

Virginia: At a regular scheduled meeting of the Essex County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., in the School Board meeting room, 109 Cross Street, Tappahannock, Virginia.

Present: Robert Akers, Chairman
Ronnie G. Gill, Vice Chairman
Edwin Smith, Jr., Supervisor
Sidney Johnson, Supervisor
John C. Magruder, Supervisor

Present: April Rounds, Interim County Administrator, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Akers called the meeting of Tuesday, January 1, 2023 to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Chairman asked the Clerk to call out the roll; a quorum was met.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Aker led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Akers asked the Board if anything else needs to be added or deleted from the agenda. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

RECOGNITION

Resolution #23-002

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In Recognition of Extraordinary Service and Leadership, the Essex County Board of Supervisors Presents this Resolution in Honor of

John C. Crump III

WHEREAS, from April 26, 2000, through November 30, 2022, John Crump selflessly served Essex County as both member and chairman of the Essex County Board of Zoning Appeals;

WHEREAS, from April 26, 2000, through November 30, 2022, John Crump provided sound, consistent and fair review and judgement of issues brought before the Essex County Board of Zoning Appeals;

WHEREAS, from April 26, 2000, through November 30, 2022, John Crump recruited, cultivated and mentored new members to the Essex County Board of Zoning Appeals;

WHEREAS, from May 3, 2002, through February 28, 2012, John Crump faithfully served Essex County as both member and secretary of the Essex County Electoral Board;

WHEREAS, from May 3, 2002, through February 28, 2012, John Crump recruited, appointed and trained voters to serve as Officers of Election for Essex County;

WHEREAS, from May 3, 2002, through February 28, 2012, John Crump appointed and collaborated with the Essex County General Registrar/Director of Elections;

WHEREAS, from May 3, 2002, through February 28, 2012, John Crump administered fair, accurate, and equitable elections for Essex County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors with much respect and gratitude extends its appreciation and recognition to John C. Crump, III for his leadership, dedication and service given to Essex County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution expressing the appreciation and respect of this Board of Supervisors on this matter shall be conveyed to John C. Crump, III and shall be spread upon the meeting minutes of said Board of Supervisors.

Signed on this 10th day of January, Two-Thousand and Twenty-Three by the Essex County Supervisors:

Supervisor Robert Akers, Greater Tappahannock

Supervisor Ronnie Gill, South

Supervisor Sidney Johnson, North

Supervisor John Magruder, Central

Supervisor Edwin E. "Bud" Smith, Jr., At-Large

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed changes to the Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Ordinance Hearing

No public comment

2023 Zoning Permit Fee Schedule

This will not be adopted until February

No Public comment

FY22 School Grant Public Hearing

This is just to reappropriate the funding they have received.

No Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Libby Beairi – works at 531 Church Lane Tappahannock. She represents the Friends of the Rappahannock, a local non-profit environmental watershed group. She is introducing herself as the new lower river steward. She is the first line of contact for any river related issues. They do oyster restoration, living shoreline, wetland restoration and education.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S and AGENCIES' REPORTS

Interim County Administrator Rounds

Administrator Rounds stated that the Berkley Group is handling our EMS Chief recruitment process. The first round of application review to VET candidates to go to the next round ended on January 6, 2023. They have identified 7 applicants to receive the next set of questions to move on to the next phase of testing. That will begin the first week of February.

Kay Carlton

Wanted to give a shout out to the county and town maintenance staff for getting the decorations down.

Supervisor Johnson

Stated that a lot of hound dogs being rescued during hunting season. We need to be respectful of the animals.

Shared that the library now has a blood pressure machine. We are currently ranked highest for people dying of blood illness.

Vice Chairman Gill

He stated that the financial report looks so far

Shout Outs

- Building Department has been scanning and is ahead of schedule. Gina Vaughan and Kelly McKnight have done a great job.
- Chuck did a telecommunication audit and came up with a \$5,800 a year savings.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS' REPORTS

Commissioner of Revenue Tommy Blackwell stated that the Transient occupancy tax has been submitted to the board for review. The other is the 2022 Forest sustainability Fund. We did receive those funds but does require the board to determine how those funds will be spend with the guidelines that were set forth. It was not a lot of money \$7,622.23 for the first year.

Chairman Akers asked about the 6% and 3% could be rebated back to the owner of the property if they pay in a reasonable time. Are they billed 3% and if they don't pay they are billed the other 3% or do we bill them 6% and we rebate them 3%. Commissioner Blackwell stated that this is 3% of what we receive. It is also just a suggestion.

Commissioner Blackwell also stated that he drafted the ordinance but would like for the Board to send it to the Attorney.

Supervisor Magruder stated that the Forest Sustainability fund has to be used for education, outdoor recreation or forest conservation. We received \$7,622.23. During the budget time we should look at where to place this money and we should look at putting this money into next years budget and then we spend that and just base it on what we receive.

Chairman Akers asked if the board is ok to send the Transient Occupancy Tax ordinance to the attorney. They were all in agreement.

Commissioner Blackwell asked what they considered the timeline to be if they were going to have it follow with the Fiscal Year?

Supervisor Magruder suggested pushing it out with the Fiscal Year.

Vice Chairman Gill stated it still has to go for a public hearing as well so they will need that time.

Supervisor Johnson asked how many establishments do we think this will impact.

Commissioner Blackwell stated we have not received all of the business licenses but would guess around 3 dozen.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES' MINUTES

Chairman Akers announced that Mrs. Cheryl Evans has resigned from the Planning Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Johnson made a motion to approve all three and seconded by Supervisor Smith. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

NEW BUSINESS

County Purchasing Agent Appointments

Vice Chairman Gill stated As allowed under Code of Virginia Section 15.2-414, I move that the Board of Supervisors appoint April Rounds, Interim County

Administrator, and Gina Vaughan as County Purchasing Agents. Bud Smith seconded. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

Max Helivan suggested making an amendment to the agenda to add the EDA discussion to the agenda under new business.

Supervisor Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda. Supervisor Magruder seconded. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

Deferred Ordinance #23-001

This is deferred until February.

Proposed Changes to the Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Ordinance

Supervisor Johnson made motion to adopt these changes. Supervisor Smith seconded.

Supervisor Magruder asked if there was a way to track the amounts.

Commissioner Blackwell stated that there is a way to track each year after the book is run.

AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

FY22 School Grant

Supervisor Johnson made the Motion to amend the FY21-22 budget for Essex County by appropriating \$2,990,345.00 due to the school receiving additional state and federal funding during the fiscal year. It was seconded by Vice Chairman Gill. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

FY23 School ARPA Pandemic Bonus

Supervisor Johnson made the Motion to approve ECPS FY23 ARPA Pandemic Bonus Budget Supplement Request in the amount of \$135,133.05 as presented. Supervisor Smith seconded. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

FY23 School STEM Comp Team

Supervisor Johnson made the Motion to approve ECPS FY23 School STEM Comp Team Grant Budget Supplement Request in the amount of \$4,943.00 as presented. Supervisor Smith seconded AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

EDA Discussion

Vice Chairman Gill made the motion to approve the proposed amendment that was drafted by the EDA that advocates for an amendment to the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act that permits one employee of Essex County to serve as Director of the EDA. Supervisor Johnson seconded. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Johnson stated In accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) I move that the Board of Supervisors convene in Closed Meeting to discuss the appointment of individual(s) to the Wetlands Board, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and CPMT; and in accordance with sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(8), to discuss and receive legal guidance regarding the assignment, performance, demotion, disciplinary action, and/or termination of specific County employee(s)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Supervisor Johnson stated RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REGARDING MEETING IN CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Essex County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 D of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Essex County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County Board of Supervisors this the 10th day of January 2023, hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, 1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting

requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and 2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Essex County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Akers - Certifies
Vice Chairman Gill – Certifies
Supervisor Johnson – Certifies
Supervisor Magruder – Certifies
Supervisor Smith – Certifies

Vice Chairman Gill motioned to appoint Matthew Parker and Robert Howeth to the Wetlands Board, in the roles of “alternate” (as allowed by Code) for the term of one year commencing 1/10/23. Supervisor Johnson seconded the motion.
AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTENTION: 0

Supervisor Johnson motioned to appoint Sandra Gutridge to the CPMT commencing 1/10/23. Supervisor Smith seconded the motion.
AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTENTION: 0

BOARD REQUESTS AND DIRECTIVES

Board of Supervisors Work Session, February 14, 2023 5:00 PM

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, February 14, 2023 7:00PM

Board cancels the RFP for Executive Search Services and gives the Interim County Administrator a directive to conduct the executive search service as discussed with the County Attorney’s office.

ADJOURN

Chairman

Clerk of the Board