

At a regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held at the Administration Building on February 14, 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.

Supervisor Hamlett gave the invocation.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, 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 Shook, and carried with all other member present and voting yes to approve the January 10, 2022, Board of Supervisors' meeting minutes.

The regular meeting was recessed by Chairman Walker to conduct two public hearings. The first public hearing was held on vacating and abandoning a portion of Secondary Highway Route 698, Greenview Road. Scott Frederick with VDOT addressed the board regarding the abandonment of the secondary highway as it serves no public necessity and is no longer necessary as part of the Secondary System of State Highways. There was no public comment. A public hearing was then held on vacating and abandoning a portion of Secondary Highway Route 677, Red Hill Road. Scott Frederick with VDOT addressed the board regarding the abandonment of the secondary highway as it also serves no public necessity and is no longer necessary as part of the Secondary System of State Highways. There was no public comment. Supervisor Bailey questioned the location of the abandonment, noting there were many residents that lived on that road, and expressing concerns about the fire department's access to those residents. Scott Frederick ensured Supervisor Bailey that the abandonment would be at the very end of Route 677 and would not impact access to the residents.

With no more questions or concerns, the hearing was adjourned and Chairman Walker called the regular meeting back to order.

Motion was made by Supervisor Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Hamlett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the resolution to abandon a portion, approximately 0.11 miles, of Secondary Hwy Rt. 698, Greenview Road.

WHEREAS, it appears to this Board that a portion of Secondary Highway Route 698, Charlotte County, VA from .79 miles west of its intersection with State Route 746 to .90 miles west of its intersection with State Route 746 (current End of State Maintenance), for a distance of approximately 0.11 miles serves no public necessity and is no longer necessary as part of the Secondary System of State Highways.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IN RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Board is directed to post and publish notice of the Board's intent to abandon the aforementioned segment, pursuant to §33.2-909 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the resolution to abandon a portion of Secondary Highway Route 677, Red Hill Road.

WHEREAS, it appears to this Board that Secondary Highway Route 677, Red Hill Road, Charlotte County, VA from a point .0864 miles south of its intersection with State Route 619, Staunton Hill Road to the current end of Rt. 677 State Maintenance, for a distance of approximately 0.23 miles serves no public necessity and is no longer necessary as a part of the Secondary System of State Highways.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Board is directed to post and publish notice of the Board's intent to abandon the aforementioned segment, pursuant to §33.2-909 of the Code of Virginia of 195, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Scott Frederick with VDOT addressed the Board with a maintenance update. Mr. Frederick report that maintenance on unpaved/gravel roads is a priority because of the wet weather conditions that cause saturated soils and rutted areas. VDOT has been adding stone to keep the roads passable but was unable to grade due to the wet conditions. A headwall on Route 15 South in Wylliesburg was completed. There will be tree removal scheduled for the Scuffletown area. Due to temperatures, cold mix asphalt is being used to fix potholes that were caused by the wet weather freezing and thawing on the roads. The cul-de-sac project at Shady Oaks for school buses and emergency vehicles is scheduled to start next week. On Welsh Track Road there is a timber deck that is loose causing potholes on the bridge. The bridge crew has been notified and will put this on the schedule to fix. On Route 647, Adams Road, the potholes were fixed and there is a pipe that needs to be replaced when the weather permits. The sidewalk project in Keysville to fix trip hazards on wheelchair ramps will be completed soon and VDOT will then begin work in Charlotte Court House. Supervisor Bailey stated that the Town of Phenix had a water line rupture that left a large patch in the road and was looking for VDOT assistance. Scott Frederick offered to meet with Supervisor Bailey to review the situation. Chairman Walker expressed concerns regarding snow removal, noting that during the last snow the plows did not push the snow far enough off the roads in town limits to allow for parking, which resulted in cars parked in the traffic lane. Administrator Witt added that only one lane of Law Lane was pushed which was dangerous with the amount of traffic from the Sheriff's Office on that road. Scott Frederick stated that he would look into the matter.

The County's VDOT Six-Year Improvement Plan work session was scheduled for March 14, at 12:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Supervisor Reeves: None

Supervisor Smith: None

Supervisor Shook: None

Supervisor Bailey: None

Supervisor Hamlett: Supervisor Hamlett reported that Crossroads Service Board has hired a new Executive Director, Dr. Moore, who plans to start in March. He also noted that he attended the Chief Local Elected Officials meeting and there are many open positions that are not being filled.

Chairman Walker: None

Melody Foster with the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) updated the Board on grant funds for Charlotte County and the membership refund. Ms. Foster stated that there are currently three grants that have been awarded to Charlotte County. The Transportation Fund Highway Pedestrian Project, the Charlotte Court House Drainage project through the Department of

Historic Resources, and a grant for Emergency Equipment and Software. Melody Foster stated that the CRC offers grant-writing services as well as redistricting assistance and fee-based services such as grant management and comprehensive plan assistance.

Ms. Foster reported that Charlotte County will be refunded \$4,953.46 from the membership plan since their policy provides for a refund to the membership if the audited cash fund balance is greater than \$600,000. Members can choose to keep the refund or reinvest it back into the CRC. Chairman Walker asked how many counites returned their refunds. Ms. Foster explained that last year Prince Edward returned half of their refund and Amelia and Buckingham returned all of their refund. Administrator Witt attested to the work that Melody Foster does for staff and the County through the CRC.

Public Comment:

George Toombs addressed the Board on with concerns regarding voter fraud that he believes has occurred in the County. Mr. Toombs questioned why the pollbooks were not purchased for three years when the funds were allocated to do so. He also stated that there is an invasion of solar projects in the county.

Donna Fore addressed the Board on the electoral process. Mrs. Fore stated that poll workers were selected three days prior to the election and their training was limited to a few hours of videos. Mrs. Fore noted that it is unclear if the voting machines were tested and there was no voter education on changes to voting laws that were updated. Mrs. Fore expressed additional concerns about the confusion on how to handle the ballots at the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) Canvass and the number of missing ballots.

Kay Pierantoni addressed the Board on the Memorandum of Agreement with Tri-County Community Action. Mrs. Pierantoni stated the Memorandum of Agreement should be limited to a one-year term. Mrs. Pierantoni also spoke on the committee appointments for the Planning Commission, expressing concerns about the appointment of Will Garnett as the Board's liaison due to a conflict of interest with the Randolph Solar Project.

Jack Reynolds addressed the Board on the Tall Pines Solar Project expressing that he does not think there is anything that anyone can do or say to change the direction of the project. Mr. Reynolds stated that it is unfair to sacrifice our beautiful county to create energy that is not going to be used in the county.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the resolution of appreciation honoring Donna Fore for her service to Charlotte County.

WHEREAS, Donna L. Fore served the citizens of Charlotte County as a member of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors from January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2021, representing the citizens of the Phenix/Aspen Electoral District; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Board of Supervisors, Donna L. Fore served on numerous local and regional committees and boards including the Local Emergency Planning Commission, Communications Committee, Broadband Authority Board, and Virginia's Growth Alliance Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Donna L. Fore also dedicated her time and talents to promoting the interests of veterans, supporting the needs of Charlotte County's emergency response personnel, addressing facility needs for Charlotte County's students and teachers, and improving citizen participation and transparency in local government; and

WHEREAS, Donna L. Fore committed her career to serving her county and all Americans, retiring in June 2007 as a United States Air Force Colonel after thirty years of faithful service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to Donna L. Fore for her service to the citizens of Charlotte County.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be permanently recorded in the minutes of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors.

Electoral Board Chairman, Glenn Baker, then addressed the Board. Mr. Baker stated the Electoral Board had overlooked the need to purchase printers for the new pollbooks. These printers would be used to properly check-in voters and print out a “ticket” with the voter’s information on it. The election officials would then use this information to ensure the voter receives proper credit for voting. The Electoral Board recommended returning the smaller cases that had been purchased for the pollbooks and purchasing the printers and larger case that would hold both the printer and the pollbooks.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Smith, and carried with all other members present and voting yes, to appropriate \$2,160 to purchase eight pollbook printers with the larger cases.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, seconded by Supervisor Shook, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the resolution of appreciation honoring Royal S. Freeman for his service to Charlotte County.

WHEREAS, Royal S. Freeman served the citizens of Charlotte County as a member of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2019, representing the citizens of the Bacon/Saxe Electoral District; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure Royal S. Freeman also represented the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors on the South Central Workforce Investment Board and served on the Communications Committee and other local committees; and

WHEREAS, Royal S. Freeman carried out his duties as a member of the Board of Supervisors with dedication and care, demonstrating his commitment to serving his community and promoting the best interests of the citizens of Charlotte County, and

WHEREAS, Royal S. Freeman, has dedicated his career to public service in Charlotte County, beginning his law enforcement career with the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office in 1988 and serving for more than thirty years before being elected to the position of Charlotte County Sheriff in the November 2019 general election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Royal S. Freeman for his continued service and dedication to the citizens of Charlotte County.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be permanently recorded in the minutes of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to adopt the resolution confirming the Director of Emergency Services’ declaration of a local emergency with the corrected date of January 15, 2022.

WHEREAS, Garland H. Hamlett, Jr., is designated as the Director of Emergency Services for Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2022, the Director of Emergency Services issued a “Declaration of Local Emergency” in response to a winter storm, and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Code 844-146.21, it is the responsibility of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors to formally confirm the declaration of a local emergency, and,

WHEREAS, due to the occurrence of the January 2022 Winter Storm, Charlotte County faced conditions of potential peril to the lives, safety and property of the residents of Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, that as a result of this peril, the proclamation of the existence of an emergency was necessary to permit the full powers of government to deal effectively with the conditions of peril; and

WHEREAS, during the existence of this emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the Emergency Services organization and functions of Charlotte County were carried out as prescribed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia

and the ordinances and approved plans of Charlotte County in order to mitigate the effects of said emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors hereby confirms the declaration of a local emergency made by the Director of Emergency Services on January 15, 2022 and reaffirms the declaration of local emergency.

Bill Mayhew with the Charlotte County Rescue Squad requested funding for the Rescue Squad that would be in addition to the annual contribution already received from the County. Mr. Mayhew stated that since COVID, the Rescue Squad's payments for services were no longer being received in a timely manner, particularly from Medicare and Medicaid. He also explained that increases in the cost of fuel and supplies and the demand for services had added to the financial burden.

In response to questions from Supervisor Hamlett regarding salary, Mr. Mayhew stated three crews worked the five weekdays and two crews that worked on the weekend, with a total of \$12,600 a week spent on salaries. Mr. Mayhew explained that he and Phillip Staten provide oversight for employee hours and tried to keep them at 48 per week, but employees sometimes worked as many as 60 hours per week since they only had 13 or 14 paid staff members and six volunteers. Mr. Mayhew stated that, to maintain the crews, more money was being spent than was coming in. Supervisor Hamlett expressed concerns regarding the Rescue Squad's financial management. Chairman Walker noted that the Rescue Squad is an independent organization, but the Board must ensure that the citizens are served by a Rescue Squad.

Supervisor Smith inquired about the net loss of approximately \$223,000 shown on the Rescue Squad's 2021 budget and the current 2022 budget of approximately \$963,000. Mr. Mayhew explained that while costs had increased, billing income was also increasing due to increases in rates. However, he stated, that income was not currently available due to delays in receiving payments. In response to payroll questions from Supervisor Smith, Mr. Mayhew stated that approximately \$650,000 of the current budget was related to payroll and \$175,000 of that amount was for overtime. Mr. Mayhew said that while they tried to keep employees at 48 hours per week and maintain a maximum of 60 hours per week per employee, recently they did have some employees that worked 70 hours due to employees that were out. Mr. Mayhew confirmed that additional staff members would help cut costs associated with overtime pay, however, they were competing with Centra and others for employees. Mr. Mayhew said the Rescue Squad was requesting \$50,000 to \$80,000 and, once the expected funds came in, they would be glad to give the money back. When Supervisor Smith inquired if the Rescue Squad was willing to allow the Board of Supervisors some oversight and access to their financial records, Mr. Mayhew confirmed that they were.

Supervisor Garnett questioned the short-term debt and long-term debt. Mr. Mayhew explained that the short-term debt was for vehicle repairs and to cover costs due to the decreased revenue and the long-term debt was associated with the purchase of an ambulance in 2012. Supervisor Garnett then noted that the Rescue Squad had also received \$265,000 in 2021 through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program that helped offset their expenses.

Supervisor Walker recommended the Public Safety Committee expend funds necessary to ensure emergency medical services for the County's citizens, with the committee using the expertise of outside resources to develop oversight requirements.

Supervisor Bailey stated that the Code of Virginia requires a locality to have EMS coverage, which is being fulfilled through the Rescue Squad and that the County cannot let that stop.

In response to an inquiry by Supervisor Reeves, Mr. Mayhew stated that funds requested would cover costs until the end of April if they were able to cut back to two crews during the week. Mr. Mayhew then discussed calls from other localities and Supervisor Garnett expressed concerns about the Rescue Squad responding to these calls on a regular basis. Supervisor Shook pointed out that this was the first time the Rescue Squad has asked for additional funding and Charlotte County's Rescue Squad is not the only emergency medical service provider having financial issue. Supervisor Shook stated that he believed with more oversight the Board could continue to support the Rescue Squad. Supervisor Bailey stated that mutual aid is being abused if Charlotte

County is regularly answering general calls from outside of the County, and Charlotte County citizens need to be served first.

Chairman Walker then passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Garnett.

Motion was made by Chairman Walker, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, and carried with Supervisor Hamlett voting no and all other members present voting yes to give the Public Safety Committee the authority to spend up to \$50,000 and disperse those funds at their discretion, and to draw up oversight requirements for the special funding, and for the committee, with outside expertise, to begin working to address the long-term problem and report back at the next Board meeting.

The Board then discussed appropriation of the funds by the following resolution that was read into the record. Chairman Walker stated that the resolution did not supersede the motion just made. Supervisor Shook made the motion to approve the resolution as presented, Supervisor Reeves seconded the motion; and roll call vote as follows: Robert L. Shook, Jr.-Aye; M. Anthony Reeves-Aye; Gary D. Walker-Aye; Will Garnett-Aye; Walter T. Bailey-Aye; Garland H. Hamlett, Jr.-No; Hazel Bowman Smith -Aye.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RE: RESCUE SQUAD FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) has been advised that an additional appropriation is needed to enable the Charlotte County Volunteer Rescue Squad (“Rescue Squad”) to meet its financial obligations;

WHEREAS, the Board has had little time to investigate the basis for the request, but has made a preliminary inquiry;

WHEREAS, based on the current cash balance in the Rescue Squad account, and based on a projection of the Rescue Squad’s need for funds for the period of February 14, 2022 through March 14, 2022, the Board has determined that an appropriation to the Rescue Squad in the amount of \$50,000 would enable the Rescue Squad to meet its financial obligations to and through March 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, prior to March 14, 2022, the Board will review the past financial activities of the Rescue Squad, and projections of funds needed for future Rescue Squad activities, and based on its findings will determine the best means by which continued Rescue Squad services can be provided efficiently and economically after March 14, 2022.

IT IS, ACCORDINGLY, HEREBY RESOLVED by the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That the sum of \$50,000 is hereby appropriated to the Charlotte County Rescue Squad, and the Charlotte County Treasurer is authorized and directed to make payment in that amount to the Rescue Squad.
2. That the Board and County staff will determine the means by which Rescue Squad services can be provided to Charlotte County citizens efficiently and economically after March 14, 2022.

ADOPTED this 14th day of February, 2022.

Committee and Board Appointments

Supervisor Smith expressed concerns about the appointment of Supervisor Garnett as the liaison for the Planning Commission since he is abstaining from participating in the Randolph Solar Project review. Supervisor Smith recommended appointing another Board member to that position.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bailey, and seconded by Supervisor Smith, with all other members present and voting yes to amend the Board Appointments to appoint Supervisor Hamlett to the Planning Commission with Supervisor Garnett as the alternate.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Reeves, with all other members present and voting yes to appoint Wendy Shores Lankford to the Industrial Development Authority as the representative for the Wylliesburg/Red Oak District.

Motion was made by Supervisor Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Hamlett, with all other members present and voting yes to reappoint Kenneth Walker to the Board of Zoning Appeals as the representative for the Cullen/Red House District.

Administrator Witt addressed the Board regarding the *Tri-County Community Action Agency Memorandum of Agreement*. Administrator Witt stated that the two changes requested by the Board previously were specifying hours for Tri-County’s Charlotte County office and identifying whose policy would be followed when determining if the Tri-County offices would be closed for health reasons. The agreement had been revised to include a minimum of eight hours per week for the Charlotte County Office. However, the office would not be opened until the staff position, currently being advertised, was filled. Administrator Witt explained that closure of the offices was based on Tri-County’s policies and needs rather than by guidelines of the Center for Disease Control, Virginia Department of Health, or local agencies’ policies. However, Tri-County indicated that citizens would be served and, if necessary, Tri-County staff would go to citizens’ homes to meet with them.

Supervisor Reeves questioned if citizens were getting the service they needed from Tri-County. Administrator Witt stated that he has not received any complaints from citizens regarding access to Tri-County’s services.

Supervisor Smith expressed concerns about citizens ability to get in touch with Tri-County. She also stated that she did not think eight hours per week was sufficient office hours for the citizens of Charlotte County. Supervisor Garnett stated that he would like to see Tri-County’s local office open for two full days.

The public hearing for the Confederate Monument was set for April 11, 2022, at 6:05 p.m.

On March 14, 2022, the Board will set a special meeting for the school budget Public Hearing for April 18, 2022.

Public Comment Period

George Toombs addressed the Board regarding alleged voter fraud that was being investigated by the State Police in Nottoway County. Mr. Toombs spoke on the Randolph Solar Project’s PJM Report. He then stated that \$50,000 was donated to the Republican candidate. Mr. Toombs indicated he had asked the Republican Party Chairman not to nominate Dean Foster or Glenn Baker to the Electoral Board because they both had option agreements with Randolph Solar.

Kay Pierantoni addressed the Board with her concerns over Tri-County Community Action. Mrs. Pierantoni stated that similar agencies have operated during the pandemic without closing their offices. Mrs. Pierantoni questioned why someone from the agency would be able to come out to a citizen, but a citizen would not be able to go to the agency’s office.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the following appropriations:

	Expenditure	Revenue
Generator for Gas Pumps at the School Bus Garage	\$4,000	
Sheriff’s Department Personnel Savings- CARES		\$4,000
Snow Blade and Bracket for Pick-up Truck	\$7,000	
Sheriff’s Department Personnel Savings- CARES		\$7,000
	\$11,000	\$11,000

Motion was made by Supervisor Garnett, seconded by Supervisor Bailey, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve appropriate of flow-through funds in the amount of \$474,893.94 for Charlotte County Public Schools.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with all other members present and voting yes to approve the invoices for payment in the amount of \$685,692.50.

Board Member Other Comments:

Supervisor Reeves - None

Supervisor Smith – Stated that it is important for Tri-County Community Action to have a presence at Social Services because that is where citizens in need will go for assistance.

Supervisor Garnett – Asked staff to request a follow-up report from Rob Taylor with Riverstreet regarding their progress on broadband. Administrator Witt reported that Rob Taylor is scheduled to attend the March 14, 2022, Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Supervisor Bailey- In response to the After-Action Report for the February 2021 ice storm, Supervisor Bailey commended the ice storm event response efforts.

Supervisor Shook - None

Supervisor Hamlett - Stated that a Virginia State Police forensic audit was needed at the Voter Registrar's Office.

Chairman Walker - None

Supervisor Smith questioned the purpose of the audit recommended by Supervisor Hamlett. Supervisor Hamlett stated that he wanted to know how things had transpired prior to going to court. Chairman Walker questioned if the Board had the authority to request an audit of the Registrar's Office since the Electoral Board oversaw the office and if there was any update on the lawsuit. Administrator Witt stated that the lawsuit was dismissed. Chairman Walker suggested contacting legal counsel for guidance on the Board of Supervisor's authority. Chairman Walker also asked if the State Board of Elections had investigated. Electoral Board Chairman Glenn Baker informed the Board that none had been done to his knowledge.

Motion was made by Supervisor Hamlett, seconded by Supervisor Garnett, and carried with Chairman Walker abstaining and all other members voting yes to contact Virginia State Police to do a forensic audit of the Voter Registrar's Office related to activities prior to the court date.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.