

At a regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held in the Administration Building of said county on May 8, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Garland H. Hamlett, Jr. Chairman
Nancy R. Carwile, Vice Chairman
Gary D. Walker
Kay M. Pierantoni
Robert L. Shook, Jr.
Donna Fore
Royal S. Freeman

Absent:

Chairman Hamlett called the meeting to order.

Nancy R. Carwile gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Royal S. Freeman, seconded by Kay M. Pierantoni and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Kay M. Pierantoni, seconded by Robert L. Shook, Jr. and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the minutes for the Budget Work Session April 10, 2019, Closed Session April 10, 2019, BOS Meeting April 10, 2109, School Budget Public Hearing April 17, 2019 and BOS Work Session April 17, 2019.

Committee Reports

Gary D. Walker – The Heartland Authority Board has several prospects it is communicating with.

Kay M. Pierantoni – Supervisor Pierantoni gave an update on the Southside Community Christmas Parents Organization. Mrs. Pierantoni asked if each Board Member would provide her with someone from each district to serve on the Southside Community Christmas Parents Board.

Supervisor Pierantoni also gave an update on the fraud investigation aspect of the Social Services Board.

Donna Fore – No report

Robert L. Shook – No report

Royal S. Freeman – No report

Nancy R. Carwile – Mrs. Carwile gave an update on current CRC projects. The CRC is currently working with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundations, the Town of Drakes Branch and the Town of Phenix with water issues. The CRC also works with Federal Grants for housing in rural areas.

Garland H. Hamlett, Jr. – Supervisor Hamlett attended the Southside Soil and Water 6 Year Dam Safety Workshop.

Public Comment Period

Angela Cook addressed the Board with an update on the Piedmont Alliance for the Preventions of Substance Abuse (PAPSA) Coalition. Ms. Cook gave an update on the even held the previous weekend.

Earl Strain addressed the Board with a suggestion of having the Public Comment Period at the end of the Board meeting so citizens would have the opportunity to comment on what is discussed during the meeting.

Kathy Liston addressed the Board with concerns over Solar Farm issues addressing the County. Ms. Liston would like for the Moody Creek Solar Farm to be postponed pending further information. Ms. Liston also had concerns over the press release from Holocene on the paving of the Charlotte Court House Fire Dept. parking lot.

Terry Ramsey addressed the Board with concerns over the pending real estate and personal property tax increases.

Being no further comments, the Public Comment Period was closed.

Scott Frederick with VDOT addressed the Board. Supervisor Frederick provided updates on mowing for the season and the upcoming Six-year plan.

Chairman Hamlett set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2019 at 7:50 p.m. for the VDOT Six Year Plan.

Chairman Hamlett set a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on June 12, 2019 at 7:20 p.m. to consider a sawmill Conditional Use Permit for Moses L. Stoltzfus.

Motion was made by Gary D. Walker, seconded by Royal S. Freeman and carried with all other members present and voting yes to set a fee of \$400.00 for Conditional Use Permit Applications.

Chairman Hamlett set a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on June 12, 2019 at 7:35 p.m. to consider recommended changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding 3rd party fees.

Motion was made by Kay M. Pierantoni, seconded by Donna Fore and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the following Strategic Plan Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors recognizes that strategic planning is an essential tool for good, responsible governance and serves to establish a long-term vision for the County which then guides programs, policies and services; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors engaged in a structured goal setting process wherein the Board of Supervisors crafted a County Mission Statement and a Statement of Core Values; and

WHEREAS, through strategic planning work sessions, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors shared individual members' ideas and visions; critically examined the County's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and worked together to identify strategic goals and objectives which reflect their collective values, priorities and vision for the County; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Strategic Plan sets forth those goals, objectives and action items to guide operational and policy decisions through 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors agrees to utilize the 2019 Strategic Plan as a tool in their decision-making process,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2019 Strategic Plan, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby adopted by the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby authorized to distribute this resolution and the 2019 Strategic Plan to the public and have posted on the County's website a copy for all to view.

Patricia Berkeley, Treasurer addressed the Board with an option of offering citizens lifetime dog tags instead of the once a year renewal in place now.

Motion was made by Kay M. Pierantoni, seconded by Donna Fore and carried with all other members present and voting yes to table the discussion on the lifetime dog tags until the July meeting and to request the Animal Control Officer be available for questions.

Mr. Witt gave information on the Shenandoah Cable Television (Shentel) Renewal Request provided by the County Attorney Russell Slayton. A public hearing needs to be set before a decision on the agreement can be made.

Chairman Hamlett set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2019 at 8:05 p.m. for the Shenandoah Cable Television (Shentel) Renewal Request.

Supervisor Walker, Chairman of the Heartland Authority Board, provided information on the Incentives Package for review for the Heartland Park location.

The Heartland Park Incentives Package was tabled until the June 2019 meeting pending more information collected from surrounding counties.

Motion was made by Nancy R. Carwile, seconded by Gary D. Walker to approve the following letter of support for the 2019 USDA Reconnect Loan for Bedford, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, King and Queen, Lunenburg and Mecklenburg Counties;

The Honorable Secretary Sonny Perdue
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20250-1597

RE: Letter of Support for 2019 USDA Reconnect Loan for Bedford, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, King and Queen, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg Counties in Virginia

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The Charlotte County Board of Supervisors is writing in support of Wilkes Communications, Inc/River Street Networks and their proposal for building Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) in Bedford, Brunswick, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, King and Queen, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg Counties in Virginia.

As you know, broadband access is quickly becoming a necessity; from education, to healthcare, to employment opportunities, broadband access can greatly improve citizens' quality of life and their ability to compete and prosper. However, due to topography and low population density, providing broadband is a major challenge for rural localities like Charlotte County. While local service providers and other partners have addressed some service needs, there are still many areas in the county with little or no access.

We recognize the importance of broadband to citizens in our county as well as the other counties included in the proposal. Increased availability of broadband service will increase educational opportunities and economic growth in our communities. Wilkes Communications, Inc/River Street Networks' proposed investment in broadband infrastructure, utilizing a Reconnect Loan, will help address the need for broadband access in a highly underserved area, improving access to educational resources, increasing healthcare options, and creating new business opportunities for citizens. Please consider their application and know we will stand in support of their efforts.

Motion was made by Kay M. Pierantoni, seconded by Nancy R. Carwile and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the following Meals Tax Referendum Resolution;

WHEREAS, Va. Code Ann. § 58.1-3833 permits the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution authorizing the County Attorney to draft and file a petition to the Circuit Court of the County of Charlotte to order a referendum to be voted on at a special or regular election on the question of a meals tax; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the same statute, the resolution may direct the funds realized to a specific purpose;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we hereby authorize the County Attorney to petition the Circuit Court to order a referendum on the question of whether to levy a tax not to exceed four percent (4%) on food and beverages, commonly referred to as a meals tax, which revenue would be directed to support government services to include schools and capital projects.

Daniel Witt gave the Administrator's update.

Motion was made by Kay M. Pierantoni, seconded by Nancy R. Carwile and carried with all other members present and voting yes for Supervisor Witt to contact Glave and Holmes concerning the sound sealing of a door leading from the court room to the clerk's office.

Budget Discussion FY 2020

Budget Discussion was introduced by Supervisor Witt.

Supervisor Pierantoni presented thoughts related to what she is learning from a certification VACo class. A budget policy is very important, and she suggested that the Board consider developing a budget policy prior to next year's process. Supervisor Pierantoni discussed her concerns about the tax increases and the effect that will have on enticing businesses into our county. She reviewed debt service for the courthouse and gyms for the schools, but cuts must be made. She stated she believes cuts must be made as another tax increase next year, based on the Davenport report could be between 1¢ and 11¢, would mean the County will not get any new businesses no matter the incentives.

Supervisor Pierantoni stated her appreciation for the volunteer fireman and that the Board set up a 'convoluted' capital improvement for them, but it was not set up in the best way. She believes the Board of Supervisors needed to revisit this matter. She indicated that she was invited to a fireman's meeting and the fireman suggested the board members give up their health insurance and put that towards a capital program for them as the amount of money was about the same. Supervisor Pierantoni said that idea was shot down and that she did not think it was right that Supervisors accepted health insurance as part time employees. Supervisor Pierantoni said it was suggested that travel and education be cut and then she offered to give that up if others gave up health insurance. It's important that the Board shows the public that they are serious about making cuts.

Supervisor Pierantoni continued stating that Supervisor Walker had said he had spoken to his fire department (Charlotte Court House) and they were satisfied with where they were and then she referred to a press release where Holocene had donated \$60,000 to pave a parking lot, and it was not known by the Board. She expressed her displeasure as the solar farm was going in the Drakes Branch district and they don't even have a building to have a parking lot. Supervisor Pierantoni stated that any company who wants to give money to the County needs to first come before the Board. She went on to point out the errors in the original press release where it stated that it was a 'board priority' or critical need.

Supervisor Carwile suggested that possibly Holocene had made a mistake in their press release and possibly Charlotte Court House had put it as a critical need.

Supervisor Pierantoni asked if there was any support for doing something for capital improvement for the fire departments. Supervisor Fore stated she wanted to revisit that matter now. Supervisor Pierantoni made a motion that travel, education and health insurance be cut out of the budget for the Board of Supervisors and that money be allocated to the fire departments' capital improvement budget. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Fore.

Chairman Hamlett asked for any discussion. Supervisor Walker stated he felt it was important to offer the health insurance for future board members who might want to run, young folks who will not run if they don't get paid. He stated he felt eliminating it would result in only the rich running for office and them making the decisions for the County.

Supervisor Pierantoni said this only applies to those serving today and it can always be revisited.

Supervisor Walker stated that it was better to leave it than to stop and try to bring it back as that is how government tends to function.

Supervisor Carwile stated that when elected officials are limited to only folks who can afford it or people with no disabilities it closes off the electorate. She stated she could not afford to run for the position until after she retired and then she lost her insurance, and it was an important benefit.

Supervisor Shook stated that he was eligible for Medicare but a lot of his medication is not covered by this insurance, so the insurance the County offers is necessary for him and because of that he will not voluntarily give it up.

Supervisor Freeman stated that he gets County insurance through his employment with the County, but the travel expenses are important for him as the schools for training are located throughout the state. He stated that giving up travel expenses is not right.

Supervisor Pierantoni stated that she takes no travel expenses that the County pays the only the fee for her class. When she attended VACo the County paid for the hotel, but she paid the rest.

Roll Call Vote on Motion as Follows;

Pierantoni- Yes

Fore- Yes

Walker- No

Freeman- No

Shook- No

Carwile- No

Hamlett- Aye

Motion failed 3-4.

Chairman Hamlett asked if there were any other comments on the budget. Supervisor Fore stated that a citizen made an excellent point about a vote that directly affected the Sheriff's Department and Supervisor Freeman was not recused from the vote. Supervisor Fore stated she felt that vote was null and void and that Supervisor Freeman should not have voted on that motion to pave the parking lot. She felt he directly benefits from the paving because he is part of that department. Chairman Hamlett stated that he spoke with the County Attorney about that vote and it was not a conflict of interest; however, he (Chairman Hamlett) stated it does appear to be. Supervisor Fore stated that it may not be unlawful, but it is unethical.

Chairman Hamlett stated there are a lot of things that don't seem right, but they are legal and while Supervisor Freeman could have recused himself, he chose not to do so. He said Supervisor Freeman's vote is legal and while it does not seem right it is legal. Supervisor Fore emphasized that the Board is reducing services and is going to spend \$90,000 to pave a parking lot, she asked, 'is that what you want?'

Supervisor Pierantoni said she also looked into the matter and it goes back to budget policy and the Board has chosen not to give up health insurance, but the citizens have to look at what is happening and make their decisions. She stated she did not agree with Supervisor Fore, that it was not illegal for Supervisor Freeman to vote, but there are times to abstain and she encouraged all supervisors to take a hard look at this.

Supervisor Walker stated the he felt Supervisor Freeman was being unduly beat up on at the meeting. He stated that no one who works for the Sheriff, including the Sheriff, owns the building, the grounds or the parking lot. It belongs to the citizens.

Supervisor Freeman stated that he can take up for himself, and the paving was decided two or three years ago and even voted on, but it is just now being addressed.

Supervisor Pierantoni stated that the decision of a board from two or three years ago does not impact the current board and while a discussion occurred in 2018, it was taken out of the budget.

Supervisor Carwile stated that she would also like to take up for herself and went on to explain the reasons she was not seeking reelection in the fall.

Motion was made by Donn Fore, seconded by Kay M. Pierantoni and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the following appropriations for FY 2019;

		Expenditures	Estimated Revenue
10-1204-3002	County Attorney-Professional Services	20,000.00	
10-510030	Funds from General Fund Balance		20,000.00
	Total	20,000.00	20,000.00

Motion was made by Gary D. Walker, seconded by Nancy R. Carwile and carried with all other members present and voting yes to pay the invoices in the amount of \$626,058.04 for April 2019.

Board Member Other Comments:

Kay M Pierantoni – Supervisor Pierantoni has concerns with items that cannot be discussed in open session.

Chairman Hamlett - Chairman Hamlett is distraught over the press release from Holocene. Supervisor Hamlett sent an email to Holocene and shared their reply.

The meeting was adjourned.