

**Virginia:**

AT A REGULAR MEETING of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors at 2:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom located on the third floor of the Nelson County Courthouse, in Lovingston, Virginia.

Present: Jesse N. Rutherford, East District Supervisor –Chair  
J. David Parr, West District Supervisor – Vice Chair  
Thomas D. Harvey, North District Supervisor  
Ernie Q. Reed, Central District Supervisor  
Robert G. “Skip” Barton, South District Supervisor  
Candice W. McGarry, County Administrator  
Amanda B. Spivey, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk  
Linda K. Staton, Director of Finance and Human Resources

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Rutherford called the regular meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with four (4) Supervisors present to establish a quorum and Mr. Harvey arrived shortly after.

- A. Moment of Silence
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Barton led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no persons wishing to speak under Public Comments and the Public Comments period was closed.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Parr moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors approved the motion by vote of acclamation and the following resolutions were adopted:

- A. Resolution – **R2023-28** Minutes for Approval

**RESOLUTION R2023-28  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
(January 10, 2023 and January 18, 2023)**

**RESOLVED**, by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors that the minutes of said Board meetings conducted on **January 10, 2023 and January 18, 2023** be and hereby are approved and authorized for entry into the official record of the Board of Supervisors meetings.

- B. Resolution – **R2023-29** Budget Amendment

**RESOLUTION R2023-29  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AMENDMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET  
May 9, 2023**

**I. Appropriation of Funds (General Fund)**

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Revenue Account (-)</u>	<u>Expenditure Account (+)</u>
\$ 7,689.60	3-100-002404-0006	4-100-022010-5419
\$ 3,257.00	3-100-002404-0001	4-100-031020-5419
\$ 17,088.00	3-100-002404-0001	4-100-031020-5419
<u>\$ 20,000.00</u>	3-100-002404-0060	4-100-081020-7058
<b>\$ 48,034.60</b>		

**IV. PROCLAMATION - MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH (P2023-02)**

Mr. Rutherford noted that Ms. Tish Blackwell was present to accept the proclamation for Older Americans Month. Ms. Blackwell reported that she was from the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA). She thanked the Board for adopting the proclamation for Older American Month. She also thanked the Board for their support to JABA.

Mr. Barton read aloud and moved to adopt **Proclamation P2023-03** and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors approved the motion unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote, and the following proclamation was adopted:

**PROCLAMATION P2023-02  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MAY 2023 IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Nelson County includes a growing number of older Americans, with 28.8 percent of the population, who contribute their time, wisdom, and experience to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate and live independently; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of Older Americans’ Month is “Aging Unbound”, recognizing the importance of:

- Not limiting our thinking about aging,
- Exploring and combating stereotypes,
- Emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging,
- Inspiring older adults to push past traditional boundaries, and
- Embracing our community’s diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Nelson County recognizes the need to create a community that offers the services and support older adults may need in order to make choices about how they age.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim May 2023 to be Older Americans Month. The Nelson County Board of Supervisors urges every resident to celebrate our older citizens, help to create an inclusive society, and accept the challenge of flexible thinking around aging.

**V. RESOLUTION - RECOGNITION OF ANGELA ROSE (R2023-30)**

Mr. Rutherford reported that Ms. Angela Rose was retiring. He noted that Ms. Rose was present and the Board was excited to recognize her and her service to the community. Mr. Parr told Ms. Rose that it had been an honor to serve with her on the Social Services Board. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Rose for her service to the County.

Mr. Parr read aloud and moved to adopt **Resolution R2023-30** and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors unanimously approved the motion by roll call vote (5-0) and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2023-30  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY SERVICE OF  
ANGELA A. ROSE**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Angela A. Rose, Director of the Department of Social Services, is retiring as of June 1, 2023 after having tirelessly served the citizens of Nelson County for approximately forty (40) years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rose began her employment with the Nelson County Social Services Department in 1983, and was promoted to director of the department in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure with the Nelson County Social Services Department, Mrs. Rose worked in all areas of family services, from working in child protective services, adult protective services and adult services, as well as directing foster care and a childcare program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rose has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the families and children of Nelson County; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Rose is highly regarded as a consummate professional in her field, her public service has served to greatly enhance the Nelson County Community and beyond, and she has been an esteemed colleague and friend;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors does hereby honor Mrs. Angela Rose with great appreciation for her dedicated and steadfast service to Nelson County and its citizens throughout her tenure, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Mrs. Rose will be missed both personally and professionally and the Board wishes her and her family continued health, happiness, and prosperity upon her well-deserved retirement.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. VDOT Report**

Ms. Spivey reminded Mr. Rutherford that staff would take comments from the Board for VDOT. She noted that Mr. Robert Brown of VDOT would be present that evening for the public hearing.

Mr. Barton:

Mr. Barton reported that on Cedar Creek Road, there was a place where water crossed the road into private property. He explained that the property owner was under the assumption that VDOT was responsible for any damage done and would need to fix it. He felt that it would be expensive to fix. He noted that according to statutes and laws, VDOT should be responsible to fix the problem.

Mr. Harvey:

Mr. Harvey had no VDOT issues to discuss.

Mr. Parr:

Mr. Parr had no VDOT issues to discuss.

Mr. Reed:

Mr. Reed had no VDOT issues to discuss.

Mr. Rutherford:

Mr. Rutherford indicated that he would reach out directly to Robert Brown on his VDOT issues.

**VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Gladstone Depot TAP Grant Memorandum of Agreement (R2023-31)**

Ms. McGarry reported that Jay Brown of VDOT, as well Joanne Absher and other members of Friends of Gladstone Depot, were present for the meeting to provide support and answer any questions. Ms. McGarry explained that the Board had been apprised of the Gladstone Depot TAP Grant since the grant funds were awarded by VDOT in 2021. She noted that the TAP funds were awarded June 2022 and the County was notified of the award in September 2022. She reported that County staff had been working with the Lynchburg District VDOT staff, Friends of Gladstone Depot, and VDOT – Central Office to draft an agreement for acceptance of the funds. She showed Appendix A of the draft agreement, which outlined the project financing for the first phase of the project. She noted that the Phase 1 Transportation Alternatives funds were \$733,708. She reported that the remaining total project amount was \$2,461,151. She indicated that the 20 percent local match of Phase 1 was \$146,742. Ms. McGarry explained that Appendix A was the financial aspect of the agreement and noted that the other parts of the agreement outlined how the County and VDOT would work together on the project, with VDOT providing the administration.

Ms. McGarry provided a revised chart based on new information provided by VDOT. She explained that VDOT was considering a \$2.5 million project cap for all TAP grant funded projects. She noted that cap was on the federal funds. She reviewed Project Phase 1, which had been award. She explained that Phase 1 included NEPA, engineering/design work for the new foundation, site preparation, development of architectural and structural plans, and placement of the pier footings. She reported that the current cost estimate was \$3,194,859 and noted that the estimate was a few years old. She indicated that escalation was expected on the estimate as construction costs had increased. She reported that the Phase 1 TAP allocation was \$733,708 and noted that the 20 percent local share was \$146,742 while the Federal funds were

\$586,966. Ms. McGarry noted that they may be able to use the \$85,000 value of the Depot building and land for an in-kind local match. She indicated that if they were able to do that, the local cash match would be \$61,742. She noted that vertical projects were different from normal linear VDOT projects like trails, because the applicant is asked to commit to the total project funding. She reported that there was an unfunded project balance of \$2,461,151 in Phase 1.

Ms. McGarry indicated that the 2023 TAP grant application round was upcoming and noted that staff had been advised by Mr. Jay Brown that there should be some significant funding available with the likelihood that the County could get funding in the next round. She noted that Phase 2 would be construction, which would entail depot building restoration and construction of the parking lot area. She indicated that the current project estimate would be submitted with the pre-application, and then a refined estimate would be submitted with a final application. Ms. McGarry reiterated that the possible funding cap was \$2.5 million in federal funds. She reported that the pre-application would open on May 15<sup>th</sup> and pre-applications would then be due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She noted that full applications, for those pre-applications that made it through the screening process, would be due by October 2<sup>nd</sup>. She explained that the Phase 2 TAP allocation could be a maximum of \$2,391,293. She noted that the 20 percent local share of Phase 2 would be \$478,259 and the federal funding amount would be \$1,913,034. Ms. McGarry indicated that left an unfunded project balance of \$69,859.

Ms. McGarry explained that if they looked at the project in whole, the total TAP project amount would be 3,125,000 which included a required 20 percent local match of \$625,000 and \$2,500,000 in federal funding. She reiterated the current project estimate of \$3.1 million and after deducting the maximum federal funding of \$2.5 million and the 20 percent local match of \$625,000 there would be a balance of \$69,859 to be funded. Ms. McGarry reported that the total potential local cost of entire project, based on the current project estimate would be \$694,859. She indicated that if they took into account the \$85,000 in-kind contribution, the total potential local costs would be reduced to \$609,859. She noted that her understanding was that they would need to get under construction within four (4) years from the date of the TAP award allocation. Mr. Jay Brown noted that the four (4) years started from date of first allocation. Ms. McGarry indicated that the clock had been ticking. She explained that she wanted to provide the Board with the maximum financial exposure based on the information and estimates they currently had for the project. She noted that the costs could escalate.

Mr. Reed asked why the determination of cost could not be determined sooner. Ms. McGarry noted that part of VDOT's work on the project would be to get a revised estimate together as part of the second TAP application. She was not sure it could be done any sooner. Mr. Reed commented that if they had the opportunity to revise the costs before next round, noting it could be to the County's benefit as it would increase the costs, but also the matching costs. Mr. Jay Brown commented that until the agreement was signed, they could not get a design team on board to complete the estimate. He noted they could look at the original estimate and consider what the escalated costs may be. He explained that they could use the current estimate with the pre-application and then work to submit the revised costs with the final application.

Mr. Barton noted that there were risks but there was real potential for VDOT to contribute more money and potential for other entities to contribute to the project. He commented that the cost could be less than what was presented. Mr. Rutherford agreed that there was risk, and they needed to understand that the County would be on the hook to finish. Mr. Rutherford noted they had three to four years to start, but asked if completion could be later. Mr. Brown noted there was wiggle room, but yes, they had four years from the initial allocation to get under construction. He noted it was important to understand the financial risk associated with the project. He noted the financial commitment for vertical construction, and commented that they would be on the hook for the full dollar amount. He indicated that the project was not seen as complete, until the final phase was finished.

Mr. Barton commented that the benefits of the project were worth the risk.

Ms. McGarry noted that without the grant funding, it was very likely that the depot would be demolished. She indicated that if the depot was not moved and restored, CSX would take it down. Ms. McGarry explained that staff had a resolution for the Board to consider that outlined the commitment in accepting the grant agreement and authorizing her as County Administrator to sign the agreement. She noted that it outlined the County's local match commitment and the commitment to the total project cost.

Mr. Barton moved to approve **Resolution R2023-31** and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Reed noted as long as he had been on the Board, they had not had a great opportunity to invest in Gladstone or southern end of the County, and it was worth the risk. There being no further discussion, Supervisors unanimously approved the motion (5-0) by roll call vote and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2023-31**  
**NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH VDOT**

**TO ACCEPT FY23/24 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM  
GRANT FUNDING FOR THE GLADSTONE DEPOT RESTORATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Nelson County sponsored a project application on behalf of the Friends of Gladstone Depot to request federal funding to assist in relocating and restoring the Historic Gladstone Train Depot; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded \$586,966 in funding to Nelson County for the Historic Gladstone Train Depot as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program; and

**WHEREAS**, during the grant application process, the Friends of Gladstone Depot and Nelson County indicated a commitment to provide the required 20% local match through cash and/or in-kind contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, the required 20% local cash and/or in-kind match for this award is \$146,742 and the Transportation Alternative Program grant provisions require a local commitment of completion of the entire project; including the balance of estimated project costs currently \$2,461,15; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to have VDOT administer the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Nelson County hereby agrees to enter into the attached Project Administration Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to administer the Gladstone Depot Restoration project; providing oversight that ensures the project is developed in accordance with all state and federal requirements for design and construction of a federally funded transportation project, to commit to the provision of the required 20% local cash and/or in-kind match and completion of the entire project, and that if Nelson County subsequently elects to cancel this project, the County agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation. Nelson County also agrees to repay any funds previously reimbursed that are later deemed ineligible by the Federal Highway Administration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors that said Board hereby authorizes the County Administrator to execute the attached Project Administration Agreement by and between Nelson County and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Gladstone Depot Restoration project.

Ms. McGarry thanked the Board and indicated that they would be returning to the Board with a resolution endorsing the application in June.

**B. Authorization for Public Hearing on Real Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans (R2023-32)**

Ms. McGarry explained that this was an authorization for public hearing. She noted that during the budget work sessions, it was discovered that the tax relief was being offered, but it was not included in the County ordinance. She indicated that they needed to make sure it was included. She explained that the proposed additions mirrored the State Code language. She noted that the ordinance created a new section, Division 4 Exemptions for Veterans and/or Surviving Spouse. She reported that Section 11-68 would provide for real property tax relief for the surviving spouse of any United States armed forces member killed in action, and also provide for application for that relief. She noted that Section 11-70 would provide an exemption for disabled veterans and their surviving spouse. She noted that the application for that relief was provided for in Section 11-71.

Ms. McGarry indicated that the public hearing was proposed to be held on July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. She noted that the Board could approve the authorization with the adoption of Resolution R2023-32.

Mr. Reed moved to approve **Resolution R2023-32** and Mr. Parr seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors unanimously approved the motion (5-0) by roll call vote and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2023-32  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING  
AMENDMENT OF THE CODE OF NELSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
CHAPTER 11, TAXATION, ARTICLE II REAL PROPERTY TAX**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to §15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia 1950 as amended, the County Administrator is hereby authorized to advertise a public hearing to be held on **July 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in the General District Courtroom in the Courthouse in Lovingston, Virginia. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input on an Ordinance proposed for passage to amend Chapter 11, Taxation,

Article II Real Property Tax. Proposed new section 11-68 would provide for real property tax relief for the surviving spouse of any United States armed forces member killed in action. Proposed new section 11-69 provides for the method of making an application for the exemption in proposed new section 11-68. Proposed new section 11-70 would provide for real property tax relief for any veteran who has a 100 percent service-connected, permanent and total disability, and would also allow a surviving spouse to be eligible to qualify for the exemption. Proposed new section 11-71 provides the method for application of exemption for disabled veterans or their surviving spouse. These provisions have been enabled by State Code; however, have not been provided for in the County Code.

C. Juneteenth Celebration Committee Funding Request

Ms. Edith Napier of Arrington, was present to speak to the Board regarding Juneteenth. On behalf of the Nelson County Department of Social Services, Ms. Napier thanked the Board for their resolution recognizing Ms. Angela Rose for her years of service to the citizens of Nelson County. She also thanked Ms. Rose for her service.

Ms. Napier reported that she was to represent the Nelson County Juneteenth Celebration Committee. She explained that the group consisted of a diverse group of citizens and named Elizabeth Knight, Emma Wardlaw, Susan Greene, Dee Shaver, Stephanie Gross, Johnette Burdette, Karen Blackburn, Rev. Rodney Sandidge, Larry Stopper, Rev. James Rose, and herself, Edith Napier.

Ms. Napier noted that Nelson hosted first Juneteenth celebration last year. She reported that the event was a resounding success and the theme was “Commemorate, Educate, and Celebrate.” She noted that it was an outstanding event of acknowledging the past, with hope for the future. She explained that Nelson churches and individual citizens supported last year’s event. Ms. Napier reported that this year’s Juneteenth celebration would be on June 18, 2023 at the Nelson Heritage Center. She noted that although the event was taking place at the Nelson Heritage Center, it was sponsored by group of citizens who comprise the Juneteenth Celebrate Committee. She indicated that the Nelson Heritage Center Board was gracious enough to host the celebration, but it was not a Heritage Center event. She explained that the event would be called “Discovering Our Roots” and would consist of art exhibits – Portraits of Dignity, Style and Racial Uplift from the Holsinger Collection done in collaboration with the University of Virginia, photographs and stories from a local family, and a history of Nelson County School Integration on display. She noted that there would also be children’s activities and picnics on the lawn, along with desserts for sale.

Ms. Napier requested that the County support the annual Juneteenth event with a \$5,000 and also asked that the Board consider this to be a regular line item in the budget going forward.

Mr. Barton commented on the Pledge of Allegiance, and the July Fourth declaration which stated that all men were created equal. He noted that the end of slavery was an incredibly important event to the United States of America. He stated that they needed to commemorate the event and recognize that slavery was part of our heritage but it was over now and we needed to celebrate that.

Mr. Reed reported that he had attended last year's event. He noted that the program was fabulous, the food delicious, and he was very much in support of it.

Mr. Barton moved to contribute \$5,000 to the Juneteenth Celebration Committee and the motion was seconded. There being no further discussion, Supervisors unanimously approved the motion (5-0) by roll call vote.

D. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event Proposal

Mr. Rutherford noted they would discuss the Fourth of July Event proposal at the beginning of the evening session. He explained that the stakeholders with the Lovingston Fire Department were not able to attend the afternoon session. He noted that they would be discussing fireworks in Lovingston.

**VIII. REPORTS, APPOINTMENTS, DIRECTIVES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Reports

1. County Administrator’s Report

Ms. McGarry presented the following:

- A. **Comprehensive Plan:** The project website is [www.Nelson2042.com](http://www.Nelson2042.com). The last of four scheduled joint work sessions of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will be held on May 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM and will entail review of draft chapters pertaining to Land Use and Transportation.

- B. Real Estate Tax Bills:** Due to a glitch in the tax bill printing vendor's programming, 2023 Real Estate tax bills that are normally paid by lenders, were inadvertently mailed out to taxpayers. Citizens that received their 2023 Real Estate tax bill which is typically paid by their lender should disregard the bill and not pay it.

Mr. Barton asked what would happen if an elderly person were to go ahead and pay their bill. He asked if it would be caught and the money returned. Ms. McGarry commented that she thought if it were paid in duplicate, it would be caught by the Treasurer's office and a refund could be issued.

- C. Nelson 151 Corridor Study:** The first of two public engagement sessions was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Rockfish Valley Community Center. It was well attended and attendees had the opportunity to review VDOT provided corridor study data and to participate in a question and answer session with VDOT staff and the project consultant. The second session is TBD.
- D. FY23 Budget Status:** Most expenditures are tracking as expected with a few exceptions that are higher than budgeted: County Attorney Fees, Gas, Oil, and Grease, Children's Services Act (CSA), and Juvenile Detention Services. These increased costs will be covered by remaining contingency funds and greater than expected realized local revenues, if needed, in the following categories: Meals and Lodging Tax, Court Fines and Forfeitures, and Interest on Investments. Greater CSA expenses will be offset by greater revenue from the State providing for their percentage share. Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes are expected to hit or exceed budgeted estimates, primarily due to the receipt of higher than anticipated taxes paid for prior years. Other local revenues in total are currently tracking approximately 8.4% ahead of budget estimates.
- E. FY24 Budget:** The Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed FY24 Budget for all funds at the evening session and there must be at least a seven (7) day lapse between the public hearing and budget adoption. There has been no additional work by the State on the FY24 State budget since the passage of the "skinny budget" which makes required deposits to the state's Revenue Stabilization ("rainy day") Fund, provides some surplus revenue from the prior fiscal year to capital projects and the Virginia Retirement System as they had agreed to do in last year's budget agreement, makes technical updates to K-12 funding, and provides \$16.8 million toward fixing the \$201 million math error by the State Department of Education.
- F. NC Adult Drug Court:** Pursuant to Virginia State Code §18.2-254.1 the Drug Court Advisory Committee and Drug Court Team has been established. While not an official public body, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, the Advisory Committee is working to create its bylaws and adopt a Drug Court operations manual. An employment offer has been made for the Drug Court Coordinator position and it is anticipated that the Court will begin its docket in early June. Drug Court will be conducted weekly on Tuesdays from noon to 1pm in Circuit Court.
- G. Opioid Abatement Authority Application:** The regional application to the State Opioid Abatement Authority that would benefit the member localities of Region Ten including Nelson, Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, and Louisa was submitted by Albemarle County to the OAA by the May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. All six (6) localities served by Region Ten agreed to be part of the Cooperative Agreement. The proposal would use these grant funds to expand Region Ten Crisis Response services, CITAC services, and Community Outreach services that are currently available to its members. A decision on grant award is anticipated sometime prior to July 1, 2023.
- H. Central VA Partnership for Economic Development:** At the April 28<sup>th</sup> zoom meeting, the Board voted to hire Resource Development Group to conduct a fundraising feasibility study on behalf of the CVPED to gauge the capacity for new private sector investment that could be raised from a formal fundraising campaign. Additionally, results of a study by UVA's Weldon Cooper Center on the economic impact of the defense industry in the study region of Albemarle, Charlottesville, and Greene, were shared and the information will help CVPED better showcase defense as one of the region's very important target industries. The region's defense industry as studied is comprised of Rivanna Station, which houses the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Military Veterans, Department of Defense Contracts, the University of Virginia, Reserves and National Guard, and Other Sources. The full study results are available upon request.

**Excerpt from Executive Summary:** "Economic impact results indicate that the defense industry directly accounts for 3,972 jobs, \$421 million in labor income, \$501 million in value-added, and \$642 million in output. When indirect and induced impacts stemming from this activity are accounted for, **the total regional economic impact is 7,347 jobs, \$618 million in labor income, \$831 million in value-added and \$1.2 billion in output.** This represents 5.9 percent of the Charlottesville region employment, 7.5 percent of labor income, 6.2 percent of value-added, and 5.7 percent of output. "

- I. **Regional Library Agreement Review:** Every five (5) years the members of the Regional Library are tasked with reviewing the regional agreement. The paramount consideration is keeping or not the out of area (OA) fee and its impact on member library costs; which primarily impacts Charlottesville and Albemarle. **This analysis was provided by JMRL Executive Director Plunkett for the committee's review and discussion, however any further consideration has been delayed by work on member locality's budgets.** Any proposed amendment to the agreement will need approval by each of the Member governing bodies.
- J. **New Office Building: No Change from the April Report.** PMA provided us with a timeline from Timmons for the geotech work and reporting for the DSS Callohill site as follows: The drilling is scheduled for 4/21 which should take approximately 3-4 days. Within 7-10 days after that, Timmons should have some preliminary boring logs. The full report would follow later on, after the Geotech fully analyzes the results. Based on this, I estimate drilling work done by 4/25 and preliminary boring logs by around May 5<sup>th</sup> with the full report to follow. I am thinking that the report would likely be finalized and provided to us sometime in late May or early June but that is TBD.
- K. **Staff Reports:** Department and office reports for May have been provided.

Mr. Parr asked about the DSS office building and what the ending was with the other potential location. He asked if the County just walked away from it, or whether they would have someone else look at it. Ms. McGarry noted it was her understanding that the other potential location would not be suitable for that particular purpose.

Mr. Rutherford reported that he had spoken with David Blount, who indicated that the State budget would most likely be completed in the last week of June. Mr. Rutherford noted that meant the Board needed to be cognizant of what that means. He pointed out that if the County passed their budget, it could be based off of inaccurate numbers, which may mean more or less State funding would be available. Ms. McGarry indicated that the School Division was basing their budget off of the House version of the State budget.

## 2. Board Reports

### Mr. Barton:

Mr. Barton reported that the Jail Board did not have a meeting last month.

### Mr. Harvey:

Mr. Harvey had no report.

### Mr. Reed:

Mr. Reed reported that the Nelson County Service Authority was going to hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., regarding a proposed rate increase of 10 percent for water and 15 percent for sewer. He indicated that the increase was required to meet the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) threshold for future financing. He also reported that the Service Authority was moving forward on a long term upgrade to the sewer line in Lovingston. He noted that the rate increase would help make the upgrade possible.

### Mr. Parr:

Mr. Parr reported that the EMS council met on April 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted that a few years ago, the Board had supported the purchase of an extractor, which was like an industrial washing machine, that was placed at NEMS. He reported that they were now looking to move it because most of the firefighters who wanted to use it, wanted to use it in the evening. He explained that the NEMS crew went to bed at 9 p.m. and they are worried that where it is currently located, use of the extractor could wake up the NEMS crew. He noted they were looking to consider other locations. Mr. Parr asked if Ms. McGarry had any discussions regarding the extractor. Ms. McGarry noted that she had a few conversations but they thought they could work out where it was already located and establish times it would be available for use. She thought they would be able to work it out. Mr. Parr hoped they would be able to work it out. He noted that accommodations had been made for the initial installation of the extractor. Mr. Parr asked if there was a list of items eligible for reimbursement to the departments. Ms. McGarry asked if that was in terms of the EMS Councils budget request. She noted that the budget request was a compilation of all agencies expenditures from the previous fiscal year. She further explained that in FY24, the allocated amount was based on FY23 expenditures. She then noted that the agencies got a base amount of funding that was dependent on whether the agency was a standalone or combined agency. She indicated that combined agencies received a little more funding than a standalone agency. Mr. Parr did not think that was the request,



rather, they wanted to know what qualified to be in the list of expenditures eligible for reimbursement. Ms. McGarry was not aware whether the County had any criteria for reimbursement, she noted that it was mostly operational costs.

Mr. Parr reported that there was a helicopter out of Chesterfield that the County had access to called HART. He noted that it was basically on standby when an extraction was needed. Ms. McGarry noted that she understood that the helicopter could be out quick and lift a lot of people in the basket at one time.

Mr. Rutherford:

Mr. Rutherford reported that the TJPDC was looking at doing another housing study to see where things were post COVID. HE noted that TJPDC's Regional Housing Partnership was planning to engage consultants on that. He commented that Nelson County was becoming a less and less affordable place to live. He noted that people who had bought homes pre-2017, would have to pay about 50 percent more now for the exact same if they were to buy it now. He reported that if the blue collar community and lower income families, as well as aging demographics, tried to infiltrate the market in Nelson, their incomes would be one-third of what was needed to infiltrate the low end of the market. He indicated that with high speed internet available, more housing stock was being bought up. He noted that there were not a lot of low-end or starter homes being built. He commented that if they put a teacher's wage and a deputy's wage together, they could not afford the cheapest home on the market in Nelson County currently.

Ms. McGarry clarified that the public hearing on the Nelson County Service Authority rates was changed to June 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. due to a publishing issue of the public hearing notice.

B. Appointments

Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee

Ms. Spivey reported that all of the individuals currently serving, wished to continue serving. She explained that the Commissioner of Revenue served as a staff person. She also noted that Mr. Barton had been the Board member serving on the committee and they could appoint another Board member if someone else wished to serve. Mr. Reed commented that he was currently listed as a Producer on the committee but he could move to the Board member position to allow a citizen the opportunity to be a Producer. He noted that he desired to stay on the committee in one capacity or another. Mr. Barton was in agreement to have Mr. Reed serve as the Board member. Mr. Rutherford noted that Ms. Spivey would advertise for the open Producer spot.

Mr. Reed moved to reappoint Andy Wright, Billy Newman, Susan McSwain, Joyce Burton, Charlotte Rea, Mary Cunningham, and the Commissioner of Revenue to the Agricultural and Forestal District Advisory Committee. Mr. Parr seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion.

Ms. Spivey reported that they were in the process of advertising several positions on committees. She noted that the expiring terms were to be advertised in the upcoming edition of the Nelson County Times and also indicated that they were already posted on the County website.

Economic Development Authority

Ms. Spivey reported that Mr. Larry Saunders and Mr. John Bruguere had terms set to expire. She noted that both Mr. Saunders and Mr. Bruguere were interested in serving again.

Thomas Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board

Ms. Spivey reported that Mr. Jim Hall was not interested in serving another term on the Criminal Justice Board. She noted that he had served six terms, but had indicated that he could serve again if another candidate was not found.

Nelson County Library Advisory Committee

Ms. Spivey reported that Ms. Jane Strauss was the Central District representative and she was waiting to hear back on whether she was interested in serving another term.

Nelson County Social Services Board

Ms. Spivey reported that Ms. Claudia Van Koba was fulfilling an unexpired term. She noted she was waiting to hear back from Ms. Van Koba as to whether she wished to serve again.

JABA Board of Directors

Ms. Spivey reported that Ms. Quillen was completing her first term and had indicated that she was interested in serving again.

C. Correspondence

Mr. Rutherford noted that he had received some correspondence relating to the TOT but they would be discussing that more at the evening session during the public hearing.

D. Directives

The Board had no directives. Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Barton wished each other a happy birthday.

**IX. ADJOURN AND CONTINUE – EVENING SESSION AT 7PM**

At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Parr moved to adjourn and continue to the evening session at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Harvey seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors approved the motion by vote of acclamation and the meeting adjourned.

**EVENING SESSION  
7:00 P.M. – NELSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Rutherford called the evening session to order at 7:01 p.m. with five (5) Supervisors present to establish a quorum. He reported that they had a slight change to the agenda as they would be bringing the subject of the Fourth of July fireworks with the Lovingson Fire Department up following public comments.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Margaret Clair – Faber, Virginia*

Ms. Clair asked the Board to approve the two (2) percent Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) increase so they could fully fund the schools and also be able to provide the additional two (2) percent salary increase to County staff.

There were no other persons wishing to be recognized during public comments.

*Fourth of July Fireworks in Lovingson*

Ms. Jade Ashley Bunner was present to represent the Lovingson Volunteer Fire Department. She noted they were requesting \$10,000 for a Fourth of July fireworks show. She explained that the fireworks technician they plan to use, Michael Durbin, was the same individual who did the fireworks for the high school graduation. She noted that Mr. Durbin was from Francisco Display Fireworks of Virginia Skypainters. She reported that the original quote was \$8,000 for his time, the materials and insurance, but the quote was over 30 days old, which was why they were requesting \$10,000. She noted that the committee was in agreement to return any unused funds to the Board immediately following the event. She explained that they were looking at a 20-minute show, with use of three (3) to six (6) inch mortars. She noted that they were currently working to determine a location for fireworks. She indicated that the Sheriff's office suggested keeping the fireworks in Lovingson and possibly use the County owned property on Callohill. She noted that the fireworks technician preferred the high school's location because he already had the site mapped out for the graduation fireworks. Ms. Bunner noted that the Fire Department's main concern was safety, so if fireworks were approved, the Fire Department would utilize social media and their committee members to provide detailed information to citizens on the event to make them aware of the noise and tips to keep their pets safe. Mr. Rutherford explained that Lovingson Fire Department wished to bring back fireworks similar to those that were at the Lion's Field. He noted that it was also a great opportunity to bring some attention to that side of 29 and hopefully encourage some businesses to take part in the event.

Mr. Parr asked what the determining factor was between the Callohill site and the high school. Ms. Bunner noted that it would ultimately be up to the fireworks technician, but she felt that when he visited the Callohill site, he would not want to have the fireworks in that location. She pointed out that there was no way to ensure safety with two gas stations, the Lovingson apartments, and Food Lion being in close proximity. She noted that the fire department would be on site and prepared but it would be much easier to manage at the high school location.

Ms. Bunner indicated that they hope to have the technician view the Callohill area when he came out to the high school graduation. Mr. Parr commented that it would be nice to have the fireworks following the

Fourth of July parade in Lovington since people would already be there. Ms. Bunner agreed, noting that it would be nice if the businesses in the Village kept their businesses open later to fill in the lag time between the parade and fireworks.

Mr. Reed moved to allocate \$10,000 to Lovington Fire Department and Mr. Parr seconded the motion. Mr. Parr asked about how the logistics of the money would take place and who would pay the invoice. Mr. Reed amended his motion that the County be invoiced for the fireworks for an amount up to \$10,000. Mr. Parr amended his second. There being no further discussion, Supervisors approved the amended motion by vote of acclamation.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. FY24-29 Secondary Six-Year Road Plan (R2023-33)**

Mr. Brown was present to discuss the Secondary Six-Year Road Plan. He displayed the draft Rural Rustic Priority List.

Nelson County Draft 04/11/2023  
Rural Rustic Priority List FY23/28

ROUTE	NAME	FROM	TO	LENGTH	TC - VPD	NOTES
646	Hunting Lodge Road	Rte 604	Rte 645	2.00 Mi	50	\$400,000
674	Jennys Creek Rd	Rte 56	Rte 151	1.2 Mi	60	\$250,000
606	Buffalo Station	Rte 626	1.4 Mi East	1.4 Mi	60	\$260,000
667	Fork Mt	1.29 Mi North Rt 56	2.29 Mi N	1.00 Mi	130	\$225,000
629	Gullysville Lane	Rte 634	Dead End	1.27 Mi	60	\$200,000
613	Berry Hill Rd	Rte 788	1.10 Mi S	1.00 Mi	60	\$200,000
640	Wheelers Cove Rd	Rte 620	1.50 Mi	1.5 Mi	80	\$300,000
764	Walk Around Ln	RTE 628	Dead End	0.60 Mi	50	\$150,000
721	Green Field Dr	.70 Mi N RTE 626	2.8 Mi N	2.1 Mi	70	\$450,000

Mr. Rutherford noted that there was one addition to the list displayed on the screen to include Eagle Mountain Drive (Route 703, 0.5 mile) at the bottom of the list.

Mr. Robert Brown of VDOT was present to discuss the Secondary Six-year Road Plan. He reviewed the Construction Program Estimated Allocations for Nelson County. He explained that the first page included the proposed allocations for the next six years. He noted there were two lines, one for Telefees, and the other for Unpaved Road District grant money. He indicated that Nelson County still received a good amount of unpaved road money because there were approximately 120 miles of unpaved roads left in Nelson. He explained that in the third year of the plan (FY26) there would be a reduction in the amount of funds due to the success of paving roads. He explained that in the first two years of the plan, the County would receive a little over \$600,000 per year for unpaved roads. He noted in the third year, the amount would drop to around \$450,000.

He reviewed the second page of the plan and noted that Wilson Road, Campbell’s Mountain Road and North Fork Road were completed in the last year and VDOT was waiting to close them out financially. He explained that they had to remain in the plan until they were closed out.

Mr. Brown reported that the roads listed on page three would be completed in the current year, which included: Jacks Hill Road (Route 666), Cedar Creek Road (Route 654), Ball Mountain Road (Route 643), Honey Suckle Lane (Route 765) and Cow Hollow Road (Route 674). He reported that they were currently working on Cedar Creek and Jacks Hill. He noted that Cedar Creek was nearly complete. He indicated that a large drainage structure was going to be installed on Jacks Hill. He explained that once those two roads were complete, they would move on to Ball Mountain, Honeysuckle Lane and Cow Hollow. He commented that if there were any balances left from those road projects, they could possibly be able to transfer those funds to complete Davis Creek Road (Route 623) in the current year.

Mr. Brown noted the line on page four title “Nelson Countywide – Transportation Services” and commented that was a pot of money from the Telefees allocations. He explained that those funds were used for special projects for secondary roads like projects requested by the Board of Supervisors, or the installation of new signs on secondary roads. He pointed out that the funds could also be used to supplement unpaved roads.

Mr. Brown discussed the “Nelson County Unpaved Road Funding” line, noting that it did not have a balance listed. He explained that if there were a situation where they were unable to allocate all of the funding for projects, that funding line would act as a balance entry account.

Mr. Brown commented that they were making good progress and noted that the projects included in the construction plan had worked their way up the priority list shown on the screen.

Mr. Rutherford was curious to know the percentage of paved roads in Nelson County. Mr. Brown noted he did not have the total mileage with him, but he could provide that information later.

Mr. Reed asked about making a change to the Rural Rustic List. Mr. Brown noted they could discuss it. He indicated that the Rural Rustic List was not actually part of the Six Year Plan. He explained that VDOT did like to have the Rural Rustic List as it had input from the Board and constituents. Mr. Brown reviewed the current list of roads as prioritized by the Board during their previous work session.

1. Hunting Lodge Road
2. Jennys Creek Road
3. Buffalo Station
4. Fork Mountain
5. Gulleysville Lane
6. Berry Hill Road
7. Wheelers Cove Road
8. Walk Around Lane
9. Green Field Drive

He noted that Eagle Mountain Drive had been added but not prioritized.

Mr. Reed suggested moving Gulleysville and Berry Hill down the list below Wheelers Cove Road. He noted that Wheelers Cove was a much longer road with a lot more traffic. Mr. Brown confirmed that they would swap Gulleysville Road with Wheelers Cove, and Berry Hill would remain in its current place on the list.

Mr. Rutherford opened the public hearing.

*Thomas Bruguire - Roseland, VA*

Mr. Bruguire requested that if a road was over budget and they were not able to complete it in that year, that they return the following year to complete the road.

There were no others wishing to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Brown suggested that the Board could approve the Six-Year Plan as presented and, if they chose, they could approve the Rural Rustic Priority List as amended.

Mr. Reed moved to approve **Resolution R2023-33** FY24-FY29 Secondary Six-Year Road Plan and FY23/24 Construction Priority List as amended. Mr. Parr seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors unanimously approved the motion (5-0) by roll call vote and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2023-33  
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
APPROVAL OF FY24-FY29 SECONDARY SIX-YEAR ROAD PLAN  
AND FY23/24 CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST**

**WHEREAS**, Sections 33.2-331 and 33.2-332 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provides the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six-Year Road Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, this Board had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan (2023/24 through 2028/29) as well as the Construction Priority List (2023/24) on May 9, 2023 after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List, and

**WHEREAS**, Staff of the Virginia Department of Transportation, appeared before the Board and recommended approval of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2023/24 through 2028/29) and the Construction Priority List (2023/24) for Nelson County,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that said Board finds the Plan(s) to be in the best interests of the Secondary Road System in Nelson County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System, and as such said Secondary Six-Year Plan (2023/24 through 2028/29) and Construction Priority List (2023/24) are hereby approved, as amended if applicable.

Nelson County							Approved 5/9/23
Rural Rustic Priority List FY23/28							
PRIORITY	ROUTE	NAME	FROM	TO	LENGTH	TC - VPD	NOTES
1	646	Hunting Lodge Road	Rte 604	Rte 645	2.00 Mi	50	\$400,000
2	674	Jennys Creek Rd	Rte 56	Rte 151	1.2 Mi	60	\$250,000
3	606	Buffalo Station	Rte 626	1.4 Mi East	1.4 Mi	60	\$260,000
4	667	Fork Mt	1.29 Mi North Rt 56	2.29 Mi N	1.00 Mi	130	\$225,000
5	640	Wheeler's Cove Rd	Rte 620	1.50 Mi	1.5 Mi	80	\$200,000
6	613	Berry Hill Rd	Rte 788	1.10 Mi S	1.00 Mi	60	\$200,000
7	629	Gullysville Lane	Rte 634	Dead End	1.27 Mi	60	\$300,000
8	764	Walk Around Ln	RTE 628	Dead End	0.60 Mi	50	\$150,000
9	721	Green Field Dr	.70 Mi N RTE 626	2.8 Mi N	2.1 Mi	70	\$450,000
10	648	Eagle Mtn Dr	Rte 703	Rte 56	0.5	70	\$150,000
							\$2,585,000
		Estimates based on \$200,000- \$250,000 per mile					

**B. Proposed Transient Occupancy Tax Rate Increase (O2023-02)**

Ms. McGarry provided a presentation on the proposed Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Rate increase. She explained that the tax rate was set by ordinance, which required a public hearing. She reported that on April 28, 2022, a public hearing was held by the Board of Supervisors on a proposed rate increase from 5 percent to 10 percent. She indicated that no action was taken on the proposed ordinance amendment and the subject was deferred until the May 10, 2022 regular Board of Supervisors meeting. She then noted that the proposed ordinance amendment was re-considered at the May 10, 2022 meeting. She reported that while no action was taken on the ordinance amendment, the Board created a committee to review tax payment enforcement efforts. She noted that the committee met several times throughout the year and short term rental education and enforcement improvements were implemented. Ms. McGarry indicated that since no action on the previous ordinance was taken by the Board, a new public hearing was not required by statute. She reported that the Board of Supervisors authorized a second public hearing at their April 18, 2023 continued meeting, to allow for public input.

Ms. McGarry noted that pursuant to Code of Virginia §58.1-3007, a seven-day notice period prior to a tax levy increase and public hearing, was required. She also noted that §15.2-1427(F) required that a public hearing notice be published for two successive weeks, at least seven days apart. Ms. McGarry reported that the County’s public hearing notice to amend Chapter 11, Taxation, Article VI Transient Occupancy Tax, was published in the Nelson County Times on April 27, 2023 and May 4, 2023, meeting the notice requirement of State Code Section §15.2-1427(F). She noted that the County’s public hearing notice was also posted on the County’s website under News and Announcements on April 27, 2023. Ms. McGarry indicated that the proposed tax rate increase, if adopted immediately or sometime thereafter, would be at least seven (7) days following the public notice, complying with Code of Virginia §58.1-3007. Ms. McGarry then reviewed the authorizing State Statute §58.1-3819 Transient Occupancy Tax.

Ms. McGarry explained that the proposed amendment to the Code of Nelson County, Chapter 11, Taxation, Article VI Transient Occupancy Tax would increase the tax rate 2 percent from five (5) percent to seven (7) percent. She noted that this was the equivalent of a 40 percent tax increase. She provided an example, noting that a \$500 bill taxed at 5 percent equaled \$25 in TOT, and a \$500 bill taxed at 7 percent equaled \$35 in TOT. She noted that the increase was 2 percent, or \$10; but the rate of change between paying \$25 and \$35 was 40 percent. She reported that the proposed effective date was January 1, 2024.

Ms. McGarry commented that based on FY24 Estimated Revenues of \$1.8 million at the current 5 percent rate, the estimated additional revenue generated from an approved TOT rate increase from 5 percent to 7 percent would be \$720,000 for a full fiscal year, or \$360,000 for FY24. She noted that was the prorated amount based on the January 1, 2024 effective date. She indicated that the \$720,000 for a full fiscal year was equivalent to 2.27 cents in the Real Estate Tax rate. She further added that six months would be equivalent to 1.14 cents.

Ms. McGarry explained that the Board would conduct the public hearing that evening. She then noted that the Board may consider ordinance adoption immediately following the public hearing or sometime thereafter. She indicated that the proposed ordinance **O2023-02** had been included for consideration by the Board.

Mr. Rutherford noted that the Board did not have to take action on the proposed ordinance that evening. He commented that they could take action at a later date and have further discussion. The Board had no questions for Ms. McGarry.

Mr. Rutherford opened the public hearing.

*Beth Ann Driskill - Tyro, VA*

Ms. Driskill pointed out that tourism was one of the largest, if not the largest, industries in Nelson County. She commented that as a County, they should be promoting it, rather than creating barriers to it. She suggested that maintaining the current TOT could make Nelson County a more attractive destination to tourists and boost the local economy. Ms. Driskill commented that when travelers paid less for lodging, they were more likely to visit, stay longer and spend more money on other goods and services in the area. She noted that could help create jobs and revenue for local businesses, as well as help offset the local tax revenue with the increase to local economic activity. She commented that by maintaining a 5 percent TOT, the County would be supporting small family owned businesses. She noted that a lower TOT rate could help businesses attract more visitors, especially during the offseason. She noted that the County was seeking funding for the School Division and commented that the TOT was not a reliable funding source to provide that funding. She pointed out that the demand for short term rentals was dependent on the economy, popularity of the destination and availability of other lodging options. Ms. Driskill commented that 2021 and 2022 were record years for short term rentals. She noted that as the world returned to normal after COVID, short term rentals were seeing a drop in reservations. She suggested that more reliable and equitable fund sources be used to support the schools. She noted that when the TOT was considered last year, a new collection system was created and it had not been in effect long enough to see if it was effective. She suggested that if the TOT were increased, a portion of that tax increase should go to tourism to help continue to grow the industry.

*Will Fenton - Roseland, VA*

Mr. Fenton stated that he was against any increase for same reasons as Ms. Driskill. He noted that his business was tourism and they wanted tourists to be drawn to Nelson. He was concerned that over taxing could take business away. He noted the warm winter weather had affected Wintergreen's ski season. He wanted to keep tourism coming instead of discouraging it. He referenced prior conversations on gas sales in the past, commenting that Hickman's only made 2 off of the sale of gas, and if that 2 percent was taken, they would not have anything left. He pointed out that they were also paying state and federal taxes, real estate taxes, payroll taxes as well as other taxes. He commented that they had experienced a downturn in business in 2023, citing that part of that may be related to the ski season or the economy. He reiterated that he did not want to deter tourists from visiting the area.

*Jill Averitt - Nellysford, VA*

Ms. Averitt commented that she was in favor of the tax increase. She noted that as a traveler herself, she was not looking at the taxes when choosing to stay somewhere. She felt that it was a small increase and did not think it would deter people from coming to Nelson. She thought that the addition of new Airbnb's in the area would affect the demand. She felt that collecting tax from people visiting the County to support the kids was a great thing. She felt that the short term rentals did not add to the communities, rather, they made it harder on communities when they were inserted into neighborhoods. She thought that until they could get the issue under control, they could take some of the money and give it to the Schools to support teachers and kids. She commented that her two children and four exchange students who all had fabulous school experiences in Nelson because the teachers are great. She pointed out that a lot of the teachers cannot afford to buy a house in Nelson County anymore and they were driving from an hour away to school. She thought that the teachers should get a raise and be paid for what they were worth.

*Thomas Bruguere - Roseland, VA*

Mr. Bruguere understood that the TOT was a pass through tax that most people in Nelson would not pay. He commented that 40 percent was a big increase, and they needed to watch the bottom line as there was a potential recession on the way. He commented that they needed to keep the tourists coming because that is what paid the bills. He said that they should not increase the tax rates unless it was truly necessary. He did not think the 2 percent just going into the General Fund was a good idea. He said they needed to have a special project if they were going to institute the increase.

There were no others wishing to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Rutherford noted that the Board did not have to take action right away and they could discuss it at a later time. He commented that the budget public hearing was to take place and felt that it may be wise to have further discussion and wait until June if they wished to take any action. Mr. Reed commented that they should schedule a work session, the public would have an opportunity to hear the Board’s comments at that time. Mr. Rutherford suggested that no actions take place at work session, rather they wait until the June meeting.

The Board took no action on the proposed Transient Occupancy Tax increase and it was decided that they would look at dates to hold a work session on the subject.

**C. FY23-24 County Budget, All Funds**

Ms. Staton provided a presentation on the FY23-34 County Budget. She commented that the presented FY24 budget was based upon budgetary information at the time of the advertisement. She reported that State budgetary decisions were still pending, and pointed out that would affect the final General Fund budget, and the School Division operating budget presented for the Board’s approval. She noted that the School Division budget presented was based upon the House of Representatives’ budget proposal.

Ms. Staton reported that all 2023 tax rates were levied per \$100 of assessed value, with the exception of the Transient Occupancy Tax. She noted that the Real Estate and Mobile Home tax rate was \$0.65 per \$100 of assessed value, which was unchanged from 2022. She reported that the per penny tax rate equivalent was based on FY24 projected real estate tax revenue of \$20,604,678 divided by 65 cents, which equaled \$316,995 per penny. Ms. Staton noted that the Tangible Personal Property Tax rate remained unchanged from 2022 at \$2.79 per \$100 of assessed value. She reported that the anticipated revenue from Personal Property taxes was \$6,085,699 for FY24, which was an anticipated decrease of 1.9 percent below the FY23 amended budget. She noted that the decrease was due largely to a decrease in vehicle values over the last year. She further noted that the Machinery and Tools tax rate remained unchanged at \$1.25 per \$100 of assessed value.

Ms. Staton explained that the advertised budget for public hearing contained Transient Occupancy Tax revenue based upon the current rate of 5 percent. She noted that also advertised for public hearing was the proposed 2 percent increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax pending final decision by the Board of Supervisors at a later date.

Ms. Staton explained that the County’s fund accounting system tracked budgetary and financial activity. She noted that the Board was considering proposed budgets for the General Operating Fund, School Operating Fund, Textbook Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Fund, and the Piney River Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. She indicated that they would briefly overview the two largest of those funds – the General Fund and the School Fund. Ms. Staton pointed out that the Piney River Water and Sewer operation was an example of an enterprise fund within the total budget.

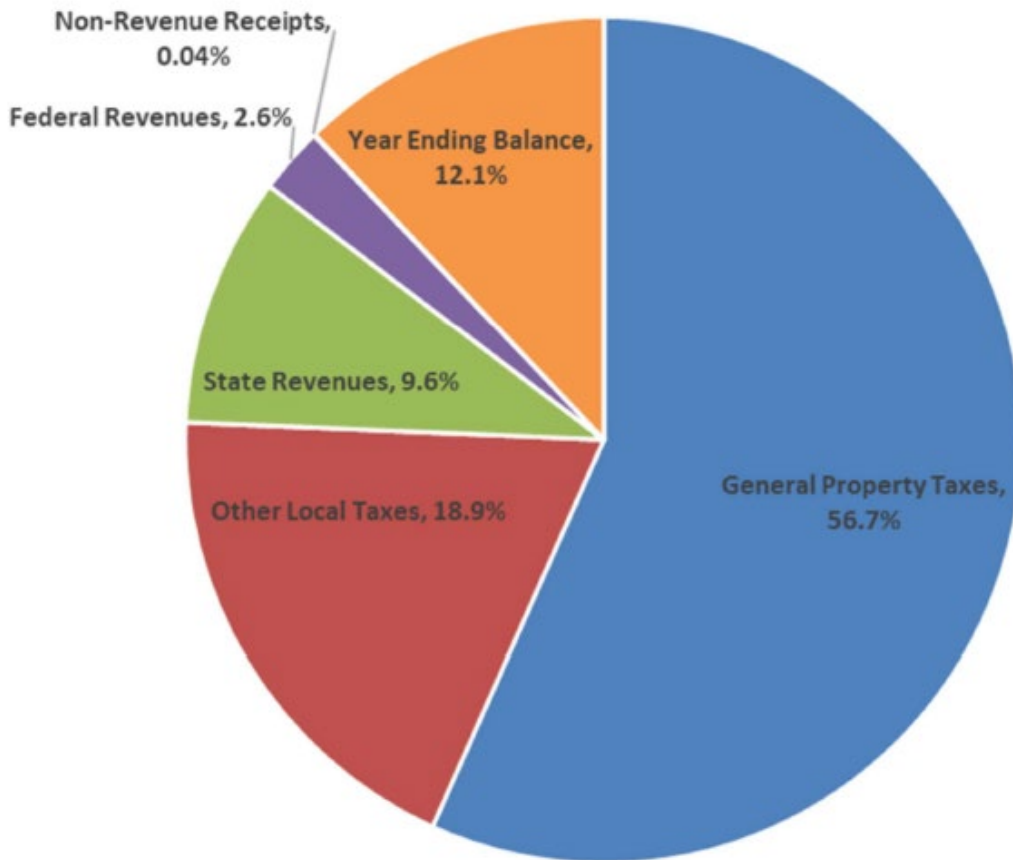
Ms. Staton reported that the FY23-24 budget, compared to the current year budget as amended through February 2023, reflected a decrease of (\$2,713,379), or -4.18 percent. She noted that the budgetary decreases from FY23 to FY24 were primarily due to budget reductions in Capital Outlay, Capital Projects, and recurring and non-recurring Contingency reserves.

**FY23-24 GENERAL FUND BUDGET  
COMPARED TO FY22-23 AMENDED  
BUDGET AS OF FEBRUARY 2023**

► FY22-23	\$52,935,713
► FY23-24	<u>\$50,222,334</u>
Decrease	(\$ 2,713,379)

**% Change - 4.18%**

Ms. Staton reported that the F24 Proposed Revenues were \$50,222,334. She showed a pie chart that represented the FY24 Proposed Revenues by major category.



She noted that local revenue consisting of General Property taxes and other Local taxes made up 75.7 percent of the overall budgeted revenue. She reported that the total anticipated local revenues were \$37,994,562. She then noted that the State revenues accounted for 9.6 percent of the revenues, at \$4,825,215. Ms. Staton reported that Federal revenues accounted for 2.56 percent of the budgeted revenue at \$1,286,560.

Ms. Staton explained that the Non-revenue receipts of \$20,000 were 0.04 percent of the total, and \$6,095,997 in Year Ending Balance made up 12.1 percent of the total. She further explained that the Year Ending Balance was comprised of \$3,723,268 in FY23 Carryover funds which included \$2,894,977 in ARPA funds not spent, \$828,291 in General Expenditure savings, a net increase in FY23 revenues of \$2,212,813, in addition to a \$159,916 decline in Debt Service Fund year ending balance.

Ms. Staton reported that the FY24 local revenue made up about 75.7 percent of the total General Fund budget of \$50,222,334 at just under \$38 million. She noted that there was a 5.19 percent increase (or \$1,873,084) between the FY23 budget and the FY24 estimates. She then reported that the general property taxes of \$28,484,240 accounted for 75 percent of all local revenue. She noted that of all local revenues, personal property, mobile home tax, recordation tax, and other recovered costs were anticipated to decrease in FY24 while most other revenue categories anticipated increases. Ms. Staton reported that the FY24 interest on investments was projected at \$500,000, an increase of 1900 percent over FY23, largely due to increased interest rates.

Ms. Staton reviewed the significant local revenue factors. She reported that an increase of \$565,652 in General Property tax revenue projection was due to an increase in real estate and public service taxes.



## Significant Local Revenue Factors

### General Property Taxes: + \$565,652

- ▶ Real Estate Taxes: + \$478,259
- ▶ Public Service Taxes: + \$205,826
- ▶ Personal Property Taxes: (\$118,433)
- ▶ Machinery & Tools: + \$0

### Other Local Revenue: + \$1,307,432

- ▶ Local Sales & Use Taxes: + \$158,800
- ▶ Recordation Taxes: (\$161,080)
- ▶ Meals & Lodging: + \$829,476
- ▶ Permit Fees: + \$36,598
- ▶ Court Fines & Forfeitures: + \$40,000
- ▶ Interest on Investments: + \$475,000
- ▶ Miscellaneous (Net): (\$71,362)

She noted that personal property tax projections were estimated to decrease due to an 11.8 percent decrease (\$118,433) in vehicle values over last year. She reviewed other local revenues noting that Local Sales and Use Taxes (including utility and bank franchise taxes, business and motor vehicle licenses) were expected to increase by \$158,800 overall from last fiscal year. She indicated that recordation taxes had been decreasing due to increased interest rates on borrowing. Ms. Staton noted that meals tax revenue was expected to increase by about 15 percent while lodging tax was anticipated to generate an increased 56.5 percent in revenue for FY24 projecting an \$829,476 overall increase. She reported that permit fees and miscellaneous revenue were expected to increase by \$36,598. She noted that these increases were expected to offset a \$71,362 decline in overall miscellaneous revenues. She reported that interest on investments was expected to increase by \$475,000 over last fiscal year. She explained that investment interest projections were directly affected by and fluctuate with the economy.

Ms. Staton reviewed the State revenues. She commented that the FY23 Budget for State Revenue was \$4,922,584 while the FY24 Estimate was \$4,825,215 which meant an overall decrease of (\$97,369) or a -1.98 percent change.

### State Revenue

▶ FY23 Budget	\$4,922,584
▶ FY24 Estimates	<u>\$4,825,215</u>
Overall Decrease	(\$ 97,369)

Percent Change                    - 1.98%

She explained that the estimated state revenue was currently 9.6 percent of the total General Fund budget in FY23. She noted that the General Assembly was still completing their work on the State budget which affected revenues that the County received from the State. She noted that the proposed budget contained best estimates and may be adjusted once the State finished its work. Ms. Staton explained that the overall decrease was primarily due to a -54.6 percent (\$394,942) decrease in Other Categorical State Aid, which primarily consisted of grant funds. She noted that FY24 State Grant funds would be appropriated as they were received in FY24. She reported that this included Asset Forfeiture proceeds, Four for Life Grant funds, Fire Program Funds, and various other grants. She indicated that the budget included State reimbursements of shared local expenses for constitutional offices reflecting the state's share of a 5 percent salary increase that had been proposed for those offices.

Ms. Staton discussed Federal Revenues. She reported that FY23 Budget had \$1,231,901 in Federal Revenues while the FY24 Estimates showed \$1,286,560, which was an overall increase of \$54,659 or 4.4 percent. She indicated that Federal revenue made up 2.6 percent of the total FY24 General Fund budget. She noted that federal sources generally included social services funding, Children’s Services Act funding, the payment in lieu of taxes relative to national forestland located in Nelson (from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management) and various federal grants. She explained that the increase reflected is primarily due to the addition of the Adult Drug Court Grant funding of \$172,000 revenues beginning FY24 through the Department of Justice (DOJ) for services over a four (4) year grant period. She noted that the overall Drug Court grant amount for the four (4) year period was \$699,000.

### All Sources of FY24 Revenue

▶ Local	\$37,994,562
▶ State	\$ 4,825,215
▶ Federal	\$ 1,286,560
▶ Non-Revenue Sources	\$ 20,000
▶ Year Ending Balance	<u>\$ 6,095,997</u>
Total	\$50,222,334

Ms. Staton noted that the local, state, and federal revenues, and non-revenue sources together with the prior year ending balance made up all projected revenue supporting the FY24 proposed General Fund expenditures. She indicated that the FY24 Non-Revenue sources included \$20,000 in anticipated insurance recoveries.

She explained that the year ending balance fund of \$6,095,997 for FY23 included: FY23 Revenues exceeding FY23 expectations by \$2,212,813, FY23 expenditure savings of \$3,723,268 (which included unspent ARPA funds of \$2,894,977 earmarked for the high school roof project), and a decline of \$159,916 in Debt Service revenue. Ms. Staton pointed out that the \$610,000 originally planned as part of the County’s annual debt capacity strategy in order to finance capital projects for the County and School Division, was put on “hold” for the budget cycle in order to allow funding for other immediate budgetary needs in FY24.

Ms. Staton reported that they had a balanced budget, noting that FY24 General Fund expenditures matched revenues at \$50,222,334. She noted that in comparison to the current year budget as amended (through 2/23), the proposed FY24 General Fund budget reflected a decrease of (\$2,713,379) or -4.18 percent. She explained that the change was primarily due to FY24 budget reductions in Capital Outlay, Capital Projects (such as the Larkin property purchase at \$2.6 million in FY23), and changes to recurring and non-recurring Contingency reserves.

Ms. Staton discussed the FY24 Proposed Expenditures by Major Category.

## FY24 Expenditures By Major Category (% of Total Budget)

▶ School Division- Operations (36.9%)	\$18,544,772
▶ Public Safety (15.5%)	\$ 7,762,319
▶ Governmental Operations (14.7%)	\$ 7,396,032
▶ Health and Welfare (9.3%)	\$ 4,647,361
▶ Agency & Non-Departmental (including PVCC) (9.3%)	\$ 4,693,920
▶ Capital Outlay (5.3%)	\$ 2,641,454
▶ Capital Projects (0.5%)	\$ 249,570
▶ Refunds & Unallocated Reserve (1.9%)	\$ 961,622
▶ Debt Service (6.6%)	\$ 3,325,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,222,334</b>

She noted that the largest category of expenditures shown on the chart was Education at 37 percent representing \$18,962,138 in addition to debt service payments of \$1,972,858 for a total of \$20,934,996. She noted that total did not include funding for four (4) School Resource Officers (SRO), which was included in the Public Safety category of the County’s General Fund budget. She indicated that the approximate cost of salaries and benefits for the SRO positions was \$280,000. Ms. Staton noted that the expenditures had increased by 26.1 percent over FY23, due to the increases in salary scales as well as increases in the cost of benefits.

Ms. Staton commented that Public Safety operations would cost \$7.7 million, or about 15.5 percent of the total budget. She noted that the next major category was Government Operations at just under \$7.4 million, or 14.7 percent of the budget. She explained that this category included General Government and Judicial Administration, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Community Development. Ms. Staton then discussed Health and Welfare, and Agency and Non-Departmental, which were both 9.3 percent of the budget each. She reported that Agency and Non-Departmental included the 2021-2022 COVID-19 American Rescue Plan funding of \$2,894,977 carryover expenditure funds slated for use in combination with the School Division funding to repair the failing roof at the High School.

Ms. Staton reported that Capital Outlay was budgeted at 5.3 percent, or \$2,641,454 and would be covered by some of the FY23 year-ending balance. She noted that the budget included refunds and an unallocated Contingency Reserve of \$961,622 or 1.9 percent of the budget. She explained that the Capital Projects allocation of \$249,570 was for anticipated A&E (architectural and engineering) fees related to the planned new office building for the Department of Social Services and Building Inspections/Planning and Zoning departments. Ms. Staton noted that a Debt Service transfer of \$3.3 million would be used to cover Debt Service expenditures and to accelerate and increase the County’s debt capacity for financing additional capital projects for the County and School Division. She explained that the \$3.3 million transfer would cover all debt payments due in FY24 and add \$159,916 of FY23 declining debt to the reserve fund, increasing future debt capacity for capital projects for the County and Schools.

Ms. Staton provided some expenditure highlights. She reported that a comprehensive pay study was completed by Management Advisory Group in FY23. She noted that staff was in the final steps of vetting study results prior to final Board review and approval. Ms. Staton explained that the proposed FY24 budget addressed an across-the-board salary increase to all employees at 5 percent. She noted thereafter, if any employee was below the minimum pay range on the pay study scale for their position, they would receive additional pay to be raised to meet that minimum (pending Board approval of the proposed pay scales from the pay study). Ms. Staton indicated that new positions were also included in FY24: a full-time Chief

Deputy Registrar, a full-time Sheriff's Department Office Assistant/Evidence Technician, a full-time Building Inspections/Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant, a full-time Animal Control Shelter Manager, and a part-time Recreation aide. Ms. Staton also noted that the Board picked up the 9.9 percent increase in Health Insurance premiums for County employees. She also highlighted the four (4) full-time School Resource Officers (includes one State SRO position).

Ms. Staton reported that Public Safety and Emergency Services had a 17.95 percent increase in Regional Jail costs due to higher utilization. She explained that Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail (ACRJ) used a 5-year average prisoner population to help smooth out any annual increases. She pointed out that with annual utilization on the rise, average annual costs would also increase. Ms. Staton noted that plans to renovate the existing jail and begin financing steps were anticipated within the next fiscal year. She indicated that Nelson County's obligation for FY24 was anticipated to be interest only with construction costs to begin by FY25. Ms. Staton also reported that the budget included operational funding to provide an ambulance and equipment to Nelson EMS, Emergency Communication Center VESTA Next Generation (NG) 911 and Call Handling upgrades, replacement of the Emergency Communication Center's 911 and Tower UPS units. She noted that upgrading the County/EMS radios was slated for completion in FY24 at \$1.4 million as well as purchasing 3 Sheriff's vehicles and equipment. Ms. Staton pointed out that all of the aforementioned costs continued to increase sharply while deliveries are being delayed.

Ms. Staton noted other budget highlights which included increases to some Agency contributions going to the Nelson County Health Department, Nelson Local EMS Council, Nelson County Extension Service, Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) Foothills Child Advocacy Center, JABA, JAUNT, Shelter for Help in Emergency, Jefferson Madison Regional Library, MACAA, OAR/Community Corrections, and Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. She noted that the listed agencies were all receiving increases over their FY23 allocations.

She noted that \$249,570 in carry over funds was budgeted for A&E expenses related to the planned office building to house the Department of Social Services and Building Inspections/Planning and Zoning. She reported that Miscellaneous Capital Outlay aside from those included for Public Safety and Emergency Services mentioned previously included continuance of the Comprehensive Plan update and Sturt Park development. She reported that total Capital Outlay funding was \$2,641,454.

Ms. Staton discussed transfers. She explained that transfers were the transfer of General Fund monies for other purposes, such as funding set aside for the next reassessment, for the Department of Social Services (VPA Fund), for School Nurses and School Operations, for the Debt Service fund, etc. totaling \$24,066,135. She noted that the Transfer to Debt Services included \$159,916 in declining debt savings from the County VRA Radio project loan payments completed in FY23.

Ms. Staton reported that the budget also included Contingency Reserves of \$909,622 with \$509,702 generated from recurring revenue and \$399,920 from non-recurring revenue (carry-over). She explained that the non-recurring contingency funds were best used for one-time expenditures, while recurring contingency funds could be used for one-time expenditures without impacting future operations.

Ms. Staton reported that \$34,694,395 was set aside in the FY24 budget for the schools. She noted that this was a decrease of \$2.2 million from the FY23 budget, which was \$36.9 million. She further noted that this was a -6.2 percent change. Ms. Staton explained that the approved FY23 School Fund budget was based upon an enrollment of 1,454 students, and compared to the FY24 advertised budget based on an enrollment of 1,396 students, reflected an overall decrease of (\$2,292,540) or -6.2 percent. She noted that the decrease was largely due to a \$1.17 million decrease in state, federal, and other funding sources. She reported that in FY22, the state had also included \$1.2 million in one-time funding for School facilities. She noted that in FY23, \$1 million of those funds would be used for the NCHS roof repairs.

Ms. Staton noted that increase school expenditures included a 5 percent pay increase for all school employees, including a 0.5 percent for step increases. She reported that the requested additional local funds requested by the schools for FY24 was \$1,582,639. She noted that of that amount, \$1,243,150 was included in the total local funding proposed for FY24 which was 78.5 percent of the total difference requested. She indicated that the total did not include the portion of the \$2,894,977 in County ARPA carryover funds from FY23 obligated for NCHS roof repair costs to be expensed in FY24.

## FY24 School Fund Revenue

▶ Local:	\$18,544,772 + \$1.2M
▶ State:	\$ 9,445,763 - \$1.1M
▶ *Federal:	\$ 6,286,494 - \$ 64K
▶ Other:	<u>\$ 417,366</u>
<b>Total School Fund</b>	<b>\$34,694,395</b>

**\* Federal Funding includes \$3.8 Million in Covid-19 Stimulus Funding Carried Over from FY23**

Ms. Staton reviewed the FY24 School Fund Revenue sources. She noted that in addition to local operational funding of \$18,544,722, and an increase of \$1.2 million over FY23, the School Division also received revenues from State, Federal, and Other sources. She noted that the Other Funds were comprised of reimbursements for field trips, dual enrollment, and telecommunications rebates, etc. projected at \$417,366. She reported that the State funding of \$9,445,763 reflected an anticipated decrease of \$1.1 million and was based upon the House recommended budget with an anticipated student enrollment of 1,396. She then noted that the regular Federal funding of \$6,286,494 was a decrease of about \$64,000 from FY23. She pointed out that the federal funding also included \$3.8 million in COVID-19 stimulus funds carried forward from FY23.

Ms. Staton provided further detail on the FY24 Local Contribution to the Schools.

## FY24 Local Contribution to Schools

▶ School Operations	\$18,379,837 + \$1.2M
▶ School Nurses	\$164,935 no change
▶ 4 SRO's (General Fund)	\$280,000 + \$72K
▶ Reserve for Capital	\$ 0.00 no change
▶ Transfer to School Capital	<u>\$ 0.00</u> no change
<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>\$18,824,772</b>
▶ School Debt	<u>\$ 1,972,858</u>
<b>* TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$20,797,630</b>

She reiterated her earlier comment that one of the largest components of the General Fund budget was the local contribution to the schools. She reported that including debt, about 54.7 percent of local funds within the General Fund budget were allocated to the Schools, which equated to 41.4 percent of the total General Fund budget. She explained that that local contributions to School Operations and the School Nurses for FY24 was presently funded at \$1.2 million more than in FY23, versus the School Division's request of \$1.5 million in new local funding. She reported that four (4) School Resource Officers were funded at \$280,000 which was \$73,000 above the FY23 amount allocated within the General Fund budget. She noted that the Board also authorized the transfer of FY22 School Division year ending balance of \$264,402 to the FY23 School Capital fund for the School Division's use. She reported that the County also funded \$1,972,858 in school related debt.

Ms. Staton explained that given the total contribution, not including debt, approximately 91.4 percent or \$0.59 cents out of every \$0.65 cents in the Real Estate tax rate supported the Schools. She then noted that including School Debt, the percentage increased to 100 percent of the Real Estate tax, or \$0.65 cents out of every \$0.65 cents in the Real Estate tax rate plus an additional \$193,000 from other tax revenue. Ms. Staton stated that with an estimated FY24 school enrollment of 1,396 students, this level of funding provided a per pupil local expenditure amount of \$13,485. She then noted that FY24 Local Funding of \$20,797,630 coupled with State, Federal and Other Funding for schools of \$16,149,623 yielded a total expenditure amount of \$36,947,253 or \$26,467 per pupil.

Ms. Staton reported that throughout the year, the Board considered requests for additional funding for school related needs. She noted that in recent years, additional funding had been provided for the replacement of the NCHS tennis courts and track, 4 School Resource Officers, FFA national competition travel and championship jackets/rings, the maintenance of 12 month contracts for NMS and NCHS FFA Teaching/Advising positions, Elementary School Destination Imagination Team travel expenses to the national completion, and matching funds for School grants. She also noted that in recent history, the Board had allowed the School Division to use end of year savings for its capital needs.

Ms. Staton reported that the required local contribution to the Schools was based on enrollment of 1,396 and the House of Representatives’ budget. She explained that the Local Composite Index (LCI) was the State’s formula for determining a locality’s ability to pay. She noted that the higher the index, the lower the amount of funds received from the state. She further noted that a LCI of 0.5888 meant that Nelson County paid 58.88 percent and the State share was 41.12 percent for Standards of Quality (SOQ) Programs, Incentive Programs, Categorical Programs, and Lottery-Funded Programs. She pointed out that enrollment also contributed to the amount of total funds received, noting that from FY17 to FY24, enrollment had declined by 403 students; with the largest drop being at the elementary school level.

Ms. Staton commented that Nelson County Schools continued to be well funded, despite the decrease in State funding that has occurred over time. She reported that operational funding for the Schools, including the Nurses Program was proposed at \$18,544,772 (\$18,379,837 for operations and \$164,935 for nurses). She explained that for a student enrollment of 1,396, this exceeded the required Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) funding (required Local share) of \$8,929,570 by \$9,615,202 or 107.7 percent, which equated to \$30.3 cents in Real Estate taxes.

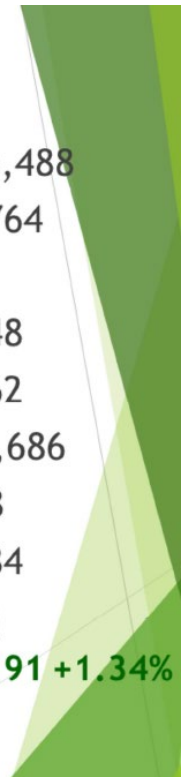
Ms. Staton explained that while the Board of Supervisors provided the local contribution to the School Division; the School Board and School Administration decided how those funds were allocated for expenditure within the School Division budget.

Ms. Staton reviewed the Proposed School Fund Expenditures by Major Category as Requested to show the funding requested by the School Division. She noted that the major categories of expenditures shown were based upon State funding as provided for in the House of Representatives’ recommended budget. She reported that it was an overall increase of \$411,191 or 1.34 percent above the FY23 budget of \$30,738,394 with an increase of \$1,582,639 in local funding requested. Ms. Staton also noted that the School Division had provided a list of Immediate Capital Improvement Concerns to the Board of Supervisors, which totaled \$26,885,632 with the recommendation that those improvements be completed during the next three (3) years.

**Proposed School Fund Expenditures  
by Major Category As Requested**

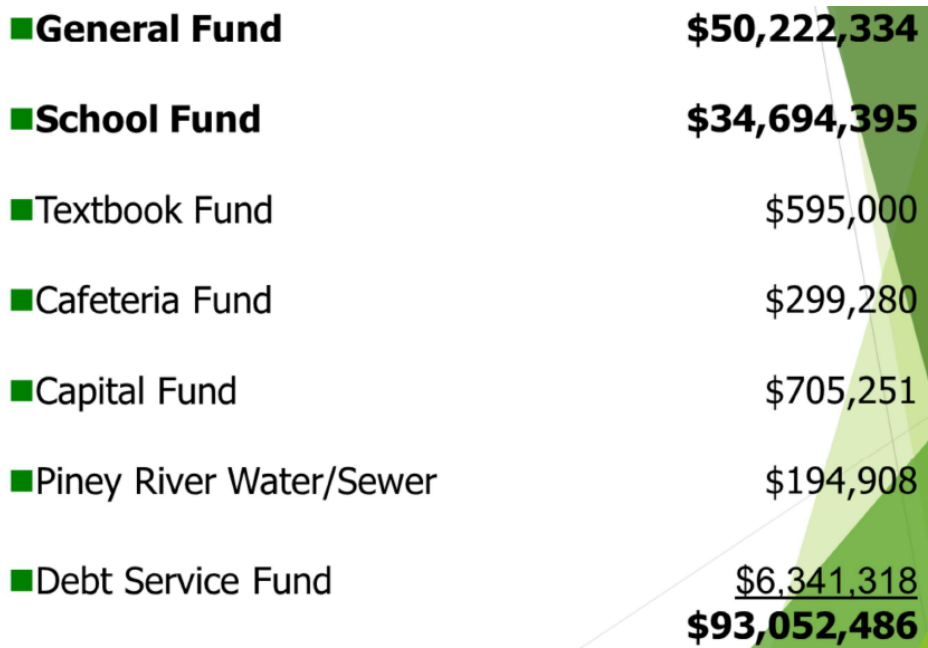
▶ Instruction	\$20,339,023	+ \$1,416,488
▶ Administration	\$1,623,578	+ \$105,764
▶ Transportation	\$3,036,066	- \$790
▶ Maintenance	\$2,983,197	+ \$20,248
▶ Food Services	\$1,320,929	+ \$75,762
▶ Facilities	\$ 0	- \$1,235,686
▶ Debt Service	\$192,182	+ \$5,598
▶ Technology	\$1,469,807	+ \$31,484
▶ Fund Transfer	\$184,803	- \$7,678
<b>*Total:</b>	<b>\$31,149,585</b>	<b>+ \$411,191 +1.34%</b>

**\* Excludes \$3,884,299 in Covid-19 Stimulus Funding**



Ms. Staton reported that the General Assembly had not yet finished its work on the FY24 State budget and to date, the Board of Supervisors had allocated \$1.2 million in new local funding for School Division operations. She noted that capital funding had been designated by the Board to assist the School Division in covering the most immediate need which was the roof replacement and building envelope repair at the High School, at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million. Ms. Staton reminded the Board that the County’s ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) carryover funds of \$2,894,977 were slated for that purpose.

Ms. Staton then provided a summary by fund. She noted that all of the funds that made up the County budget as denoted in the summary slide provided below, totaled about \$93 million. She explained that per State Code, the Board must wait a minimum of seven (7) days following the public hearing before adopting the budget.



Mr. Rutherford reminded the Board that they would not take any actions on the budget that evening as they had to wait minimum of seven (7) days. He noted that the Board was looking to have an additional work session during the last full week of May.

Mr. Rutherford opened public hearing.

*Wisteria Johnson - Shipman, VA*

Ms. Johnson commented that she understood what Ms. Staton was talking about and thanked her for her work.

*Thomas Bruguiera - Roseland, VA*

Mr. Bruguiera noted that Ms. Staton showed that the amount of local funding going to the Schools was above and beyond what the County was required to pay to support the schools. He commented that a lot of localities in the area did not pay anywhere near that amount in additional funding. He felt that the additional \$1.2 million in new money was more than generous with the declining school population. He commented that he did not understand why the Nurses Program was not included in the Schools’ budget. He also noted that Ms. Staton did a great job.

*Philip Purvis - Shipman, VA*

Mr. Purvis commented that the budget was a little overwhelming, especially the school budget. He understood that they needed to take care of the children, but asked at what point would the school system be unsustainable. He indicated that he had looked at private schools, and a high school senior could go to Lynchburg Christian Academy for \$7,000 per year. He pointed out that was a significant difference in the cost to educate a child in Nelson County. He noted he was not trying to say that we should not have good schools for kids, but the cost to educate children was through the roof. He noted that it was taking all of the Real Estate tax to educate children. He commented that the number of students was declining enrollment but the cost to educate them continued to increase. He noted that the Board and School Board would have to deal with it at some point. He noted that a lot of the people in Nelson were retired and a lot of them did not even get \$18,000 per year in social security.

There were no other persons wishing to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Rutherford noted that the Board would have another work session coming up and another regular meeting to discuss the budget further. The Board had no questions for staff regarding the budget.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS (AS PRESENTED)**

Mr. Rutherford noted there were two ladies present who had wished to speak under public comments and he noted that he would give them each three (3) minutes to speak.

*Christine DeJong - Afton, VA*

Ms. DeJong commented that she had attended the VDOT meeting regarding the six-year plan for 151 improvements. She noted that the meeting was very informative and helpful, but six years was a long time to wait for changes to happen. She commented that trucks were a big issue in the stretch of 151 that VDOT was looking at. She commented that they needed to discourage truck traffic on residential roads. She suggested lowering the speed limit to 45 on all of 151, reducing the maximum rig size from 65 feet to 50 feet, and prohibiting compression braking (jake braking). She commented that part of the problem with trucks, was that it was difficult to turn off of 29 to 64 in Albemarle, so the trucks were traveling up 151 instead. She asked that if possible, something be done sooner than six years to address the problem.

*Paige Clemmens – Afton, VA*

Ms. Clemmens commented that she agreed with Ms. DeJong's comments. She understood that truckers were on a time schedule. She noted that 151 was a pretty hilly road. She explained that to get on Falling Springs Drive, you had to travel on Pounding Branch Road. She noted that coming northbound on 151 from the Rockfish Community Center, you travel downhill and take a left onto Pounding Branch Road. She indicated that a lot of trucks travel fast through that stretch and even though she provides ample warning to make the turn, there had been a close call with the car behind her and the truck following that car. Ms. Clemmens noted that she understood why some of the trucks traveled that route, but she felt there should be a way to reduce the truck traffic. She thanked the Board for allowing time for her to speak after the public hearings.

The Board had no other business to discuss.

Mr. Rutherford noted that the Board needed to choose a date to talk more about the budget. The Board selected May 24, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. to hold a budget work session.

**V. ADJOURN AND CONTINUE TO MAY 17, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. FOR A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORK SESSION WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Parr made a motion to adjourn and continue to May 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Barton seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors approved the motion by vote of acclamation.