Virginia: At the regular work session meeting of the Essex County Board of Supervisors held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, at 109 S. Cross St., Tappahannock, Virginia:

Board of Supervisors Present: Robert Akers, Jr., Chairman

Ronnie G. Gill, Vice Chairman Edwin E. Smith, Jr., Supervisor Sidney N. Johnson, Supervisor John C. Magruder, Supervisor

County Administration Present: April Rounds, Interim County Administrator, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Akers called the Regular Board of Supervisors Work Session of September 12, 2023, to order.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called out the roll for the Board of Supervisors; a quorum was met.

AGENDA

None

DISCUSSION

Chairman's Report and Discussion (Akers)

Chairman Aker stated that for his report there were a couple of heads items. He spoke to them last month and the month prior about the CSA and the 2% cap that the state wasn't going to cover. He was informed last week that it is going to be covered by the state now. So we are not looking at that potential \$118,000 but we will still have our match.

Vice Chairman Gill stated it is actually \$123,000 updated. He was at the CPMT meeting yesterday and the state is covering that through the new budget that has been passed.

Chairman Akers stated the Planning Commission met last Tuesday and has a recommendation for them on the Planned Unit Development and the rezoning request. He would like for them to go ahead and schedule the public hearing for that. They could do that before the next October meeting. He knows this process has been a while and he doesn't want to delay it any longer. He recommends whatever date might be available between now and the October meeting. They have to have two weeks notice for public hearing and certainly need to coordinate with the County Attorney and staff availability. He recommends doing that at the high school. He understands there was a big crowd here when the planning commission had it. He wants to make sure everyone is as comfortable as they can be and has the opportunity to speak. Is there any issue from the board with that.

Supervisor Magruder recommended the 26th or the 3rd which would be a Tuesday. The 26th of September is two weeks from today. If that is a little two tight than the 3rd.

Administrator Rounds stated it would have to go to the 3rd as we would not have enough time to advertise.

Chairman Akers stated at that time they would have the developer give a presentation to them. They should be able to get the recommendation and reports from the planning commission and the zoning administrator so they can have ample time to review that. Everything has already been submitted to the planning commission and should be exactly what is presented to them. Is he correct on that?

Administrator Rounds stated that she couldn't guess to presume what they have ready. She knows that they are still working on the minutes. There was quite a large turnout so the planning commission has not reviewed that.

Supervisor Johnson asked if the 26th wouldn't work?

Administrator Rounds stated no because today is the 12th and they would not have time to advertise properly. We could do it that week but it would need to be the 27th or later. So it could hit the paper on those Wednesdays.

Chairman Akers asked April to coordinate with staff to ensure that this board has at least a week to review all of the documentation that would be needed.

Administrator Rounds asked if the 3rd would just be an information series or information and public hearing?

Chairman Akers stated it would be information and public hearing.

Vice Chairman Gill stated he is not here on October 3rd.

Chairman Akers stated he doesn't imagine it has to be on a Tuesday. They can look at other dates.

Administrator Rounds asked if the board would anticipate voting on the matter that night or at the next meeting on the 10th.

Chairman Akers stated he thinks that would be a decision for the board based on the information that is given. He wouldn't want to presume, it would be up to the rest of the boards discretion on whether it is taken up at that point or if it is taken to the October meeting to be done first thing if there is additional information needed or questions that need to be asked or follow up.

Supervisor Magruder stated the 27th is a PDC meeting for him and Bud.

Administrator Rounds asked about October 5th which could give staff time to complete the materials.

Supervisor Magruder stated he is not available on the 5th. He could do the 28th or the 4th.

Administrator Rounds asked if they all vote for October 4th?

Chairman Akers stated is ok with that.

Vice Chairman Gill stated that he was good.

Supervisor Johnson stated is not good on the 4th.

Chairman Akers asked about October 2nd which is a Monday?

Supervisor Magruder stated he is good.

Chairman Akers is good.

Vice Chairman Gill is good.

Supervisor Johnson is good.

Supervisor Smith is good.

Administrator Rounds asked if they wanted 5 or 7?

Chairman Akers stated 7.

Administrator Round stated it would be contingent on working it out with the school if the Auditorium is available.

Supervisor Magruder asked if it was at 7.

Chairman Akers stated that is cored. They can decide if they want to take a break after that session to meet with legal council. He knows Max had stated he wanted to go over the various proffers, which he has not reviewed so he has ha better understanding. They can take a break and if the board so chooses to take action that night we would do so before that action would take place.

Administrator stated she will check on his availability.

Chairman Akers stated it would be dependent on that as well.

Administrator Rounds stated if not she know he has confirmed for the regular meeting on the 10th.

Supervisor Magruder asked if there would be a packet of information to review by the 25th. That gives us a week for review. It is a big packet. He would like a full week to review.

Chairman Akers stated that he believes the information they were given a month ago has changed.

Administrator Rounds stated it has changed substantially.

Chairman Aker stated that is one reason he didn't review it at the time because he was fearful that it might change by that time. He knew the planning commission had requested some other things.

Administrator Rounds stated the packet will be ready. The staff report from the zoning consultant will be ready. Really just the comments and the planning commission minutes would be beneficial for the board to ready. There were many public comments offered that night for your consideration.

Chairman Akers stated if possible when we do the announcement for the public hearing could we put a form online that would allow anyone who wants to submit comments or send an email or written comments in?

Administrator Rounds stated normally we set up a separate email that has a due by time and date that opens up and then shuts down. So there is time to gather and put them out to the board in a complete packet.

Chairman Akers stated if we can have a sign up sheet for those that wish to speak. We will make sure to give anyone who wants to speak after that adequate time but at least we can go through and call everyone who signed up to expedite the process a little bit.

Supervisor Magruder stated that in the past they setup 2 mics that way the person was ready at the second microphone so they don't have to wait for them to walk down the aisle and flows a little better than a sign up sheet.

Administrator Rounds stated the sign up sheet can be tedious if they have left or changed their mind but can do whatever board wants.

Chairman Akers stated it would be nice to have it. They can put it out again at the end. He can call through the names that are on there.

Supervisor Johnson stated the sign up sheet allows to judge an allotment of time for them to speak.

Chairman Akers stated correct like 3 or 5 minutes.

Administrator Round stated she would work with Chuck to set that up.

Chairman Akers stated that is all he had for that. They can go ahead and get that scheduled contingent on getting the appropriate parties together. He asked April to let the developers know that is their intent.

Supervisor Magruder asked if it was October 2nd at 7PM at the school board.

Chairman Akers stated it is at the High School.

<u>LaGrange Industrial Park Discussion: Directive to Planning Commission for Development Plan including</u> Utilities (Akers)

Chairman Akers stated the second item on the Agenda is the LaGrange Industrial Park discussion. They had spoken to the Parkers and also Stokes when they were here about the rezoning of their property or conditional use of the property. He thinks they were all in agreement that they wanted to look at creating a plan for the industrial park including utilities that go down there. He would just like to get the board to formally approve the directive to the planning commission to go ahead and start that process to develop a plan including utilities for LaGrange.

Supervisor Magruder asked if utilities included water, sewer and also road work?

Chairman Aker stated yes.

Supervisor Magruder stated as long as it included that. He asked if they could also include, as a burning issue, where was Mt. Clements Rd.? Where is Mt. Clements road has been an issue brought up a lot within the past 3 years.

Chairman Akers agreed. He said Mt. Clement, if you go back in the maps there was a clear delineation where Mt. Clement Rd. is, it needs to be reestablished because we do have some properties that are landlocked, and we need to reestablish Mt. Clement Rd.

Supervisor Magruder asked if we needed a motion for that?

Chairman Akers stated no they just needed to give the directive.

Town Hall Content Discussion (Akers/Rounds)

Chairman Aker stated that finally as part of the open work session, the town hall content discussion. He asked April if she had any thoughts about that?

Administrator Rounds stated her initial thought was they could use it for the PUD presentation but legal council advised against that because of their requirements it would bind the board to other denied or failed projects. They could do any number of things; they could include the town to come in and give updates to the public on what they are working on together. The challenges/opportunities or differences that the town does for them and what the county does. They could do Broadband. Basically anything you want to use the time for.

Chairman Akers stated one thing they did a couple of years ago was they highlighted some of the accomplishments that they as a board had done and went through those. He like the idea bout engaging the town to see if Eric or the Mayor wants to come out and talk about what they are doing a little bit, then get into some open comment or discussion with the public. He asked if anyone else had anything particular they would like to see brought up in that town hall meeting.

Supervisor Johnson stated a clear update on the broadband. The folks would be interested in hearing that, where we stand and what is the next phase.

Chairman Akers stated probably VDOT as well. A lot of people have questions or comments about that.

Supervisor Johnson stated he has already talked with April about inviting them. He also thinks it would be a good idea to share with the public a couple of initiatives they are looking at.

Administrator Rounds stated it might be a good time to talk about the RAISE Grant.

Supervisor Smith stated they only had one person show up last year. If they don't have more participation this year there is no need to have it.

Vice Chairman Gill stated he thinks that was a school related question.

Administrator Rounds stated it was.

Chairman Akers stated it depends on what is going on. Prior to that we had the short term rentals. Generally, there is a specific issue.

Supervisor Johnson stated before that it was the gun laws.

Administrator Rounds stated the 2A Amendment.

Chairman Aker stated before that it was the marina project.

Administrator Rounds stated one of them was to address the outcomes of the visioning project that she and Stuart worked on. They will remember this when they rework the bylaws at the organizational meeting in January.

Vice Chairman Gill stated he thinks having a structured agenda outlines the things they have done will set the stage. He agrees with Sidney about the Broadband. Certainly, need to have updates on that. Economic Development, just broad topics they can talk about. A lot of these things are being jointly discussed with the town right now.

Chairman Akers stated he would work with April to work up a draft and can submit it to the board. If you see anything that may have been missed we can add it to it.

Supervisor Johnson asked about Main Street and involving them.

Chairman Akers stated they could invite Main Street but based on the report he is not sure how mobile she is.

Administrator Rounds stated she is not mobile. She believes they have changed now and they are not Tappahannock Main Street they are Historic Downtown Tappahannock.

Chairman Aker stated they can check.

Administrator Rounds stated that John might be able to fill in for her. She asked if they should engage the Chamber of Commerce to have a business forum and invite Teresa?

Chairman Akers stated that wouldn't be a bad idea since they are trying to get reestablished and reenergized. If nothing else it would be good for the Board to get an update. If nobody has anything else, they assumed they would get through his relatively quickly. They have quite a few items on the closed session so he would like to go ahead and go in to closed session to start addressing some of these and then come back for the regular meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Johnson read in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Essex County Board of Supervisors convene in closed session to discuss the appointment of individuals to the Social Services Board and to the Economic Development Authority.

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Supervisor Smith made a motion to come back to open session. Vice Chairman Gill seconded. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

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

Supervisor Johnson read. Whereas, the Essex County Board of Supervisors has convened a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmation recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, there, be it resolved that the Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement of requirement of Virginia law were discussed in closed session to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board.

Chairman Akers stated any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) shall state the substance of the departure that, in his judgment, has taken place.

(if any member cites a departure, his statement shall be recorded in the minutes).

Chairman Akers stated the clerk will poll the members and certify.

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

Chairman Akers asked for clarification. He stated they are going to go back into closed session and do the closed session that was scheduled for the regular meeting. Should they not get through all of those items do they have to recertify again and then go back at the end of the meeting?

Heather Lockerman, County Attorney representative stated that it is safest.

Chairman Akers stated they will try to get through it all.

CLOSED SESSION

Supervisor Johnson read In accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Essex County Board of Supervisors convene in closed session to discuss personnel matters involving specific employee(s) in the Sheriff's Department and in County Administration, and in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(4) the protection of the privacy of individual(s) in personal matters not related to public business.

Supervisor Smith seconded the motion AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Vice Chairman Gill made a motion to reconvene in open session. Supervisor Smith seconded the motion. AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0

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 affirmation recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 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 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 stated Any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) shall state the substance of the departure that, in his judgment, has taken place.

Chairman Akers stated the clerk will poll the members and certify.

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

Chairman Akers stated that no action will come out of the closed session until the regular meeting.

ADJOURN

Supervisor Johnson made a motion to adjo AYES: 5 NAYES: 0 ABSENT: 0	urn the work session. Supervisor Smith seconded the motion
	Chairman
Clerk of the Board	