

**VIRGINIA:**

At a regular meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors, held on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Revercomb Building Board Room at 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George, Virginia:

**PRESENT:**

Annie Cupka, Chairman  
Jeff Stonehill, Vice-Chairman  
Cathy Binder, Member  
Jeff Bueche, Member  
Richard Granger, Member  
Travis Quesenberry, Interim County Administrator  
Matt Britton, County Attorney

**0:00:03.8 Madam Chair:** I hereby call to order this meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Quesenberry, are there any amendments to the agenda this evening?

**0:00:13.3 Travis Quesenberry:** Madam Chair, you may wanna move the presentation and reports to be done before the public hearings.

**0:00:22.0 Madam Chair:** I'll entertain a motion.

**0:00:22.9 Richard Granger:** So moved.

**0:00:23 Cathy Binder:** Second.

**0:00:24.6 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor say 'Aye'.

**0:00:28.1 C. Binder:** Aye.

**0:00:28.1 Jeff Bueche:** Aye.

**0:00:28.3 R. Granger:** Aye.

**0:00:28.5 Jeff Stonehill:** Aye.

**0:00:29.6 Madam Chair:** Any opposed? The Chair votes 'aye'. The motion carries. So we will

move in the interest of the time of our guests, the presentations and reports will switch with the public hearings. Thank you. Public comment? Comments will be limited to three minutes per person in order to afford everyone an opportunity to speak. And if comments relate to a specific public hearing item, we ask that you offer those comments at the time of that public hearing. And in the interest of moving things along because we do have a number of public hearings tonight, I did ask for a public comment sign-up sheet. So I'll go down the list in order first, and then I will call for anyone else. So we have Mr. Robert Ashton. Please come forward, sir. And when I call your name, please restate your name in case I couldn't read it or couldn't pronounce it. My apologies in advance. And also please state your address. Thank you.

**0:01:34.7 Robert Ashton:** Madam Chairwoman and the board of supervisor members. My name is Robert Ashton. I live at 14540 Ridge Road, King George, Virginia. I come here speaking as a concerned citizen and resident of King George County. And just, my comment is this. So my years here in the County, I have looked at the confederate monument with astounding contempt. I always wondered why this county would allow that type of Monument to sit right in front of the courthouse where justice is supposed to be handed down equally to remind people of color that justice, not equally... That justice is not equal in King George County as the laws of this land dictate. Anytime someone of color must appear in the court, they are reminded of that statue standing tall in front of the courthouse. They already feel justice would not give them a chance. Statistics shows what type of punishment is handed down to people of color for the same offenses that their white counterparts would receive. Those are proven facts. All citizens know what the monument represents. First, it stood for this union of this United States. Second, it stood for an official establishment of slavery based on race. This is a matter of historical fact. The Confederacy was a racist institution, therefore, any statue or monument honoring the Confederacy endorses racism. Here in 2021, I ask why counties surrounding King George seem to understand what the statue represented to their minority citizens and took action to remove it from their courthouse yards. And yet King George County has been reluctant to do so. As I mentioned this over a year ago. It appears to me, that we haven't grown as we say we have. My question is, does King George leaders want to preserve a past of oppression for people of color or move forward in unity for all its citizens?

**0:04:16.1 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir. Next speaker is Mr. Wayne Bushrod.

**0:04:25.1 Wayne Bushrod:** Good afternoon, Board of Supervisors. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Wayne Bushrod. I reside at 10144 Deer Lane, in King George. As the previous speaker stated, I too am for the removal of the Confederate statue. It is time for it to be gone. Our neighbors to the west and to the south have taken actions based on their residents and their concerns and their feelings. King George and I have always held at a higher elevation than other localities. I don't see why we can't do the same. It's no use to me to repeat what the former presenter said, but I support that statement wholeheartedly. Thank you.

**0:05:13.0 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir. Marsha Stonehill?

**0:05:20.3 Marsha Stonehill:** Marsha Stonehill, 17094 Ferry Dock Road. First, I remain in support of the NAACP request to move the Confederate monument. Second, RBAHC has submitted a revised letter of intent to the Interim County Administrator for your consideration. Along with the minor revisions, we are asking for your consideration on several other key points. These key points are included in the packet. Our reasoning for these requests will be revealed during public comments over the next several meetings. There are many details that have occurred since May

21st, 2019 that we are certain you would want to be aware of as you revisit this letter of intent, and then the option agreement, that is already in the hands of the King George County Attorney. In future public comment, we will cover the following. Number one, the barriers RBAHC encountered with the County during negotiations. Number two, we absolutely need to discuss the fact that there is a troubling misconception leaving the public feeling that if they support the RBAHC strategy, then they are not supporting the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association. This got very messy along the way, so we must have the messy conversations for better clarity. The fact is that RBAHC is 100% about supporting the alumni of the Ralph Bunche High School. Number three. Along these lines, we believe it is vital to publicly discuss the reality of the many efforts that have gone before us since 1998. We have consolidated this information and it is quite enlightening. It makes one ask the question, in a way, "Is the RBAHC strategy enabling the county to not prioritize spending toward a very relevant renovation?" The strategy RBAHC presents is a viable solution to a tight county budget and accomplishing the goal of honoring African-American heritage in our county. But, all of us as a community, do need to accomplish better cooperation, so solicitation to large donors can be solid. Now we can have that reality on the table. And last, number four, throughout these last several years, I have had many conversations and I have learned many details about racial relations in King George County. It is imperative that some of this information be publicly acknowledged for the sake of awareness and historical accuracy. Of course, this will be accomplished by making general acknowledgements without disclosure of names or personal details. It is 2021. We can do this, and I believe you are the right group of leaders in this regard. This information will be sobering and will shed light on the uncomfortable situation we currently find ourselves in locally and otherwise. We've always said this is about much more than revitalizing a building. This is about healing a community. RBAHC treasures the mission. We cannot emphasize enough that this is a community endeavor, and we look forward to working with you. Thank you.

**0:08:30.7 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mrs. Stonehill. Debra Veney?

**0:08:37.9 Debra Veney:** Good evening, Madam Chair, Boards of Supervisors. My name is Debra Veney. I reside at 9348 Lambs Creek Church Road, here in King George County. I'm here to express my opposition to the monument/confederate monument that stands in front of the courthouse. Members of the Board of Supervisors, I'd like to express, as a member of the Society and King George, a citizen, tax-paying citizen, that if you are indeed in agreeance of unity for the members of the King George County residence, I say, "Actions speak louder than words." Thank you.

**0:09:30.4 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Veney. Do we have anyone else here in the boardroom who wishes to provide public comment, before I move on to online? Very good. Then Mr. Dines, you provided me with a list, and the first name on the list is David Jones. Can you please queue him up to speak? Mr. Jones, can you hear us?

**0:09:55.2 David Jones:** Yes, ma'am. Can you hear me?

**0:09:56.8 Madam Chair:** Yes, we can. Go ahead, sir. You have three minutes.

**0:10:02.4 D. Jones:** My name is David Jones. I live at 5450 in Winston Place, and I speak to you as the great, great grandson of William Walter Jones, a confederate soldier, a private, a poor farmer from Minden, Louisiana, who owned no slaves. I attend to him and none of his compatriots disrespect, however, I'm not compelled to believe what he believed. He and his contemporaries

were simply the pawns of greedy landed gentry who are willing to destroy the country to preserve slavery. For almost a year, I've been watching with interest, most, if not all, the surrounding counties and municipalities have completely removed or at least formulated plans to remove their confederate memorials from public land. King George has done a lot of research and announced nothing about removing the Confederate Memorial that stands in front of our courthouse. To avoid or delay the removal of the stone marker, I've been told that the stone monument contains the names of Union soldiers as well as Confederates. The only Union soldiers name that was given to me proved to have been born in King George, served the confederate army, lived his entire life in King George, and received a confederate pension. 402 years ago, the first shipment of slaves arrived in North America, in Virginia. 250 years later in King George, this monument, the people who wanted to destroy the United States, was erected. The government of King George at that time naively accepted land to erect the monument on the condition that it stand in that spot forever, so I've been told. The stone has been moved once, so that agreement was void at that point. There's no reason for that monument to stand by the front door of our courthouse, whose function is to supposedly justly serve all the people at King George. If you wanna erect a monument, erect a monument to all the people who are held as slaves in King George. Erect a monument that lists all of those names, if you can find them. Each of those names should be the same size as the names on the current monument. List the name of every child who was torn from the arms of their mother and sold. List the names of all the fathers that were sold away from their families. List the names of all the women who watched their children or husbands or mothers or fathers sold or beaten to death or hanged by the privileged class. List the names of all the people of color adversely affected by Jim Crow laws, who were cheated out of their right to vote, cheated out of their land, prevented from owning land, or whose land was taken from them by adverse possession. That's a worthy monument. As for the stone monument on the courthouse lawn, I think it should be relocated far away from any structure that is associated with Liberty or Justice for all citizens. Thank you very much.

**0:13:03.0 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Jones. Mr. Dines, do we have anyone else waiting online for general public comment?

[background conversation]

**0:13:12.2 Madam Chair:** Thank you, very good. Let's move on to reports of members of the board, Mr. Granger?

**0:13:16.6 R. Granger:** Yes ma'am. First of all, I would like to say, like to say thank you to everyone who came out and spoke. I appreciate everyone's concerns with the monument. I know Mr. Britton had given us a report about the state of the property, and the challenges in regards to ownership, and so those are still on place, and understanding who owns it, and then if it were to be removed, there can be repercussions as well, and so it's just not as simple as just moving it. I do appreciate Mr. Jones, I had also heard that was a Union soldier, on the memorial as well, and also heard that, there's an African-American, and a Native American that were listed as well. With those kinds of ideas, I kinda looked at it as a Civil War Memorial. But I do appreciate that input about the... About that Union soldier, at least in his statement that there was a confederate soldier, I'm just not sure. I haven't done the research on it, so, I don't know. But I think that, there are some other individuals on there as well, and it should be looked into at as well, as not a monument, but a memorial, of these people who died. It doesn't mean that you look at their actions, and I can appreciate it. You don't look at their actions as... I'm sorry, I saw your reaction. You don't look at their actions as something that you're holding up and saying, "This is what we are, we agree with

them." You're looking at, these are people who have died, and there are people who live in this community, that those are their ancestors, and it's just a memorial to them. I'm sure we all have ancestors who have done things that we would not be proud of, it doesn't mean that we'd disown them necessarily, or that we forget about 'em, I'm sure that we've all done things in ourselves that we're not proud of, and... I know I've had my own set of actions, you know, I look back on and regret. I'm sure we can all look back and think about things we've done, and people could look at us and say, "How dare you do that?" And it might not be the level of what these people have done. It is terrible. Slavery is a terrible thing. Don't... I'm not trying to minimize it in any way. But, I just don't see it as, a holding up of the Confederacy and saying, "What they were doing was right." It wasn't right. It's immoral to these people, and they're giving up their lives and remembrance for people to remember who these people were. Good actions and bad. We all have them. And with the fact that it is, the challenges with the property, we do have a new courthouse that is being built. It obviously would not be moved with that, because, the same issues, as I said before, there are challenges with that property. I'm sure, that's not what the answer is, that people wanted to hear, just kinda giving you my perspective on it, and I don't mean it to be disrespectful, or to try to downplay how you feel about it. I'm just giving you a different perspective on it. But I do appreciate you coming out. Thank you for coming out and speaking and giving your words on this. So, thank you. Ms. Stonehill, thank you as well, for talking about your proposal, you forwarded... I saw the email today. I haven't had a chance to actually go through it, but I'll take a look through it and so I appreciate that. Other than that, I'd just like to say thank you to the staff, and to the Budget Advisory Committee and my colleagues, for their work on the budget, and I know that we'll be having that public hearing at night, which I'm sure there are some people here for as well, to discuss. And so, I look forward to hearing from the citizens about that as well. So, thank you.

**0:16:54.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Granger. Mr. Stonehill.

**0:17:01.7 J. Stonehill:** I just wanted to say thank you for everybody that came out and spoke. Mr. Ashton, Mr. Bushrod, Ms. Veney, Mr. Jones. It's definitely a topic that we're gonna dig into, like you said, it's all the other counties around us have moved their monuments and done stuff, so it's definitely a very touchy situation for both sides. I know that we're definitely gonna look into this further and see what we can do. Not easy to try to please everybody, but I know we're definitely gonna... To look into it, and see what we can do. For sure. I also wanted to say thank you, to the citizens of Advisory Budget Committee as well, for helping us do our budget this year, also for staff, it was... We had a very new team this year to do our budget and everything. I just wanted to say thank you very much, and report-wise, just working on the cigarette tax ordinance, that we're gonna be hearing here later on. And outside of that, that's all I have.

**0:18:13.5 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Stonehill, Ms. Binder?

**0:18:16.0 C. Binder:** Alright, first off, I wanna thank everyone who came out and spoke from the heart, and I will be seeing Mr. Ashton on Thursday and speaking with him, in our working group meeting. I would also first like to appoint Mr. Roger Nicely, to the King George Parks and Rec Committee. His term is expiring in May 31st, and it's a three-year term.

**0:18:37.3 R. Granger:** Motion moved... Second, I'm sorry. You gave the motion. I'll say a second.

**0:18:42.8 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor say 'Aye'.

**0:18:46.2 C. Binder:** Aye.

**0:18:46.5 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**0:18:46.8 R. Granger:** Aye.

**0:18:46.9 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**0:18:47.0 Madam Chair:** Any opposed? Chair votes 'Aye' motion carries.

**0:18:50.1 C. Binder:** I wanna make it to everyone in the public, Shiloh still needs someone to... Who would like to be on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Please understand that it's... I give a recommendation to the court, and then they make a decision on it. So, if anyone would like to be interested in that, please send me your information. We are also looking for Shiloh's... somebody on the Social Services Board, and Ms. Cupka and I, serve on GWRC and FAMPO, and we're still looking for two vacancies on the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee, and county rep on the Healthy Generations Board, which I serve on, that helps the elderly and seniors and disabled in the surrounding area.

As many know, I'm on the King George Courthouse Committee. This committee is working well together, the model that is being used for this project. I wanna thank our previous county administrator, Dr. Young and our current interim county administrator and county engineer, Travis Quesenberry, for coming up and suggesting this model. I wanna bring it up because Tony Bell, who's with Moseley Architects, he sent me an email when I was trying to get the plans to share with my colleagues. He had the following to say, and it's a good example, which I would like my colleagues in public to hear. "The county and committee has been a pleasure to work with in the dialogue, discussion and conscientious building our model for other localities and working together to come up with a plan for a building."

It was brought to my attention from Ian Ollis, who's our Director of FAMPO, which is the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, that the final census data and the effect it might have on transportation funding once the data is ready for release. And I was also part of a call with Ms. Cupka and other county staff for projects of interest for the rural transportation planning work program, and that helps fund Caroline and King George's road projects. I talked to a lot of citizens in the last two weeks and had great engaging conversations. I also was with my colleagues, Mr. Bueche and Ms. Cupka, for the kick-off of the Fairview Stabilization Project. This project is to be a model for FEMA, VDEM and the localities working together for a common good.

Though not in my district, I had some great conversations with a few residents in that tight-knit community and I just wanna bring it up because when I walked to the site, there was a house that was totally gutted and a couple of the residents told me what happened. The husband and wife were sleeping in the house and a lady was out walking her dog and saw the fire and got help and saved the lives of those two people. So I commend those residents for taking care of each other in that community and saving a couple of lives. And lastly, as a coach, I have worked with numerous great King George students and their families. And with sadness, I would like to mention a former cross country and track athlete that lost his battle with cancer. Captain Douglas Richardson is US Marine Corps who leaves behind a wife, Amanda, and two young children. I wanna thank him for his service, serving his country as a fighter pilot. Thank you.

**0:21:55.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Binder. Mr. Bueche?

**0:22:00.6 J. Bueche:** Thank you, Madam Chair. First off, I'd like to take this opportunity in this public forum to congratulate my wife, Dr. Ann Bueche, who, two Fridays ago, received her doctorate in Education Administration from Liberty University. This past Friday, I attended the Fairview Beach Riverbank Stabilization Project kick-off. It's been a long time coming, so I would like to thank... There were so many people that were involved with this but in particular, Mr. Worley and Mr. Mike Bennett for continuing to press this forward, the prior and my current colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and all of our local, state and Federal partners for bringing this project to fruition.

The house that Ms. Binder mentioned, the unfortunate fire that happened at Fairview Beach, exposed something that I'd like to just bring up. So Company 3 located at Fairview Beach was staffed by two people on that duty section. That's what our current manning for fire and rescue is. Had they been out on an EMS call, no one would have been at Company 3 to respond to that fire, which means they would have had to wait for either Company 1 or Company 2 at Dahlgren, or mutual aid through Naval District of Washington. Instead of it being one house fire, it could have been an entire block. There were 40-mile-an-hour winds coming off the river that evening, so that's why it was critical and I'd like to thank my colleagues for what we did for public safety, for compensation, to help Chief Moody and Sheriff Giles with recruiting a retention so that we can not only keep Company 3... Keep their doors open but hopefully, we can get more staff onboard. I'd like to thank everybody that came out this evening to give public comment and like Mr. Granger spoke, there's a lot involved with the land and legal issues but I would like to go on the record to condemn the atrocities of slavery, but I would like to point out that this is a great nation. This nation fought a bloody Civil War to end slavery. This nation has made great strides to bridge the gap, and we still have a lot of work to do, but if you look in the world as it stands today, slavery still exists. So while we talk of monuments, we need to look that while we recognize the atrocities of slavery, what are we doing as people in our community and in our nation to end slavery? Period. With that, I look forward to our budget discussions this evening and would like to thank my colleagues for all their hard work, staff and for our budget advisory committee. I think we have a good budget to put forward and I look forward to our discussions tonight. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**0:25:22.4 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Bueche. I'd like to thank everyone in attendance at this meeting here this evening. It's, I think, been a long time since we've had this many people at one of our meetings, so I am very glad to see all of you here. I particularly wish to thank Mr. Ashton, Mr. Bushrod, Mrs. Stonehill, Ms. Veney and Mr. Jones online for their public comment. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. I want to formally enter Mr. Perry Bowen's correspondence of April 17, 2021 into the record. Mr. Quesenberry, and that was previously emailed to you, if you could ensure that that is entered into the record. Thank you, sir. I wanna make the public aware, Friends of the Rappahannock will host another Litter Cleanup Day with us in conjunction with our landfill staff on Saturday, May 8th. They'll be focusing on Port Conway Road and there will be a sign up online on their website for that. I want to thank the citizens who volunteered their time and their energy to participate on our Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee. We greatly appreciate your time. I want to congratulate the King George High School football team on their first regional championship since 1995. There was a great send-off. A number of members of the community gathered and collected funds and reserved a charter bus for the team, and provided dinner. And we had a send-off for them last Friday night right before they won the regional championship. I specially wanna thank Sheriff Giles for his staff's assistance and his own participation in leading the motorcade, and we're looking forward to doing it again this Saturday as they travel to the state semifinal. And lastly, I have a legislative initiative that I wish to bring to the attention of the board. I am requesting consensus of the board to direct the county attorney to

investigate and report back at a future meeting the steps necessary to prohibit retail sales of marijuana in our community pursuant to House Bill 2312.

**0:27:55.2 M. Bueche:** I agree.

**0:28:00.9 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**0:28:02.0 C. Binder:** Okay, just researching it.

**0:28:05.2 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**0:28:07.0 J. Stonehill:** Yes.

**0:28:08.2 Madam Chair:** Mr. Granger, you're okay with that?

**0:28:09.5 R. Granger:** Yes, ma'am.

**0:28:10.4 Madam Chair:** Okay. So Mr. Britton, if you could look into that for us and report back at a later date. For right now, we know you and I have had discussions that the retail aspect wouldn't be implemented until 2023 or 2024. It is a little bit time-bound as far as 2022 goes, so if you could report back to us at some point here later this year with any recommendation you'd see fit.

**0:28:42.4 Matt Britton:** Yes, Madam Chair.

**0:28:45.2 Madam Chair:** And just for my board members' information, I would not have brought this forward without speaking to Sheriff Giles first, so please know that. Alright, I believe that is all I have for my board report this evening. Let's move on. I'll entertain a motion for the consent agenda, please.

**0:29:04.5 R. Granger:** Move to accept the consent agenda as presented.

**0:29:07.2 J. Bueche:** Second.

**0:29:09.2 Madam Chair:** Any discussion? All those in favor, say, "Aye".

**0:29:10.2 C. Binder:** Aye.

**0:29:10.5 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**0:29:10.8 R. Granger:** Aye.

**0:29:10.9 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**0:29:11.3 Madam Chair:** Any opposed? Chair votes 'Aye'. Motion carries. County Official reports, Constitutional Officer's report. I know Sheriff Giles was out in the lobby but I don't see him here in the room, so we'll... Sheriff, do you have a report you wish to offer, sir? Okay, thanks, sir. Alright then, report of the county attorney, Mr. Britton.

**0:29:35.0 M. Britton:** Just one thing, Madam Chair. I submitted it already. There's a delinquent real estate tax quarterly report from Sands Anderson who handles that and it shows from the beginning of the program in 1986 to date, as well as where we are after three quarters, and so it's about \$200,000 a year and everything... It's 80% resolution. That seems in accord with last quarter's final report for 2020-2021 later. I had nothing further.

**0:30:13.6 Madam Chair:** Questions for Mr. Britton from members? No? Alright, very good. Then we'll go ahead and move on to presentations and reports. NSA South Potomac Commander's Update by Captain Copeland. Welcome, sir.

**0:30:33.2 Captain Copeland:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and Board, nice to see everyone again for the first time in person. Happy to be here. I'm joined by Tom Stanley, who's the installation program integrator, a Senior Civilian Executive Director in IGSA, guru for South Potomac, as well as Thomas Hastings, who is the newly hired community planning liaison officer, so he's who we want to get invited to any and every planning event that you have. He comes with a great amount of experience and a lot of energy, so happy to have him onboard.

As everyone in King George was very, very clear to today, we are fully mission-capable as per the two really, really loud booms that happened about 2 o'clock today. The Naval Surface Warfare Center continues to do the research development and testing, and engineering for the state-of-the-art equipment that we manufacture and that we design, and test there on the base. But as well as that, we've had a few changes and a few updates that I wanna provide on some of the mission stuff that we do. The Joint Warfare Analysis Center, JWAC, has continued to support combatant commands and everything that combatant commands do from long-term strategy to targeting and they're fully integrated in the Intelligence Committee and likely gonna become even more integrated in the Intelligence Community, and that's a growth industry there. They plan to expand, so there's a likely growth to JWAC, which is a great thing. It's our only joint asset on base. We now have the Space Force. So last time, anyone who's here, talking about the Space Force was just a notional thing. I personally transferred a whole bunch of Air Force people into the Space Force earlier this year. That Space Force is a detachment right now, it is gonna grow to be a squadron, so again, we're gonna expand in that respect. These folks do command and control and de-complexion of 25,000 things floating around in space, they're the ultimate command and control and de-complexion site for everything, so strangely, of all the things that are important on the base, as the installation commanding officer, this Space Force is literally our number one priority because of what they do for National Security so it's great to have and they're very much growing. The Agent Training Readiness Center continues to train fire control men all the way up to department heads to go out on ships and operate state-of-the-art technology, they are expanding to bring in other services. We're gonna start training Coast Guard, we're gonna start training the Army. Again, another grossing, which is great for us to increase the military footprint on base right now, we're 85% civilian contractors, 50% military, so it would be great to get a few more uniforms on base. We've also, as everyone heard today, our EOD mobile unit today over at Pumpkin Neck, did two large demolitions demos of some ordinance. It was really loud. I apologize but that's the sound of freedom, but they're doing a fantastic work and they are also a regional capability that responds both to everything up in Washington DC, they also respond here locally outside the gate for any sort of ordinance issues that may happen here.

And the last thing that we've added in there is a joint military attache service, so these are the folks that work with state department, but their uniform military that go and they service attaches and embassies around the world. During Covid, that program kinda got no bond, they couldn't figure out where to train and really where to put these people through a lot of different scenario training, they

called us, and we said, "Sure, we can make that happen." So they started training both at Dahlgren, they did a little bit over Pumpkin Neck as well as Indian Head, and they found out this is a great fit for them, it's far enough kinda off the grid that they can do all kinds of of creative training, but it really is something that helps them out there, so we're still working through that relationship, but having a link there to State Department through the military, is something I find very useful and it's a rewarding experience. We did host Secretary Hopkins and Deputy Secretary Jabs from the Governor's Office for veterans affairs, took them through everything on base, Secretary Hopkins is heading off to become a JAG, go back to out of reserve duty and active duty, and she'll be taking over until the end of the governor's term, but they got to see what it is about the base, and I think the way board of the base is really, really growth.

And we've talked gates, we've talked infrastructure every week at South Potomac is infrastructure week, because we need help with that, and we're constantly using our budget process to ask for upgrades in that. For the Community, mutual aid, mutual aid, mutual aid. We had a fire at the Warfare Center a couple of months ago, and as I stood there with a surface warfare commander, King George, trucks were rolling right by, Colonial trucks were rolling right by. And they're right there with us. I know the fires that we've had out of town here, our mutual aid is able to respond, it's mutually beneficial, but it's also great for us to be able to continue our readiness in our training. We have a limited capacity, so as King George grows, we hope that the emergency infrastructure continues to grow with it, so we can maintain that balance, and that's where Thomas is a simple... Can help with that planning and understanding those kinds of assumptions that we have through Navy district Washington on mutual aid. We also did Citadel Shield-Solid Curtain, which is a massive event that is a nationwide anti-terror and force protection event. For these they randomly pick different basis to have these huge events on... For me being the first time here as the CEO, they picked Auburn randomly as the only base east of the Mississippi to have a mass casualty event. So we had a simulated improvised device go off in the barracks, simultaneously when went off outside of our craft tech, four simulated fatalities, a lot of wounded, EOD, we worked with King George, we worked with lot of other partners in town to see how we would respond to that, it came out really well, and I think you share for your folks and helping out with that, but it's one of those things that Dahlgren was in the spotlight and the entire East Coast was looking at us, "How do we respond, what do we do for these mass tragedy events?" Like I said, with Tom Stanley here, we've signed off on, I think we're just about completely down with two IGSA's with King George for our waste water treatment chemicals as well as a waste removal from base. So I think we're very close to being complete on that, if not completely completed on it, and we're very, very much open to other ideas to help some mutually beneficial agreements that we have in here with King George, so we've got two really smart people who are way smarter than me that can continue to work through those.

COVID-19 has been the focus of my command since it took over on July 10th. We are currently in health protection condition, Charlie, and we go from nothing to an alpha to Brava to Charlie, and it can get worse than that. Charlie means that if you're in uniform, I can't go into a sit-down restaurant, I can't go into a store, I can't do anything unless it's essential, essential. Which means I can go in a Super Walmart, I can get groceries, I can get what I need and I gotta get out. That's been in place since November. We started it last spring, came out of it a little bit and then had to go back in. So we've been through the holidays, massive financial impact, I know outside the fence line, it's also a stress impact inside the fence line, one of the biggest challenges that I've had and the military commanders around the world have had is the mental health of our sailors. Statistically, uniform military has a higher suicidal rate than any other demographic due to the stress, due to family separation and a variety of reasons, now you tell them that they can only go to Super Walmart to get food and come back out, and otherwise you have to stay in the barracks for months at a time, they

can't see their parents, they can't have visitors come in, it's a huge stressor, it's something that we've been dealing with to include underage drinking, alcohol abuse, as well as mental health and depression, so we are pushing very hard at this point to get ourselves out of HPCON Charlie and into what we call a Bravo plus, which alleviates a lot of that for the mental health side of it, for the sailors, it allows them to get back out to the community with CDC protocols, masks and all kind of stuff, but get back out in the community, so we anticipate days or weeks, we'll be there, and I know that's a broad spectrum, but it's the four star level direction right now on when we go there.

Our statistics right now show that we should be in a Bravo plus situation, and we're waiting for some OSD guidance to come down and clarify that, but we will get there, that will also allow our duty school to open. We have one of the only duty schools in the country that's closed right now, we have a capacity for 350 students there, we have about 65 that are registered, we can do it safely, but duty does not allow their schools to open until we go to Bravo. So it's best for everyone that we get there, and anticipation is that we're gonna get there very soon.

One of the last thing we'll talk about is the force protection that's going on on base and out in town. Like this building, all the flags at South Potomac have been a half mast more than they have it in the month of April. They're there today for the past... The former Vice President, but prior to this, nearly every single day this month, it's been because of the shooting. We've had and Sheriff knows this way better than I do, but the Weigh Station shooting that happened couple of weeks ago, right outside the B Gate, caused us to respond and up our force protection posture last week; shooting, due to some road rage issues outside of Fort AP Hill, that happens in one installation, every installation, start to adjust their force protection conditions. So even as recently as three hours ago, we received a request from Navy District Washington to have people on a two-hour prepared to deploy order pending the recent verdict that was just read on however it was gonna come out for Navy District Washington. So we've heightened our training, we haven't formally changed our force posture, but we have definitely increased our random anti-terrorism measures, we're looking a lot more at cars, doing a lot more stuff, but there is definitely a heightened sense of tension, but there's a heightened sense of awareness that we're right now, using on base. So I just ask for your understanding on that. It will impact how people can come on base, it affects how fast they can get on base, but we're doing that to make sure that all the folks, the 11,000 people that drive on that base every day can do so safely.

And the last thing I wanna say on a positive note, is that once we get out of this HPCON Charlie into Bravo, we are ready to go forward with community relations, with community engagements, and do a lot more, get out of the town. We have a lot of sailors and a lot of people that wanna go out and help with community projects, so we are open for business for that, we're open to ideas, we've done some stuff out with Colonial Beach and beach clean up, but we are very much ready to do that, my SIPLO is one that can coordinate as well as my public affairs officer, we're pushing forward as for the president's direction on 4th of July, hoping that we can do some sort there, probably not bringing non-DOD holders in, but hopefully doing something there to help out the folks that can't get on base, so that is my report. I will pause there if you have any questions, but I thank you for your time.

**0:42:16.1 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir. Questions from members?

**0:42:18.3 R. Granger:** Nope. Just thank you for coming out Captain Copeland and briefing us.

**0:42:25.0 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**0:42:26.4 J. Stonehill:** Just thanks for coming out and yes, those booms were incredible. I was

right there on the creek on a roof, and just happened to look across and saw this huge mushroom cloud, and it was really strange. We actually turned around, we looked and we said, "Why no sound?" Oh my God, it's just about blew us off top of the roof, and then it did another one, but yes, that was quite impressive. So looking forward having all the folks from Dahlgren and the sailors be able to get out, so hopefully that will clear up for you guys. Thanks for coming out.

**0:43:03.2 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**0:43:04.2 C. Binder:** No, I just wanna thank you for coming out and giving a thorough presentation.

**0:43:06.9 C. Copeland:** Thank you Ma'am.

**0:43:09.7 Madam Chair:** Mr. Bueche?

**0:43:10.5 J. Bueche:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you Captain for coming out tonight. The boom... America. I definitely heard it. I do have one question though. You were talking about the mass casualty simulated event with a lot of injuries and four casualties, I was curious as to how it worked out being King Gorge's proximity to a hospital, how did it work out? Did y'all involve mutual aid for ambulances, transportation? Were there any delays? Were they able... Was the event able to be responded to accordingly? Did you have the numbers you needed to respond? If you could elaborate on that, sir.

**0:43:53.0 C. Copeland:** No. And thank you sir for the question. We are, and I say this not in an arrogant way, we are very good at mutual aid because we exercise it all the time, because we have to, we need each other for that, just like in your report with the numbers, we need each other for that, so some of it had to be simulated due to covid and things like that, so we were doing some of it via tabletop exercise, but ambulances come in, emergency fire coming in, we do that often enough, and we sent people out... That was good. And we also have a very good relationship with King George. We stole one of their deputy sheriffs, to be our Deputy Chief of Police, and that relationship has been fantastic, we love having him, but we're good at that where our challenge was, was medevac of getting...Because we had a large number of casualties, of getting them out and getting a helicopter here was the slowest thing, and that was simulated, of course, by getting a helicopter here to get... I think we had 10 injuries and four fatalities and it was unknown as it was going on, but... Get that right, I think that was sort of the choke point there, the fire trucks were here, the ambulances were great, but getting them to the proper level trauma treatment center was a challenge that we took home and said, "Hey, we need to figure this out." Due to the nature of it, and the simulation immediately ruled as either a domestic terrorist report, domestic terrorist kind of figuring that out, FBI was very quick to respond, and so they were able to get us resources, but if it wasn't something like that, if it was just sort of a mass casualty event that wasn't related to something the FBI got involved in that's a challenge for us as medevac out of here. If we had more than a couple of people.

**0:45:38.3 J. Bueche:** Thank you very much, captain. And thank you for service.

**0:45:40.7 C. Copeland:** Thank you.

**0:45:42.2 J. Bueche:** It's all I had Madam Chair, thank you.

**0:45:43.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Bueche. Captain Copeland, thanks again for coming out tonight. I did not realize that space force command and control was now one of your installations. I think that's super cool. Quite honestly. So thank you for that. Please don't apologize to us for the sound freedom, we love having you in our community. Thank you, thank you very much, you.

**0:46:08.5 C. Copeland:** Thank you.

**0:46:11.0 Madam Chair:** And I saw you all put out vaccine info yesterday on Facebook for your population, so thank you for that. I did share that on my Facebook page, hopefully that helps get your personnel back from Telework, like you said.

**0:46:31.2 C. Copeland:** I should've talked about that real quick. Today, we stop people coming in the gate and say, "Do you want a vaccine?" 'Cause we have vaccines, once you open these, you gotta get rid of them, so we're to the point, any duty, ID card, anyone who has access to treatment to the clinic can get a vaccine on base. Right now we're doing Pfizer, so that's 16 and up to include dependents things like that, spouses are a little tougher of a GS's spouse, but we have a lot of vaccines right now, they kinda got there two weeks after we needed them, a lot of people got them elsewhere, but it's an ongoing thing that we're gonna be hopefully reaching out with King George and maybe figuring something out with that, but we're doing very well on vaccines on base, which is gonna help us get out of this Charlie.

**0:47:17.5 Madam Chair:** Exactly, thank you for that. And you mentioned the half-mast, I just wanna thank you for mentioning that, 'cause that, I actually wanna thank Sheriff Giles because something I did earlier this year was asked him... I reached out to him to see if he had someone who could take that on for us, because frankly, I had noticed in the past year since having this seat that our county buildings weren't very coordinated and didn't always do a good job of respecting that, so I just wanna thank you for pointing that out, and thank Sheriff Giles and Deputy Shriver, who I'm sure would be here tonight if he didn't have a soccer game to coach, so thank you. Thank you again for everything you do.

**0:48:04.5 C. Copeland:** Thank you Ma'am.

**0:48:11.9 Madam Chair:** Alright, update on the Harry W Nice Thomas Mac Middleton Bridge replacement project by Mr. Brian Wolfe and Mr. Stephen Skippen and I believe we may also have Mr. Earl Lewis, deputy secretary from Maryland DOT online perhaps, but won't be presenting. Mr. Dines, can you tell us who always teed up for that?

**0:48:44.7 Brian Wolfe:** Okay.

**0:48:45.5 Madam Chair:** Very good. Go ahead, gentlemen.

**0:48:48.1 B. Wolfe:** Will we be able to share our screen?

**0:48:57.1 Madam Chair:** Mr. Dines says, "Yes, if you would like. And which of your screens? Whose screen would you like to share sir?"

**0:49:03.8 Stephen Skippen:** Brian, can I go first?

**0:49:07.7 B. Wolfe:** Yeah, this is Brian Wolfe. I'll go first, if that's okay, and then I'll hand it over to Steve for the second half of the presentation, if that's okay.

**0:49:19.3 Madam Chair:** That will work, sir.

**0:49:21.3 B. Wolfe:** Alright, thank you.

**0:49:22.4 Madam Chair:** Alright, stand by. One moment, Mr. Dines is working on it...

**0:49:40.6 B. Wolfe:** Okay, can you see that? Okay, so good evening everyone. Again, my name is Brian Wolfe, I am the Director of Project Development for the Maryland Transportation Authority and the overall contract manager for the Harry W. Nice Senator Thomas Mac Middleton Bridge replacement project. Again, with me tonight is Mr. Stephen Skippen, he was with the Skanska Corman McLean joint venture, they are the authorities Design Bill contracting team. And so we'll both be presenting portions tonight on the project. Just a brief agenda, I'll go through and just provide you some information on the overall team for the project, as well as a brief update on the design process today, and then provide just some basic details of what the proposed bridge will look like, and then I will turn it over to Steve and he will run through the more... Probably the more interesting portion of the presentation, which is some of the ongoing construction activities, and I'm sure you're aware of out on the water, as well as on the Virginia and Maryland sides.

So as I said, the contracting team for the project is Skanska-Corman-McLean joint venture. These three firms are local to the region, to Maryland and Virginia, and they bring with them a substantial amount of marine construction experience, which has been very key to getting the new bridge constructed, especially with the foundations in the river that we're currently building right now. Supporting them is a design team headed by AECOM, and they are supported by numerous local consulting firms, both in Maryland and Virginia, and this team has been feverishly working to get the design elements completed so that the contracting team can hit the ground running with the project and ramp up their operations. Something we have on this project that's somewhat unique is what we call an "Independent Design Quality Manager", and that is being performed by the firm, Century Engineering, and supported by International Bridge Technologies. They're responsible for reviewing all of the design packages that are developed by the design team to ensure that all of the contract requirements are being met before the packages are released to the contractors to actually construct. Supporting the MDTA is a general engineering consultant, and that is a joint venture of JMT and WSP, and they are assisting us with various reviews, engineering reviews, and engineering support as the packages are developed by the design team. The GEC is assisting the authority with reviewing those packages as well. On the construction inspection side, the authority, again, has a team of regional consulting firms assisting us with the construction inspection of the various operations down at the site, and we have folks monitoring the structural work, the roadway approaches, drainage materials, the whole spectrum, so we've had tremendous help with the local consulting firms on this project.

So just a bit of an update on the schedule, we issued a limited notice to proceed to the Skanska-Corman-McLean team back in December of 2019, and that allowed some of the early design and preliminary engineering work to begin. And then in March of 2020, we issued the full NTP, and that allowed for construction to then commence as well. And as of May of last year, we had issued our first package to RFC which is Ready For Construction. And that was the foundation piling details that were used for the test program that we were driving piles in the late spring of last year to verify the foundation designs for the bridge. To date, we have processed over 90 design packages

through the design builder and the IDQM and the authority, and of those, 23 packages have been released for construction, and what that means is the packages have been approved so that the work included in those plans is ready to be constructed by the contracting team. In addition to those, we've done numerous design and engineering reports related to hydraulics and geotechnical aspects, soils, things of that nature to support the project, and we have gone through several revisions of the NEPA re-evaluation so that we are in compliance with various Federal requirements and environmental policies that the project needs to follow. This picture here is showing what the section of the bridge will look like. This is what the majority of the bridge will be from the Virginia abutment through the low-level spans and up into what we call the "high-level approach spans" just before the navigational channel in the river. We will be using prestressed concrete girders to support a reinforced concrete deck. The girders are being fabricated in the area, they're actually being fabricated by Coastal Precast Systems down in Cape Charles, Virginia.

The proposed bridge will carry four lanes of traffic, two in each direction, and that will be barrier-separated to increase the safety. Once you get over the navigational channel, the bridge itself will change to a steel girder-supported superstructure. These are very large girders, they range from 9 1/2 feet to 12 feet deep, and they are several hundred feet long in order for us to achieve the required horizontal clearances for the Coast Guard for the navigational channel. Again, it will be carrying four lanes across two in each direction with the median barrier separating them. Just a bit of a comparison of the proposed bridge with the existing Nice Bridge, again, we'll be carrying four 12-foot lanes on the proposed bridge, whereas the existing bridge currently has just two 11-foot lanes. And additionally, we will have the barrier separation in the median to separate the directions of traffic, whereas currently the existing bridge does not have that safety feature. We are providing some minimal shoulders to just provide that little bit of cushion and some additional safety for the traveling public crossing the bridge.

The facility itself, when the new bridge is open, it will be using all-electronic tolling. The toll plaza that is currently on the Maryland side will be dismantled and it will not be there, it will be replaced with a gantry system with sensors and equipment on it. So you will need to utilize an E-ZPass, so I'll just do a quick plug here. If you haven't got an E-ZPass and you use the bridge quite often, please get an E-ZPass, it's the easiest way to take care of your tolls when you're crossing the bridge. And finally, the new bridge is set to have a 100-year service life, whereas right now, the existing bridge, being that was built in 1940, is showing its age and we're seeing increased maintenance costs to keep that bridge up and running as the years go by. So at this point, I will turn the presentation over to Steve, and he will run through the various operations that are currently out on the water and on the project site.

**1:00:38.7 S. Skippen:** Okay, thank you, Brian. Yep, my name is Stephen Skippen, I represent the Skanska-Corman-McLean joint venture. We are the design builder that has been contracted by the authority to build this project. I would like to echo Brian's sentiments to all of our design partners and consultants working on the project. We have a truly tremendous team out here and we really appreciate the ongoing partnership from Maryland Transportation Authority and the Virginia Department of Transportation. So a little construction update here, I'm gonna blow through a bunch of slides and have some images of some of the things that we enjoy doing here every day on the project. Just a small overview here, we did get the intent to award the project from MDTA on October 4th, 2019, and then we later executed a contract on January 24th, 2020. We received a notice to proceed on March 17th, 2020, and I'll walk you through in the next coming up slide, some of the things that we've done since that date of March 17th, 2020.

The original design build contract value is listed here, it's \$462,957,000, so that is the contract value. And then just some general overview of our sequence and the timeline, this is actually on our

website, “newnicebridge.com”, so we certainly encourage the public and anyone to follow that website, and we do put on monthly pictures, monthly drone videos, and also a lot of public announcements on that website. But really, starting off driving concrete piles and building the approaches kicks off simultaneously, both on the Maryland and Virginia side, and we're now into building foundations, piers, and the bridge is starting to go vertical as you'll see in the coming slides. Our next big pushes installing girders out on the project, that's gonna happen later this year, we have deck and roadway barriers into late next year, and then in the winter of 2022, '23, we will open up the new bridge to traffic.

I will not play this video, but there is four-minute overview video that's very informative and is on the website as well, so I do encourage anyone to watch this video. It gives a good sequence of construction and is a good four-minute watch. So what we've done since we've been awarded, we did open up an office in Baltimore, near the authority's office to run the design phase out of in White Marsh, and then we've situated our project hub office down at the 301 Truckstop on the Maryland side in Newberg. And we have three sets of trailers here, we have the SCM trailers, Skanska-Corman-McLean to the right, the largest set of trailers for the construction operation team, the mid-sized trailers is the Maryland Transportation Authority, who's housing the inspection team, and then we have a safety trailer, which is the smaller set of trailers to run our safety program here on the job.

We have a couple of laydown areas. We have a portion there of Wayside Park, which will be the new right of way, where we're building the approach, and then on the Maryland side, we have leased the Aqualand Marina for duration of the project, and we're using that for staging and laydown. Unique to this project, just due to its proximity and poles being out in the middle of the river and the time that takes to patch concrete and get called out to the point of placement. We did create our own batch plant. We have an on-site batch plant on the Maryland side. It's a dry batch system. The feed is fed out through a series of conveyors that then drops you into two transport barges that are then moved out to the point of placement where a placing boom can place concrete at any location on the projects, heights up to 140 feet and low, high, wherever we need to place, we have that capability to do that out on the water. So one of the first things we did started in March, Covid hit, we worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a very minimal operation to take borings down the river. So we took samples all across the river, every piling and that operation concluded around the June timeframe, which allowed for our design to progress once we was able to understand the geological conditions out in the river.

This is just a quick section here of the river itself; you may know that it's very shallow waters for almost a third of the bridge, from the Virginia shoreline, and then down closer to the Maryland shorelines where water is at its deepest, 81 feet. I will say we are complete with most of the pile driving now through the deeper, more challenging areas of the project. So we're happy to have a lot of that more challenging work behind us. We also worked... While the river borings were ongoing, we did the same thing on the land, and we took a series of borings on both the Maryland then the Virginia side just to support the roadway design. Some of the early things that we did on the project was clearing and grabbing and the erosion control. Specifically on the Maryland side in these images and minimal amounts of work, but we are committed to our environmental commitment. We have a lot of eyes and public agencies watching us on this project, and we really take this seriously. So this was one of the first aspects before we did any kind of land disturbance on the project.

In the Aqualand Marina area, we realigned all of the pack roads to allow for the new approach roadway to be built. And then now on US 301, again on the Maryland side, we build a safe work zone, which where you can see the concrete barrier with the orange glare screen on it, and that allows us to have a safe work zone behind barrier for our crews to work, and we move traffic. Just a

minor traffic shift into the shoulder. The roadways on the Maryland side are under construction right now. We have brought Maryland apartment up to grade pretty much at this point. You can see this is the use of our laydown areas, the batch plant is on the image on your right-hand side when that was under construction, and pretty much all of our material deliveries would either come by water, or they would get loaded out onto this Maryland trestle. That extends out, a pier that extends out into the river.

Now, the bridge is starting to go vertical, here you see, this was one of our first footings pulled on the project, and first set of columns have gone up in the air. Though the bridge is now starting to go to vertical more so on the Maryland approach, and we'll be extending out here on the river very soon. Here you can see an image out from the river of the completed foundation's column and pier cap, and later this summer, we will be landing girders, the bridge beams on top of these pier caps. Pile drivings on the Maryland approach is complete so that work is now completed. On the Virginia side, we had a period of surcharge on the Virginia side that is completed, and now we're into a full swing of roadway approach construction there on the Virginia side. That's currently ongoing as we speak. We did have one minor operation to complete just to gain access to the very shallow areas of the shoreline, so we had a minor dredging operation for around 18,000 yards of material that was removed that will allow our floating equipment to get into the work zone.

Here's a couple of images of our trestle. Again, we have an access trestle on the Maryland side and the temporary trestle, and that's how we load out our personnel and some of our materials and equipment out from the shoreline. And now we're now in the... Swings of installing a similar kind of trestle on the Virginia side, which will help us build the first set of pier beams in the very shallow areas. Pile driving is well underway here at this point. As I said, we have pretty much wrapped up everything in the deepwater areas on the Maryland side now, closest to the Maryland shoreline, and we're out past the main navigable channel now working our way toward the Virginia side. We did have a series of power loads tests complete early in the project. The geological conditions change throughout the river, throughout the two-mile stretch of the river, and they were successfully completed also.

Production piles, as I said now, is in full swing, and as you can see in this image on your right-hand side, the large, 28, and 21 pile clusters are completed there, and we are moving into the next phase of construction. Foundations on this project, they are pre-stressed concrete pile. As Brian mentioned earlier, our pre-cast products are being manufactured in Cape Charles, and Chesapeake Virginia, and pretty much most of our deliveries come up and down the Chesapeake Bay and up the Potomac River to the project. We have around 740, 36-inch pre-stressed concrete piles on the job where almost to... We're about 40% complete with those at this point, and then we had 18, 66-inch pre-stressed concrete cylinder pile with the main channel, and they are now complete.

We have these big large footing tubs, kind of a public request announcement here. These are in excess of 100-ton picks. They require great precision and placement when they are up in the air, and we do have a pretty big campaign going now to make no wake in the river. I'll talk more about that in a second, but as we're doing these large picks and we have people up in the air on our own platforms. We really need a calm river for us to safely be able to perform our work. But there's 33 of these. We have completed six and will complete another four in the coming days. So we're well underway now. We've set in these large pre-cast footing tubs, which we will soon fill with rebar concrete and that will be the foundation for our columns to start going up in the air for the bridge to go vertical out in the river. Pre-cast girders, we do have pre-cast girders also on this job. They are well underway in production now, and again, in Cape Charles, Virginia. We'll start erecting those this summer from the Maryland shoreline working out towards the river. And then we will probably switch to the Virginia shoreline and work our way into Heading.

This is kind of a rendering, a panned-out rendering of the new bridge once it is completed. We have

a very busy 2021 and 2022 ahead we're really just now ramping-up with our equipment out here on the job. I think we have 13 or 14 cranes now out there on the project. The majority of those are out on the river. We have more showing up in the coming days and weeks. And real soon, it's just gonna be a real busy summer for us here on the project and hopefully a neat spectacle to see for the traveling public, as well. Once we are complete with the work, we will demolish the old bridge. We'll safely dismantle that. We'll try to remove some of this to an artificial reef, we're working with the Potomac River Fisheries for possibilities on that. But that is a little further down the line, but the bridge demolition is scheduled for 2023 and 2024. And here's the final rendering, and of course, we're looking forward to ribbon-cutting here at some point in the winter of 2022-'23 and opening this bridge that a lot of us local to the project are real passionate about building.

So just one more thing here. Public notices, these are posted on the website [newnicebridge.com](http://newnicebridge.com). And they also go out to our stakeholder database list. They're also posted across MDTA and I believe we got social media pages. For the big one here on the right-hand side is we do have a six-knot speed limit that was put into law as of around January this year. So half a nautical mile north of the bridge and half a nautical mile south of the bridge. There is buoys in there now that there's six-knot max speed, and the area is being enforced by several of the agencies, DNR and MDTA police. We just ask that everyone really just be cautious going through our work zone, go a slow pace and stop any of the current from affecting our operations and the safety of our personnel. That's it for me. Again, there's the website link there, I do encourage people to go to that. We've put a ton of information on it, and a ton of time into that. And hopefully you found this presentation useful. Thank you.

**1:15:36.2 Madam Chair:** Thank you, gentleman. Questions from members?

**1:15:40.8 R. Granger:** I don't have any questions. Just to say thank you, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Skippen, it was a very thorough presentation. I had some questions going along the way, but you answered every single one of them. So thank you for the presentation.

**1:15:52.1 S. Skippen:** Well, thank you.

**1:15:53.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Stonehill?

**1:15:57.2 J. Stonehill:** I'm just gonna say thanks for the presentation, guys. Very thorough and just really, really interesting to see how something like that is built from start to finish. So thanks for coming out.

**1:16:08.0 Madam Chair:** Ms Binder?

**1:16:10.5 C. Binder:** I have two questions. One is, as we see the approach coming down from the Virginia side, do you see any concerns with the Roseland Road or the former Gateway tourism or the Dahlgren Heritage Museum?

**1:16:27.6 B. Wolfe:** No. Actually, we've been coordinating on both of those, and actually with Roseland Road, I believe we have some minor work to do there. And as far as the museum, we're not impacting the location of the museum, it's staying where it's at. And we've been coordinating all that approach work with the Virginia Department of Transportation to make sure that we're meeting all of their requirements and everything. So no, we should not have any impact to those.

**1:17:00.1 C. Binder:** And then my last question is, I have been over the Bay Bridge and where the Delaware, Maryland on 301, where you have the fast lanes, and I've seen how it works with the E-ZPass. But I do have a question. Is it true that... Well, Virginia residents... It's Maryland E-ZPass. So is there a different charge between Maryland and King George... I mean and Virginia?

**1:17:22.5 B. Wolfe:** It's not a different charge. The toll gantries are for the bridge itself, which is owned by the Maryland Transportation Authority. So the toll is the same whether you're coming from Virginia or coming from Maryland.

**1:17:39.0 C. Binder:** Is it the same for a Maryland resident and a Virginia resident, or is there a discount? Some places have, if it's in that state and you're an E-ZPass-holder, it's a little cheaper. That's my question.

**1:17:50.8 B. Wolfe:** No. I do not believe that is the case. It's one... It's just one toll. There's no differentiation between whether you're a Virginia resident or a Maryland resident.

**1:18:00.9 C. Binder:** Right. Thank you for that clarification.

**1:18:04.3 Madam Chair:** Mr. Bueche?

**1:18:05.7 J. Bueche:** No questions. Thank you for the presentation.

**1:18:10.4 Madam Chair:** Thank you, gentlemen, for the presentation. I do have one question; is there a restriction on the hours that your subs are allowed to do some of the noisier activities, specifically the pile driving? Part of why you're here, frankly, is I requested an update because I've heard from some constituents that some of the work is going on as late as midnight. And if there isn't... And I do realize; I appreciate the fact that you were at one point behind schedule due to COVID and were working 24 hours to catch up, and I really appreciate that because I do think it's important to get this finished and open, but if there isn't a restriction on that, do you have a mechanism by which you could let us know... Let the public know... In advance, "Hey, on this set of dates you can expect loud noise", so we can at least let our folks know in advance? Thank you.

**1:19:19.0 B. Wolfe:** So we... Yeah; we understand that there have been instances where there has been late noise, and it's been from pile driving. Those have been very isolated, and they're not the typical or normal situation; we do not drive piles in the middle of the night. Unfortunately in those particular instances that have occurred, when you start the pile driving operation, you can't stop. There's things that happen if you stop in the middle of driving a pile; you can get what's called "freeze", where the ground seizes up and it's near impossible to drive the pile the rest of the way after you come back to it. So in the cases that have occurred, there were issues with some of the equipment getting the operation started, but once it got started we needed to finish the pile so that we didn't have problems with not getting it down to the correct elevation in the river bottom, but that's not the normal operation, and I think with us out of the critical, what we call the fish window. There's a fish restriction, an in-stream restriction, that would end effect on March 15th that would have stopped any of the pile driving over in the deep water side near the Maryland shore, but we've fortunately gotten out of that, so we are not anticipating any kind of late night operation like that moving forward, unless there would be just an odd situation where the operation got delayed for some reason, but we don't anticipate that.

**1:21:12.8 Madam Chair:** Okay, great. Thank you so much. Thanks again for the thorough presentation and the update; we appreciate your time.

**1:21:20.2 B. Wolfe:** Thank you for having us.

**1:21:21.4 S. Skippen:** Thank you.

**1:21:22.3 Madam Chair:** Alright. We'll move on to presentation by Ms. Marta Perry, District Manager, Tri-County City Soil and Water Conservation District.

**1:21:30.7 Marta Perry:** Good evening members of the Board. My name is Marta Perry, and I'm the district manager for Tri-County City Soil and Water Conservation District. Thank you very much; alright. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. And on the behalf of... Excuse me... On behalf of the Tri-County City Soil and Water Conservation District I want to say I'm proud to be here to update you with some of the District's accomplishments recently. As you may know, soil and water conservation districts are public agencies, and Tri-County City Soil and Water Conservation District serves the three counties of King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford, and the City of Fredericksburg. Soil and water conservation districts were formed across the country in the 1930s and 1940s as part of the national response to the grim effects of the Dust Bowl. During the era of the Dust Bowl, land was being stripped of its topsoil, which then was turning into dust that clogged the skies and people's lungs. To rid this from happening again, soil and water conservation districts were formed, and Tri-County City was formed 77 years ago in 1944; we are one of 47 across the state.

We are a non-regulatory agency governed by a board of 10 directors; we have two publicly elected directors from each locality for a total of eight, plus two state-appointed directors. And before I go any further, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge King George's two publicly elected directors... Ms. Janet Gayle Harris and Mr. Bob Wernsman. So what do we do? We work to prevent flooding and erosion. We work to keep our soils healthy, and to keep our waterways like the Rappahannock and the Potomac Rivers clean and free of pollution. But how do we accomplish this? We work directly with our local governments, our farmers, and our residents to solve conservation challenges. We provide programs to support conservation projects, and the use of conservation methods and practices on the ground. We have a range of programs focused on agricultural conservation, community conservation, and conservation education. Our agricultural program is our largest program. We offer agricultural producers the technical assistance and guidance of our trained staff to help address the soil and water challenges that many farmers face. We also administer the state-funded Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program. Through the cost share program, the State provides our local farmers with financial assistance for using conservation methods on the ground in their operations.

(There we go.) As part of the State's push to clean up the Chesapeake Bay by 2025, the state has recently significantly increased its focus on agricultural conservation and has asked the soil and water districts to greatly ramp up their work with farmers to get that funding turned into conservation on the ground. Starting in FY'20, the state increased funding for cost share financial assistance for agricultural conservation as a result in FY'20, Tri-County City worked with King George farmers to provide over \$175,000 in state cost share financial assistance, which is more than double what we've been able to provide in any previous year, with this district financial assistance and the district's technical guidance, local farmers implemented a range of conservation practices. Instead of leaving fields bare and vulnerable to erosion over the winter, King George farmers planted over 10,000 acres of the erosion reducing winter cover crops. They converted almost 8.5

acres of land from high intensity road cropping to erosion controlling hay land and converted two acres from high intensity road crops into woods and forest. They implemented strategic fertilizer plans that prevent waste and pollution and save money on 2500 acres of cropland. In addition to our work in agricultural conservation, we also offer what we call our community conservation programs, this includes administering the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program or VCAP for short, which offers financial assistance for implementing a range of projects on land with existing development. All of the projects that VCAP covers help better handle storm water runoff and reduce the pollution, the soil erosion and the property damage that storm water run-off can create. For years, the water quality at Fairview Beach has been in question, we've been one of the lead partners in the joint effort to investigate the water quality at Fairview Beach. Tri-County City has served as the project coordinator of the effort and together with the Virginia Department of Health, King George County Service Authority, King George County, and the Fairview Beach Residents Association, we have made great progress.

In particular, I'd like to thank Steve Valentine, Kyle Comboy, Mike Bennett, Herb Cover, and Don Fortscrap for their work. Together, we were able to partner with Raul Gonzalez and Danny Barker who are environmental scientists at the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and we were able to partner with them for some scientific detective work over at Fairview Beach. As you probably know all too well, there's long been a question of whether there is human waste polluting the water at Fairview Beach, however, using the common water quality testing methods, or testing for E. Coli in the water, we haven't been able to answer that question, that's because this most common form of water testing, testing for E. Coli will only indicate a total fecal matter contamination, but it won't tell you what the source of the contamination is. Is it from pets? Is it from geese, deer, or is it from humans, which is the most dangerous kind of contamination for human health. Hampton Roads Sanitation District has a state-of-the-art laboratory for testing water samples with what is called PCR testing. You may have heard of it, PCR testing is also what is used to identify if someone is sick with Covid-19. With Hampton Roads' technology, they can definitively answer the question of whether there is or is not human waste contaminating the water. As many of you heard earlier this evening, when Raul Gonzales of Hampton Roads reported to the County Service Authority, Hampton Roads conducted two rounds of water testing over the summer of 2019 and the summer of 2020 in both wet weather and dry weather conditions. Based on that testing, using the most modern methods to identify pollution from human waste, Hampton Roads Sanitation District determined that there is no chronic contamination from human fecal waste in the waters of Fairview beach. This is quite a happy outcome since for years, it has been suspected that there was. By combining their strong working partnership and taking advantage of the most advanced technology, Tri-County City is proud to have been part of finding the answer to this nagging question.

In addition to our work in air conservation and community conservation, we also focus on conservation of education. A key component of our education program is the many indoor and outdoor class activities we offer for K through 12 school and homeschool teachers and students. All of our lessons are correlated with the Virginia Standards of Learning, and many are drawn from the Project WET curriculum, which is recommended by the National Association of Science teachers and is aligned with the national common core standards. Like most aspects of education, COVID-19 has had a big impact on our programs. During the pandemic, our education coordinator has shifted to include presenting lessons to students online as well as in person, and is also working to record lessons that teachers can access on demand. Despite the pandemic in the last nine months, our Education Coordinator has managed to reach 230 King George County students.

During the pandemic, we have also been working hard to expand our social media outreach, we significantly increased our activity, including regularly posting resources for our teachers. Our Facebook followers have risen by nearly 30% in the last nine months from 365 followers to a big

478 followers, and our reach has risen by over 50% with our posts being viewed by over 6,500 Facebook users. We offer a lending library of materials to teachers and community members, including maps, books, models, and related science equipment. We offer college scholarships for the study of conservation-related subjects, we hold an annual conservation art poster contest, and we provide scholarships to conservation summer camp. We cannot provide our member localities and our residence with the services we do without the critical support provided by local government, and we are grateful for the support of King George. I'm very proud of our history together. I'd like to close by saying thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration, and we look forward to what the future holds for our partnership. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**1:31:00.3 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Perry. Mr. Granger?

**1:31:01.1 R. Granger:** Yes, ma'am. Ms. Perry. Thank you for coming out. You talked about the Bay and the plan to have it cleaned up by 2025, are we gonna get there?

**1:31:08.7 M. Perry:** We sure can try. We are full steam ahead.

**1:31:13.9 R. Granger:** Okay. Casually optimistic?

**1:31:17.4 M. Perry:** That sounds wise.

**1:31:18.4 R. Granger:** Okay. Awesome. It's good to hear. My understanding is the Bay used to be clear, like crystal clear water, which I believe it's not now, so it'd be nice if we could get back to that at some point.

**1:31:30.7 M. Perry:** Yes, Indeed.

**1:31:32.3 R. Granger:** I appreciate the Fairview Beach update as well, and thank you for sharing the information about the human waste, 'cause that's always been a concern I know. Let me ask though, in general, is... Even if it's not human waste, if it is from animals, is that area have a higher contamination rate than the average area of E. Coli?

**1:31:54.8 M. Perry:** It does.

**1:31:56.4 R. Granger:** Okay.

**1:31:58.4 M. Perry:** The weakness of the E. Coli indicator is that it could... Well, we know it could indicate different types of animals besides the human animal, so we don't know whether it's pets or geese or deer. There's also E-Coli that can get... What did Raul say today? The sediment gets inoculated with it.

**1:32:20.9 R. Granger:** Interesting.

**1:32:21.4 M. Perry:** And the sediment can...

**1:32:23.3 R. Granger:** Just hold it then.

**1:32:24.1 M. Perry:** It can stick residents in the sediment, but that's the E. Coli, which is not the thing that's actually dangerous to us.

**1:32:31.8 R. Granger:** Okay.

**1:32:32.4 M. Perry:** So there's the question of whether... If it's not human, that's great, because that's the most dangerous kind of contamination, if it is from geese or pets, it's dangerous, but not as dangerous. And then if it's in the sediment, my understanding is that it doesn't pose that series of a risk to you.

**1:32:52.7 R. Granger:** Okay.

**1:32:53.5 M. Perry:** So we've eliminated the most dangerous issue and we are in the process of... I think we might wind up outsourcing testing to another laboratory because Hampton Roads is back up with the Covid-19 issue with the demands that they're facing.

**1:33:11.3 R. Granger:** So if it does come out that it's some animal, would there be some mitigation activities that could be taken to help address it?

**1:33:18.6 M. Perry:** It's certainly possible. When it comes to wildlife, your options are limited. The thing that we have the most influence over is pets. And we have installed some pet waste stations in Fairview Beach and regularly provide them with new stock of bags. But those are the easiest measures to address, and then if it turns out to be, if it's geese, if you can figure out where they're flocking, you may be able to sort of nudge them to relocate, but your options are kind of limited.

**1:33:56.2 R. Granger:** Okay. I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

**1:33:58.3 M. Perry:** Of course.

**1:34:01.0 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**1:34:04.3 J. Stonehill:** That was kind of my question as well, so it's great it's not human. Still trying to find out what it is exactly and where it's coming from, and talking about where else on the river, how far up and down did you guys test in the river to find that?

**1:34:25.9 M. Perry:** It was very limited to what is officially Fairview Beach, to just west of the trailer park area, down to where the pump station is and down by the marina. So we covered the entire crescent of the beach, if you're familiar with it. So we didn't go over into Potomac Landing, we went and looked to see if there were anything, any water sources there that might be relevant, but it didn't flow into the area that we were focusing on so we wound up just focusing exclusively on Fairview Beach.

**1:35:10.1 J. Stonehill:** Okay, great, thank you. You guys do a great job in trying to get the education how-to, farmers and people who use the water, even well up in the mountains, as you well know, affects, we're at the bottom of the drain here, so everything comes down to us so thank you for your work.

**1:35:31.8 M. Perry:** Yeah, of course, thank you.

**1:35:33.9 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**1:35:34.9 C. Binder:** I just wanna thank you for all your work and being good stewards of the Bay.

**1:35:39.3 M. Perry:** I appreciate it.

**1:35:40.9 Madam Chair:** Mr. Bueche.

**1:35:43.4 J. Bueche:** So thank you very much. You guys have been great partners with the Fairview Beach Resident Association, I recall attending numerous round tables with the residents and Mr. Bennett going on and on, and he's been great for that community, and you guys have been very wonderful partners in getting these results. Well, the shoreline part resolved, still trying to find out what the contamination issue is, but this was great news that it doesn't seem to be related with human waste. So thank you very much for everything you've done, not just recently, but over the years, thank you.

**1:36:24.6 M. Perry:** We're proud to have done that. Thank you so much.

**1:36:27.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you very much for coming out tonight, Ms. Perry. Mr. Quesenberry, we have Dr. Gonzales' presentation to the Service Authority Board of Directors, could you please forward that to our colleagues on this board who didn't receive it, and I think that'll answer Mr. Stonehill's question specifically. Thank you, sir. Thank you as always for everything you do.

**1:36:55.2 M. Perry:** Pleasure, thank you. Have a good night.

**1:36:57.3 Madam Chair:** Yes, ma'am. You too. Let me ask staff, would you like a short break or would you like to move forward with... Five minutes, that's what I would suggest if that's okay with everyone. Five minutes, Mr. Bueche, it's five, sir. Alright, we will take a short five-minute break. Thank you.

[Pause]

Alright, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your patience. Let's resume the meeting and we will start with the public hearing for the proposed cigarette tax ordinance. The King George County Board of Supervisors will now hold a public hearing that has been properly advertised to receive public input regarding the proposed cigarette tax ordinance. I will first ask for the staff report. I will then open the floor for public comment, public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker in order to afford everyone an opportunity to speak, please state your name and address before you comment. Upon completion of public comment, I will bring the matter back to the board for consideration, the board may or may not take action tonight depending on information received during public comment. Mr. Britton, I believe you're gonna handle the staff report on this matter, is that correct?

**1:38:22.0 M. Britton:** Yes, madam chair.

**1:38:22.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir.

**1:38:24.4 M. Britton:** So there's a memo that I put in there, it's in the board packet, I'm not gonna read it, but basically two counties, cities and towns could tax cigarettes until this year coming up on July 1st, reasons unbeknownst to me. And then this year the general assembly allowed all localities to tax cigarette, which dumped a bunch of counties in including King George, and obviously being on the border of Maryland, there's a lot of cigarette sales. Mr. Stonehill, who is on the board, actually is an expert in this area and used to head up the... There was a lot of illegal cigarettes moving up 301 and BATF used to work with the Sheriff's Office and so we know quite a bit about this, but localities were able to tax but not counties, except for Arlington, Fairfax. We are now in the position where the board has asked us to study tax, I put together a committee, Mr. Stonehill, myself and a number of others, including the tax commissioner and what have you. We reviewed a whole lot of ordinances that were in existence, mainly city ordinances for obvious reasons, independent ordinances, small cities, big cities, regional ordinances, we met with the Northern Region Tax Board, talked to the Northern Neck about whether you create another tax board, and the committee made a recommendation to go it on our own, since we would be the big fish in that pond in the Northern Neck, a large amount of cigarettes are sold and transported in King George County. Basically what it says is that in addition to the state tax, county can tax, state stamps it, county stamps it. It's a complex series of procedures that get it that way, and so we studied not just what the ordinance should be, but how it would be implemented, because you can pass an ordinance, but then what do you do next? So mainly Mr. Stonehill spearheaded the procedures, designing the stamp, getting the stamp, ordering the stamp, paying for the stamp, getting the stamp on there, making sure the stamp doesn't get pulled off, getting the stamp to the wholesalers, getting the wholesalers to sell only stamped cigarettes, finding out whether the retailers are selling only stamped cigarettes, what do you do with cigarettes that are already on site, that they've already brought from the wholesalers, who is gonna inspect it, who's gonna seize it, what are we gonna do with seized cigarettes, what are we gonna do with the assets of the seized cigarettes, how are we gonna audit these wholesalers, how are we gonna audit the retailers, how is the tax gonna be collected and how is it gonna be distributed?

So there's a lot of moving parts. But a lot of people have done this for a long time. So they've been very generous with their time. And so tonight, what is being advertised is the ordinance portion of it, sort of the enabling portion, you pass the ordinance and then everything else rolls, hire the person in the commission of the revenue, outfit the sheriff to do oversight and inspections and possibly seizures and make a determination in the budget of what you may do with the perspective revenues. I think that the estimate was \$4 million at this time, a lot of cigarettes sales. There used to be this old reports, the Star reports, then we don't get those anymore, so it's very hard to estimate the amount of cigarettes being sold. So that's the overall, the big picture. I did wanna say that the ordinance is pretty comprehensive, we went big instead of small because you can always amend it, there's nothing in here that is wrong. There may be some things that we over time tweak or don't use, and we may be able to pare it down, but we didn't wanna find ourself in the situation in the beginning where we didn't have enough and we're like, "Oh-oh, We forgot to define dealer or retail dealer or wholesaler." So I went big on the ordinance. Fortunately, there is some oversight, there's some people in the Wholesalers Association, the Retailers Association, the tobacco shops, and they all seemed to call, ranging from, we don't care what your tax is, we just wanna make sure that it's implemented correctly too, we really don't want you to have a tax. So the committee also feel all of those types of things.

One fella from Richmond Association, the Wholesalers Association called and he pointed out that there was an error in the proposed ordinance, and so I've amended that and I am going to read that so that you can... If you pass this vote on the amended ordinance. The other thing is, that he asked,

and I'll let Mr. Stonehill take this up, he asked that we provide a discount of 2% to the wholesalers who are purchasing the stamps to offset their paperwork, which they then turn over to us and he called it helping us do our taxes. I asked him for a matrix of the other localities throughout Virginia, this is not required by law, which ones provide this discount and how much and he did not have that. He did provide an ordinance coming up from one of the local counties, Amherst, I believe, they are giving a 2% discount, I believe, but I put forth that that information to the committee, and I believe the committee's recommendation is not to provide a discount at this time.

**1:44:04.0 Madam Chair:** Very good. Thank you, Mr. Britton.

**1:44:05.7 M. Britton:** One of the things that I..

**1:44:06.7 Madam Chair:** Yes sir, go ahead.

**1:44:07.0 M. Britton:** Think is important, in addition to the ordinance, is the rate. The rate is a maximum of \$0.02 per cigarette, which is \$0.40 per pack. The committee is recommending, Mr. Stonehill can correct me, the head of, but as I understand it, the committee is recommending the maximum tax, and that puts us extremely competitive in Virginia with the retail price of cigarettes across the bridge, basically still half. So it adds \$0.40 a pack. And I think Mr. Stonehill was looking at cigarettes in the \$7.00, \$8.00, \$9.00, and of course, you get up to New York, Chicago, where they have the double and triple tax, whatever the cigarette costs, they double it or triple it. You're in to \$10.00 to \$15.00 a pack. So I only say that because we did take into consideration that retailers could be affected in their sales, and those sales or taxes as well. Nothing in comparison to the cigarette tax. So we have a comprehensive ordinance which has a recommended sales tax of the maximum of \$0.02 cents per cigarette, \$0.40 cents per pack, and when it gets time to consider this, I'd like to read the amendment.

**1:45:16.5 Madam Chair:** Very good, thank you, sir. And if I can ask quickly, Mr. Quesenberry, the next public hearing, the budget that was crafted based on the \$0.40 cents, right...

**1:45:27.2 T. Quesenberry:** That's correct.

**1:45:27.7 Madam Chair:** Before we move forward. Thank you, sir. Okay. Does anyone have questions for Mr. Britton. Alright, then I would like to go ahead and invite Mr. Stonehill as a member of the committee. Do you have anything to add, sir?

**1:45:45.2 J. Stonehill:** Just talking about the prices of cigarettes, I was over in Maryland the other day, and I actually stopped and I just took the most popular cigarette, the Newport, and I looked over there. Since they just increased their taxes over there, one single pack of Newports over there in Maryland is \$11.00, so even with ours it's gonna be, maybe that same cigarette pack, is gonna be maybe \$7.40, maybe \$7.50 here with a \$0.40 tax on it, so I really don't think it's gonna... \$6.80.

**1:46:18.7 J. Bueche:** I bought a pack today, \$6.40.

**1:46:24.2 J. Stonehill:** I don't really think it's gonna affect the sales, especially with the folks coming over the bridge. I know down in Dahlgren District over here on the weekends, you hit the Wawa's and the Sheetz' and it's just a non-stop line of folks buying cigarettes. It's just unbelievable the amount of cigarettes going out right now. Yes, and the committee did recommend a \$0.40 tax.

That was a unanimous one.

**1:46:52.0 Madam Chair:** Also what Mr. Britton stated, declined to grant the 2% discount or whatever it was called.

**1:46:58.7 J. Stonehill:** Yes, I had never heard of that before. That was the very first time any of us ever heard of it. We ran that past the committee as well, and they also said no, they would just forego that one.

**1:47:10.2 Madam Chair:** Okay, thank you. And I know Sheriff Giles is here in the audience this evening, Sheriff Giles, do you have anything you wish to add before we move on with public comment?

**1:47:19.0 Sherriff Giles:** No.

**1:47:20.0 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir. Alright, very good, then I will open the floor for public comment. As a reminder, please keep your comments to three minutes. Is anyone here in the audience who wishes to speak? I did not have anyone sign up on the sign-up sheet. Mr. Dines, do you have anyone online for the cigarette tax ordinance? Public comment. Very good. I will close public comment. I will ask my colleagues if any written statements were received that were requested to be entered as a public comment? No? Very good then. Alright, I will now bring the matter back to the board for consideration, again, we may or may not take action tonight depending on information received during public comment.

**1:48:04.7 M. Britton:** Madam Chair, if I could, before you consider... There are no section numbers now because we haven't put it into meeting code, but under "Refund for unused stamps", what happened was, is if they bought the stamps and then they weren't gonna use them, then they have to give me their money back. The way it used to be was that we would take out 5%, the localities would take 5%, and they've changed that. That's what this fellow from Richmond called and said, "You can't do that anymore," and he was right. So I would ask that you consider a motion, if you don't change anything else as presented with the amendments, removing the 5% discount on the refund for unused stamps.

**1:49:04.2 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Britton.

**1:49:05.5 M. Britton:** That won't cause another advertisement. To me that's not like changing the rate or anything like that.

**1:49:10.7 Madam Chair:** Right. Alright, do we have a motion?

**1:49:17.2 J. Stonehill:** I move to approve the motion as presented with the amendment of removing the 5% discount on unused stamps.

**1:49:32.2 J. Bueche:** Second.

**1:49:35.7 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye.

**1:49:43.2 C. Binder:** Aye.

**1:49:43.5 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**1:49:43.6 R. Granger:** Aye.

**1:49:43.8 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**1:49:44.0 Madam Chair:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion carries. Thank you, gentlemen, for all your hard work on this. We really appreciate it.

**1:49:51.2 M. Britton:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I think... At least, we used to make a motion to have staff send it to Municode for codification. Do we need... Yeah, because that changes the...

**1:50:05.0 Madam Chair:** Do I have a motion to authorize staff to submit the new ordinance to Municode?

**1:50:10.7 R. Granger:** So moved.

**1:50:13.0 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye.

**1:50:14.2 C. Binder:** Aye.

**1:50:14.5 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**1:50:14.6 R. Granger:** Aye.

**1:50:14.8 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**1:50:17.7 Madam Chair:** Any opposed, share votes aye, motion carries. Thank you, Mr. Britton.

**1:50:20.4 M. Britton:** Thank you.

**1:50:21.8 Madam Chair:** Alright. We will move on with our second public hearing, the King George County Board of Supervisors will now hold a public hearing that has been properly advertised to receive a public input regarding the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget. I will first ask for the staff report, I will then open the floor for public comment, public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker in order to afford everyone an opportunity to speak, please state your name and address before you comment. Upon completion of public comment, I will bring the matter back to the board for consideration, the board may or may not take action tonight depending on information received during public comment, and in fact, it is my understanding by law we cannot take action for at least seven days prior to tonight's public hearing.

**1:51:07.8 T. Quesenberry:** Madam chair, that is correct.

**1:51:09.2 Madam Chair:** Very good, thank you. So just so everyone is aware of that, this is for public comment discussion, but we cannot by law take action this evening. Alright, very good. So let's start with the staff report, Mr. Quesenberry.

**1:51:25.2 T. Quesenberry:** Thank you, madam chair and members of the board. I'm happy to

present the FY2021-2022 budget. I'm gonna start with a review of the budget process. In December 2020, the county administrator request departments and agencies to prepare their budgets, and those submittals were due back to the Finance Department in mid-January 2021. Then for the next two months, the budget staff reviewed the submittals and had many meetings with the departments and the agencies, and following those reviews, the county administrator started his review and also met with some of the departments and agencies. This process is a little bit slower than in prior years, but we normally start this process in February, then the board and the Citizen Advisory Committee held a number of work sessions, that was a total six budget work sessions starting on March the 3rd, and continuing to April the 7th. During those work sessions, the committee and the Board of Supervisors received information on specific line items, reviews from the landfill, general properties, human resources, the treasurer, border supervisors, social services and oversight agencies. In addition, you received staffing reports and recommendations from community development, the sheriff, fire and rescue, including discussion of recruitment and retention and human resources. You also received the school budget, you received information on the Parks and Recreation fee schedule, the Department of Community Development fee schedule, the Property Tax Relief Act, the cigarette tax, and also at each of the work sessions, you received detailed information regarding expenditures and revenues. So at the last work session that was April the 7th, the county administrator presented a final budget. The board at that time authorized the advertising of the budget and the tax rates. Tonight, you are conducting the public hearings on the budget and the tax rates. Then on May the 4th, the board will adopt the budget and the tax rates and then appropriate the funds in June.

Some of the budget challenges, we discussed these at one of your work sessions for state funding, the state funding is 39% of our budget. So receiving accurate information and timely information is critical to our budget development and the revenue airlocks, we had to be cautious this year with the uncertain impacts of Covid and how that was gonna impact this year's budget. We discussed the reduction in the landfill revenue compared to previous years. We discussed public safety, recruitment and retention, and I'll give more details on that in a later slide. We discussed the Department of Social Services increases and the reasons for those increases, they were primarily related to public assistance and the Children Services Act. There's also impacts to county growth and that affected the community development department, the sheriff, emergency services and social services. The schools, obviously, it's a big part of your budget, in fact that's 54% of the total county budget this year. We discussed that in the current year budget there was a use of revenue stabilization fund and general fund reserves to balance the current year budget but that's the reason those funds were established, and that's why you had a strong fund reserves and it was appropriate to use those funds given the uncertainty of the budget this year. We discussed increases to the regional jail and juvenile detention and we also had a new budget team working this year on the budget.

There we go. I'll continue with the budget overview, the operating budget is an annual fiscal plan, it serves as a road map for implementing the Board of Supervisors priorities. In preparing this budget we were mindful that the budget environment continues to face a degree of economic uncertainty and continues to be a serious challenge. In this budget, we tried to restore certain board priorities, and we continued board policies related to fiscal responsibility and service delivery, and we talked about increases and improvements to public safety, recruitment and retention, priority related to education, social services, employee compensations, capital projects and debt mitigation and facility maintenance. We included some additional funds this year in general properties budget to take care of some needed maintenance requirements.

Continue with the budget overview. In development in the current year budget, the revenue projections were wisely lowered in anticipation of the layering effects of Covid and the economic

impacts associated with that. However, due to the physical stability of the board and the fund reserves and the policies, we were able to use fund balances to offset the lowered projections. Many of the FY'21 revenues are on pace and actually will exceed the budget in amounts, and they'll also exceed FY'20 actual revenue amounts. The FY'22 budget includes new revenue from a real estate tax increase associated with the new quarters and new revenue from the cigarette tax. The budget increase includes a fee increases associated with the fee schedules in Department of Community Development. It continues investments in a workforce, and the budget addresses core needs of a growing population that impact schools, public safety, social services and county services. The budget also includes transfers to restore county fund balances.

The budget is fiscally responsible. It's in accordance with the county financial policies. The total accounted budget is \$97,401,473. 54% of that budget, \$52,518,931 is associated with school items. The school operating budget, grants and cafeteria. The non-school expenditures are just under \$45 million, that's 46% of the total budget. The budget includes tax increases, the shortage associated with debt for the construction of a new courthouse, resulting in a recent increase in a real estate tax rate, and each penny results in \$270,000 of additional revenue. And the proposed budget includes projected revenue from a 40 cent per pack cigarette tax. So, the non-school expenditures, which is a 46% of the total budget, approximately \$45 million, you can see where that goes. \$35.1 million of that goes toward public safety, debt service, Department of Social Services, court services and constitution officers, capital improvement fund and institutions, outside agencies and the Virginia Department of Health. The remaining \$9.7 million, which is 10% of the total county budget, funds the Board of Supervisors, county administration, county attorney, human resources, economic development, Department of Finance, Department of Community Development, IT, county Engineering Department, landfill, tourism, parks and recreation, library and contingency. Some of the budget highlights; the property taxes and other local tax revenues increased by \$8.4 million over the current year, and those are taxes associated with real estate, personal property, sales tax, b poll, meals tax, the cigarette tax is included here, recordation tax and motor vehicle licensing. The schools will receive \$18,229,917 in local funding, which is an increase of \$684,333 over the school current year, and the school ADM is based on 4,380 students. A discuss of funding was included for increases in the regional jail and juvenile detention, and includes a \$590,000 transfer from the general fund balance for equipment purchases and other one-time purchases.

With regards to the cigarette tax revenue, \$1 million is proposed to go toward a revenue stabilization fund. \$1.25 million to the capital improvement fund, \$500,000 to debt mitigation funds, and the cigarette tax will also provide \$1.25 million for public safety recruitment and retention, plus two new positions. We're projecting that approximately \$266,000 will be received for the new building permit fee schedule, which you will consider a resolution later tonight regarding that, and I discussed at length our revenue decrease compared to previous years. Some other budget highlights, this budget includes some new positions. It includes full year funding for three new positions in the Sheriff's office, that will be two bailiffs and one position associated with the cigarette tax. One new position in the commission of revenues office associated with the cigarette tax. One new position in the county engineers department and that position will offset some higher costs that was in the community development budget for consulting services. Two new positions in the Department of Community Development and one part-time position in Human Resources. The budget also includes half year funding for six new positions in the Department of Emergency Management. The budget includes implementation of a step grade system for public safety and an increase in certification pay, and it includes the increases we discussed in the Department of Social Services. Also included, funding for merit increases for county employees and adjustments in some of the other county employees positions that need some adjustments, and it includes a reduction in health insurance costs. With a rise to the cigarette tax, this is what's been

proposed. I discussed \$1.25 million for two new positions in public safety recruitment and retention. \$1 million transferred to the revenue stabilization fund, \$250,000 transfer for county debt mitigation, \$250,000 transfer for a service authority debt mitigation and \$1.25 million transferred to the capital fund.

With regard to Public Safety Recruitment and Retention, and the funding is provided in this budget for the implementation of a public safety pay schedule based on a step system, it does also include funding to revive pay incentives for special duties, certifications, and degrees, includes funding, which is already included in the current fiscal year for the VRS multiplier to be increased from 1.7 to 1.85, and you will consider a resolution associated with that later tonight, and a market study to be conducted every five years to ensure a competitive status. Okay. With regard to the state revenue, which is \$38 million or 39% of the county budget, most of that goes towards schools and social services, and that totals to over \$33 million. And then, you can see the breakdown for how much the other constitutional officers and the Registrar receives from the state for their budgets. This slide shows the total proposed revenues for FY'21, '22, it compares the adopted 2021 budget to the proposed '21/'22, you can see increases in general property taxes that has discussed the real estate and personal property and the other associated taxes, the other local taxes, that sales tax increases, BPAL, mills tax increase, but, of course, the \$4 million for the cigarette tax is included here, licensing permits and fees, and a big part of that is the landfill revenue, then other local revenue is a bit of a decrease there, state revenue increased a little bit where prior year a little bit increase, and the Federal revenue, and the non-revenue receipts, that's the transfers from the general fund and revenue stabilization, and you can see that has significantly lowered than the previous fiscal year. This slide just rapidly represents where our revenues come from, as you can see, local sources account for the majority of the county's revenue and then state funds and then 5% from Federal funds and then 1% from other.

The next slide shows expenditures FY'21/'22 compared to what was adopted in 2021, and you can see where the increases all are, increases in schools, public safety, debt service fund, Department of Social Services, and general government, general government has shows an increase, that's where we show the revenue stabilization fund, that \$1 million that goes there. And under the Capital Improvement Fund, the increase there is associated with the \$0.03 real estate tax increase. This is the graphic that shows where the expenditures, where the funding goes, and you can see the majority of that goes to schools, Public Safety, debt services, social services, and constitutional officers.

In closing, Madam Chair, I'd like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the Citizen Budget Committee, I'd like to thank the county departments, the constitutional officers, school divisions, and the agencies, and I also wanna thank the Finance Department administrative staff, and particularly Lavita Cob and Donna Hahn for their excellent work in preparing this budget, and I'd also like to thank Chris Dines for hanging in there with us at all of our meetings. I'll be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have.

**2:07:20.7 Madam Chair:** Thank you, sir. So, since we are not able to act on this this evening, we won't need a motion for discussion, so I will entertain questions and discussion at the same time, and I will allow Mr. Bueche to go first because this is your last budget.

**2:07:47.5 J. Bueche:** Well, thank you, Madam Chair, I really appreciate that. So, the discussion, okay. So, first off, I'd just like to state that I'm proud of how we conducted this budget process, there were things we didn't agree on, but I think we had very fruitful discussions, and we put together a realistic budget. Travis, thank you, too, everybody who worked on this, amazing job, given the circumstances you guys had to operate under and the timeline. With that, I have a couple

of things, but I'm gonna start off with the big one first. So, I brought this up at our last meeting and we decided that we're gonna advertise high, we can always go lower. So, looking at having more time and looking at what CARES Act funding, how that's gonna play into things, and looking at... It was in one of your slides, Travis, economic uncertainty. One, we're building this budget on \$4 million of the cigarette tax that has never been implemented in King George County, we're hoping that we get \$4 million, we could get more, but we don't know, we've also seen a reduction in landfill revenues, we don't know if those are gonna go up or those are gonna go down. So, while the picture is good of revenues coming in, I still wanna be cautious. With that, looking at the CARES Act funding and things that are gonna be available...

**2:09:17.0 Madam Chair:** Excuse me, Mr. Bueche, can I stop you for just a moment?

**2:09:19.7 J. Bueche:** Yes, ma'am.

**2:09:20.9 Madam Chair:** Before you go on too far, you're not asking questions, right?

**2:09:24.8 J. Bueche:** No.

**2:09:25.5 Madam Chair:** Okay. So, does anyone else have questions? Because I do need to open the floor for public comment, then we can have a more robust discussion. My apologies.

**2:09:35.0 J. Bueche:** No, no problem. So, if we're gonna do discussion later, yes, I have no actual questions.

**2:09:40.6 Madam Chair:** Okay, thank you. Ms. Binder, questions for staff?

**2:09:44.2 J. Bueche:** Thank you.

**2:09:45.0 C. Binder:** Yes, I do have one question from Travis. Being that said, since it's \$4 million that we have not seen, and as though you always say about sin tax, sometimes it's meant to reduce triple purchasing, do we have something built in in case we do not realize that revenue?

**2:10:01.6 T. Quesenberry:** Well, look for this, where revenue is proposed to go. Only \$1.25 million is going to re-occurring costs, so the other \$1 million, \$250,000, \$250 and \$1.25. Let's say you get \$3 million instead of \$4 million. Well, the board can decide later how you want to break that transfer down. For example, you may want to transfer less to the revenue stabilization fund or less to the capital fund, or you may wanna do a percentage based on this breakdown. You may wanna do a percentage, not touching that \$1.25 for the new positions and the public safety recruitment and retention.

**2:10:44.9 C. Binder:** Alright. Thank you. That's all I had.

**2:10:48.4 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill, questions?

**2:10:51.2 J. Stonehill:** Just one question on the slide that had the sliced up dollar bill. Other, outside of Federal, what was an example of that one?

**2:11:01.0 T. Quesenberry:** On the revenue side or the expenditure?

**2:11:12.0 J. Stonehill:** Going back one.

[background conversation]

**2:11:12.1 J. Stonehill:** Yeah. The revenue side.

**2:11:12.9 T. Quesenberry:** The revenue side. That other... That would be leases that we have on cell towers. When we lease property and we receive revenues there, things like that.

**2:11:22.7 J. Stonehill:** Gotcha. Okay, yeah. I don't have any more questions. Thank you.

**2:11:26.9 Madam Chair:** Mr. Granger?

**2:11:28.3 R. Granger:** No questions. But thank you for the presentation.

**2:11:30.4 Madam Chair:** Alright, very good. I don't have any questions either. So I will now open the floor for public comment. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker in order to afford everyone an opportunity to speak. Please state your name and address before you comment. Upon completion of public comment, I will bring the matter back to the Board for consideration. And as previously stated, we will not be taking action tonight because we are prohibited by law from doing so. So I have a sign-up sheet and I wish to recognize Ms. Carrie Gonzales, the Dahlgren District school board member and Chairwoman of the King George County School Board. Thank you very much for your patience and coming out tonight, and you are our first speaker for public comment, ma'am.

**2:12:14.2 Carrie Gonzales:** Alright, good evening. Thank you, Madam Chair, Members of the Board. My name is Carrie Gonzales. I'm here as a parent and a citizen this evening. My address is 8116 Oak Crest Drive. I'm here to make a public comment in support of funding the King George County School Division, preferably in the full amount as proposed by the Superintendent and King George County School Board, but at a minimum in an amount no less than that advertised prior to this evening. I do like the dollar bill analogy with respect to the portion of the county budget that goes to the schools because it's easy and understandable. I know that at just under 54% of the budget, the schools are in fact a very large chunk of taxpayer dollars and the county operating budget. This does make sense though, considering the schools are in fact the largest employer in the county, excluding the base, since base employees are Federal employees and not paid by the county. And the schools are also charged with providing what is arguably one of our most valuable services educating our future citizens.

This has, of course, been a very challenging year for all, with the impact of the pandemic felt in extremely different ways across the county's diverse population. As was stated at a recent budget meeting, while some county residents have had some cushy telework experiences for the last year, others have in fact lost jobs. Clearly the impacts of the pandemic are far-ranging. That said, I wanted to offer a different perspective on why funding our public schools is important. General financial advice is to invest appropriately in the future. Daily operating expenses must of course be funded, but to the extent possible, it is advisable to invest in our future. Investing in our schools means investing in our children and our children are our future. Investing in our schools and our children actually saves money in the future. Investment in our children means we educate and produce good citizens who grow up to serve our communities. With higher graduation rates come

less required of future investments in social services. Less investment in jails and juvenile detention, because when we invest in and properly educate our children, they stay in school and they become contributing members of society.

In truth, our schools are in great shape. We have excellent graduation rates and low drop-out rates. We have students representing King George at the Naval Academy. Our schools have produced NFL players. We have amazing students who have been taught by amazing teachers. The Board of Supervisors has done a very commendable job in recent years, funding the schools and making our teachers salaries competitive. Teachers' salaries in Virginia, however, ranked about 33rd in the country. I know this year's budget does include a raise for teachers, but teachers' salaries are just one example.

I know that these budget decisions weigh heavily on each of you, and I know the school budget arrangement in Virginia whereby local investment is required to make school budget's whole, creates unique challenges for localities, especially for small rural ones, such as ours. The budget presented to you by the Superintendent each year is a needs-based budget, which is required of the Superintendent by law. It is not superfluous. So I challenge you to continue funding our schools at the levels requested by the School Board and Superintendent to continue investing in the County's future and to see if we can make our schools even better than they already are. I think better should always be the objective, not just maintaining the status quo, but better, to make progress. To be human is to seek continual progress. As the Late John McCain once said, "America's greatest strength has always been a hopeful vision of human progress. Our children are our future, and they therefore are where the human journey towards progress begins." Thank you.

**2:15:24.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Gonzales. Anyone else here in the audience who wishes to provide public comment? Mr. Dines, it is my understanding we have someone online, Ms. Elizabeth Borst. Is she still online for public comments, sir? Ms. Borst. Can you hear us, Ma'am?

**2:15:43.7 Elizabeth Borst:** I can. Can you hear me?

**2:15:46.2 Madam Chair:** Yes, I can. Yes, ma'am. Thank you for your patience and waiting for your turn to speak tonight. You'll have three minutes, ma'am. If you could please again, state your name and your address.

**2:15:54.2 EB:** Absolutely, I'm Elizabeth Borst. I'm speaking on behalf of Virginia Community Food Connections, and I'm a resident of Spotsylvania County, 12003 Power ... Road. Good evening. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak briefly with you about our local food access programs. And I'd like to thank you for your proposed outside agency budget support. Virginia Community Food Connections, or VCFC for short, serves low-income residents who receive SNAP or food stamp benefits. SNAP, as you know, is the nation's largest nutrition assistance program. Currently in King George County, 2000 households and 950 individuals receive SNAP benefits. This is a 16% increase in cases since February 2020 and 108% increase in issuance. This shows the impact of COVID on hunger in our community.

We have a strategy of connecting vulnerable consumers with agricultural producers, and this is a really proven way to combat food insecurity as part of a much larger community-based approach. VCFC, SNAP and Virginia Fresh Match incentive program do this by encouraging folks to spend their SNAP benefits at local farmers markets, we increase the purchasing power of those SNAP benefits with a \$40 match for fresh fruits and vegetables. So every time a SNAP customer visits the farmers market, they can get an additional \$40 in fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers for free. We operate this food access program at King George Farmer's Market, and at six other

farmers markets in the region. In 2020, the SNAP and Virginia Fresh Match spending at King George Farmers Market was over \$5000, which was an increase of 80% over the prior season. Region-wide our program represents over \$200,000 in essential income for local farmers. These programs work in partnership with lots of community organizations, especially with emergency food distribution. We really wanna enable those SNAP consumers to choose their own food, their culturally appropriate food, the food that they would like to feed their families, they can purchase that food with dignity from local family farms and in a community marketplace, and that's very important, somewhere close to home. With \$400,000 in SNAP benefits dispersed each month in King George, we help some of those dollars be spent at local farmers instead of the big buck stores. Our organization brings 100% of the matching funds, the program staffing and outreach to King George Farmers Market. This partnership enables the farmers market to focus on serving the entire community while we focus on attracting and serving those limits to income shoppers. We truly value our partnerships with King George Social Services, with King George Farmers Market, with Virginia Cooperative Extension and with the Board of Supervisors. Thank you so much for your support for this highly effective food access program, I encourage you to come out and visit us at the market and see it in action for yourself. Thank you so much. Good evening.

**2:18:55.0 Madam Chair:** Thank you, ma'am, very much for your comments. Mr. Dines, do you have anyone else online who wishes to offer public comment on the budget?

**2:19:03.1 C. Dines:** No ma'am.

**2:19:04.1 Madam Chair:** Very good then I will close the floor for public comment. Can I just ask my colleagues, did anyone receive written statements from constituents requesting to have them entered into the record for public comment? No. No, I didn't either. Okay. Are you good, Mr. Bueche? Yes. Okay. Alright, so we will move on and continue discussion. Mr. Bueche, go ahead.

**2:19:34.0 J. Bueche:** So discussion.

**2:19:35.8 Madam Chair:** Yes.

**2:19:36.2 J. Bueche:** Thank you, madam chair. So getting back, I won't repeat everything else said, so looking at the CARES Act funding and what's gonna be available, and I'd like to thank Dr. Benson for his presentation and the very thorough binder that they provided with their budget builder and looking at that, with the CARES Act funding available, I have come to the conclusion, and granted, I understand is the absolute authority of the school board to allocate the funds that they're given, but I was concerned that the funding level that we would be providing to the schools would be able to cover their additional position requirements or requests, and the 5% pay raise for the teachers. I believe with the CARES Act funding, they more then can accomplish that by what I'm about to suggest. We're looking at a 3% tax increase as Travis just presented. I would like to go back to my regional recommendation, when we were looking at funding to advertise, and I would like to decrease the local contribution amount by \$229,000 allotting for \$18 million even in local funding, this is still \$400,000 more than what was funded last year, in addition, they're getting \$2 million more from the state, and the CARES Act funding that will be available. I would then request that the board would direct the county administrator to find \$41,000 in the county budget, which would come to a total of \$270,000, which equates to \$0.01, and we could then reduce the tax rate that we're advertising increased from \$0.03 to \$0.02. I believe we can accomplish that. So for your consideration, that is my suggestion. Again, the cigarette tax is not

guaranteed, I believe there's a possibility we will see more, but again, it's economic uncertainty. I'd also like to look at the service authority debt service payment for \$250,000. Now, I'm not opposed to working with the service authority and giving or allocating \$250,000, however, as a debt service, I have a concern, and I'm not gonna beat this to death but here's exactly why, in the pie chart that was presented tonight by the general manager of the service authority, it actually reflected the debt fees as revenues. So if that's the case, shouldn't the bills for the Service Authority customers go down theoretically, if we were paying towards the debt service. My proposal is to still allocate \$250,000 to the service authority, but rather than a subsidy, which I believe it would be to debt mitigation, I would like for it to go towards capital improvements.

A while back, Mr. Weakley gave this board of presentation on capital improvements that the Service Authority was looking at and that they needed. Well, if we allocated this towards capital improvements, they would not have to tap into the line of credit. And I'll bring up the line of credit and why I think it's problematic with the debt service is because I had inquired Mr. Weakley, and he replied back to me today as to the oversight of the debt for the service authority specific to the line of credit. I asked him, "Can the Board of Directors who the majority is non-elected officials, three members are non-elected, can they acquire debt utilizing the line of credit without the authority of the Board of Supervisors? And today, bond counsel confirmed that the service authority board of directors has that authority, so the of the Board of Supervisors would then have no oversight, so we would basically be subsidizing the debt but have no say into how that debt is accumulated. So I still agree with the \$250, just I would change it from debt mitigation to capital improvements. So service authority, schools and the Smoot Library, we are giving them \$661,546. I'm not proposing to cut anything from them, however, the Revercomb building is open to the public, the Citizen Center is open to the public, I believe the conference rooms at the Smoot Library need to be open to the public. With that, madam chair, that concludes my discussion. Thank you very much.

**2:25:08.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Bueche. Ms. Binder?

**2:25:12.7 C. Binder:** Well, I'll bring up first with the Smoot Library. Mr. Bueche had asked me and since I'm on the board, I reached out to Robin, who's the library director, and she said they were working on it, so I would just ask Travis, could you check up with that just to see why... 'Cause I do know, my daughter is a girl scout, they've had to have virtual meetings this whole time, and I'm sure the boy scouts they've used those rooms, it might be really important to the community to have those rooms open again, and if we could help her facilitate opening those rooms. Now, concerning the service authority, I understand Mr. Bueche's comments, but the one thing I point out is until recently, every member of the Service Authority Board of Directors was a Board of Supervisor Member, and they incurred the debt by not raising the taxes, or not raising the fees, not... Whatever they did in the past, I'm not blaming it. So we sort of share that debt because part of it was created. So to me, just switching that \$250 from debt mitigation to capital funds just seems like you're just shifting chairs or just renaming, its semantics. So I still go with paying off the debt mitigation for the \$250 and we can re-evaluate it every year to see and change, but I just think it's playing with semantics.

One other comment I have to make is when I was knocking on doors recently, there's two things that a lot of people ask me about, one was the schools being open and their experiences, and then another was the tax rate and how it was coming, and when I explained to them why it was possibly \$0.03 to \$0.04, they understood when you explained everything to them, they just never had it explained to them before and they appreciated it. But the biggest thing they asked and they wanted to make sure and I haven't heard a 100%, I've heard kinda waffle on the school where I've heard, "We want them to be opened." But I haven't heard of an actual plan. There's lots of plans

throughout this country, they look beautiful, they are PDF, they have pictures, but you make a plan and you work through the plan, and you can always adapt the plan if situations change in August, but the citizens wanna see a plan and they wanna know that their kids are going back to school full-time to receive all these funds, and I've heard from lots of people, especially in one neighborhood, and almost every door that opened that had children, and there was a lot said, "My kids need to be in school because it's important to their welfare." And you spoke of the kids, it's important for our society. Well, some of those kids are being left behind because virtual is just not working for them, and it's that whole community with the wonderful teachers that help make them better human beings, and then better career folks and everything in life, so it's really important to the citizens, especially the Shiloh District, that those kids go back to school full-time and those that need the virtual experience have the opportunity and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

**2:28:06.2 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**2:28:17.5 J. Stonehill:** Just going in order like everyone else, as the service authority, I think we just need to keep that \$250 in debt reduction. The debt is just a growing monster and we need to work that down, one way or the other, and I like the debt mitigation for both of those funds, right there, and I'd like to see them stay the way they are. The schools, it seems like I really can't get a really straight answer of, are they gonna open in August? They've asked for an awful lot of money and we've funded a good amount of money and an increase from last year, but people keep saying, "Is school gonna open?" We don't know. Nobody gives us an answer. We also don't know how much more of this new funding that's gonna come in as well, and so how much are they gonna augment their budget with that? We don't know, we don't really have an answer for that as well. The budget, I think they did a great job on everything. I would actually be in agreeance with Mr. Bueche, if we did decrease it down to an even \$18 million to go to the schools for that. I think that's all I have for right now.

**2:29:51.7 Madam Chair:** Thank you Mr. Stonehill. Mr. Granger?

**2:29:53.5 R. Granger:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you. I guess I'll start with service authority. So I don't know if anyone would be willing to entertain, but maybe a debt mitigation/capital improvements and let it be decided by that group where it would be used. I could understand if you're looking at existing debt and it's at a higher rate it might be beneficial to say, "Let's pay down that higher rate debt and then use the line of credit because it's at a lower rate." And so you end up saving money in the long run because yes, you're getting to do a new borrowing, but you're getting rid of old borrowing that is at a higher rate. And so I'd be willing to entertain giving an option and looking at the finances, and I assume Davenport would probably be able to help with making those determinations on which way using that funding would be most beneficial to reducing the overall cost to citizens who are members of the service or customers of the service authority. So I'll just throw that out there as an option and to let you guys entertain.

I as well would be willing to reduce some of the spending for the schools. In particular, I think Ms. Cupka's line was a little bit higher than my line originally 'cause I was looking at a couple of the positions that are required by the standards of quality, and so...But I think I could probably be convinced to go down to the even \$18 million, but then I'd also ask if my colleagues would be willing to entertain possibly providing a full-time position to Human Resources as opposed to a part-time position. I think Ms. Sumiel presented that the increasing size of the staff has required more needs and so we were doing what we could. The difference in the cost would be from \$30,000, which were, in our current plan, have a part-time position that is been added for \$30,000,

it would go to \$53,000, so it's a \$23,000 increase. And so I think it would be a value for our own staff in order to provide them with good services as well for their needs, for development, for handling any kind of conflicts for all the things that Human Resources does, and so I would ask that you would entertain that. And so I would love as well to go down to \$0.02, but as you brought up though, Mr. Bueche, that there's concerns about... There's risk, 'cause I think you bring up a good point. I think Mr. Stonehill and the Cigarette Committee have been conservative in their numbers and I think there's a belief that it will probably be a larger sum of money coming in and we're going on the low end, but as you said, we've never done this before, so there is risk. There's always gonna be some risk involved and so I think it would be maybe more valuable to not drop that penny and have that money there and then if there is extra funds, then that can be maybe put towards further debt mitigation and it just puts us in a better posture to not put ourselves in a bad situation if it doesn't come in in time. We advertised originally when we went with the courthouse, we said, "Hey, it's gonna cost a lot of money to... \$29 bond, it's gonna be a \$0.03 tax hike." We knew that going in and so that's what we have that we're looking at is a \$0.03 tax hike. And that's no tax hike for any of the other requests that are coming in, so it would be providing for all of those other requests under the existing funding line and then saying, "Hey, we knew that we were coming in with this courthouse and that it was gonna be this kind of impact." I think we should leave it at the \$0.03. So I know that's not part of this discussion, I apologize. I've gotten a little ahead of ourselves, I know we have another public hearing, but that's my two cents, and so if you guys would be willing to entertain that and discuss it, I would appreciate it.

**2:34:00.5 Madam Chair:** So I'm not gonna elaborate on the service authority. I would like to keep it towards the debt although you did give me something very interesting to consider 'cause I hadn't considered that, the interest rate difference, to make it optional, see what the best outcome would be at the time. And as far as the schools go, I've been doing some digging about the new round of money and it's my understanding the American Rescue Plan that was enacted on March 11th, 2021, and that funding would roll out within 60 days of that March 11th. I know that Mr. Quesenberry and I received correspondence from Treasury on last Thursday evening, so a lot of this has really evolved in the last several days from Treasury indicating that we needed to be ready for a receipt of funds. It's my understanding our locality, on a locality side, the estimate of our allocation is \$5.2 million and that monies also will be distributed directly to the schools. With that in mind, I took a look at the US Department of Education fact sheet about the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and there may be some opportunities here for the school board to recoup some more costs that have been itemized in the upcoming budget including continuing to respond to COVID-19, training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases, purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the local education agency facilities, repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission, improving indoor air quality, addressing needs of children from low-income families, and let me state, this is a priority for me personally, given my past work in the schools and with a variety of non-profits that support youth, addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth. Developing implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local education agencies planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning, purchasing educational technology including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, providing mental health services and supports including the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools and the

hiring of counselors, planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, addressing learning loss and other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services including continuing to employ existing or hiring new local education agency and school staff.

So I feel like there may be an opportunity here for... And I do realize that we were... During the course of our budget, discussions presented CARES 2 proposed expenses and that was to the tune of \$1,371,409.15. And granted, they can spend that money over time, but it seems like there is a great deal more money coming to the schools, maybe a couple million that perhaps it is worth considering a reduction to \$18 million at this point, which would still, by my math... Would still put us over \$400,000 over the current school year budget, so that's where I'm at on that. As far as Human Resources, I would have to think about that one a little bit more and go back and take a look at the presentations. Did anyone else wanna chime in with regard to the Human Resources suggestion by Mr. Granger?

**2:39:25.8 J. Bueche:** If I may, Madam Chair.

**2:39:27.8 Madam Chair:** Go ahead, Mr. Bueche.

**2:39:30.0 J. Bueche:** Thank you. So I can understand what Mr. Granger's saying, but I think if we have the opportunity to decrease the tax rate, I would like to do that. We heard in the Service Authority meeting, Mr. Weakley was speaking about the program for people that have not been able to pay their bills. So there's a lot of people that are experiencing financial hardships, even people that rent. So let's say they're not a homeowner, they're renting something. If there's a property tax increase, that increase is gonna trickle down to the end-user, the renter. So some people, Ms. Gonzales said it in her comment, some people are doing very well teleworking, still getting that paycheck. A lot of people are unemployed. It's just the way our county is built. We're either very successful or we have people that are hurting right now, especially with job losses in the service industries and things like that.

So I think if we're... I know we have to raise the tax rate and I hate it because I made it three years without us having to raise the tax rate and here we are doing it. I think if there's a way to lower it and give some alleviation to that financial burden that eventually is gonna be passed down and some people are at that threshold to where they simply won't be able to afford an increase. That one penny makes a difference. It might be small, but a difference nonetheless. So I think as the financial stewards, we're here to provide services, but if there's an opportunity to let people keep more of what they earn, I'm all in favor of that. So I would like to maybe explore the additional position, next budget for the future board. I think there's merit to it, there's merit to a lot of positions that were requested. So that's where I stand with the Human Resources position, Madam Chair.

**2:41:51.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Bueche. Ms. Binder?

**2:41:53.4 C. Binder:** I just had a thought. In years past, we have re-evaluated at the mid-year point. Could it be possible if we do see increased revenue, we could revisit that and maybe some other positions at the mid-year point?

**2:42:07.8 Madam Chair:** So my understanding of the State Code is that we could amend the budget as long as the amendment was not more than 1% of the total budget. So that would be as long as it's less than \$974,000 and change, correct?

**2:42:22.8 T. Quesenberry:** That's correct.

**2:42:23.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you.

**2:42:24.4 M. Britton:** Well, you can amend the budget, but if there is more than 1%, you have to have a public hearing.

**2:42:30.4 Madam Chair:** Without a public hearing. I'm sorry, I didn't put that part in. Thank you, Mr. Britton. Did you need anything else, any other...

**2:42:37.0 C. Binder:** I was just bringing that up that it could be re-evaluated again. I know we've done it in the past.

**2:42:41.1 Madam Chair:** Yep. Anyone else? No? Alright. Do you need any further direction from us at this time, Mr. Quesenberry?

**2:42:56.3 T. Quesenberry:** Yes. The \$250,000 for debt mitigation or capital projects, the budget... It doesn't care what you call that right now as far as the budget is concerned. So we don't need to deal with that in a budget, but this is a number we need to deal with. How much do you want us to show for the local contribution to schools?

**2:43:22.8 Madam Chair:** So I'll go down the line and poll the members. I think some of us made it pretty clear and we just need clarity from everyone.

**2:43:31.1 J. Bueche:** I would be in favor of a \$18 million even local contribution.

**2:43:36.5 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**2:43:37.3 C. Binder:** \$18 million.

**2:43:38.0 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**2:43:41.5 J. Stonehill:** \$18.

**2:43:43.3 Madam Chair:** Mr. Granger?

**2:43:44.1 R. Granger:** \$18.

**2:43:45.9 Madam Chair:** \$18 million even it is then, sir.

**2:43:48.5 T. Quesenberry:** My next question is, is the direction then to find the additional approximately \$41,000 to enable the tax break to reduce from a \$0.03 increase to a \$0.02 increase?

**2:44:03.9 Madam Chair:** Mr. Bueche?

**2:44:06.9 J. Bueche:** Madam Chair, I would like to get consensus of the Board to authorize the county administrator to locate \$41,000 within the county's entire budget to make that accommodation and lower the tax rate from \$0.03 to \$0.02.

**2:44:22.9 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**2:44:25.1 C. Binder:** I only have one question on that. Can we have both options? And the only reason I'm asking that is because in the past, it's been brought up that by raising the tax \$0.03 we're anticipating for the future as a fallback, so I'd just like to see both numbers. Thank you.

**2:44:39.4 T. Quesenberry:** Yes.

**2:44:42.1 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**2:44:44.6 J. Stonehill:** I say leave it at \$0.03 the way it is. It gives us some more padding to any type of shortcomings that we have and I certainly don't want to, but it always seems like we're always behind the curb, so I would leave it at \$0.03.

**2:45:01.6 Madam Chair:** Mr. Granger?

**2:45:03.1 R. Granger:** I would be inclined to say leave it at \$0.03 as well. Again, based off Mr. Bueche, Mr. Bueche brought up the concerns about just risk and not knowing where maybe the funding revenues will be coming in. I think it puts us in a better posture to mitigate some of that risk, so I would be in favor of sticking to the \$0.03.

**2:45:22.1 Madam Chair:** I too am in favor of leaving it at 3% at this time given the uncertainty.

**2:45:30.4 R. Granger:** \$0.03.

**2:45:31.0 Madam Chair:** I'm sorry. \$0.03, not 3%, \$0.03. [chuckle]

**2:45:34.0 T. Quesenberry:** Understood.

**2:45:35.8 Madam Chair:** Thank you. And I just wanna make it clear 'cause someone didn't hear me, but public comment is closed. The public hearing is closed. Thank you. [chuckle] Alright, so Mr. Quesenberry, you have everything you need? We can move on to the next public hearing?

**2:45:56.8 T. Quesenberry:** Yes, ma'am.

**2:45:57.5 Madam Chair:** Okay. The King George County Board of Supervisors will now hold a public hearing that has been properly advertised to receive public input regarding the calendar year 2021 tax rate. I will first ask for the staff report, I will then open the floor for public comment. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker in order to afford everyone an opportunity to speak. Please state your name and address before you comment. Upon completion of public comment, I will bring the matter back to the Board for consideration. The Board may or may not take action tonight depending on information received during public comment. Alright, staff report, Mr. Quesenberry.

**2:46:40.9 T. Quesenberry:** Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a lot shorter report, I only have one slide. This slide shows the tax rates, the current tax rate for calendar year 2020 and the proposed tax rate for calendar year 2021 and this shows a \$0.03 tax increase in real property. Of course, that also

applies to the mobile homes and this is only the mobile homes that are on a permanent foundation. Mobile homes that are not tied on a permanent foundation are taxed as personal property. So I'd be happy to answer any questions that the Board may have.

**2:47:16.0 Madam Chair:** Alright, questions only. Anyone? Ms. Binder?

**2:47:19.9 C. Binder:** Yeah, I just said, 'cause I didn't know that, is... So what kind of foundation?

**2:47:25.8 T. Quesenberry:** It would have to be a brick... A cinder block foundation where it's concrete and just like a house foundation.

**2:47:35.1 C. Binder:** Okay, thank you. I learned something today.

**2:47:40.0 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill? Mr. Granger? No questions? I don't have any questions, sir, so I will go ahead and open the floor for public comment. Is there anyone here in the boardroom who wishes to provide public comment? Seeing none, I will ask Mr. Dines, you indicated no one had signed in, I just wanted to double check, sir. Anyone for online public comment regarding the calendar year 2021 tax rate?

**2:48:05.5 C. Dines:** No, Madam Chair.

**2:48:06.6 Madam Chair:** Alright. Did anyone have any written correspondence to be entered? Alright, I will close the public hearing and we will... Does anyone have any discussion they'd like to offer on this? Mr. Bueche?

**2:48:23.0 J. Bueche:** No.

**2:48:23.5 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder? No? Okay. Alright then, and that's... Yep. Alright then, I think we're ready to go ahead and move on. Thank you, sir.

**2:48:43.0 T. Quesenberry:** Thank you.

**2:48:47.5 Madam Chair:** Alright, next item, Department of Community Development Fee Schedule Resolution. Ms. Hall, Director of Community Development, welcome.

**2:49:10.8 Heather Hall:** Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to present Community Development's proposed fee schedule, implementation, July 1, 2021. As you're aware, we have heard this before. March 31st, 2021, Community Development presented the proposed amended fee schedule to the Board of Supervisors and Budget Advisory Committee. During the session, staff provided comparisons to neighboring jurisdictions and found that King George is lower in comparison to most other counties warranting an overall update of the Department's fees. April 7th, the Board of Supervisors had a consensus to consider adoption of the fee schedule at tonight's board meeting. We compared our fee schedules with Stafford County, Spotsylvania County, City of Fredericksburg, Caroline County, and Westmoreland County. Our major changes in proposed new fees include an application deposit, advertisement cancellation fee, subdivision appeal fee, third party fiscal impact study fee, GIS fees, plain review fees, amendment review fee, and a solar farm fee.

We also made updates to our commercial building permit fee schedule, residential building permit fee schedule and planning and zoning fee schedule, which all was included in your packets tonight. Some highlights of the fee increase include single-family dwelling permit has increased from \$0.25 to \$0.35 with a minimum fee of \$200, which was previously \$100. This includes the electrical plumbing and mechanical permit. The upgrading permit is now \$300 and zoning is \$125. Remodel interior has increased from \$0.15 cents to \$0.25 with a \$150 minimum. Again, highlighted in red is that commercial permits do not include the electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits. The building permit is set at \$0.25 per square foot with a \$300 minimum, previously \$0.15 a square foot with a \$125 minimum. Remodel or shell-only permits at \$0.15 per square foot with a \$200 minimum; previously \$0.10 a square foot with a \$75 minimum. Our fee increases highlighted in red include the planning and zoning plan review fees as well as our subdivision plan reviews, Wetland Board permits and home occupation has also increased. Tonight, the Department of Community Development requests the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution amending community development's fee schedule to be included with the 2021 budget effective July 1, 2021.

**2:52:07.9 Madam Chair:** Thank you Ms. Hall. Any questions from members? Alright. I will go ahead and read the resolution aloud so that someone can move to adopt it. "At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of King George County, Virginia, held at the King George County Board Room on April 20, 2021. The following resolution was properly moved, seconded, voted upon and made by the board to set the fee schedule for the King George County Department of Community Development. Whereas, it is the duty of the Board of Supervisors board to establish the fee schedule for the Department of Community Development, department. And whereas, the department manages matters relating to the King George County building code, subdivision ordinance, zoning ordinance and other permitting and oversight requiring fees and costs. And whereas, the department has recommended that the fee schedule attached as Appendix 1, be adopted, and, whereas the fee schedule for the department has not been..." So the text says, 'be update', I believe it should read 'has not been updated since'.

**2:53:17.6 M. Britton:** Yeah. It should read that 'cause I wrote it. That's my fault. [chuckle]

**2:53:20.6 Madam Chair:** Okay. So, when we move, we can have it as amended, been... "Has not been updated since July 1, 2018. And whereas the board finds that the fee schedule is fair and reasonably necessary to carry out the work of the department, and to serve the citizens of the county, now therefore, it is hereby resolved that the fee schedule for the King George County Department of Community Development, including the building code, subdivision ordinance and zoning ordinance as set forth in Appendix 1 attached to this resolution, is hereby adopted and further, that such fee schedule shall take effect on July 1, 2021. Board of Supervisors of King George County, Virginia."

**2:54:02.5 R. Granger:** I move to adopt the resolution amending community developments fee schedule as presented and read by Ms. Cupka with the amendment.

**2:54:12.5 C. Binder:** Second.

**2:54:13.8 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion?

**2:54:14.9 M. Britton:** Yes Ma'am.

**2:54:15.6 Madam Chair:** Mr. Britton go ahead.

**2:54:16.8 M. Britton:** I'm... Oh, I'm sorry.

**2:54:18.4 Madam Chair:** Go ahead.

**2:54:19.1 M. Britton:** I just wanted to let you know the reason that you're not holding a public hearing, there are some few fees in the ordinance, you're not changing any of those, this is the fee schedule that the ordinance says that you adopt by resolution.

**2:54:31.6 Madam Chair:** Yes.

**2:54:31.9 M. Britton:** So that's why you're not... You're not changing the ordinance, you're just doing what the ordinance says you're supposed to do.

**2:54:37.4 Madam Chair:** Thank you for the clarification. Mr. Bueche.

**2:54:39.6 J. Bueche:** Thank you Madam Chair. So I think we had a thorough enough discussion at our work session, so, I won't go into detail and rehash that. However, I would still like for the record, my opposition to the increases in the residential side. Aside from that, I would like to commend Ms. Hall and her team for this whole thing. There's a lot, but, it's just... The residential side is a stickler for me. Thank you Madam Chair.

**2:55:08.4 Madam Chair:** Thank you Mr. Bueche. Anyone else? Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye.

**2:55:14.8 C. Binder:** Aye.

**2:55:15.6 R. Granger:** Aye.

**2:55:16 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**2:55:16.3 S1:** Any opposed?

**2:55:17.1 J. Bueche:** Nay.

**2:55:17.5 Madam Chair:** Chair votes aye, motion carries. Because we do have to record it on the resolution, please let the record show Mr. Bueche voted nay. All other members voted aye. Alright. Thank you, Ms. Hall. And VRS increase resolution. Ms. Sumiel.

**2:56:03.1 Amanda Sumiel:** Good evening Madam Chair and members of the board. I'm here tonight to request a change in the VRS retirement multiplier as part of the hazardous duty enhanced benefit already in place for those under fire rescue, medical technicians, firefighters and law enforcement officers. But first, let me give you a little bit of background. In 2007, the King George County Board of Supervisors approved as part of its fiscal year '08 operating budget, the enhanced retirement benefits for all of its eligible emergency medical technicians, firefighters and law enforcement officers. Employees and positions covered with hazardous duty coverage may be eligible for an increase multiplier, and/or the hazardous duty supplement. The hazards... I'm sorry.

The Hazardous Duty Supplement is a dollar amount added to the monthly retirement benefit. At the time of the election, the County had the option to elect a Service Retirement Multiplier of 1.85%. If the employee did not make this election, the multiplier will be 1.7%. Currently, the multiplier for King George is at 1.7%. Retention, especially in public safety, continues to be a concern. In January 2020, a Public Safety Retention Committee was established to develop strategies to reduce turnover and increase retention. One of the recommendations was a pay increase for 3, 4, or 5% based on the years of service. This was approved and implemented, effective May the 1st of 2020. No further actions were recommended by the committee due to COVID-19. Increasing the retirement multiplier was another strategy that the committee came up with. The election will benefit public safety employees, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and law enforcement officers. And it will also bring us in line with nearby jurisdictions, the city of Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania County. They already offer this 1.85% multiplier.

Now, just to give you an idea of how significant the change in the multiplier would be, I'll give you an example. We have an employee who's covered under Hazardous Duty. They retire at the age of 55, with 30 years of service. The average Final Compensation, which is your three highest years of compensation, is at \$60,000. So you would multiply \$60,000 times 1.7% times 30 years. That gives you \$30,600. You divide that by 12 months. And they would get \$2,550 for their retirement. In comparison, take that same number, \$60,000, multiply it by 1.85% times 30 years, you get \$33,300. \$33,300 divided by 12 is \$2,775. That's a difference of \$225 a month. That may not seem significant, but if you retire at 55, and say you live to be 75, 20 years times \$225 is significant. So how would this be funded? The funds are currently available, as Travis mentioned earlier, they're already available in our current budget, and have been included in the fiscal year '21-'22 budget as well. If the Board elects to pick up the 1.85% multiplier, it will also change the employer contribution. The new rate would be 9.52%, which reflects an increase of 0.72%. The rate will be effective through June 30 of 2022, and is applied to the county's VRS contributions for all employees. So not only would you benefit public safety by increasing the multiplier, but it will also increase the contribution of the county for all employees. Contribution rates are based on a rate set in actuarial valuation, which is done every two years. So I recommend that the King George County Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution, amending the election of the VRS multiplier to 1.85% for employees covered under the Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefit. Please note, that should you elect the higher multiplier, it is an irrevocable election, and will apply to all current and future hazardous duty positions. A board approved resolution is required, if you elect to move forward with a higher retirement multiplier of 1.85%. Any questions?

**3:01:19.1 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Sumiel. Questions?

**3:01:23.1 R. Granger:** I don't have any questions, but I'd just like to say thank you for the concrete example to understand the impact. That really helps to put it in a context. So thank you.

**3:01:30.1 A. Sumiel:** You're welcome.

**3:01:31.9 Madam Chair:** Mr. Stonehill?

**3:01:34.0 J. Stonehill:** No questions. Thank you.

**3:01:35.1 A. Sumiel:** You're welcome.

**3:01:36.5 Madam Chair:** Ms. Binder?

**3:01:37.4 C. Binder:** I just wanna say thank you for your work. And I did appreciate the example, it made it a little clear. Thank you.

**3:01:41.9 A. Sumiel:** You're welcome.

**3:01:43.0 Madam Chair:** Mr. Bueche.

**3:01:44.1 J. Bueche:** Same thing. The example really helps. Thank you very much.

**3:01:47.1 A. Sumiel:** Sure.

**3:01:48.1 Madam Chair:** So I just have one question. In reading the resolution, what is the effective date? Effective the first day of insert, month and year?

**3:02:00.9 A. Sumiel:** So we have the choice... And you can verify this, Travis, since we have the money in the budget now, we can move forward with that, or we could wait till July 1st.

**3:02:10.4 Madam Chair:** So potentially, it could be May 1st. So let me poll my colleagues as to their wishes.

**3:02:16.4 R. Granger:** May 1st.

**3:02:18.1 Madam Chair:** Yeah. May 1st? Very good. Thank you. Alright then, I'll go ahead and read the resolution. "Where Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefits. Whereas, subject to the approval of the Virginia Retirement System, VRS Board of Trustees, code of Virginia, section 51.1-138 permits a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, currently participating in VRS to make an irrevocable election to provide Enhanced Hazardous Duty retirement benefits for its eligible employees, as outlined in section 51.1-138. And now, therefore, be it resolved that the King George County Board of Supervisors, the employer, does hereby elect to have such employees of employer who are employed in positions as full-time law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians..." We don't have anyone who technically is called a jail officer. All of our sheriff's deputies are law enforcement officers, so I don't have to make that distinction. Okay. "And whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment, become eligible, effective the first day of May, 2021 for VRS benefits, equivalent to those provided for state police officers of the Department of State Police, as set out in Section 51.1-138, including the retirement multiplier of 1.85% in lieu of the benefits that would otherwise be provided to such employees, and employer agrees to pay the employer costs for providing such benefits, and now, therefore the officers of employer are hereby authorized and directed in the name of employer, to carry out the provisions of this resolution and to pay to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time, such sums as are due to be paid by employer for this purpose."

**3:04:41.4 R. Granger:** Did you actually leave out jail officers?

**3:04:44.9 Madam Chair:** Yes, I did.

**3:04:46.0 R. Granger:** So my understanding, this would go into effect for all current and then any future employees. So if we ever down the road, had jail officers, is the fact that it wouldn't be in a

resolution, be an issue? I don't know if that will ever happen, that we would go down that road, but I'm just...

**3:05:02.1 A. Sumiel:** I don't think that it would be. If they're newly created positions, we don't currently have them now.

**3:05:08.3 R. Granger:** Okay.

**3:05:12.0 M. Britton:** I don't know. I can say it in the reverse, I don't think there's any harm in covering a position that we don't have now, and that would cover what Mr. Granger is saying.

**3:05:25.5 A. Sumiel:** Okay.

**3:05:25.9 M. Britton:** We're part of a regional jail, but depending on... It could change, depending on what the sheriff wants in the locality.

**3:05:33.9 Madam Chair:** Okay, so I wish to amend my reading of the resolution, to read... I'll do it, I'll read... I'm just gonna read that one sentence. I'm not gonna read the whole...

**3:05:47.7 R. Granger:** You don't even need to read it. I could just make it... I understand, I see... sure. I'm tracking, but I would prefer just to have it in just...

**3:05:57.6 Madam Chair:** Yeah, let me just read that one sentence. Who... Yes, go ahead.

**3:06:01.5 J. Stonehill:** I was just gonna say, we need to add this resolution, I think, 'cause it does say right on top, in bold letters and it says 'not subject to modification', so I think we definitely need to read that into it.

**3:06:11.8 Madam Chair:** Yep. So I'm gonna go ahead and read that sentence. "Does hereby elect to have such employees of employer, who are employed in positions as full-time law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, jail officers." For the record. Okay.

**3:06:36.6 R. Granger:** I move to adopt the enhanced hazardous duty benefits resolution as presented.

**3:06:43.0 J. Stonehill:** Second.

**3:06:44.2 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye.

**3:06:47.0 C. Binder:** Aye.

**3:06:48.3 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**3:06:48.4 R. Granger:** Aye.

**3:06:48.4 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**3:06:48.5 Madam Chair:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion carries. Thank you for your

patience.

**3:06:54.0 A. Sumiel:** Thank you.

**3:06:55.1 Madam Chair:** And thank you, Sheriff Giles and Chief Moody for coming out this evening. Yes, sir. Alright, moving on. County administrators report.

**3:07:06.2 T. Quesenberry:** Yes, ma'am, I just have a couple of items. I'm glad to see the Sheriff's still here. I've received a letter of notification from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of animal food industry Services, Office of Veterinary Services, on April 14th... April 15th, they conducted an unannounced inspection of the pound, and there were no findings of non-compliance and no violations were cited. So that's good news. I received some documents today, from the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center. I did forward those documents to the Board of Supervisors. And the last thing I have is, I received a letter from the President of Germanna Community College, informing us that King George county representative, Dr. Victor Gehman, G-E-H-M-A-N, he served for two terms as the... On the Community College Board, and he cannot be reappointed, so the president is asking King George County Board to appoint a successor to Dr. Gehman.

**3:08:25.6 Madam Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Quesenberry. So if... Members, if you could see if you have anyone you wish to appoint. Do you have one, Mr. Granger?

**3:08:36.5 R. Granger:** I have someone I could least engage, to see if they'd be interested.

**3:08:39.7 Madam Chair:** Please do...

**3:08:41.0 R. Granger:** But I was gonna ask Mr. Quesenberry, if he could maybe provide the, I guess, expectations and meeting requirements and things like that, for this committee, so I could provide that.

**3:08:54.6 Madam Chair:** And then also, how many years has he served on the...

**3:09:03.3 J. Stonehill:** I think he said eight.

**3:09:03.4 T. Quesenberry:** He has served second term, so I believe each term is four years.

**3:09:10.7 Madam Chair:** Yeah. So if we could perhaps invite him to a future board meeting, where we could present him a plaque or something, to express our appreciation. Eight years is a long time for a volunteer to serve on a board like that.

**3:09:25.9 J. Stonehill:** He did come down and speak to me and he said that he would also be looking for somebody to take his place, and working with Dr. Giligson, about finding somebody to take care of that, and he said he would report back if he did find somebody that was willing, and said he had somebody in mind, but he was gonna approach them and get back to me about it.

**3:09:45.3 Madam Chair:** Okay, great. Alright. Anything else, sir?

**3:09:48.7 T. Quesenberry:** No, ma'am.

**3:09:49.6 Madam Chair:** Alright. So I think we're ready for a motion.

**3:10:00.2 J. Stonehill:** I move that the King George County Board of Supervisors convene in a closed meeting, pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(5), (6) and (8) for discussion concerning a perspective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry, where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, where competition or bargaining is involved, where if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, in consultation, where the legal council employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring provision of legal advice by such council. I invite the county administrator and the county attorney, because they are deemed necessary and/or their presence will reasonably aid the board in its consideration of the topics to be discussed, pursuant to VA Code, Section 2.2 3712F.

**3:11:11.3 Madam Chair:** Mr. Britton?

**3:11:12.4 M. Britton:** Yeah, I sent that out and I left off the Director of Economic Development.

**3:11:21.2 J. Stonehill:** And inviting the county administrator, county attorney and Head of Economic Development.

**3:11:28.0 R. Granger:** Second.

**3:11:29.1 Madam Chair:** Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye.

**3:11:32.0 C. Binder:** Aye.

**3:11:32.0 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**3:11:32.1 R. Granger:** Aye.

**3:11:32.1 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**3:11:32.2 Madam Chair:** Chair votes aye. Motion carries. We are in closed session.

[Pause]

Do we have a motion?

**3:11:39.3 J. Stonehill:** I move that the King George County Board of Supervisors return to public meeting and certify by vote, that only public business matters, lawfully exempted from open Meetings requirement by Virginia law in such public business matters, were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting, were heard, discussed or considered during the closed meeting.

**3:12:04.1 R. Granger:** Second.

**3:12:05.9 Madam Chair:** All members please so certify.

**3:12:07.5 R. Granger:** I so certify.

**3:12:09.4 J. Stonehill:** So Certify.

**3:12:10.6 C. Binder:** So certify.

**3:12:11.5 J. Bueche:** So certify.

**3:12:12.9 Madam Chair:** So certify... We are in open meeting. Do I have another motion?

**3:12:19.0 MG:** Is there something besides adjournment? There was? Was there something besides adjournment?

**3:12:25.1 Madam Chair:** No.

**3:12:25.5 R. Granger:** Okay. I move to adjourn until May 4th, at 6:30 PM, in the board room.

**3:12:30.9 J. Stonehill:** Second.

**3:12:31.4 Madam Chair:** All those in favor, say eye.

**3:12:33.5 C. Binder:** Aye.

**3:12:33.6 J. Bueche:** Aye.

**3:12:33.7 R. Granger:** Aye.

**3:12:33.8 J. Stonehill:** Aye.

**3:12:34.6 Madam Chair:** Chair votes aye. We are adjourned.