

At the regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held at the Administration Building on June 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Gary D. Walker-Chairman
Will Garnett-Vice Chairman
Garland H. Hamlett, Jr.
Robert L. Shook, Jr.
Hazel Bowman Smith
Tony Reeves
Walter T. Bailey

Absent:

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order.

County Administrator Daniel Witt read the Code of Accessibility.

Supervisor Hamlett gave the invocation.

Vice Chairman Garnett lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Shook, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Bailey, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the May 2022 minutes as presented.

Chairman Walker recessed the Board of Supervisors meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Management Plan.

No citizens were signed up or scheduled to speak.

Administrator Witt stated that he had included the Staff Report in the Board Member packets.

Chairman Walker closed the Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Plan and opened the Public Hearing for the Solar Ordinance Changes: Revenue Share and 5MW Projects.

George Toombs addressed the Board stating his opposition to the Randolph Solar Project.

Chairman Walker recessed the Public Hearing for the Solar Ordinance Changes: Revenue Share and 5MW Projects and opened the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Shook, to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Garnett-Aye, Supervisor Bailey-Aye; Supervisor Hamlett-Aye; Supervisor Reeves- Aye; Supervisor Shook- Aye; Supervisor Smith-Aye; Chairman Walker- Aye.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Smith, to approve the Solar Ordinance Changes: Revenue Share.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Bailey-Aye; Supervisor Smith-Aye; Supervisor Garnett-Aye; Supervisor Hamlett- No; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook- Aye; Chairman Walker- Aye.

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Shook, to approve the Solar Ordinance Changes: 5MW Projects.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook-Aye; Supervisor Garnett-Aye; Supervisor Bailey- Aye; Supervisor Hamlett-No; Supervisor Smith- Aye; Chairman Walker- Aye.

Motion carried.

Ms. Monique Williams and Mrs. Kathy Liston were in attendance in order to give an update on the historical contextualization for the Confederate Monument. Ms. Liston stated that there seemed to be some confusion over the word “contextualization”, which is defined as “the use of facts derived from sources that can be cited to explain the circumstances, influences and conditions that existed at the time a war memorial or monument was erected and which resulted in it’s erection.” Mrs. Liston explained that they will be reaching out to the community and to please be patient that it will take time to research and plan to reapproach the Board around the end of the year with a draft. Ms. Williams stated that people should not run from these conversations, that people should start seeing “us for who we are” and move forward.

Chairman Walker thanked both Ms. Williams and Mrs. Liston for their hard work toward the contextualization of the monument.

Lisa Mettler and Stephanie Robertson with the Southside Virginia Higher Education Center addressed the Board to give an update on the program: Ms. Robertson stated that they need help getting their information out to our High School students with their program that serves all surrounding counties. They have served 188 students with 15 students from Charlotte County in the 3 years they have been in operation. Ms. Mettler thanked the Board for their monetary support but wanted to reiterate that they need help advertising the programs they offer.

Mr. Lon Welchel from RiverStreet approached the Board to give a VATI grant update. He stated that phase one is well underway and a portion of the County is in the final design and they are actively working on the remaining parts of the County. Mr. Welchel stated that RiverStreet is looking for an office space at the intersection of Lincoln and Patrick Henry Highways and are also planning 9 cabinet sites. There is a national fiber shortage that is causing delays, but RiverStreet has already selected contractors and placed orders for the next two years. Supervisor Smith asked for an update that was specific to her region. Mr. Welchel stated that once the cabinets and office locations are finalized, and the northern part of the County is completed, they will then start work on the southern part of the county. Supervisor Smith asked what was the timeline for the project, to which Mr. Welchel answered the contract stated three years; they have not set a specific date.

Vice Chairman Garnett asked Mr. Welchel when RiverStreet will actually put boots on the ground, to which Mr. Welchel answered that all plans must be engineered, then they will start putting fiber in the ground. He is hoping the fourth quarter of this year. Supervisor Bailey stated to Mr. Welchel that if the location for the office building is in his area, he would be willing to help him with that. Supervisor Hamlett asked if the Board could see the progress map, that people are constantly asking him for one. Mr. Welchel stated that once the project gets underway, they will have an online map to link to the County’s website.

Committee Reports:

Supervisor Bailey stated that the Charlotte County Rescue Squad is doing really well, averaging an income of \$16,000 on a weekly basis. The letter for the EMS study has been submitted and he expects that to start around September 1st.

Supervisor Shook attended the Social Services Board meeting and they are doing well.

Supervisor Hamlett had a call from VDEM and there had been a mix up with the hand sanitizer order. He corrected that and got everything where it should be.

Supervisor Reeves stated that he has found someone to fill the vacancy for his district on the Social Services Board. Supervisor Reeves made the motion for Toni Reeves to be appointed to the Social Services Board. Supervisor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with all supervisors voting aye.

Supervisor Smith attended the CPMT meeting, they continue to do a wonderful job. She then stated that she attended the Tri County Community Agency and stated they are very understaffed. They have appointed Monique Williams to the open seat for Charlotte County. Supervisor Smith stated that she has also been attending the Planning Commission meetings, which have been mostly about solar.

Chairman Walker stated that he attended the Commonwealth Regional Council meetings and they are doing a great job. Chairman Walker stated that CRC just hired someone from Charlotte County and he was pleased with their decision.

Public Comment Period:

Dr. Yemaja Jubilee: Read a poem about how important it is to come together as a community.

Donna Fore: Approached the Board to comment on her opposition to Randolph Solar.

Kay Pierantoni: Approached the Board to comment on her opposition to Randolph Solar.

Heather Montgomery: Approached the Board to show her support for Dr. Jubilee and her belief that she should become the County's first poet laureate.

George Toombs: Approached the Board to comment on his opposition to Randolph Solar.

Chairman Walker closed the Public Comment Period.

Administrator Witt stated that there had not been any changes in the Redistricting Plan. He then stated that the investigation regarding the Registrar's Office could be lengthy and staff recommended that action be taken on the Redistricting Plan.

Supervisor Shook made the motion to approve the Redistricting Plan. Supervisor Reeves seconded the motion.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Shook-Aye; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Garnett-Aye; Supervisor Bailey- Aye; Supervisor Hamlett-Aye; Supervisor Smith- Aye; Chairman Walker- Aye.

Motion passed.

Administrator Witt suggested tabling the VATI grant discussion until after a Closed Session Meeting.

Administrator Witt suggested setting a special called meeting for July 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM to discuss Tall Pine Siting Agreement. He proposed setting a Public Hearing on the Siting Agreement and applications regarding Tall Pines Solar on August 2, 2022.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to set a special called meeting on July 11, 2022 at 12:00 PM and Public Hearing on August 2nd. Supervisor Shook seconded the motion.

Motion passed with all Supervisors voting yes.

Supervisor Smith asked Administrator Witt to review the Economic Development and Classification Compensation Study sections of his Administrator's Report. To which Administrator Witt spoke about the ongoing development of the Heartland Park and projects the IDA is currently working on. He then spoke about the Classification Compensation Study and stated that the study hopes to be completed in late summer or early fall.

Public Comment Period:

Kay Pierantoni: Approached the Board to express her dissatisfaction with Tri County Community Agency and RiverStreet Broadband.

George Toombs: Approached the Board to comment on his opposition to Randolph Solar and how it will affect the Amish Community in the County.

Donna Fore: Approached the Board to comment on her opposition to Randolph Solar.

Chairman Walker closed the Public Comment Period.

Supervisor Hamlett made the motion to appropriate the budget for the 2023 fiscal year. Supervisor Bailey seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all Supervisors voting aye.

Supervisor Hamlett made the motion to appropriate the additional budget items for the 2023 fiscal year. Supervisor Reeves seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all Supervisors voting aye.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to appropriate monies to pay the monthly bills. Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all Supervisors voting aye.

Supervisor Bailey makes the motion to refund building permit #310 for a cancelled job. Supervisor Garnett seconded the motion.

Motion carried with all Supervisors voting aye.

Board Member Comments:

Supervisor Bailey stated that he would like to thank staff for their hard work at the close of the fiscal year.

Supervisor Smith stated that she was disappointed there was only 200 surveys were received back regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Administrator Witt announced that there will be a celebration of Juneteenth on June 18th.

Chairman Walker announced that the Board will go into Closed Session regarding the siting agreement regarding Randolph Solar.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Hamlett that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors hold a closed meeting for the following purpose:

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.A.8, consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the public body regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Specifically, the Board will discuss the proposed Siting Agreement with Randolph Virginia, LLC.

2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.A.29, discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including discussion of the terms of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, specifically, the Board will discuss negotiation of terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement to which Charlotte County is a party, and which addresses the provision of broadband service in Charlotte County by Empower Broadband, Inc & RiverStreet Communications of Virginia, Inc.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Smith Aye; Supervisor Hamlett-Aye Supervisor Garnett-Aye; Supervisor Bailey- Aye; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook-Aye and Chairman Walker-Aye.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Bailey to return to open session and adopt the following certification of closed meeting.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Smith-Aye, Supervisor Hamlett-Aye, Supervisor Garnett-Aye; Supervisor Bailey; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook-Aye and Chairman Walker-Aye.

Chairman Walker stated that the Board will table the Randolph Solar Siting Agreement.

Supervisor Garnett made the motion to adopt the Resolution regarding RiverStreet Communications of Virginia. Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Garnett- Aye; Supervisor Hamlett-Aye, Supervisor Bailey-Aye; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook-Aye, Supervisor Smith- Aye and Chairman Walker-Aye.

Motion passed.

Supervisor Hamlett made a motion to adopt the Resolution regarding Empower Broadband. Supervisor Bailey seconded the motion.

Roll call vote as follows: Supervisor Hamlett-Aye; Supervisor Bailey-Aye, Supervisor Garnett-Abstain; Supervisor Reeves-Aye; Supervisor Shook-Aye, Supervisor Smith- Aye and Chairman Walker-Aye.

Motion passed.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

BY: _____
Daniel N. Witt, Clerk

ATTEST: _____
Gary D. Walker, Chairman