, Eltham, New Kent Courthouse, Quinton, Providence Forge and Lanexa had been developed. The Board had recently updated the County Seal and the branding included the updated seal on Sheriff's Office badges. Logos for some County departments had also been developed.

All of the work up to this point had led to the five core strategic themes Ms. Peterson had mentioned earlier. Those themes included:

- Infrastructure – broadband, internet, telecommunications, roads, water, sewer, electric, etc.
- Growth Management – land management, economic development, environmental and design. Mr. Arnett noted this would be the planning element of the Strategic Plan.
- Quality of Life – rural character of the community, public safety, education, healthcare and recreation.
- Governance – fiscal management, facilities and government functions.
- Resiliency – disaster preparedness and adaptation, business continuity and COVID-19 impacts. The process had kicked off approximately six weeks prior to COVID and since COVID had impacted everything, resiliency had been a topic of much discussion.

Draft Vision & Goals

Mr. Arnett reported everything that had been shared to this point had been used to build the foundation for the draft plan. The draft plan included one vision statement, five core strategic themes, 21 goals (four to six for each theme) and 111 strategies (actions to achieve goals). The vision statement was an aspirational statement of what New Kent County wanted to become in the next twenty years. He reported the committee had worked hard on this and drew attention to the following draft vision statement:

New Kent County will remain a diverse community that values its outstanding rural character, history, natural environment, and quiet community lifestyle. We maintain a blend of balanced rural and suburban values through thoughtful planning, managed economic development, and responsible and accountable governance that will attract new residents and business investment that enhances our County.

Mr. Arnett pointed out there was some carryover from the vision in New Kent's previous Strategic Plan. He also noted it was important to recognize that New Kent continued to face some of the same challenges it had faced a decade ago.

Mr. Evelyn drew attention to the words "responsible and accountable governance that will attract new residents and business" in the draft vision statement. He indicated that in his opinion this read as though the County did not have responsible and accountable government now. Mr. Arnett noted this comment was helpful and stated a vision statement should be 100% positive. He noted this was still a draft statement and suggested an edit to indicate the continuance of responsible and accountable governance could be made.

Mr. Arnett stated the goals and strategies would be the meat of the plan and particularly noted the Strategy Board Matrix found in the appendix contained extensive detail. Chapter 7 of the plan detailed the goals for each of the five core strategic themes as well as all of the strategies. He provided a brief overview of the Strategy Board Matrix noting that each strategy had been given a priority, lead and partner agencies had been noted, benchmarks had been prepared, comments were noted and potential performance metrics to monitor progress were listed. He pointed out benchmarks were the timelines for completion of each

strategy and noted some of the strategies would be ongoing, some would have very specific completion dates and others would be linked to the completion of other strategies.

Mr. Lockwood suggested the performance metrics should be tied directly to the same page and section as growth management strategies and goals so it would not be necessary to search for performance measures. Mr. Arnett agreed this was a great point and although it had been challenging to package the information, this could be more easily reflected.

10 Key Strategies

- Update the Comprehensive Plan – This would be the critical first step of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Arnett noted New Kent’s Comprehensive Plan was very good but it was dated. He also noted the Comprehensive Plan was tied to many of the strategies in the Strategic Plan and some elements of the existing plan would carry forward into the new plan.
- Use the Development Character Boards as a Guide to Land Development Patterns – This would involve incorporating the design visions contained in the eight character boards into the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code and Subdivision Code. Mr. Arnett pointed out the character boards were based on development patterns that made New Kent unique. Each board also represented opportunity areas and would assist with accommodating growth, preserving the County’s character and enhancing existing communities.
- Revise the Zoning Code to reflect the Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan – Mr. Arnett suggested simple edits would be needed early on to better align New Kent’s Code with the Code of Virginia. He did however note that ultimately a rewrite of the Zoning Code would probably be necessary.
- Develop and adopt a plan to provide enhanced internet – Mr. Arnett noted that from the first hand that had been raised at the January kickoff meeting until now, enhanced internet had been the most commented upon need in the County. He reported New Kent had been working on this while the Steering Committee had been working and the County did have a plan. The Committee had revised this portion of the Strategic Plan numerous times as the County made forward steps with enhanced internet.
- Facilitate Annual Report Card Evaluation of Strategic Plan – Mr. Arnett noted none of the 10 Key Strategies was more important than the other but noted the Report Card Evaluation would not only help track Strategic Plan implementation but would also be a key bridge to everything else moving forward. He stressed this was a simple tool to be used during the annual budget and goal setting processes. He noted some communities were creating an online dashboard to share this information with their citizenry.
- Incorporate Departmental Strategic Planning into Annual Budget Process – Most New Kent departments had been doing their own strategic planning and the plans varied tremendously from simple SWOTs to full-blown strategic plans. The idea would be to create a tool to help the departmental strategic plans align with the County’s Strategic Plan. A template had been created for departments to use during their annual strategic planning process to assure they were in sync with the County’s plan.
- Recruit Commercial Business Based on Potential Identified in Strategic Plan – New Kent was a small rapidly growing county which relied heavily on businesses outside of the County to support its citizenry. The Strategic Plan development had included a comprehensive market analysis which had measured the demand for many types of businesses and services. Based on demand, some of the highest level opportunities were general merchandising, building materials and supply, grocery stores, full-service restaurants, home centers, pharmacies and clothing and accessories. He reported “retail leakage” (the level of demand being met by businesses outside of the County) in the amount of \$58 million was noted for general merchandising. He noted comments had been made about the proliferation of dollar-type and discount stores in the

community but noted they were here because of the demand. He stated \$58 million was a lot and as a reference, reported a Wal-Mart on average would do approximately \$71 million a year. He was not suggesting New Kent should recruit Wal-Mart but was simply giving this figure for scale. Grocery stores had come up over and over and New Kent's demand/retail leakage in this area was \$19 million. He noted a typical Food Lion in a rural area would do approximately \$22 million a year and pointed out the \$19 million in leakage indicated there was demand for another grocery store in the community. He noted New Kent's level of demand for a home center was not high enough for a Lowe's or Home Depot but pointed out this and many of the other opportunities could be met by smaller independent businesses. A huge opportunity for New Kent was in the area of restaurants where a demand for approximately \$36 million had been listed. Mr. Tiller reported he had spoken with many people who had indicated they had moved to New Kent to get away from the traffic often associated with retail business. He noted he would tell those individuals that as soon as they had moved here, they had become a part of New Kent's traffic issues. He understood the demand but suggested the majority of individuals had moved here to get away from that demand. Mr. Arnett suggested Mr. Tiller was "hitting the nail right on the head" and noted it was easy for him to say there was this much demand but at the end of the day it would be about what's right for New Kent. New Kent would not be able to meet some of this demand but some of the demand was needed more locally by the community. Some needs could be met by growing existing communities and villages and it would be important to make sure what was recruited was right for New Kent. He referenced the Farmers Market which he said was meeting some of the grocery needs in a way that was right for New Kent.

- Adopt a Disaster Recovery Plan Across all Departments – This was something New Kent had already been working on and discussion on this had grown throughout the process. Although much of the discussion had involved COVID, the disaster recovery plan also addressed recovery from other disasters as well. COVID had impacted every aspect of the community and it was important that all departments had recovery plans in place.
- Improve Community Participation and Increase Public Trust – This had been a common theme throughout the process and it was noted participation was often a challenge in a rural community. It was also suggested New Kent County may not have the tool set needed to communicate with citizens. He pointed out trust issues were often the result of citizens not knowing what was happening in the County and suggested this could be addressed through stepped up communications. He also stressed the importance of creating a communications plan and of finding a way to increase more robust public participation. He further suggested the County should consider hiring a Public Information Officer to assist with the development of a communications plan, facilitate outreach and to help lead the ongoing annual evaluation of the Strategic Plan.
- Enhance Entryway Corridors into the County – New Kent was a beautiful County and there were many things that drew new residents and visitors to New Kent. Enhancing entryway corridors could be done through a number of means including entryway banners as well as banners identifying communities within the County. Branded wayfinding signage as well as gateway signage were also options.

Mr. Arnett noted more information on what had been presented in this meeting had been included in the materials Board members had previously received. He encouraged Board members to take some time to review and absorb the information and provide input.

Next Steps

The Steering Committee would be meeting the following week to finalize plans for a Draft Plan Workshop to share this information with the public. They were currently planning for the workshop to be drop-in style with both virtual and physical drop-in options for a one to

two week period. They were considering producing a short video to present the information as well as Facebook and Zoom options. Input from the workshop would be collected, summarized and then used to refine the Strategic Plan. He entertained questions.

Ms. Paige thanked Mr. Arnett for the presentation and the months of hard work. She reported New Kent was considering the addition of a Public Information Officer position for the FY22 budget year. She noted she was always concerned about older adults and how they were being reached and questioned how involved seniors and life-long residents of the County had been with the process. She also suggested the young adult population (20-40 year-olds without children) had been missed and questioned what the vision was for this group. Livable communities was another concern and she suggested recent graduates and young adults would not have high enough incomes for New Kent to be an option. She further noted New Kent did not have assisted living or rehabilitation centers for older adults. She asked what was the vision for these and for lower income families. She questioned the level of input received from African Americans, Native Americans and Asians. She asked what the plan was for getting the word out to citizens and noted the County used to publish the New Kent Guide with every household receiving a copy. She questioned whether or not citizens had been given the opportunity to participate. She reported she had received an invitation to one Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting but noted she didn't know when they were meeting most of the time. She stated she and her fellow Board members would review and digest the information and begin talking with constituents.

Mr. Arnett stated he wanted the Board to have time to review and absorb the information and provide input as they prepared to unveil the draft to the public and considered ways to reach the community. They had known there were gaps and had worked to reach underrepresented populations but recognized there were still gaps. He also noted it was clear from the attendance at the kickoff meeting that some population segments were not represented. He reported one of the roundtable discussion had focused on the young adults and young professionals Ms. Paige had mentioned as well as high school and younger youth. He again noted there had been robust input but agreed there were still some gaps. He stated he did not believe his firm had ever done a plan with a perfect cross section of the community but suggested that with the Board's wisdom, they could help them determine the best ways to reach those who had been missed. Ms. Paige agreed and stated there was nothing negative about this but noted the inclusion of these underrepresented people was her vision of the Strategic Plan. She suggested it was easier to be a part of the planning than to come back and make changes. She added she wanted to be sure those born and raised in the County and who had seen the County grow had an opportunity to provide input. She stated these individuals were as important to her as those who had moved into the County from other areas. She noted it would take a community effort and input from all to have a well-rounded county of 23,000 people and although New Kent was the second fastest growing locality in the Commonwealth, a population of 23,000 was still small.

Mr. Arnett stated that was a good point and noted New Kent was growing fast by percentages but was still a very small rural community between two more urban areas fueling the growth. He had not been aware New Kent was considering hiring a Public Information Officer but was glad to hear this. A Public Information Officer would not solve all of the problems but would help with outreach and encouraging public engagement.

Mr. Lockwood stated a great job had been done in assembling the draft Strategic Plan and the presentation had been excellent. He noted he had learned several things from the market information and had been surprised to learn half of the homes in New Kent had been built after 2000 and approximately 50% of individuals renting in New Kent were cost

burdened. He added this clearly supported the need for affordable housing and it was difficult when 89% of the County's housing was private homes. He stated none of the Board wanted density or apartments but they did need to find a balance for affordable housing. He again noted he would like the performance metrics to be tied directly to each goal and suggested if there wasn't a way to measure the goals, there wouldn't really be a plan. Mr. Arnett indicated he felt they could find a way to make sure that happened and pointed out the information was there but it was just not apparent as formatted.

Mr. Evelyn expressed his appreciation for the presentation and noted the Board was looking forward to working with Arnett Muldrow to see the process through.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS – TEMPORARY OFFICE RELOCATIONS

County Administrator Rodney Hathaway reported that effective March 1, 2021 some offices in the Administration Building would be relocating while the HVAC system was being replaced. The Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer's Office would be moving to the former Apex building located behind the Colonial Kitchen and Market. Administration and Financial Services would be moving to the second floor of the Historic School. Human Resources would be relocating to space in the Planning Suite in the lower level of the Administration Building. The first level of the project should be completed by mid-May. The project would then transition to the lower level with departments occupying this level being relocated at that time. As a result, Board of Supervisors' regular and work session meetings would be moved to the School Board Office at the Historic Courthouse beginning March 8th. Dates and times for these meetings would not change.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Evelyn moved to appoint Patricia A. Paige as New Kent's representative to the Central Virginia Transportation Authority to serve a one-year term ending December 31, 2021.

Ms. Paige moved to appoint Justin M. Stauder as New Kent's representative to the Central Virginia Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee.

Ms. Paige moved to appoint Kelli Le Duc as New Kent's alternate representative to the Central Virginia Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee.

Mr. Tiller moved to appoint John P. Moyer as New Kent's Planning Commission representative to PlanRVA to serve a one-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021.

The members were polled:

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

The motions carried.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS – ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lockwood reported a number of black ice issues the previous day and, as a result, two young people had been tragically killed in an accident on Farmers Drive. He wished to acknowledge to the families that the Board's prayers were with them. He urged drivers to be aware of conditions and to set their speed accordingly, "it could literally save lives."

Ms. Paige acknowledged County staff who had worked diligently the previous day to get County residents vaccinated. She specifically mentioned the contributions of Fire-Rescue, the Sheriff's Office and County Administration staff. She noted County residents had been grateful and reported clinics would be held weekly. She urged residents who had not registered with New Kent County to call 804-966-9677. She also stressed the importance of registering with the Chickahominy Health District as well. She also noted appreciation to New Kent Schools for their assistance and for allowing the County to use their facilities.

IN RE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Evelyn announced the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021 and the next work session at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, both in the Courtroom of the Historic Courthouse (School Board Office). The Board would also meet for a Budget Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021 at the Providence Forge Recreation Center, 9900 Carriage Road, Providence Forge, Virginia.

Mr. Evelyn adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.