

Regular Meeting (Thursday, October 12, 2023)

Northumberland County, Virginia

Members present:

James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Other Staff Present:

Mr. Luttrell Tadlock, County Administrator
Mr. Drew Basye, Assistant County Administrator
Ms. Morgan Wilson, Executive Assistant
Mr. Robert Headley, IT Administrator
Mr. Eric Gregory, County Attorney

The regular monthly meeting was convened by Chairman Haynie and held at the Northumberland Courthouse located at 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville, VA 22473.

1. Opening of Meeting 5:30 P.M.

Procedural: A. Invocation - Pastor Kori Kiss, Bethany Baptist Church

Pastor Kori Kiss led the invocation.

Procedural: B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Haynie led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action: C. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Haynie welcomed Mr. Maurice Johnson and thanked him for serving as the interim District V Board member.

County Administrator Tadlock informed the Board that a closed meeting needs to be added to tonight's agenda. Mr. Tadlock also announced that the residential solar and commercial slaughterhouse public hearings were tabled to next month's meeting as requested by the applicants.

Motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting with the revisions stated by County Administrator Tadlock.

Motion by: James W. Brann, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

2. Approval of Minutes

Action, Minutes: A. September 7, 2023 Special Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on September 7, 2023.

Motion by: James M. Long, second by: James W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action, Minutes: B. September 14, 2023 4:30pm Special Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting called at 4:30 p.m. on September 14, 2023.

Motion by: James M. Long, second by: James W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action, Minutes: C. September 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on September 14, 2023.

Motion by: James M. Long, second by: James W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

3. Presentations

Action: A. Proclamation - National Service Dog Month

**Proclamation
National Service Dog Month**

WHEREAS, we believe in the joyful, transformative power of the human-canine bond and the inclusivity of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability and only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing; and

WHEREAS, Service dogs empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence; and

WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS, Northumberland County continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their service dogs, are embraced.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors, in recognition of service dogs and the adults and children with disabilities in our community, do hereby proclaim September 2023 to be **NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH**, and encourage all citizens to celebrate task trained service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

Adopted: October 12, 2023

Motion to approve the proclamation for National Service Dog Month as presented to the Board.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Information: B. Update from the Virginia Department of Transportation

Mr. David Beale presented his monthly report to the Board on behalf of VDOT. The full report can be found in board docs.

Chairman Haynie informed Mr. Beale that he talked to Mrs. Tina Hinton regarding last month's request, and she has agreed with the recommendation to reducing the speed limit in front of her business to 40 mph.

Supervisor Long asked if VDOT has any upcoming mowing scheduled.

Mr. Beale apologized for skipping over that in his report and explained that they start final mowing and litter pick up on Monday.

Supervisor Tomlin reported a tree that fell and was cleared from the Sandy Point Road, but it needs to be removed from the ditch.

Supervisor Tomlin also asked if VDOT could look into the possibility of installing a guard rail on route 360 just passed Academic Lane when traveling west bound.

Information: C. Update from Northumberland County Schools

Dr. Holly Wargo presented the school's weekly highlights and upcoming calendar reminders to the Board. Both reports can be accessed in board docs.

Finance Director Tara Booth provided the Board with an update on the school's requests for reimbursements for multiple grant awards. Mrs. Booth then made the Board aware that the School Board approved their 2024-2025 budget calendar.

Vice Chairman Brann stated there was an article in the Echo about the state budget putting \$152M towards support staff due to the struggle of schools finding teachers. It stated for every

thousand students, there's 21 support positions and that number is going to be increased to 24 positions. Vice Chairman Brann asked if they had received any information on this adjustment.

Dr. Wargo stated based on a meeting with the state Superintendent they are receiving money to do during the day tutoring for elementary and middle school students. Dr. Wargo told Mr. Brann that she could bring more information on that to the Board if they would like and it is also available on the Virginia Department of Education's website.

Vice Chairman Brann asked what the ratio of teachers is per thousand students.

Dr. Wargo stated that she didn't bring that information with her tonight, but she could gather that information for the Board.

Vice Chairman Brann asked Dr. Wargo if she could keep the Board updated as this process moves forward. He also asked if there would be any impact on the County's budget.

Dr. Wargo stated to her understanding the state was covering these costs.

Vice Chairman Brann asked what the process would be for donating money to the agriculture program.

Dr. Wargo explained that the individual would write a check to the Middle School or High School because both schools participate in that program and attach a note for how they would like those funds to be used.

Supervisor Long asked if the school has a PTA (Parent Teacher Association).

Dr. Wargo explained that they do have a PTA, but it's longer referred to as such. At elementary and middle school, it is now considered PFO which stands for Parent Family Organization. At the high school it's called Family Advisory Committee (FAC). All meeting dates, times and locations of these organizations/committees are combined on the school's website.

Supervisor Long asked if there is an attendance problem at the school.

Dr. Wargo stated that every school Division in the Commonwealth of Virginia struggles with attendance.

Supervisor Long asked about the food provided to the children at the schools.

Dr. Wargo explained they have free breakfast and lunch provided for the students as well as free snacks for their after-school programs. Additionally, the school works with families to get food delivered to homes for children in need over the weekend.

Supervisor Johnson asked a few questions related to the school's October 2, 2023 press release related to the budget.

Dr. Wargo explained that the school is trying to be inclusive and ask the children, families and community for their input. As far as monitoring the needs and wants related to the budget, the school monitors that monthly.

Supervisor Tomlin questioned why the grant dates Mrs. Booth mentioned went back to 2020.

Finance Director Booth explained that they extended some of the grants due to COVID-19.

Supervisor Tomlin expressed his concern with money being spent that long ago and never being sought to be collected. Mr. Tomlin asked Mrs. Booth to give Mr. Tadlock the total amount she's requested in reimbursements from July 1, 2023 to present.

4. County Administrators Report

Information: A. Building Permit Report

Action: B. Community Services Board Memorandum of Agreement

The Community Services Board (CSB) met with Chief Balderson, Mr. Tadlock and Mrs. Jackie Clayton to discuss how they could assist during emergency operations. The Commonwealth of Virginia has charged the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) with the responsibility to coordinate behavioral health preparedness and response activities integrating these efforts with state and local emergency management operations. CSB is in the process of updating their emergency management and disaster response plan and put forward a memorandum with the County to assist. The memorandum of agreement can be found in the Board's packet.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Community Services Board effective October 12, 2023.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action, Information: C. CivicPlus Website Contract

The contract for the County's website needs to be renewed by November 1, 2023. Originally, the County signed up with municode, but CivicPlus has bought out municode, and the costs have increased \$780.00 per year.

Motion to approve a supplemental appropriation to line item 1401-3005 in the amount of \$780.00 for the website contract renewal.

Motion by: James M. Long, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Discussion, Information: D. NHS/NMS Sewer Drain Field Update

County Administrator Tadlock explained that the existing treatment plant at the Middle/High School needs to be updated. Staff has been working with Mr. Rob Mangrum with Mangrum Consulting and Design to explore several options. The latest concept report is to still run 1,000 gallons through the plant, then push the remaining sewage over to the drain field at the elementary school. County Administrator Tadlock stated by choosing this route, the criteria aren't as restrictive, and the upgrades aren't as massive if we keep the current plant as we have it. The suggestion brought to the Board is to move forward with that bidding opportunity to save the County money for staffing and equipment upgrades. Lastly, Mr. Tadlock explained that the County is looking to use ARPA funds to pay for the upgrade.

Supervisor Tomlin shared his concern on the effects of pushing remaining sewage to the elementary school drain field.

Chairman Haynie requested additional information regarding the new drain field's handling capacity.

Information: E. Department Agency Monthly Updates

Department agency monthly updates can be found in board docs.

Action: F. Other County Administration Items

County Administrator Tadlock stated that the Planning Commission requested permission to investigate revising the County's Boathouse Zoning ordinance to review whether the County would allow boat canopies.

Supervisor Johnson shared that he was present in the courtroom when the Board decided not to allow boat canopies. He stated there was a lot of passion revolved around the topic and he doesn't think it'd be a good idea to reverse that decision.

Motion to allow the Planning Commission investigate revising the Boathouse Zoning ordinance to allow boat canopies.

Motion by: Richard F. Haynie, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Mr. Tadlock then provided the Board with an update related to the County's five-year property/building plan. He stated that staff is currently working on this request by looking at County properties and the space they offer.

County Administrator Tadlock concluded his report by informing the Board that Elyon Construction completed the old EVB roof as of yesterday and it is currently pending HDH inspection. Mr. Dave Liebal, engineer, will be present next Thursday for substantial completion and to create a punch list for any other items that need to be resolved. Air quality testing will be performed once everything is complete.

Lastly, Mr. Tadlock made the Board aware that the Northern Neck Planning District Commission Regional quarterly meeting will be October 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Willaby's Café. Mr. Carr with All Points Broadband will be there providing an update on the Regional Broadband project.

5. Board of Supervisor Items

Action: A. Approval of Check Register

Motion to approve the check register for October 2023.

Motion by: James M. Long, second by: James W. Brann.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: B. Board Comments

Supervisor Long asked for an update on the old school board office.

County Administrator Tadlock explained that building is a part of the County property review process.

Supervisor Long would like a committee to look into the County's properties to see where businesses could be placed to create more job opportunities.

Vice Chairman Brann asked for an update on the right of way on Dodlyt Road.

County Attorney Gregory explained that he doesn't have a clear answer to this yet, but he will get the Board one as soon as possible.

Vice Chairman Brann stated that there's a boat at Lodge Creek that needs to be removed/relocated.

Vice Chairman Brann stated that we have had several talks about the audit with the school budget and it's not going anywhere. The budget is right around the corner again and we still have citizens who are not satisfied. He commented earlier that we needed to have this audit done and if the school budget is correct, it is correct, if not we need to get it straight, but the citizens have concerns and we are in the middle of it, so we need to make sure that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing to make sure things are right. We need to have this audit completed.

Vice Chairman Brann stated he was ready to make a motion that we contact three firms and see how much it costs for a forensic examination, some call it an audit, but he believes that we need to reach out to some firms to see how much it will cost. We all voted on this and supported this, so we need to move forward.

Supervisor Maurice Johnson agreed.

Supervisor Long asked if audits are done on all the other departments.

Vice Chairman Brann stated that when this process begins, the County will be part of it too.

Supervisor Johnson said it would have to be; it would be impossible for it not to be.

Vice Chairman Brann stated that he believes we owe it to the school system, and we owe it to the citizens.

Supervisor Johnson agreed.

Motion to contact three firms and see how much a forensic examination would cost.

Motion by: James W. Brann, second by: no second

Final Resolution: further discussion

Supervisor Long stated that it needed to cover all organizations.

Supervisor Tomlin stated there is a question on the scope of work if they are hired. How many entities and agencies would be involved because obviously nobody is going to bid if they don't know how much work they have to do. Do they basically take the County audit and pull in everybody who comes into that. That means they will have to look at the County's books and the school's books and other things.

Supervisor Johnson indicated that the reality of that is going to end up being achieved through consulting with the experts. We are going to end up having to talk to them before we award any kind of contract. We are not forensic examiners here on this Board. The only way to achieve the kind of knowledge you are looking for is to actually talk to the same people that we would ultimately be hiring.

Supervisor Tomlin stated that it sounds like we need to put it out for negotiations rather than by bid.

Supervisor Long agreed.

Chairman Haynie stated we need to have a scope, some kind of way, but we need to talk to some firms to see what could be done.

Vice Chairman Brann confirmed that the firms would provide the guidance.

County Administrator Tadlock wanted to confirm that this is a separate audit from the current one we are going through with Robinson Farmer Cox for fiscal year 23 audit. He indicated that this would be in addition to that audit, and we are currently in the middle of that audit. He just wanted to provide the timeframe as that particular audit would be done by the end of December.

Vice Chairman Brann said that would be completed before we get squared away with the next one.

Supervisor Tomlin stated that Robinson Farmer & Cox would not be considered for this audit.

Supervisor Johnson indicated that any reputable auditing firm would probably identify the optimal time for starting to work so the best thing to do at this point would be to move forward with talking to them.

County Administrator stated rather than reaching out to three individual firms, why doesn't the Board issue an RFP. He stated that this decision would be up to the Board.

Chairman Haynie recognized Mr. Gregory.

County Attorney Eric Gregory stated he was just trying to understand what the Board is after. This would be in addition to the regular audit that is required by law?

Supervisor Johnson stated that it is a totally separate type of audit; it's not the same. You have one audit that says the money went from point A and showed up in point B and the forensic audit or examination identifies everywhere that it touched along the way and validates that it was true and appropriate and so that would be outside the scope of like the audit that gets presented to the Board every year from the school board's audit. It's much more detailed.

Supervisor Tomlin stated this would generally be every transaction from July 1 to June 30. The regular audit is one or two months that they look at. Forensic audits look at every transaction for the entire year and the total figures. This type of audit is extremely expensive.

County Attorney Eric Gregory asked the Board if they were looking to have County Staff prepare an RFP for firms to conduct a forensic audit of the School Division or the entire County?

Chairman Haynie stated that doing it for the entire budget would be the best way to go.

Supervisor Johnson stated you wouldn't gain anything of much value if all you did was isolate it to the schools.

Vice Chairman Brann noted that we don't need to single anybody out.

Supervisor Johnson said that it is a wholistic approach and will cover a large part the entire County's budget.

Vice Chairman Brann stated that he would amend the motion to have an RFP.

Motion to amend the original motion to include having an RFP written for a forensic examination.

Motion by: James W. Brann, second by: Jim Long
Final Resolution: further discussion

County Administrator Tadlock asked if we could prepare a draft of the RFP and get that to the Board to make sure that it covers what you all are looking for, not to delay this, we want to make sure we have covered what it is the Board is trying to accomplish.

Supervisor Johnson asked if we could call it a RFQ instead of RFP.

County Attorney Gregory asked if he was referring to a Request for Qualifications?

Supervisor Johnson said Request for Quotes.

County Attorney Gregory stated that his understanding of what an RFQ is a Request for Qualifications and this would be you are requesting firms to submit their qualifications to do a specific job whether that winds up being a RFP or whether it winds up being an invitation to bid, but typically goes in the RFP direction because you are asking for firms to identify themselves and their qualifications for doing a job.

Supervisor Johnson replied, sorry, in the Federal Government, RFQ is a request for quotes. The process usually starts off with some interactions with those that are going to provide the quote.

Supervisor Long wanted to make sure that it covers all organizations.

The Board discussed the motion on the table and questioned as to when the draft would be due. The Board discussed having the draft RFP at the next Board meeting.

Amend the motion to have a draft RFP back before the Board next month where the Board will approve it or add additions or corrections to it and move from there.

Supervisor Johnson said that would just be a detailing of the process so the motion could stand as it is.

Motion to authorize staff to draft a request for proposal (RFP) and have a draft back before the Board next month for a forensic examination so the Board can review it at next month's regular meeting.

Motion by: James W. Brann, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Vice Chairman Brann referred to conversations last budget season related to the budget process and how the Board would like to make some changes to how requests are submitted to them. He would like to start seeing updates on this and previews of what they are going to see when budget requests are submitted to them this coming year.

Vice Chairman Brann also stated that they had their first Joint Finance Committee meeting with the citizen representatives, and they are going to begin working on the budget process. Mr. Brann would like to see a brief at each regular meeting to inform the Board of Supervisors of what occurred at the Joint Finance Committee meeting.

6. Items Related to Closed Meeting

***Closed Meeting was postponed to the end of the meeting due to timing constraints.*

Action: A. Convene into Closed Meeting

Motion to Action: A. Convene into Closed Meeting: convene into closed meeting as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) 1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action, Information: B. Reconvene into Open Meeting

Motion to reconvene into open session.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: C. Certification of Closed Meeting

Motion that the Northumberland Board of Supervisors return to Public Meeting and certify by roll call vote that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered during the closed meeting.

The vote on the motion was passed by a roll call vote as follows:

Aye: Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James M. Long, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: D. Action taken from Closed Meeting, IT Assistant Position

Motion to hire Mr. Carl Hayden for the IT Technician position with a starting salary of \$45,000.00.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: E. Action taken from Closed Meeting, Building Official Position

Motion to appoint Mr. Michael Plante as the Building Official with a starting salary of \$67,100.00.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: F. Action taken from Closed Meeting, Patrick Palmiotto Salary Increase

Motion to approve the change in paygrade for Patrick Palmiotto as he passed his Class 4 Sanitary License. Mr. Palmiotto's adjusted salary is \$39,214.32 effective October 1, 2023.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Action: G. Action taken from Closed Meeting, One Step GPS Vehicle Trackers

Motion to approve the contract with One Step in the amount of \$2,343.60 for GPS trackers on 14 County vehicles. This contract purchase will be made by using the County's ARPA funds.

Motion by: Richard F. Haynie, second by: Thomas H. Tomlin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

7. Public Comments

Dr. Karen Pica applauded the Board for the forensic audit recommendation because she believes it is necessary to get to the root of the problem. She also shared that she was privileged to attend a meeting with the Federal Reserve President and CEO from Richmond and there was a round table of business owners who discussed housing, job opportunities, and interest rates. She shared with the Board that she spoke on some of the County's concerns regarding these topics at the meeting.

Mr. Thomas Hudnall explained that the County desperately needs another health care facility.

Ms. Sally Conley asked if the County Courthouse will be decorated again this year for Christmas.

Vice Chairman Brann and Chairman Haynie assured Ms. Conley it will be decorated again this year and then announced this year's Halloween Boo Bash scheduled for October 26, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Before a 10-minute recess, County Administrator Tadlock announced that the residential solar and commercial slaughterhouse public hearings were tabled to next month's meeting as requested by the applicants.

***Chairman Haynie requested a 10-minute recess.*

8. Public Hearings 7:00 P.M.

Action, Information: A. Request by Kathy S. Bray, owner for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a 197-foot communications tower on property zoned A-1, Agricultural. The property is shown as Tax Map Parcel # 18-(1)-6 and is located on Newmans Neck Road.

Mr. Johnathan Yates with Arcola Towers presented the project before the Board tonight and complimented Zoning Administrator Marston for his timely communication and professionalism.

In discussion with Mr. Marston and County Attorney Gregory, Mr. Yates explained that Arcola Towers is going to offer space at the 140-160 feet range on the tower for County use at no cost to the locality.

Mr. Yates explained they understand the County's safety system and they agree that it is essential. However, bringing Verizon Wireless to this location will allow talking on the phone,

googling, and researching, but what's most important is that it will provide access to 911 first responders.

Mr. Rui DaSilva then described the structure and the placement of the tower to the Board. Vice Chairman Brann asked about the weight capacity of the tower and whether it could handle antennas and microwaves.

Mr. Ryan Foltz from Arcola Towers explained that the tower can handle lots of weight and additional equipment for the County.

Vice Chairman Brann asked if the tower becomes loaded to its capacity, then what would happen.

Mr. Ryan Foltz stated that they would modify the structure to make sure that it does work for the County.

Vice Chairman Brann asked how the vegetation around the tower/fence will be maintained.

Mr. Foltz stated that they send someone out there to do quarterly maintenance at all their tower sites.

Supervisor Johnson asked what is maximum wind the tower could handle.

Mr. Foltz explained that he believed it could withstand 112 mph winds.

Public Hearing Open.

Mrs. Bray wanted to make the Board aware that she has no problem with the proposed tower on her land.

Mr. Mandell Jackson is excited about the proposed tower because it will allow for better cellphone service.

Sheriff Beauchamp wanted to make sure there is language in the agreement that there will be plenty of ground space for their equipment.

Mr. Yates explained that he would take care of the Sheriff's needs and guarantee there is enough ground space for their equipment.

Public Hearing Closed.

Zoning Administrator Marston read the suggested conditions.

Suggested Conditions if Approved:

1. The construction of the tower shall be completed within twelve (12) months of the date of the building permit.
2. All sides of the tower shall be fenced along with barbed wire and evergreen vegetative screening shall be planted to screen Newmans Neck Road as shown on the site plan.
3. The tower is to be constructed as depicted on the site drawing.

Motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit to construct a 197-foot communications tower on property zoned A-1, Agricultural with the suggested conditions. This motion is made in due consideration of the public health and safety, the general welfare of the community, public necessity, convenience, and in the exercise of good zoning practices and in pursuant to the body's statutory authority.

Motion by: Maurice E. Johnson, second by: James M. Long.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

Information: B. TABLED TO NEXT MONTH'S MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023:
Request by AFD LLC dba Virginia Halal Meat Farm, owner, for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an abattoir (commercial slaughterhouse) on property zoned A-1, Agricultural. The property is shown as Tax Map Parcel 7-(1)-46-A and is located on Fruit Plain Road.

***This public hearing was tabled to next month's meeting on November 9, 2023.*

Information: C. TABLED TO NEXT MONTH'S MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023:
Request by Mark Malley, owner, for a Conditional Use Permit to construct residential solar exceeding 25 kw on property zoned R-2, Residential Waterfront. The property is shown as Tax Map Parcel #2-(1)-61 and is located at 1530 Mundy Point Road.

***This public hearing was tabled to next month's meeting on November 9, 2023.*

Action: D. In order to consider an amendment to the County Code, Chapter 68 titled Fee Schedule. The purpose of the amendment is to increase the building and land use permit fees which also includes a new fee under section 68-1 Schedule of permit and other fees. The proposed increased fees will help defray the required advertising and staff costs associated with managing the permits.

The proposed fee schedule can be accessed in board docs.

Vice Chairman Brann explained that the Board was asked to generate funds elsewhere besides taxes, so this is an effort to do so.

Chairman Haynie stated that most of the fees listed do not cover the advertising costs.

Public Hearing Open.

No comments were made.

Public Hearing Closed.

Motion to approve the proposed increases of the fee schedule as presented to the Board effective January 1, 2024.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: Richard F. Haynie.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson

***The Board convened into closed meeting at this time. See Items Related to Closed Meeting.*

9. Closing of Meeting

Supervisor Tomlin asked that staff order Supervisor Johnson a name plate.

The Board of Supervisors announced that the next joint quarterly meeting with the School Board will be held on November 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Thomas H. Tomlin, second by: Maurice E. Johnson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: James M. Long, Richard F. Haynie, Thomas H. Tomlin, James W. Brann, Maurice E. Johnson