

FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Morris Room
April 8, 2020
Special Meeting 7:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: John M. (Mike) Sheridan, Columbia District, Chair *
Tony O’Brien, Rivanna District, Vice Chair
Mozell Booker, Fork Union District *
Patricia Eager, Palmyra District *
Donald W. Weaver, Cunningham District

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Eric M. Dahl, County Administrator
Fred Payne, County Attorney
Caitlin Solis, Clerk for the Board of Supervisors

**Due to health concerns, Mr. Sheridan, Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Eager are attending the meeting via phone conference call.*

- John M. Sheridan, (Calling from 445 Covered Bridge Road)
- Mozell Booker, (Calling from 258 Bass Lane)
- Patricia Eager, (Calling from 1107 Mechunk Creek Drive)

1 - CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, & MOMENT OF SILENCE

At 7:17pm, Chair Sheridan called to order the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2020.
After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed.

3 - ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION:	Accept the Agenda, for the April 8, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors.				
MEMBER:	Mrs. Booker	Mrs. Eager	Mr. O’Brien	Mr. Sheridan	Mr. Weaver
ACTION:	Second				Motion
VOTE:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESULT:	5-0				

- Mr. Payne commented on the Special Meeting to hold a Public Hearing and facilitate the continuity of government.
- He also clarified that Mr. Sheridan, Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Eager are participating remotely due to health concerns and Mr. O’Brien and Mr. Weaver are present.

4 - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Dahl reported on the following topics:

- **June Primary Date Change**
 - The Governor is using his statutory authority in § 24.2-603.1 and issuing an executive order to delay the June 9, 2020 primary until **June 23, 2020**.
- **Feeding Fluvanna**
 - FCSS and MACAA Food Bank
 - Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Mobile Locations
 - Columbia Baptist Church
 - Effort Baptist Church
 - Area Churches
 - Fluvanna County Public Schools
 - Meals on Wheels
- **Elevated Storage Tank Logo Painting**
 - This Weekend!
- **2020 Census:** <https://my2020census.gov/>
 - Will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade (transportation, schools and other funding).
 - Virginia 4th in the nation and Fluvanna 12th out of all VA Counties

Day	Date	Time	Purpose	Location
Wed	Apr 15	7:00 PM	BOS Regular Meeting - Adopt FY21 Budget & CY20 Tax Rate	Morris Room
Wed	Apr 22	7:00 PM	BOS Special Meeting - TBD - Adopt FY21 Budget & CY20 Tax Rate	Morris Room
Wed	May 6	4:00 PM	BOS Regular Meeting	Morris Room
Wed	May 20	7:00 PM	BOS Regular Meeting	Morris Room

6 - PUBLIC HEARING

FY21 CIP, Budget and Tax Rates – Mary Anna Twisdale, Director of Finance, presented budget options for fiscal year 2021.

All figures based upon the \$0.945 Advertised Tax Rate

- Total Capital Improvements Plan

Fiscal Year	Capital Fund
2021	\$2,900,797
2022	\$8,536,993
2023	\$10,484,040
2024	\$14,046,775
2025	\$5,267,033
TOTAL:	\$41,235,638

- Governmental, Capital & Enterprise Summary

	Adopted Budget FY20	Proposed Budget FY21	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
GOVERNMENTAL				
GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$77,056,343	\$78,717,082	\$1,660,739	2.2%
GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES	\$75,761,913	\$77,397,967	\$1,636,054	2.2%
CAPITAL FUND				
CAPITAL FUND REVENUES*	\$3,766,610	\$2,392,000	-\$1,374,610	-36.4%
CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$4,266,610	\$2,900,797	-\$1,365,813	-32.0%
ENTERPRISE FUND				
ENTERPRISE REVENUES*	\$2,015,176	\$2,111,261	\$96,085	4.8%
ENTERPRISE EXPENDITURES	\$2,809,606	\$2,921,579	\$111,973	4.0%
GRAND TOTAL REVENUES	\$82,838,129	\$83,220,343	\$382,214	.5%
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$82,838,129	\$83,220,343	\$382,214	.5%

*Revenues are supplemented by transfers from the General Fund

➤ **Current and Proposed Tax Rates**

Tax Category	FY20 Adopted	FY21 Proposed
Real Property	\$0.925	\$0.945
Mobile Homes	\$0.925	\$0.945
Personal Property (Residential)	4.35	4.35
Personal Property (Business)	2.90	2.90
Machinery & Tools	1.90	1.90

Tax Rates are per \$100 of Assessed Value

With no questions from the Board, Chair Sheridan opened the Public Hearing at 7:43pm.
-Mr. Dahl read the comments by George Graff requesting tax rate reduction.
-Mr. Dahl read the comments by Perrie Johnson, 229 Pine Ln, who asked for the budget to be funded as fully as possible.
-Mr. O’Brien read the comments of Mille Fife, who suggested the comments submitted be read aloud during the meeting and to place extension notices in with the tax bills so the public know the option is available.
- Mr. Dahl read Patty Reynard, Broken Island, comments from the last meeting.
There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Sheridan closed the Public Hearing at 8:02pm.

10 - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY21 Budget Discussion – Eric Dahl, County Administrator

- Mrs. Eager asked to hire an independent consultant to give a review of the fire and rescue apparatus in the County, what the expected lifespan of apparatus and the shape of our current fleet.
- Mrs. Booker asked if there is a way to track the hardships felt throughout the County, either through DSS, MACCA, food bank distribution, or unemployment. Bryan Rothamel gave a brief update on unemployment figures that have gone from 1.9% last quarter to about 3.8% as of last week. Mrs. Booker then asked if the Chamber of Commerce might have an update of how local businesses are being affected.
- Mrs. Twisdale for an update on the FY21 figures. The fact that Fluvanna County does not have BPOL, Transient Occupancy Tax and Meals Tax is helping the locality. The potential extended due date in June might hurt FY20 but the collection would be recovered in FY21.
- Mrs. Twisdale cautioned the carryover at the end of FY20 might not be available.
- The Board explored not debt funding the fire trucks scheduled in FY20.
- After a lengthy discussion, the Board of Supervisors agreed to convene the April 15, 2020 meeting to adopt the FY21 Budget, and then continue the meeting on April 29, 2020 to see what funding would be coming from the State.
- Mr. Obrien asked Mr. Winkler to clarify whether childcare for essential workers was forthcoming for County schools. Mr. Winkler confirmed there would not be any childcare held in the County schools due to medical advisement from local health care officials and the consulted doctor. The schools have been advised in writing not to open the schools at this time.
- Mr. Dahl revisited the subject of penalties and interest being waived or extended until a later date. Mr. Payne suggested picking a date amending the ordinance temporarily for a specific amount of time this year. The temporary ordinance amendment will require advertisement for fourteen days and a public hearing.

11 - NEW BUSINESS

None.

13 - CLOSED MEETING

MOTION:	At 9:33pm, move the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors enter into a closed meeting, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.2-3711 A.1, & A.19 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussing Personnel, and Public Safety.				
MEMBER:	Mrs. Booker	Mrs. Eager	Mr. O’Brien	Mr. Sheridan	Mr. Weaver
ACTION:	Second		Motion		
VOTE:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESULT:	5-0				

MOTION:	At 9:55pm, move Closed Meeting be adjourned and the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors convene again in open session and “BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors does hereby certify to the best of each member’s knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711-A of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting.”				
MEMBER:	Mrs. Booker	Mrs. Eager	Mr. O’Brien	Mr. Sheridan	Mr. Weaver
ACTION:	Second		Motion		
VOTE:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESULT:	5-0				

14 - ADJOURN

MOTION:	Adjourn the Special Meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:55pm.				
MEMBER:	Mrs. Booker	Mrs. Eager	Mr. O’Brien	Mr. Sheridan	Mr. Weaver
ACTION:			Second		Motion
VOTE:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RESULT:	5-0				

ATTEST:

FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Caitlin Solis
Clerk to the Board

John M. Sheridan
Chair

“Dear Fluvanna Board of Supervisors,

I am Perrie Johnson, currently chair of Fluvanna Public Schools, but addressing you on my own behalf. I live at 229 Pine Lane in Fork Union.

Thank you for your hard work preparing a budget and tax rate for uncertain times. Since Fluvanna schools are facing similar uncertainties, I encourage you to pass the advertised tax rate and come as close as you can to fully funding the school budget. It’s also my hope that this rate may accomplish the restoration of some important capital improvements for the county and the schools.

Many thanks,

Perrie Johnson”

Message To Board of Supervisors

“I've been a resident of Fluvanna since 1987. My concern of course is COVID-19. Primarily the number of workers in the county who have been laid off, furloughed or otherwise just have lost their job as a result of the virus. The Rural Virginian and other news media have given people just a smidgen of hope with the federal checks to individuals, banks working with homeowners about mortgage payment delays, and utility companies not shutting off power or water. However, I have yet to see any information on possible relief coming from our county administration in the way of financial relief ... primarily property taxes. As residents are struggling without income and many now without health benefits, I believe the county administrators should vote a significant drop in our tax rate. I assume many county employees are still getting paid along with their health insurance while many residents are going without. It makes no sense to me to say that the money is in the budget so we can spend it on our employees so we won't lose them. Then when our property taxes come due, the county will still expect the full amount while residents will have a big loss in their earnings for this year because of the virus. The Rural Virginian article says those who get a federal check should use it to build an emergency savings to be able to live on. However, it won't help them or their family if that check goes right back to the county for employee pay and benefits while the recipient of that check may still be struggling to make ends meet. So, I urge the board to significantly reduce property tax rates to not add more of a financial burden to those who have not been working and maybe not be working for some time in the future. I can't buy the argument that the county has financial commitments and we have the budget in 2020 to cover those expenses, while residents are scraping by. The county could also give rebates to residents out of those 2020 funds, or roll a large portion over to 2021 with a large relief on property taxes. I'm sure you feel many county workers are essential to our residents, but many are not, at least for a short term. If our residents just start to get on their feet later in the year, it won't help them by hitting them with a big property tax bill and putting them further in the hole, just so the county has a comfortable budget. I'm sure our supervisors can come up with property tax relief for Fluvanna residents. Thank You For Listening. I hope the 2021 budget and tax rate isn't going to be based on business as usual with excuses to out of work residents who should be grateful.”

George Graf

“Dear Tony,

I appreciate your getting back to me on these matters and assuring me that you understand the gravity of this crisis. In looking at the Va. Dept. of Health stats for today I see that we're up to 12 cases in Fluvanna. Of course, the real numbers continue to be difficult to know with the number of tests not meeting the need.

My hope is that I'll be able to connect well enough to attend the meeting later today and to add a question beyond what we've discussed in this previous email during the Public Comment period. However, I'm writing to you about it now in case that doesn't happen.

I was in touch with Mr. Rothamel from the Economic Development Office to note that I was pleased about the survey he was doing to assess the needs of local business owners and to ask when data from that might be available for interested community members to see. He noted that should be within the next week or so. I reiterated to him that I very much hoped the BOS would have that in hand as the members planned next year's budget.

When it comes to the needs assessment recently posted for essential worker child care by the school system, or this survey by the Economic Development Office, or news related to the BOS meetings -- particularly with regard to public input for the budget process currently underway -- having internet access is crucial. I have reached out to various school board members and others to find out if there are mechanisms in place to reach ALL Fluvanna residents when it comes to these matters and it's not been made clear to me. I do sincerely appreciate the efforts being made to communicate, but this digital divide is a big one and one that those of us who have the access need to consistently keep at the forefront of our planning. I hope this will be addressed at tonight's meeting and concrete steps spelled out for addressing the issue.

Thank you for joining the FLUCares page. I'm sure you're taking advantage of a variety of media to stay abreast of what's happening in our area.

Millie Fife”

“I hope you all are staying safe and healthy during the crisis.

I listened to the live streaming board meeting this week, and was shocked to hear some of the board members were still advocating for county staff raises, and the school was still pushing for teacher raises. I don't know the exact number of people that have already lost their jobs, but it is growing every day. It is unbelievable to me, that raises wouldn't be the first thing to be removed from the budget. There are so many expenditures that should be cut. If you would just imagine yourself with no job, no money, and know the \$1200 from the government will take 4-5 months to get to you, and that is a one time payment. This \$1200 will not come close to covering, mortgage/rent, food, car, utilities, medical, and of course the taxes, the most important things. If you are eligible for unemployment, and can't get through to the government website, because it keeps crashing or down, and it is impossible to get through on the phone, and who knows how long this process is going to take. Can you imagine yourself in this situation? So, when I heard some of the board members still wanting the raises to stay in the budget, I just couldn't believe what I was hearing. As I have said before the County staff, and school staff are taken very good care of, they have their jobs with retirement, healthcare, sick leave, vacation, and a pay check every pay period and the \$1200 stimulus, all afforded by tax paying citizens, and many that don't have these benefited themselves.

There will be many state cuts due to the COVID-19 devastation. This is not about kicking the can down the road, this is about doing the right thing for all, not certain select groups.

Patti Reynard “