

At a regular meeting of the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors held at the Administration Building on May 9, 2022, at 1:30 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.

Supervisor Garnett lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Walker recessed the Board of Supervisors meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the County's Redistricting Plan.

Public Comment Period

Donna Fore spoke out against approving the Redistricting Plan and stated that we should not proceed until the State Police Investigation regarding the Registrar's Office is completed.

Chairman Walker recessed the Public Comment Period and called the Board of Supervisors meeting back to order.

Supervisor Hamlett made a motion to delay the approval of the Redistricting Plan until the State Police Investigation is completed.

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion.

Supervisor Garnett asked when does the redistricting plan have to be approved, to which County Administrator Daniel Witt answered by September 9, 2022.

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

Vote 4-3, Motion carried.

Chairman Walker recessed the Board of Supervisors meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the County's VDOT 6-year plan.

Public Comment Period

Supervisor Reeves read a letter from Lorene Grant that stated the re-paved section of County Line Road needs improvements.

Supervisor Hamlett made a motion to pass the VDOT 6-year plan, Supervisor Smith seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Scott Frederick, from Virginia Department of Transportation, presented an update on where VDOT's work in the County, including putting new road surfaces down for "scheduled maintenance work" and the completion of the Shady Oaks Subdivision turn around.

Supervisor Reeves stated that Route 615 in Red House to Campbell County still needs work.

Supervisor Bailey stated that citizens have contacted him regarding recently appeared potholes on Route 40 from Cub Creek to Brookneal.

Supervisor Hamlett asked Mr. Frederick to please look at the bridge on Route 47 in his district.

Supervisor Shook stated that the work VDOT has done on Richardson Road was great, but his district still needs work as well.

County Administrator Daniel Witt stated that citizens have contacted him concerning the rumble strips in front of Sheppard's Tavern in Madisonville. Mr. Frederick stated that VDOT is not installing rumble strips in that area now and suggested that the Board could request a reduction in the speed limit for that area.

Committee Reports

Supervisor Bailey stated that the Charlotte County Rescue Squad will more than likely not need the money they requested from the County. They are still struggling with staffing issues and are

mostly in need EMTs and above. Supervisor Bailey stated that other than Lunenburg County, Charlotte County is the only county without a Public Safety Director and stated that CCRS needs oversight. He stated that he thinks its best to hire a Public Safety Director and to use part of the \$300,000 in funds that are normally appropriated to CCRS for the salary. Supervisor Bailey stated that it is imperative to have a Coach for your team and he thinks this would be a great move for the County. Supervisor Bailey then stated that it is EMS Week next week and he wanted to give a shoutout to all Fire Departments and CCRS for the great job they are doing. Supervisor Reeves asked what else would the Public Safety Director do? Supervisor Bailey answered that he would oversee all the County's Fire Departments and CCRS.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion for a Fire and EMS study be conducted by the State as soon as possible, which is a service provided by the State.

Vice-Chairman Garnett seconded the Motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Shook: none

Supervisor Hamlett: none

Vice-Chairman Garnett: none

Supervisor Smith attended CPMT meeting last month and they are doing a wonderful job. They are running very short on money. She stated that she has been attending all the recent Planning Commission meetings as well.

Supervisor Reeves: none

Chairman Walker gave an update for the Facilities Committee. Regarding the Confederate Statue, he had spoken with Monique Williams about creating a plaque to contextualize the statue. Chairman Walker stated that Ms. Williams has contacted the Department of Historic Resources to ask for assistance in creating the language for the plaque.

Public Comment Period

Lane Dunn approached the Board to support the Solar Project. Mr. Dunn stated that this opens up work for local companies and the Board should take the County as a whole into consideration.

Supervisor Shook read a letter from Emily Jackson supporting the solar project. She stated that a landowner's right to choose what happens to their land is their American right and believes that solar will make a significant positive difference in Charlotte County's future.

Dr. Heztiene Foster approached the Board to support the movement of the Confederate statue. Dr. Foster believes moving the statue will increase visitation to both museums and bring the community together.

Catherine Jackson approached the Board to support moving of the statue and stated it would be "Civil Rights for All".

Kathy Liston approached the Board to give an update on the phone service in the 376 district. Mrs. Liston stated that following the previous Board of Supervisors meeting, she was out of phone service for 10 days. County Administrator Witt, Supervisor Bailey, Mrs. Liston and an employee of Century Link all made complaints to the SEC and her service was reconnected, but still an awful connection.

Donna Fore approached the Board and stated the broadband situation in the County is ridiculous. She stated that she is opposed to solar projects in the County and believes that if you have any ties to solar, you should not vote.

Thelma Jones approached the Board and stated that she is in favor of moving the Confederate statue.

Curtis Morton approached the Board to show his support for solar projects.

Supervisor Hamlett read a letter from William McCargo that stated the NAACP is in favor of moving the Confederate statue.

Kay Pierantoni approached the Board to support moving of the Confederate statue.

Donna Realá and Frances Flaherty approached the Board to ask for help maintaining their dirt road: Windy Hill Lane in Charlotte Court House. When they moved here, they were the only two houses on the road, now its considerably more and they cannot pay for the road to be fixed themselves. Realá stated the road is impassable during snowstorms and that is a hazard since senior citizens live on the road.

Greg Matthew gave a presentation for Dominion Energy regarding the Butler Farm Project. He stated that Dominion values what the community values and appreciates everyone's cooperation while working through Dominion's plan.

Chairman Walker asked County Administrator Witt if there are Committee processes the Board needs to approve. County Administrator Witt responded no, there are not.

Supervisor Hamlett asked about the process to increase easements.

Mr. Brette Arbogast approached the Board regarding Charlotte County Public Schools 5-Year CIP plan. Chairman Witt commended him on going into such detail with his inserts in the Board packet.

Supervisor Hamlett made the motion to approve the School's CIP Plan.

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to approve the personal property tax rate to \$3.25.

Vice-Chairman Garnett seconded the motion.

Supervisor Smith asked what the rate was before the Board last lowered it. Chairman Walker stated the rate was \$3.95.

All supervisors voted in favor with exception of Supervisor Smith who voted no.

Motion carried.

Consideration of Approval of FY 2022/ 2023 Charlotte County Consolidated Budget

Vice Chairman Garnett made the motion to approve the Charlotte County Consolidated Budget for FY22/FY23.

Supervisor Reeves seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor with exception of Supervisor Smith who voted no.

Motion carried.

Chairman Gary Walker scheduled Randolph Solar Project Public Hearing for June 1st at 6:00 PM at the Randolph-Henry High School Auditorium.

Chairman Walker asked that printed copies of the Randolph Solar Conditions be put in the County's public libraries, the County Administrator's Office and the Town Offices.

Mr. Witt stated that staff worked on the County's EOP every five years and a copy is in the Board member's packets. Supervisor Bowman Smith asked why the 2010 census was used, to

which Assistant County Administrator Monica Elder replied that the consulting firm recommended the use of the 2010 census until the 2020 census data goes unchallenged. County Administrator Witt stated that staff will change the data to the 2020 census information if the Board requests.

Supervisor Hamlett motioned to approve the County's EOP.

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Board Appointments

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to appoint Patrick Andrews to the Planning Commission.

Vice Chairman William Garnett seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Smith made the motion to appoint Clinton Card to the IDA Board.

Supervisor Reeves seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Reeves stated that he is working with Sari Goff to find a nominee for the Department of Social Services representative for the Red House/Cullen district.

Supervisor Reeves made the motion to appoint Robert Shook, Jr. to the Piedmont Senior Resources Board.

Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

All supervisors vote in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to approve the CRC Request Cash Match Virginia Growth Alliance.

Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

All supervisors voted in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Confederate Monument Discussion:

Supervisor Hamlett asked if there was a definite amount of the costs to move the Confederate Monument, to which County Administrator Witt replied that the County had received three quotes several months ago that all ranged from \$50,000 - \$60,000.

Chairman Walker stated that it was brought to his attention that if the statue is moved from in front of the old courthouse, it will be directly in front of the door to the new courthouse.

Supervisor Smith stated that she believed it was time to take action on this matter and made the motion to move the monument to in front of the museum, either by grant or County funds.

Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

Chairman Walker stated that he would like to wait for Monique Williams to create a plaque with a history description regarding the monument.

Supervisor Smith stated that that plaque could be placed anywhere.

Supervisor Reeves stated that money is an issue, and he will be voting no.

Supervisor Bailey stated that he has been contacted by numerous citizens who have requested that he vote no to the taxpayers funding the move and therefore will be voting no.

Supervisor Shook stated that he too has been contacted by citizens in his district and will be voting no to moving the statue.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Smith: yes

Supervisor Hamlett: yes

Supervisor Shook: no

Supervisor Bailey: no

Vice Chairman Garnett: no

Supervisor Reeves: no

Chairman Walker: no

Supervisor Bailey asked what needs to be done to expedite Ms. Williams and Kathy Liston to write up a plaque to recognize history, to which Chairman Walker added he wants it completed sooner, rather than later.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any questions regarding the Administrator's Report.

Supervisor Bailey asked about the status of the Shaw Building, to which County Administrator Witt responded an outside company is removing asbestos.

Supervisor Smith stated that she is concerned about the broadband and would like to invite Riverstreet Broadband to attend a meeting and give an update.

Vice Chairman Garnett asked if there is a definite date to put a shovel in the ground, to which County Administrator Witt replied he hasn't been provided a date but will inquire.

Public Comment Period:

Kay Pierantoni addressed the Board and stated she is not in favor of solar projects, and the County should look at the mistakes that have been made in Mecklenburg.

Donna Fore addressed the Board and stated that she is not in favor of the solar projects, the construction of the project will increase traffic on back roads that school buses are also using.

Dr. Heztime Foster addressed the Board and stated that she was disappointed in the Board's decision to not move the monument and doesn't feel as justice was served.

Stephan Barnes addressed the Board and discussed rainwater runoff from the solar projects and stated he was not in favor of pursuing further work on them.

Francis Hodsell from Solunesco addressed the Board and stated that he is the solar project developer and a County landowner. He stated that he has addressed Stephan Barnes' concerns regarding runoff.

Appropriations:

Vice Chairman Garnett made the motion to approve County Appropriations requested for FY 2022.

Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

All supervisors vote in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Supervisor Bailey made the motion to approve the funds needed to pay County invoices.

Supervisor Hamlett seconded the motion.

All supervisors vote in favor of the motion.

Motion carried.

Board Member Comments:

Supervisor Hamlett stated that we have overextended ourselves in solar. He stated that he thinks the County has moved too quickly and he wants to make sure everything is transparent.

Supervisor Hamlett then stated that he believes if a person has any ties to the solar project, they should not be allowed to vote. He also stated that the solar project is not in compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan and it should be on hold until all issues are resolved.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

BY: _____
Daniel N. Witt, Clerk

ATTEST: _____
Gary D. Walker, Chairman