

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF YORK

Regular Meeting  
May 2, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. A Regular Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Sheila S. Noll, W. Chad Green, G. Stephen Roane, Jr., and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Walter C. Zaremba was absent.

Also in attendance were Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator; Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., Deputy County Administrator; Brian Fuller, Assistant County Administrator; Richard E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney; and Heather L. Schott, Assistant to the County Administrator/Deputy Clerk.

Chairman Shepperd stated that unless the Board had an objection, he wanted to adjust the agenda to consider the budget items and consent calendar prior to the presentations.

Seeing no objections, the agenda items were considered as listed below.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET AND TAX RATES**

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Tax Rates were considered and **approved on a vote of 4:0**. A summary of the actions taken is below.

Mrs. Noll moved the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 23-7 which reads:

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE TAX LEVIES UPON TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, UPON MACHINERY AND TOOLS, UPON MOBILE HOMES, AND UPON REAL ESTATE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023, AND TO PRORATE TAXES ON MOBILE HOMES AS AUTHORIZED BY SEC. 58.1-3001 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (4) Noll, Green, Roane, Shepperd  
Nay: (0)

Mrs. Noll moved the adoption of proposed Resolution R23-58 which reads:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGETS AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE COUNTY OF YORK AND THE YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DIVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (4) Green, Roane, Noll, Shepperd  
Nay: (0)

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PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2029 Capital Improvements Program was considered and **approved on a vote of 4:0**. A summary of the actions taken is below.

Mr. Green moved the adoption of proposed Resolution R23-59 which reads:

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AS A LONG-RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENT

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (4) Roane, Noll, Green, Shepperd  
Nay: (0)

DESIGNATION OF REAL PROPERTY TAX FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

The designation of Real Property Tax was considered and **approved on a vote of 4:0**. A summary of the actions taken is below.

Chairman Shepperd noted that the proposed Resolution was amended and is being considered as a revised item as a number had to be adjusted within the document.

Mr. Morgan confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Roane asked specifically what the revision was for the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Morgan stated that the math needed to be adjusted in the resolution.

Mrs. Theresa Owens, Director of Finance, further clarified that the percentage noted in the resolution was higher than it should have been and has been adjusted.

Mr. Morgan reminded the Board that the resolution was a boilerplate template used for Impact Aid for the School. While either number would have worked fine, the correct number was not in the resolution.

Mr. Roane confirmed that the 37 percent contained in proposed Resolution R23-60(R) is the correct number.

Both Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Owens confirmed 37 percent was correct.

Mr. Green asked Mr. Morgan to explain the impact aid for the County's citizens.

Mr. Morgan explained that York County is the largest per capita recipient of Federal Education Impact Aid because of the large number of military and civilian federal workers and families that live in the County. This resolution is necessary when the budget is adopted each year. The paperwork is sent to the Department of Defense and the Department of Education so that the School Division can receive approximately \$8.5 million a year or eight percent of the budget.

Mr. Roane asked whether York County was the largest per capita in Virginia or in the United States.

Mr. Morgan confirmed York was the largest per capita in the country.

Mr. Roane moved the adoption of proposed Resolution R23-60(R) which reads:

A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (4) Noll, Green, Roane, Shepperd  
Nay: (0)

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was considered and **approved on a vote of 4:0**. A summary of actions taken is below.

Chairman Shepperd asked if a Board member would like to pull, ask for clarification or offer comments on any of the consent items. Since there was none, he called for a motion.

Mrs. Noll moved that the Consent Calendar be approved as submitted, Item Nos. 6, 7, 8 respectively.

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (4) Green, Roane, Noll, Shepperd  
Nay: (0)

### **Item No. 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Thereupon, the following minutes were approved and resolutions adopted:

April 4, 2023, Regular Meeting.

### **Item No. 7. COMMENDATION OF THE 2022-2023 YOUTH COMMISSION:** Resolution R23-28.

A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE 2022-2023 YORK COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION AND TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO EACH MEMBER FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO YORK COUNTY

### **Item No. 8. WILLIAMSBURG AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Resolution R23-73.

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A MEMBER AND ALTERNATE MEMBER REPRESENTING YORK COUNTY ON THE WILLIAMSBURG AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

Mr. Morgan introduced Dr. Natasha Dwamena, Health District Director, for the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts. He noted that she had begun her employment with the Health Department a few weeks before the first COVID vaccines rolled out. Prior to accepting the position with the Health Department, Dr. Dwamena was a practicing physician in another state during the early part of the COVID pandemic. Mr. Morgan felt that since things were moving in a new, more normal direction, the Board would be interested in hearing about the Health Department in more general terms.

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Dr. Natasha Dwamena, Health District Director, began her presentation by providing an overview of the Health Department in its relation to the community and jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) vision is to help cities and counties become healthy while protecting the health and well-being of all people on the Virginia Peninsula. The values of the VDH include service, equity, and data-informed decision-making. She stated that the Peninsula Health District (PHD) is one of 35 health districts within the Virginia Department of Health. They also serve as the health department for five localities, which include: the Cities of Williamsburg, Poquoson, and Newport News, as well as James City County and York County. She explained that the PHD has four locations, including the main location on J. Clyde Morris Boulevard near Riverside Regional Medical Center; one on Palmer Lane in James City County used primarily for vital records; Woman Infant Children (WIC), Environmental Health Services, and two additional locations in the East End, primarily used for WIC. She noted they also supervise the Hampton Health District.

Dr. Dwamena provided an overview of her Executive Management Team and the services provided at the Health Department. The services include:

- Clinic Services
- TB evaluation and management
- Medication Assistance
- Eligibility
- Long-Term Care Pre-Admission Screen
- Lead Evaluation and Investigation
- Parental Services
- Disease Investigation and Surveillance
- Environmental Inspections
- Rabies Investigations
- Health Education and Community Program Development
- Vital Records
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Next, Dr. Dwamena provided an overview of several Environmental Health initiatives the Peninsula Health District has in the community. Those include:

- Rabies Clinic (James City County, York County, Williamsburg)
- Outdoor Pool Inspections
- Marina Seasonal Inspections
- Summer Camp and Campground Inspections
- In April/May - inspections for the 17 seasonal food facilities at Water Country
- In May-September, beach water monitoring for the York River

She then identified the following Population Health Initiatives:

- Greater Williamsburg Chronic Care Collaborative
- Peninsula Community Health Collaborative (PCHC)
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition (HTDPC) - Project LEAD

Current Community Outreach includes:

- Standing community partnerships: The Urban League, Celebrate Healthcare, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, York Senior Center, House of Mercy
- COVID vaccination clinics ongoing, including Homebound services

York County – Health Department Partnerships include:

- Operation Vaccinate the Peninsula – COVID Campaign
  - York County Senior Center served as a vaccination site
- Collaboration with the Department of Social Services
  - Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Program

- o Joint Investigation of Williamsburg Suites with cooperative information sharing between Fire, Building Safety, Social Services, Treasurer and VDH

Current Updates include:

- Resumption of services at J. Clyde Morris Boulevard site following PHC vehicular incident on March 9, 2023
- Community Health Improvement Plan-ongoing <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/hampton-peninsula/>
- Relocation to a newly-renovated site, tentative late summer/early fall 2023

Future Initiatives:

- Health fair events in conjunction with Riverside Health System
- REVIVE\* (Narcan dispensing) training classes to RAs and students at William and Mary
- Food Handlers classes for all York County employees conducting food service operations

Currently, Dr. Dwamena stated that the VDH is starting a training series dealing with behavioral and mental health issues starting on May 17th. She explained that the Community Health Improvement Plan is an ongoing project where certain health priorities are being identified that will be addressed within the next two to three years. The priorities to be addressed have been identified as substance abuse, firearm violence, infant mortality, and heart disease. She noted that when seeking data on infant mortality for York County, there was insufficient data to determine if this issue was worsening or improving. However, it is known that the state level for this matter is high and, as such, an area of concern.

During and subsequent to Dr. Natasha Dwamena's presentation, the Board made the following comments or questions:

Chairman Shepperd asked what was meant by monitoring the adjacent waterways.

In response, Dr. Dwamena stated that the Department tests the waterways to determine the microflora levels. If the specific waterway meets the threshold level, then it is reported to the state which determines if warnings are posted at the subject waterway. However, she clarified that these levels relate to seafood and whether they are safe for human ingestion, which the VDH does oversee.

Chairman Shepperd asked if the VDH is involved with the condemnation of the rivers, creeks, etc. where crabs and other seafood are typically caught for food.

Dr. Dwamena stated that in such cases, it is really more a joint effort between the VDH and other state agencies. She noted that VDH is more focused on beach monitoring as opposed to monitoring drinking water and wastewater, which is performed by the Office of Drinking Water. In addition, the VDH tracks and follows up on restaurants where people have ingested bad food.

Mrs. Noll asked if the causes of infant/child mortality had yet been determined.

Dr. Dwamena explained that we know in general that maternal healthcare, health factors, and exposure to infectious diseases are causes. However, the workgroups will try to determine what the contributing factors are for this issue in each of the districts so that we can develop the most impactful strategies.

Chairman Shepperd asked if the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) had approved another shot for seniors or if we are still at the four-shot regime.

In response, Dr. Dwamena stated that what has changed is the type of vaccine, using only Pfizer and Moderna, and the frequency in which vaccines should be administered. Also, she

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noted that those who have already received the vaccine, unless they are over age 65, will not necessarily need another bivalent vaccine.

Chairman Shepperd asked about the status of COVID in the nation at this time.

Dr. Dwamena stated that we are currently considered to be back at a normal health status, but we continue to encourage people of age and those with pre-existing conditions to obtain the latest vaccine relative to COVID.

Chairman Shepperd asked if the Health Department had gained greater insight relative to handling any future pandemics more effectively. He also asked if a system of equitable and efficient distribution of vaccines has been established that would be utilized should a similar situation arise.

Dr. Dwamena stated, as a result of the pandemic, the Health Department was structured with the help of localities such as York County. Involving all of the localities helped us to ensure equity when it came to the distribution of pertinent information as well as the vaccine. She noted that after-action reports following the pandemic resulted in the identification of best practices to mitigate any confusion when addressing such health events in the future.

Chairman Shepperd pointed out that early in COVID, there was no way to get the vaccine to bedridden individuals and asked if a solution to this issue had been developed.

Mr. Morgan stated that we have learned from the COVID experience how to integrate all of the localities, the Health District, and the major medical providers into a system that can properly address this and most of the other related issues. He stated that should anything similar arise, he believes all of the aforementioned groups could replicate this model.

Dr. Dwamena agreed and added that during COVID the Health District, locality leadership, and the universities coordinated and pooled their resources and we maintain that communication which is critical should a similar event occur. She stated this collaborative system, which was developed based on good communication, made us very successful in the distribution of both information and vaccines. In addition, she noted another example of a collaborative effort between the PDH, Riverside, and the localities in which an incident occurred in early March which required the relocation and deployment of staff to other areas to ensure continuity of services. Through our quick response and maintaining communication with all of the partners, we were able to maintain all critical services throughout that six-week time period. In conclusion, she stated that the VDH is to relocate to a newly renovated site on J. Clyde Morris Boulevard sometime in either late summer or early fall 2023. Once again, she assured the public that they would ensure the continuity of services during that time period when they relocate to the newly renovated facility. Lastly, she stated the objective of this evening's presentation is to introduce herself and the Health Department to the Board and to let you know that we are here, open to collaborating and communicating with you to ensure a healthier community for York County residents.

Chairman Shepperd stated that the County is pleased with how the Health Department partnered during COVID, not only with the County but with all of the other important stakeholders which led to a very successful conclusion. He pointed out that the Health Department is very important to York County and the entire Peninsula.

Mr. Roane asked how the local Health Department collaborates with other neighboring Health Departments and how collaborating with them achieves greater success for us all.

In response, Dr. Dwamena explained that she and the other regional health directors meet regularly to provide updates on what is going on in their respective districts, to look at disease patterns, health outcomes, and even collaborate on staffing issues. Moreover, she noted that collaboration with the Virginia health directors is sometimes needed to take critical concerns and needs to the Virginia legislators in Richmond.

Mr. Green asked how are we reaching out to immigrants and refugees entering the country to ensure they and their families are properly vaccinated. In addition, he asked if this segment of the population is agreeable to coming in to obtain needed medical services.

Dr. Dwamena replied that the Health Department receives a great deal of information in this regard from the Catholic Charities and also, the state VDH apprises the health districts of any appreciable influx of these individuals. Moreover, she noted that many of their community partnerships will apprise these individuals where to obtain needed clinical care and services. She pointed out that the Department's support staff are great at making sure that people are aware of the services available to them.

Mrs. Noll thanked Dr. Dwamena for coming and sharing a very informative presentation.

#### SHERIFF'S UPDATE

Sheriff Ron Montgomery stated that one of his goals as the new Sheriff is to meet with the Board of Supervisors on a regular basis in order to provide an update on what is taking place in the agency and to be available to answer any questions that you may have. He shared the following updates with the Board on the first quarter since becoming the York-Poquoson Sheriff:

- Although we have Resource Officers at all of the County high schools and middle schools, we do not have assigned officers for the elementary schools. As such, he has increased the number of deputies on the day shift so that officer(s) can regularly enter the elementary schools, introduce themselves, interact with the children, and even spend time reading to them. He and Dr. Shandor agreed this would be an excellent way to make the presence of officers, even in the elementary schools, evident, thereby increasing the children's safety. He has also asked his officers, when they have to write a report, to do so in their vehicles parked in front of the school.
- Through various means, residents, and the Citizens Advisory Committee, he learned that we have quite a large group of special needs residents. As such, a training program for the deputies has been developed and already four of these classes have been taught, whereby they learn how to interact and assist these special needs individuals. Already this training has helped deputies de-escalate a situation involving an autistic individual who was experiencing a meltdown. A bag of helpful items is provided to each deputy that completes this training by the Autism Society, which has already helped deputies when confronted with such special circumstances. Moreover, magnets have been developed and are now available for individuals with autism or for those who have autistic family members so that they can be placed outside on a vehicle informing the deputies that an autistic individual is onboard. In addition, the public has been informed that any autistic individual 18 years or older or parents with an autistic family member may contact the 911 Center to notify the Sheriff's Office and Fire and Life Safety of the special needs and issues of their condition. This program is now in the process of being expanded to include persons who have different special needs such as Parkinson's.
- Two of the most popular classes they now provide are C.R.A.S.E. (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) and our Gun Safety Class. Deputy Matt Overton, a retired Newport News police officer, is currently teaching the C.R.A.S.E. course. This class does not teach you how to take out an active shooter, but rather how to trust your own instincts so as to potentially remove yourself from an active shooter event. He explained that in the Gun Safety Class, the participants not only learn how to use a firearm safely, but also how to store firearms safely.
- We recently hosted a Law Enforcement Roundtable, open to the public, at The Body by D gym in Dare. Not only did it include a crime prevention program that addressed scams and how to keep yourself safe, but it also evolved into an excellent question-and-answer event. It was well attended and a second roundtable is already being scheduled. Other County officials, such as the Commonwealth Attorney and Clerk of the Circuit Court, have expressed an interest in being involved in these events.

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- A Public Safety Fair Day is planned for May 20 at Grafton High School from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. The Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, and other organizations will be present for this event.
- Lastly, he thanked the Board for the outstanding Law Enforcement Building currently under construction. He stated that Mr. Morgan, various other County departments and he sat down and discussed how to streamline processes which resulted in an approximate \$500,000 reduction in the cost of this facility. The new building is scheduled to open next year and will likely be the most technologically advanced law enforcement facility on the Peninsula and possibly in the Hampton Roads area. The new structure will include a community room, to be available to civic organizations and Homeowner Associations to use, and will provide an opportunity for the officers to interact with these groups of people. It will also include a training wing to include a virtual reality training room.

During and subsequent to the Sheriff's presentation, the Board voiced the following comments and questions:

Chairman Shepperd suggested that the Sheriff collaborate with the New Horizons Educational Center as they also trained in how to deal effectively with individuals who have autism.

Mr. Roane stated he took the C.R.A.S.E. training class and it taught him the importance of situational awareness and anyone who takes the class will be better prepared should such an event occur.

Mr. Green expressed appreciation for the deputies spending time at the elementary schools. He also asked the Sheriff to explain the Trigger Lock Program.

In response, Sheriff Montgomery explained that they obtain free gun locks from the National Rifle Association. They then advertise these free locks to promote gun safety and people call up and ask for delivery of these locks or simply come by the station and pick them up. He noted that although this program was exceptionally popular after the Richneck Elementary School event, residents continue to avail themselves of the free gun locks.

Mr. Roane noted that the new Law Enforcement Building will also address other problems such as storage and he asked the Sheriff to provide more information on how the new building will solve some of the existing issues they face.

Sheriff Montgomery stated that the new facility will offer much-needed room for evidence. In addition, adequate room will be provided to process this evidence and a conference room will also be available in the new structure. He then mentioned that the License Plate Readers and Flock Cameras, which were hoped to be placed on the side of the highway, were not approved by the General Assembly this year. However, a County employee in the Emergency Communications Division has reached out to the community and various businesses, many of whom have agreed to have these readers installed on their property. He explained that this is an excellent investigative tool for law enforcement.

In conclusion, Chairman Shepperd thanked Sheriff Montgomery for a very informative and interesting presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS** None

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Green stated that he believes that the Board considered a very good budget this evening, which drops the Personal Property Tax rate and the Real Estate Tax rate. He thinks both the Board and the citizens should be very proud of the budget they passed this evening. He noted that last weekend the Pirates Invaded Yorktown, which was very well attended. He encouraged everyone to go down to the waterfront to enjoy the beach and everything it has to offer. He also



noted that work on the sidewalk encompassing Yorktown is almost complete and offers a great way for citizens and visitors alike to take in the beautiful scenery and history.

Mr. Roane congratulated everyone who had been involved in the budget that meets the needs of the County and delivers some savings to everyone that lives and/or operates in the County. He also asked how a citizen can go about requesting a sidewalk for his/her neighborhood.

In response, Mr. Morgan stated that once it is requested via the County website, there are practical tests that are then applied, such as what group of people would benefit, does it connect to something that is already planned or exists, does it look like there might be enough right of way for most of it to be built without any condemnation situations, etc. These tests are processed by the County's engineering staff in Public Works and then Mr. Bellamy, Deputy County Administrator, oversees the entire process. He explained that once the request is determined to be feasible, the best way to move forward on the project and whether any matching grant funds are available must be examined. Mr. Morgan encouraged citizens to submit their requests and assured them that they will get initial feedback as to whether the request has any potential.

Mr. Roane asked if the construction on the car wash in front of the Kroger has started.

Mr. Morgan stated that this request was approved approximately three years ago and construction is now commencing.

Mrs. Noll stated that it is an education each year as we go through the budget process, and she expressed appreciation to those citizens who expressed their concerns and shared their comments. She emphasized that we have to think about the future when we adopt a budget and what will be needed for the future we are planning. In addition, she noted that we have to pay our employees a fair wage in order to keep them in the County. She stressed that the County has always been very conservative, and she thanked staff for all of their time and hard work to develop the budget.

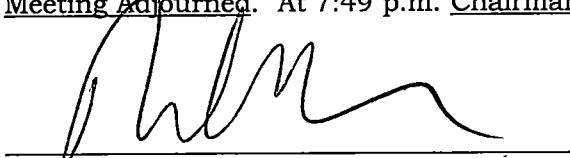
Chairman Shepperd thanked the staff and his fellow Supervisors for all of the work that has gone into developing a good budget. He stated that it seemed an easy budget as Mr. Morgan, over the years he has been with us, has smoothed out the process with the School Division. He encouraged citizens to be sure to share their budget concerns with their District Supervisor so that he or she can share their concerns and answer any budget questions they may have. In addition, he stated that the Supervisors need to share the concerns of their respective constituents with one another also. However, he explained that although citizens may share recommendations, that does not mean they will be accepted. He added that every citizen will receive an answer to their concerns/comments, but the specific budget suggestion(s) may not be accepted. He stressed that for a full-service locality, our tax rate is relatively low compared to other surrounding localities. In addition, he stated that we plan to modify the budget process so that citizens are more engaged next budget season and have ample opportunity to share their comments and concerns. Chairman Shepperd explained that he had recently visited Lackey Free Clinic, which was abustle with doctors, dentists, nurses, and others helping care for individuals without insurance. He urged others to visit this site to see the excellent work they are doing.

Mrs. Noll mentioned the Old Town Medical Center, which basically offers the same assistance in the northern portion of the County. She encouraged those who are able to consider making a donation to one or both of these medical facilities that assist the underserved individuals in our community.

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Meeting Adjourned. At 7:49 p.m. Chairman Shepperd declared the meeting adjourned sine die.



Neil A. Morgan  
County Administrator



Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors