

January 16, 2025

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Town of Farmville Emergency Operations Center, Town Hall, 116 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, Farmville, Virginia, thereof, on Tuesday, the 16th day of January, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

Board of Supervisors

Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Victor "Bill" Jenkins
E. Harrison Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Jerry R. Townsend
Cannon Watson

Farmville Town Council

Sallie O. Amos
Daniel E. Dwyer
John Hardy
Donald L. Hunter
Thomas M. Pairet
A.D. "Chuckie" Reid
Adam Yoelin

Also present: Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator, Trey Pyle, Emergency Management Coordinator; Brian R. Vincent, Farmville Mayor; Dr. C. Scott Davis, Town Manager.

Town of Farmville Mayor Brian R. Vincent called the Town Council meeting to order.

Chairman Jenkins called the special meeting to order as the Joint Meeting with the Farmville Town Council.

In Re: YMCA Update

Mr. Douglas P. Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator, introduced Ms. Sharon Stiteler, Vice President of Member Experience and Corporate Partners.

Ms. Stiteler reviewed plans for a storm weather relief location at the YMCA because they have showers and could provide [accommodations] for people overnight if necessary. She said one thing that stands in the way is that the building is aging and has deferred maintenance issues and they would seek grant funding for upgrades. She said they want to have an environment that is safe and comfortable. Ms. Stiteler then said the YMCA is collaborating with the community: Centra Discharge Patient Program to assist with physical therapy, and a Cardiac Rehab Phase 3 Program. She said OrthoVirginia is also interested in collaborating with the YMCA.

Ms. Stiteler said there will be a Leisure with Longwood Program beginning in March, for adults over 18 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She said they are working with Hampden-Sydney College for a soccer season, and have a MOU to provide lifeguards to the YMCA. She said they also provide a place for community service.

Ms. Stiteler reviewed hopes for the future regarding maintenance, scholarships, and getting a pickleball court and a trail set up. She said a survey will soon be distributed for input on the YMCA operating 24/7. She then thanked the Town and Board of Supervisors for their support.

Dr. Chuck Taylor stated the YMCA is very important part of the community; he said last year, over \$60,000 in scholarships to the YMCA were provided to people that would not have otherwise been able to afford to use it.

Mr. Stanley stated the Commonwealth Regional Council provides grant writing for the community [and could help obtain grants [for the YMCA].

Mayor Vincent led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

In Re: 2025 County Reassessment

Mr. Stanley then reported the County has switched from a six-year reassessment cycle to a four-year reassessment cycle. He said the last was at the end of December 2020; the current reassessment which was scheduled to wrap up by the end of 2024 will be complete by the end of March. Notices are expected to be mailed by the end of next week; hearings will be scheduled for February 10 – 21, and the Board of Equalization (BOE) will hold meetings in April. He said it appears to show a 35-40% increase in value and the Board or Council will equalize the rate.

Dr. C. Scott Davis, Town Manager, said he reviewed several current listing prices which are at about \$300,000, and the current assessment is at \$220,000. He said the house is worth more than \$220,000 with the land, and the elected bodies will have to determine what, if any, increase is done. He added that someone will not sell their house at the assessed value. Some discussion followed.

In Re: Town Residential Project Update

Dr. Davis reported that 37 lots are being cleared and developed off Layne Street. He said Fred Pearson has submitted a building permit for one four-unit building on Vernon Street; he needs to begin the project by June of this year or will have to return with a whole new site plan. He said Bryce LaConti is interested in a piece of land next to Third Street Wrecker for a possible Workforce Housing project; this would be 25 single-family owner-occupied homes. He said nothing has yet been submitted; he would need a conditional use permit from the Town because it is currently zoned commercial. Dr. Davis said the Marywood Farms project is a mix of single-family homes and

townhomes; the developer needed sewer and the Town has executed a sewer easement for that development. He added that project should begin moving towards next steps. He then said the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan was received and their next step is to plug it into GIS to allow seeing the age of pipes. He said Hurt & Proffitt will be at the next Work Session to share more in-depth information on the project to Town Council.

Mr. Stanley said more than 50 units are being built on Fairgrounds Road; the County portion of the project has moved forward. He said there are between 50-54 modular units, and they will likely begin building the roads this spring.

In Re: County Comprehensive Plan Update

Dr. Davis stated the Town has reviewed the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and a new one may be done in 2025.

Mr. Stanley said the County's draft Comprehensive Plan is almost complete. Land Use is in final review and an open house will be held. Once all the chapters are finalized, an Open House for the public to review and comment on a final Plan will be held. Comments will be shared with the Board and Planning Commission and they will hold a final work session; a second public hearing will be held to allow the Board and Planning Commission to review and revise the Plan.

In Re: Sandy River Water Project Update

Mr. Stanley said that in May of 2024, the County received its Virginia Water Protection Permit from DEQ for withdrawal of water from the Sandy River Reservoir. The permit allows for an initial five million gallons per day withdrawal; unfortunately, DGS and the Commonwealth of Virginia ultimately selected the Town of Crewe to serve the three state facilities in Nottoway. The impact of that decision is that the County will not be moving forward at this time with the construction of the water treatment plant. He said if the County is able to attract a significant user or users at the HIT Park or adjacent sites, it could be reevaluated and kickstarted.

Dr. Davis said the Town internally did a boundary line adjustment for a piece of property off Clark Street; this has been challenged. He said that is the property owned by Longwood Foundation.

In Re: Emergency Communications System Project / Joint Dispatch Update

Trey Pyle, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a Regional Public Safety report. He reviewed partners, system benefits, and a coverage map. He then presented a funding overview; the total project is \$6,369,688 which will be shared among the group. He said a FEMA grant was approved for \$990,761 for radios and Fire/Rescue. He said that will provide about 104 multi-band radios which will be disbursed mainly on the northern side of the County.

Mr. Pyle said the infrastructure equipment for the tower and shelter has been ordered in December; he said the portable and mobile radio upgrades [orders] will be done this month. He said a “fleet mapping” meeting has been held to allow them to pick which channels will be used. He reported tower leases are being negotiated; civil work on the tower sites, if all are approved, will start mid- to late-spring. Mr. Pyle stated the project was initially to be in place in December 2025; they have to do testing when the foliage on the trees is still full, which may be later, in the Spring of 2026.

Mr. Hunter asked what would happen to coverage if a tower goes down. Mr. Pyle stated the coverage is maintained unless the tower goes down completely. In that event, they may need to deploy a temporary source; there are radio caches in the state for emergencies.

Mr. Pyle discussed the Regional Communications Center; he said there will be one 911 center and a secondary center. He said the Town of Farmville would be the primary and the Sheriff’s Department would be secondary. There is already a shared CAD system.

Mr. Pyle reviewed the management and oversight, financial operations, and he then discussed next steps.

Dr. Davis said the goal is to start fresh at the new Fiscal Year; costs will be known. They are finalizing comments on the draft agreement.

Mr. Stanley said the goal is to have the agreement in effect by July 1, 2025.

Dr. Davis said this is not about cost-savings but what is being offered to the citizens that makes it better for all.

In Re: Prince Edward County Landfill – Permitting and Upgrades

Mr. Stanley reported construction on the 4 ½-acre Cell F at the landfill has been completed. He said Cell F will provide 9-12 years of useful life at the current intake rates. Currently, the landfill’s maximum permitted intake

is 300 tons per day. He stated a new scale house will be installed in the coming year. Entrance improvements and a new Solid Waste ordinance also are being designed. Design work is being completed now for the convenience site in Worsham.

In Re: HIT Park Update

Mr. Stanley reported that over the last year, a number of offers were received on the development of the park site for a data center. He said the County continues to work with one particular prospect; as part of the process, the County is working to confirm the responsibilities for the investment of infrastructure, including water, sewer and road improvements for the project. He said that the IDA hopes to make an announcement on the site in the next 30-60 days. He said that a grant for the HIT Park was submitted on January 8 to Virginia Economic Development Partnerships Business Ready Sites Program, in the amount of \$12,360,000 which would help fund the infrastructure and construction of water lines to tie in with Town water lines at East Third Street, down Persimmon Tree Fork Road, and the construction of a water tower that would help pressurize that area and the Park. He said it would still be three years before construction could begin, but when it does, it would fill every hotel in the Town for several years during construction while they're building. He noted the project will be transformative for the community and has the potential to generate \$10+ million per year in tax revenue.

Mayor Vincent stated there is a push by the General Assembly to nudge localities to be more agreeable to solar projects.

Mr. Stanley stated the Board has made it clear that it feels the choice lies with the local government and not the State.

In Re: Cremation Burial Plot Concept

Mrs. Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator, reported there is a little-known section of the Code of Virginia that identifies a County or city may be responsible for the disposition of an unclaimed body. She said the process is under the authority of the Sheriff and requires two court orders from the Circuit Court to carry it out. She said Prince Edward County has had 25 over the last ten years. Historically, the County has left the disposition of the cremains up to the funeral homes. If the Sheriff learns through his investigation that someone is a veteran, he has made arrangements with the Amelia Veterans Cemetery. Mrs. Puckett asked Town Council to consider

designating one 8' x 8' plot in Westview Cemetery for the disposition of unclaimed cremains. She said the County asks the Council for a waiver or exception to the Town policy that would enable more than two [deceased] per plot or more than one layer. Some discussion followed.

Dr. Davis asked for more details and said there would have to be in an ordinance for the exemption of the County to do that. Discussion followed. Supervisor Emert indicated that the Prospect Community Cemetery may be able to provide a plot.

On motion of Supervisor Emert, seconded by Supervisor Townsend, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	J. David Emert	
	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.	
	Victor "Bill" Jenkins	
	E. Harrison Jones	
	Odessa H. Pride	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	Cannon Watson	

the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.