

**Virginia:**

AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors at 9:00 a.m. at Devils Backbone Basecamp and Brewpub (Business Center), 200 Crandall Run, Roseland, Virginia.

Present: Ernie Q. Reed, Central District Supervisor – Chair  
Jesse N. Rutherford, East District Supervisor – Vice Chair  
Thomas D. Harvey, North District Supervisor  
J. David Parr, West District Supervisor  
Robert G. “Skip” Barton, South District Supervisor  
Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator  
Amanda B. Spivey, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk  
Candice W. McGarry, Director of Finance and Human Resources  
Maureen Kelley, Director of Tourism and Economic Development  
Jerry West, Director of Parks and Recreation

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., with five (5) Supervisors present to establish a quorum. Mr. Carter introduced Hayes Humphreys of Devils Backbone and thanked him for providing a space for the meeting.

**II. Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A.3 & A.6 of the Code of VA**

Mr. Rutherford moved that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors go into closed session to discuss the following as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A.3 & A.6 Mr. Parr seconded the motion and there being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion.

Supervisors conducted the closed session and upon its conclusion, Mr. Rutherford moved to reconvene in public session. Mr. Parr seconded the motion and there being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion.

Upon reconvening in public session, Mr. Rutherford moved that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors certify that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Mr. Parr seconded the motion and there being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion.

**III. Work Session – Capital Initiatives and Financial Planning**

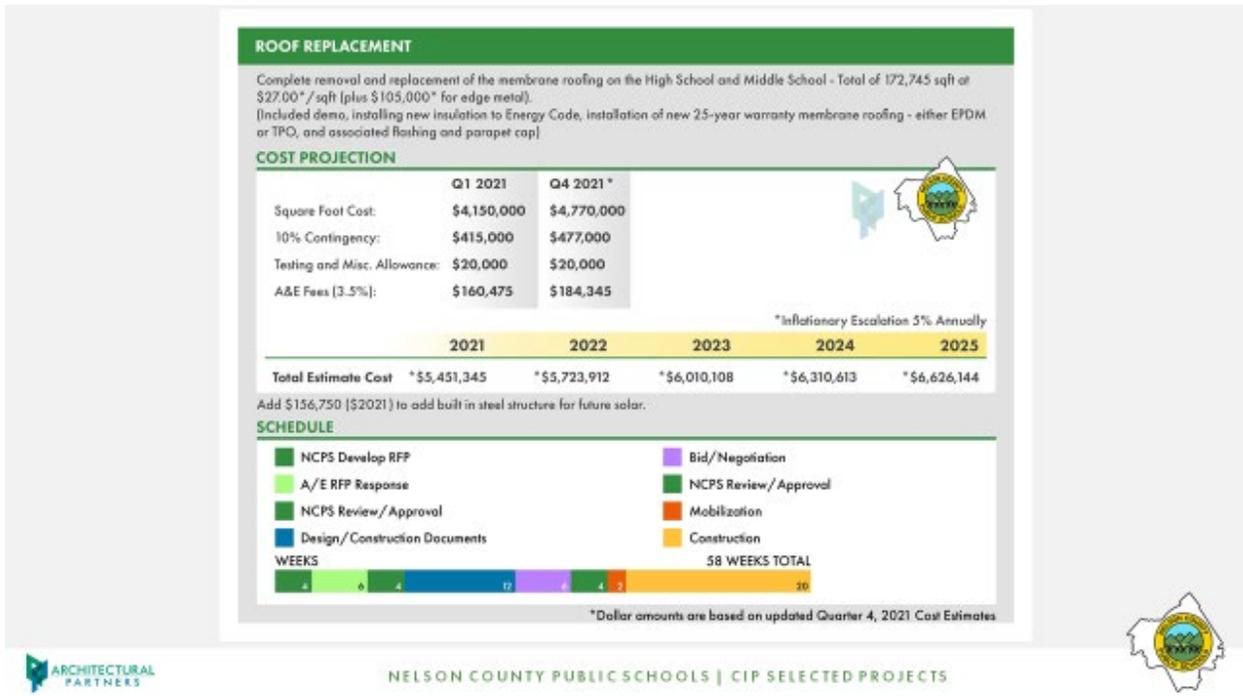
**A. Report – School Division CIP Initiatives (G. Harvey – Architectural Partners)**

Mr. Carter introduced Gary Harvey of Architectural Partners. Mr. Harvey began a presentation on the Nelson County Public Schools CIP Selected Projects.

Mr. Harvey presented an aerial photo of the Nelson County High School and Nelson Middle School property and pointed out the locations for each school, along with the CTE area of the high school. He noted the Greenhouse project was currently underway. Mr. Harvey indicated that the areas of focus for the CIP selected projects were repairs to the roof and brick, renovation options for parts of the high school, stadium and auditorium lighting, and repairs to parts of the asphalt roadways and parking lots.

Mr. Harvey presented the roof replacement project. In showing a roof view photo of the NCHS/NMS building, Mr. Gary Harvey pointed out rooftop ventilation pieces, which he indicated were where a majority of the roof leaks had been taking place over years. He said they had done a lot of roof repairs over the years under warranty and the roof was now at its extended life expectancy and going to be out of warranty.

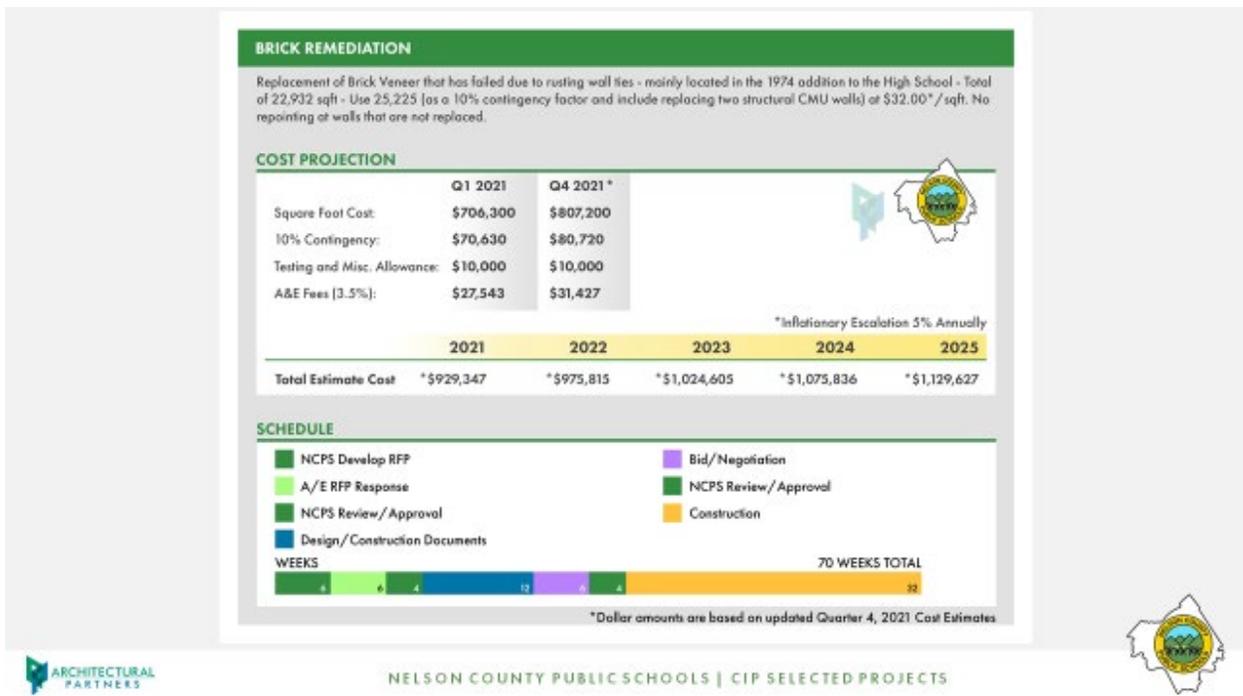
Mr. Harvey showed a drawing of the roof to reflect the areas covered by a sloped metal roof and the areas covered by a flat roof. He noted that the flat roof was where the replacement was need. He presented a breakdown in costs for replacement as well as a project schedule.



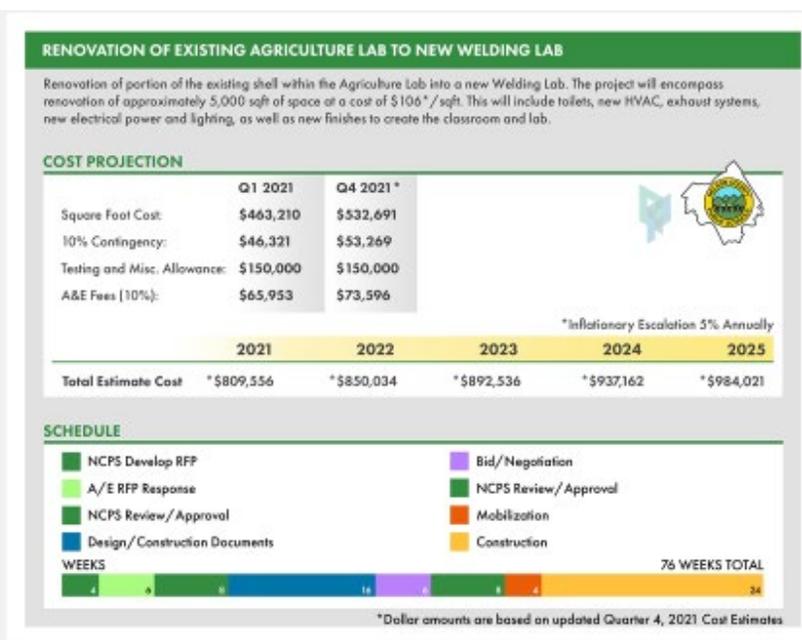
Mr. Harvey said they were looking at about 173,000 square feet of roofing material at a cost of about \$27 per square foot per plus an additional \$105,000 for the edge metal. He noted that they had seen an industry increase of about 15% since the first cost estimate was initially provided at the beginning of 2021. He included the projected inflation for each year moving forward through 2025 to give an idea of what the cost would be, depending on which year the project was to take place.

Mr. Harvey noted that the school system has a grant of just over \$2 million that could be used but with a time constraint to be used by 2024. He also stated that if project was put off until after 2024, not only would the cost of the roof increase, but the \$2 million grant funding would no longer be available to use to offset the overall cost. He noted that the schedule from start to finish was 58 weeks total for roof replacement.

Mr. Harvey then presented the brick repair project. He said that the brick veneer, mainly located in the 1974 addition of the High School had failed due to rusting wall ties. He noted that water penetration through the walls had caused the wire ties to rust. Mr. Harvey recommend the removal of brick and replacement with new brick. He stated that it was cost prohibitive to clean old brick and reuse for the project. Mr. Harvey presented the projected costs and schedule for the brick remediation.



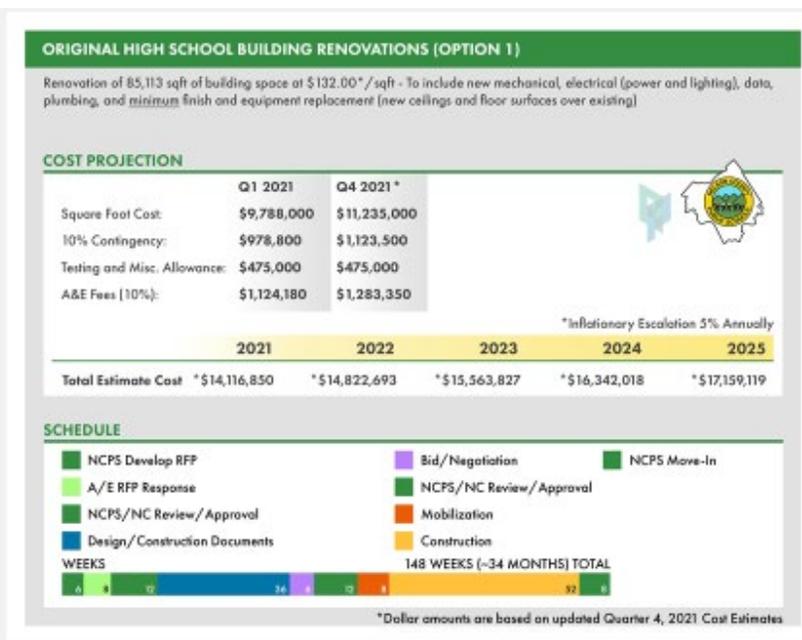
Mr. Harvey then presented the renovation of the existing agriculture lab to a new welding lab. He noted that the most cost effective option was to renovate the existing shell within the current agriculture lab. Mr. Harvey noted that the welding lab, roof and brick remediation could all be completed simultaneously along the same timeline.



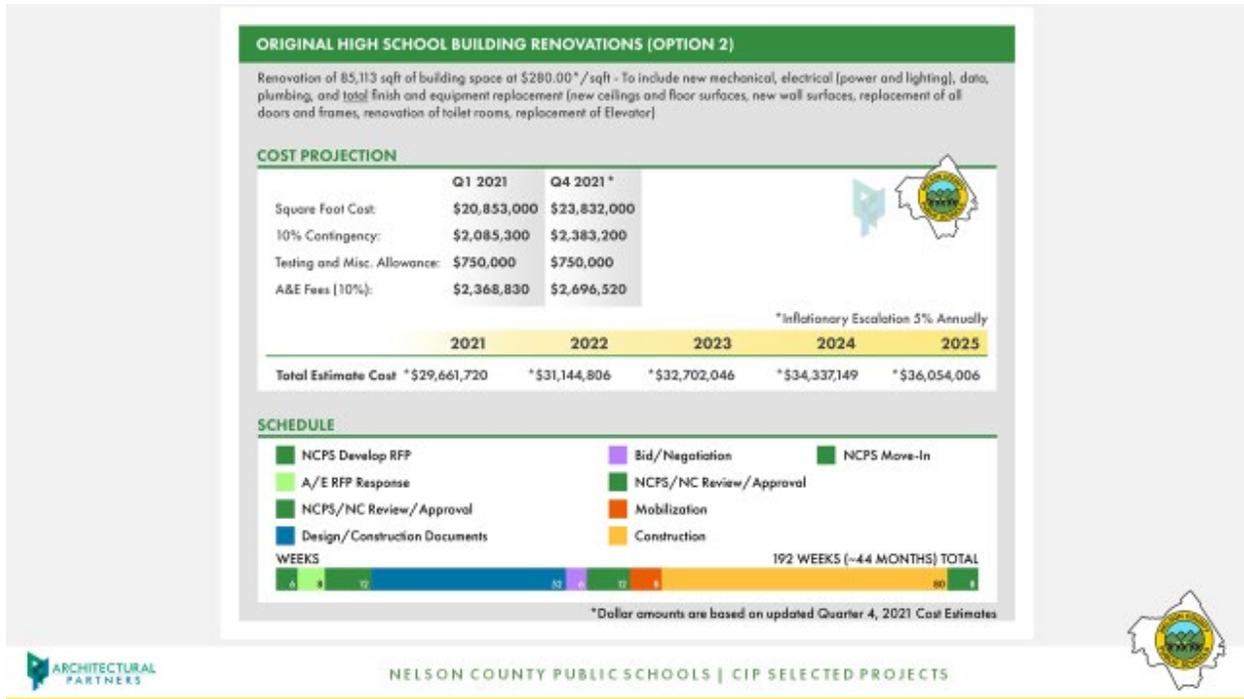
Mr. Rutherford asked how the improvements would affect current ag lab. Dr. Eagle responded that it was a fairly large space and only used by a few classes, so it would be able to be utilized by the ag lab. Mr. Carter confirmed that the space was about 5,000 square feet. Mr. Gary Harvey noted that both the ag class and welding class would be able to utilize the welding lab as part of their curriculum, particularly for the ag class as it pertains to tractor maintenance and repair.

Mr. Harvey then presented two options for the renovation of the original high school building. He showed photos of the original portions of the high school. He pointed out exposed mechanical systems, and cracking floors in the main hallways. He noted that many of the classroom ceilings have been lowered to accommodate new mechanical systems and that the ceilings were lower than the transom windows on the original classroom doors.

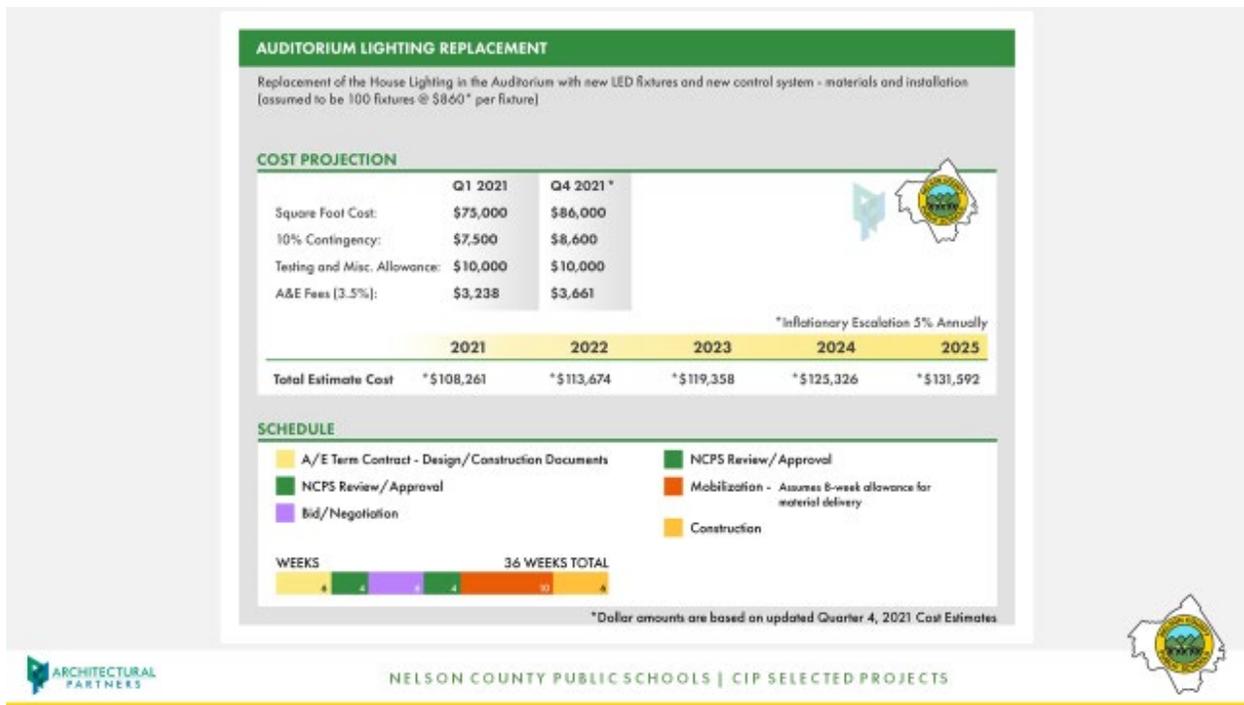
He presented Option 1, which only looked at replaced the mechanical parts, not making changes to layout or finishes. He stated that the renovation of 85,113 square feet would be to minimum finish only and the overall project would take almost three years from start to finish. He noted that the actual construction time would take just over a year so there would be a disruption to students, which would create additional costs to provide space for students. Mr. Harvey estimated the cost range to be \$14 million in 2021 and increasing to \$17 million in 2025.



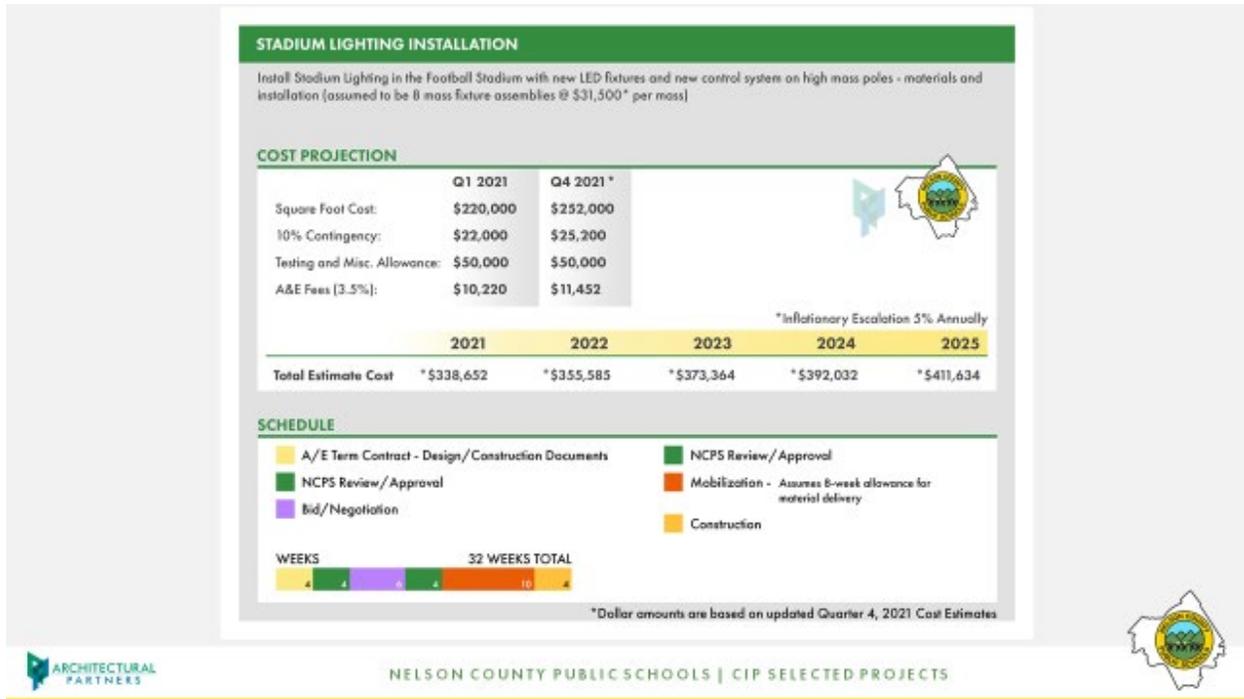
Mr. Harvey then presented Option 2 for building renovations at the high school. He noted that Option 2 covers everything in Option 1 but looks at the renovations to the school as a whole. He noted that this would include all new finishes, layout changes, new fixtures, etc. Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the cost projections and schedule. He estimated the 2021 cost for Option 2 would be \$29.7 million and if the Board waited until 2025, the cost increased to just over \$36 million.



Mr. Harvey provided information on the auditorium lighting replacement. Mr. Harvey noted that the auditorium lighting was starting to burn out and the light units were starting to fail. He explained that the units would get so hot that the light bulbs were starting to fuse into the light housing themselves. He noted that maintenance was replacing the light bulbs when possible, but as the lights continued to fail, the auditorium soon would not be able to meet egress lighting requirements. Mr. Harvey indicated that replacement with LED fixtures much more efficient and simpler to operate. He presented the projected costs to replace 100 fixtures, which ranged from \$108,261 to \$131,592 depending on when the project was completed and noted that the schedule included an additional 8 weeks of time to allow for any delays in materials.



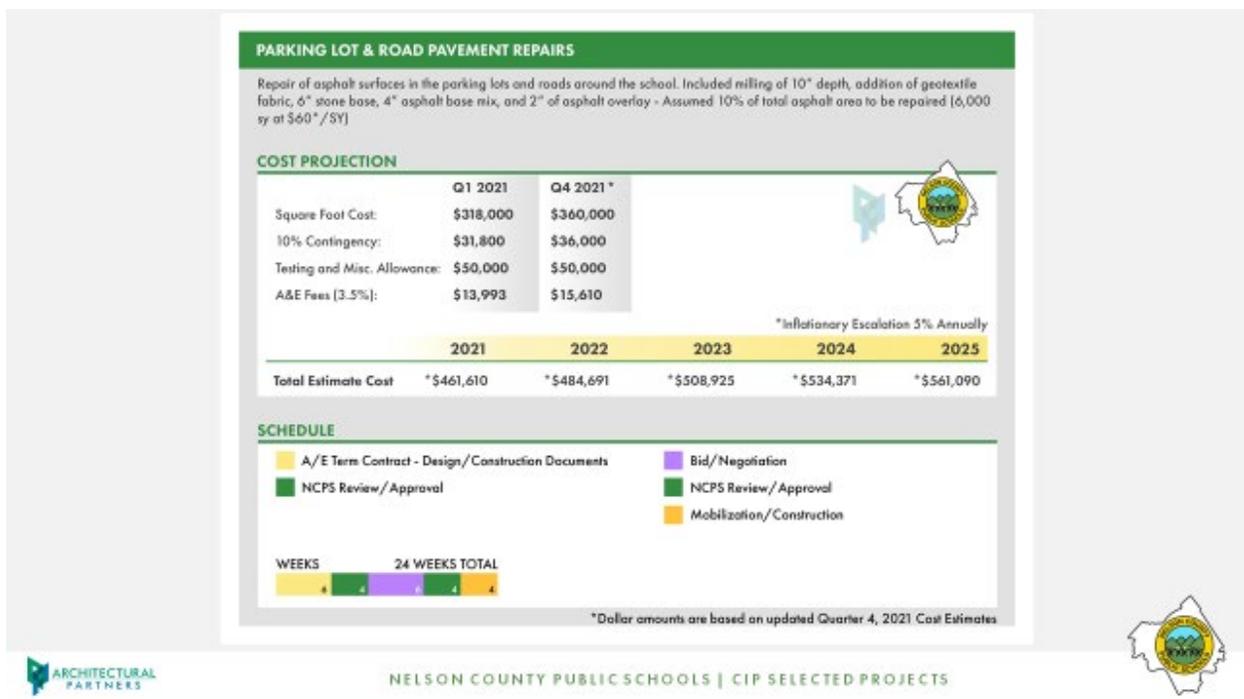
Mr. Harvey proposed new stadium lighting for the football field. He noted that the stadium lighting is currently metal halide and proposed use of new LED fixtures to replace 8 mass fixtures at \$31,500 each. Mr. Harvey presented a current 2021 total cost at \$338,652 and provided a breakdown in costs, along with the schedule from start to completion.



Mr. Tommy Harvey commented that when the current lighting was installed, it was supposed to be the best on the market. Mr. Gary Harvey noted that they likely were, but lighting technology had come a long way in the last 10 years and LED lighting technology had become more commonplace and the costs had come down on LED. Mr. Gary Harvey noted that replacement with a similar type of light fixture would probably be double the LED costs and the technology would be 20 years old. He noted that LED bulbs typically lasted much longer.

Mr. Barton commented that he thought CVEC would replace the lights. Mr. Tommy Harvey noted that CVEC installed them at the start. Mr. Parr asked if the current lights still had a warm up cycle. Mr. Parr then asked if the LED had the same warm up. Mr. Gary Harvey said the original lighting probably did have a warm up cycle, but the LED warm up is much shorter. He noted that most lights can now be controlled with a cell phone.

Mr. Harvey then wrapped up his presentation with parking lot and road improvement repairs. He said the areas of focus were mainly on the front road as that had been patched a few times. He said they were projecting about 6,000 square yards of road and parking lot areas to be fixed. Mr. Harvey provided cost projections and schedule. He noted that the Quarter 4 2021 total estimate cost was \$461,610. Mr. Harvey said that the actual time needed for the work would allow for the project to be completed during Christmas or Summer break.



Mr. Tommy Harvey asked for clarification on the areas to be done. Mr. Gary Harvey said that the areas of improvement would just be where failures have occurred in the parking lot and along the roadway. Mr. Tommy Harvey noted that the same base was under all areas and was concerned that the same problems may exist in other areas. Dr. Eagle said that with the soil testing, they were able to determine where the

work was needed. Mr. Gary Harvey noted that there were some areas of settlement, and most were in the lower areas where drainage was the cause of the issue. He also noted a drop inlet that would need to be repaired separately and covered under the school maintenance department. He indicated that upon inspection of some of the pipes underground, it was noted that they were not all connected and water was draining back into the soils, causing settlement issues also.

Mr. Tommy Harvey felt that it was better to rework all areas to get them fixed at the same time. He didn't feel that the patching looked good. Mr. Gary Harvey guessed that the cost to do all areas to the same level as described for the repairs would be 10 to 15 times the estimate provided. Mr. Gary Harvey pointed out that the patching in the past had not been milled down as it was planned to be done with these proposed repairs. He also noted that the addition of a geotextile fabric would help stabilize the subsoils and fix some of the issues, adding that the drop inlet for the drainage system should be repaired before the work started.

Mr. Tommy Harvey felt that the cost should be shared with the students by use of parking permits. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Parr both noted that parking permits were already in place but the cost was pretty minimal.

There being no further questions for Mr. Gary Harvey, the Board then took a thirty-minute recess for lunch.

#### B. Report – Recreation Center Study (J. Vernon – Architectural Partners)

The Board returned to finished the afternoon portion of the meeting. Mr. Carter introduced Jim Vernon of Architectural Partners. Mr. Vernon then began his presentation on the Recreation Center. Mr. Vernon noted that they had been making updates to a prior recreation study done in 2012 for the County. He noted the three priorities from the start of the study were a public swimming facility, a multipurpose gymnasium facility, and recreation fields. Mr. Vernon pointed out that the total costs to the County included everything from architectural and engineering fees, construction, all fixtures and furnishing, as well as equipment like pool flotation devices. He pointed out that they had options that ranged from a \$30 million facility down to a \$4 million facility. He noted that the field costs would be in addition to the estimated costs for the facility.

Mr. Vernon presented Option 1 as the option with “The Works” which would have a full program scope with an interior pool at an estimated cost of about \$30.1 million. He listed the amenities to include an eight lane competition pool with play and diving areas, four multi-purpose rooms for meetings, activities, programs and childcare, a gymnasium with full basketball court and multiple cross courts, a multi-lane interior walking track, a gymnastics room, climbing wall, fitness area, free weights area, aerobics room, wrestling team practice room, eSports room and a rental room with kitchen.

He provided two options for added fields and exterior amenities. The first option would use private property and the cost was estimated at an additional \$26,162,500, while the second option used existing school property and cost \$18,655,000 for total site development.

Mr. Vernon then presented Option 2 for the Recreation Center, which had a reduced program scope and an interior pool. He noted that the cost came in around \$23.4 million with the reduced program scope and the pricing for the added fields and exterior amenities remained the same with each option. Mr. Vernon listed the amenities of the reduced scope program to include a gymnasium with full basketball court and multiple cross courts, two multi-purpose rooms, and an interior pool. He noted that Option two did not have a second floor which eliminated areas like the indoor walking track, climbing wall, fitness area and free weights area, eSports and rental space.

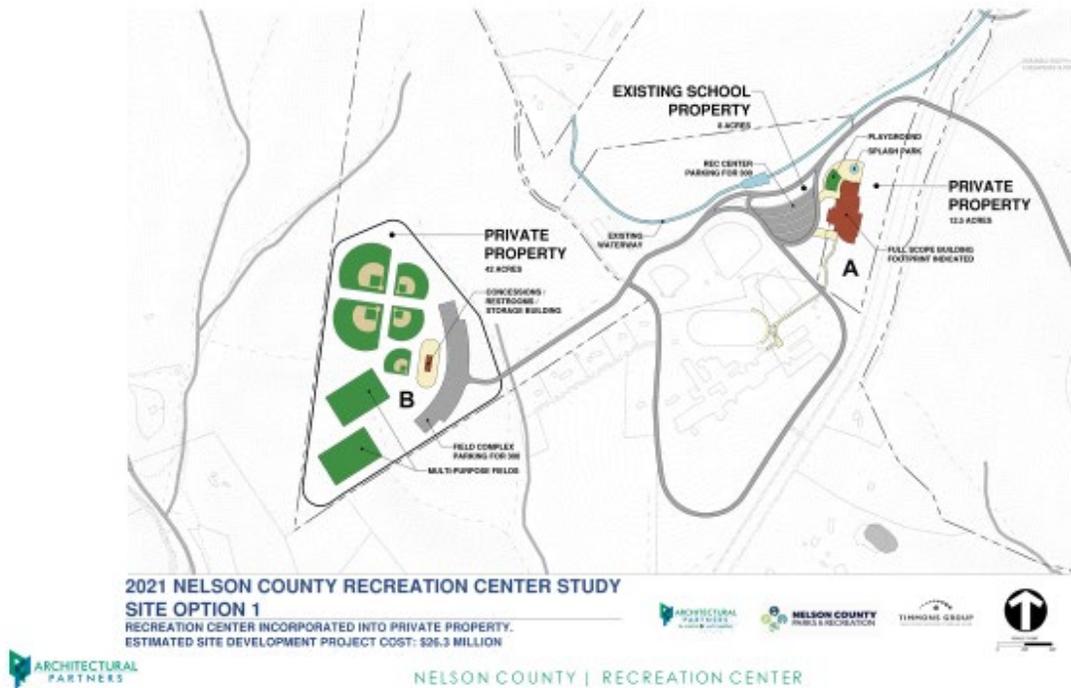
Mr. Vernon then moved to Option 3 which narrowed the program scope further, removing the second floor and also eliminating options like the indoor walking track, climbing wall, fitness area, free weights area. He listed the amenities for Option 3 to include a gymnasium with full basketball court and multiple cross courts and two multi-purpose rooms. He noted that the pool for Option 3 was an exterior pool. Mr. Vernon provided a cost estimate of \$16.7 million for Option 3. Mr. Vernon pointed out the cost savings on an exterior pool versus an interior pool, while noting the biggest con was the limited seasonal use.

Mr. Vernon presented Option 4 which was an interior pool facility only with support spaces at a cost of \$11.9 million. He noted this option focused on year round use of the pool but removed the other amenities like the gym, multi-purpose rooms and fitness area.

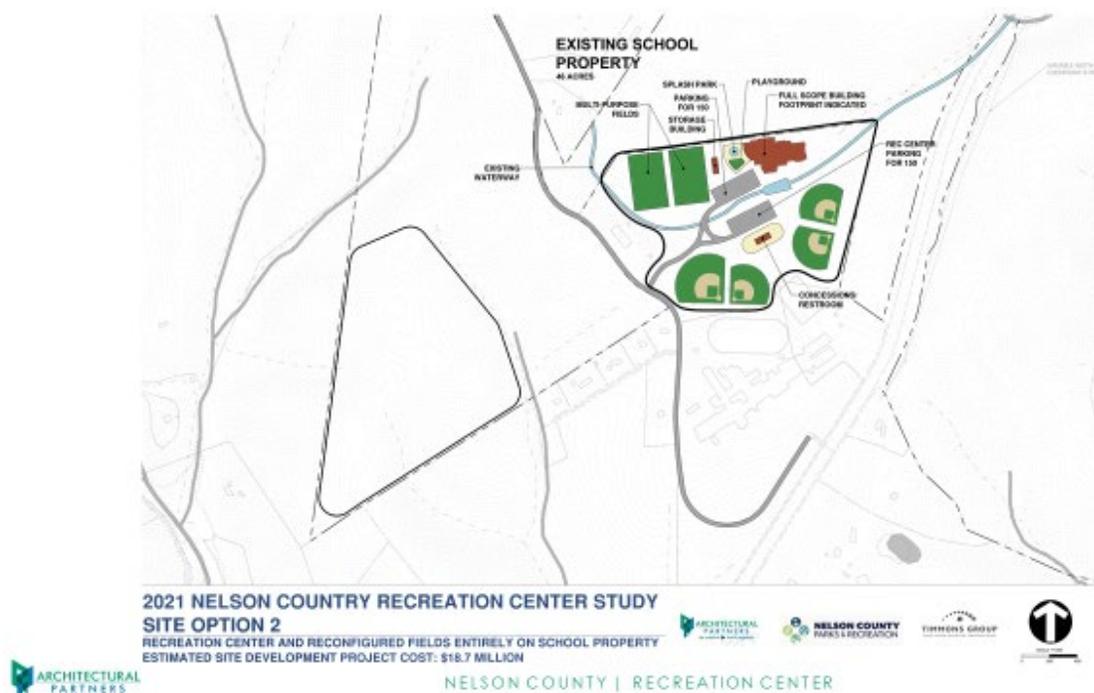
Mr. Vernon then presented Option 5 as an exterior pool with support building. He noted that the pool would be a competition pool with no diving and the support building would include restrooms/locker rooms, a pool office, training room, concession and equipment/storage rooms. Mr. Vernon identified this option as more like a neighborhood swimming pool but built to a municipal standard. He estimated the total cost for Option 5 at \$4.1 million.

Finally, Mr. Vernon presented Option 6 with an exterior pool and support building identical to Option 5, but included an inflatable enclosure to allow year-round use of the pool. He noted that this enclosure option added about \$600,000, bringing the cost estimate for Option 6 to about \$4.9 million.

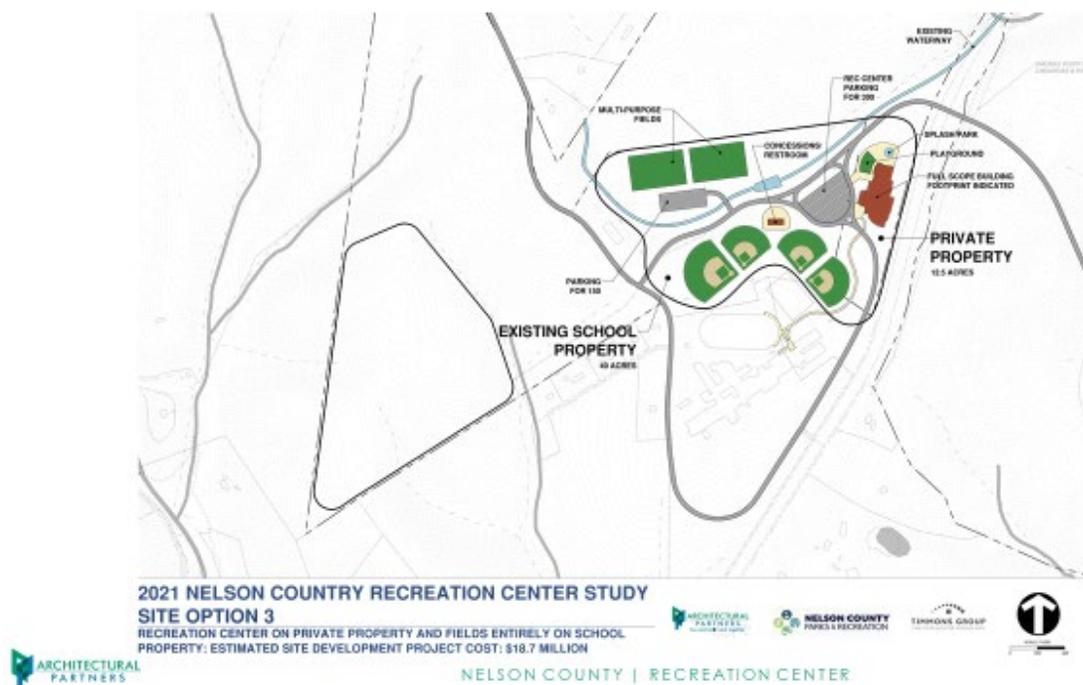
Mr. Vernon introduced site options for the proposed recreation facility, recreation fields and exterior amenities. Mr. Rutherford asked about use of existing school property and where the facility would go. Mr. Vernon presented site option 1 which showed the use of existing school property and incorporated the use of private property to the north and south of the schools at a cost of \$26.3 million for site development. He noted that the recreation facility would be located along Route 29.



Mr. Vernon then presented site option 2 which utilizes existing county property for location of fields and a recreation facility with a condensed layout at a lower site cost of \$18.7 million. He explained that the Board had six options for the facility and then they would be able to select from the three site plan options. Mr. Reed asked if all of option 2 was on existing property. Mr. Vernon confirmed that it would all be on existing County property.



Mr. Vernon then presented Site option 3 which combined existing property and private property to locate the facility, exterior amenities and fields north of the school complex at a cost of \$18.7 million.



Mr. Barton did not feel that it was important to have a facility seen from Route 29. Mr. Vernon noted that an outdoor pool only could be considered in other areas on the property not close to Route 29. He also pointed out the pool amenities that could be included like a shallow swim area, water slides and a diving area. He then pointed out options for playgrounds being located near a splash park. Mr. Reed asked about the view shed in Option 2 and whether it would be comparable to the private property to the south of the school. Mr. Vernon stated that the view shed may be different.

Mr. Parr noted that he had ruled out the option that put the recreation facility out of view. He found option 1 as the best scenario. Mr. Parr said that he saw the recreation facility as one project and the outdoor swimming pool as another project. He felt that the indoor facility was important to provide year round use of the swimming pool for swim teams, senior water aerobics and swim lessons but he could also see the use of having an outdoor pool during the summer months.

Mr. Rutherford was impressed by the options presented and the numbers. He noted that possibly acquiring a small portion of private property may be cost effective. Mr. Parr asked if the \$30 million facility would house Parks and Recreation. Mr. Vernon noted that he had not put Parks and Recreation there. Mr. Carter noted that there was space to move Recreation into Option 1. Mr. Vernon estimated about 1800 square foot of space for administration. Mr. West noted that he just needed space for a table and chair. Mr. Rutherford confirmed that most expensive plan was \$30 million without fields.

#### C. Report – County Facilities (M. Smith & J. Vernon – Architectural Partners)

Mr. Carter introduced Mark Smith of Architectural Partners and Mr. Smith began his report on County office facilities.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the Blue Moon which was a former manufacturing building in Lovington, which they had previously studied in 2018. He noted that the building was large and the lot was fairly level. Mr. Vernon explained that the plan for the space would be to relocate several County offices into the building. Mr. Smith said that the building had a total of 54,000 square feet and nearly 16,000 square feet of that allowed for expansion in the future. Mr. Smith provided a list of offices from the original study in 2018 that included: Planning and Zoning, the Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator, Parks and Recreation, Registrar's Office, Social Services, Cooperative Extension, Health Department, Tourism, School Administration, as well as common circulation and core facilities, and future expansion areas.

Mr. Smith noted that this building provided a space for a multitude of offices to be located in. He also acknowledged the need to update the study and gather input from each office to determine space needs for the future. Mr. Smith pointed out that his next part of the presentation involved a renovation of the McGinnis building, which housed Planning and Zoning and Building Inspections. He noted that if the Board chose to pursue the Blue Moon facility or another option that would house those offices, there would not be a need to act on work at the McGinnis building.

Mr. Smith estimated the total project cost to be about \$13.5 million. Mr. Vernon noted that the benefit of using Blue Moon would allow for all County offices to be under one roof. Mr. Smith noted that there could still be unused space for storage or future use. Mr. Smith pointed out that since the space was a former manufacturing building, it had plenty of power. Mr. Harvey asked if the facility could accommodate a second floor within the back portion of the building. Ms. Kelley noted the ceiling height was about 14 feet. Mr. Smith confirmed that it would not allow to add a second floor in the existing building. Mr. Smith that land development came with a significant price tag, and this plan would not require much for site work.

Mr. Smith then moved on to discuss the McGinnis building which is the office space for Building Inspections and Planning and Zoning. He pointed out that the back end of the building is on bad fill and noted they had been asked to evaluate the building due to cracks in the walls and settlement issues. He noted that Hurt & Proffitt visited the property to determine that there had been about an inch and a half of settlement from front to back, which was considerable for the size of the building. He showed a picture along the parapet wall where you can see through the cracks in the wall. He also showed cracks along the interior walls of the building. He also pointed out that there was virtually no insulation in the ceiling and the likely impacts this placed on heating and cooling costs.

Mr. Smith estimated that it would cost \$505,000 to do a complete rehab on the building, which included \$120,000 to stabilize the building. Mr. Rutherford noted that in his projects, he had done some rehabilitation and he felt like they could do something cheaper to remedy. Mr. Smith stated that the soil borings were indicative that the ground was junk fill until about 20 feet, when they reach original soils and suggested it was best to auger down to good soils and stabilize from there.

Mr. Harvey stated that it may be easier to take the building down and build a new one. Mr. Smith said they could not build on the same site because the property is in the floodway. He estimated a new building to be about a \$1 million without knowing exactly what the land or site costs would be. Mr. Smith noted it could be worthy of keeping, but it would cost money to get it in good shape. Mr. Harvey asked if the building worked for now. Mr. Smith noted it was okay and didn't need to be condemned but there were things that needed to be addressed. He said if they chose not to do anything, they should at least insulate the building to help with utility costs.

Lastly, Jim Vernon introduced three options that placed County offices at Callohill Drive in a new space on existing County owned property. He introduced Option A as a Department of Social Services office only, in about 6,500 square feet at a cost of \$2.7 million. Additionally, he provided Option B to include the Department of Social Services, Planning and Zoning, and Building Inspections, in an 11,900 square foot space at a cost of \$4.5 million. Finally, he presented Option C which could provide space for everyone in Option B, plus Solid Waste and Recycling, Parks and Recreation, Registrar, Cooperative Extension, Health Department, Tourism and School Administration in a 54,100 square foot building at a total estimated project cost of \$18.3 million.

Mr. Rutherford asked if they did an option for Social Services and the Health Department only. Mr. Vernon worked on calculating the amount. Mr. Barton asked if they could accommodate outdoor pool area on the Callohill location. Mr. Vernon thought they could, but he didn't know if they could include that in addition to the proposed building. Mr. Vernon noted that a Social Services and Health department only option would cost about \$4.8 million project with 11,600 square foot.

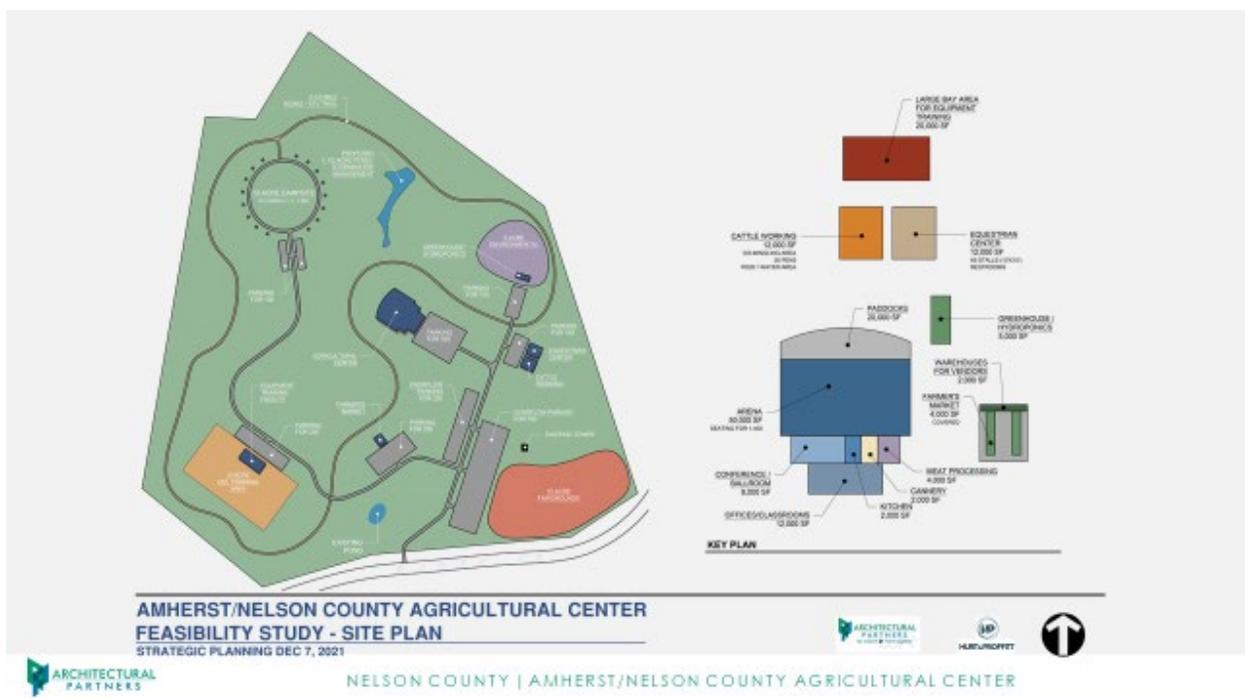
Mr. Rutherford said that if the Health Department went into a County owned space, the County could use funds from the lease to help with facility costs. Mr. Carter noted that the Department of General Services would pay 60% on the Health Department costs, which could go towards the debt. Mr. Carter indicated that the Board would need to decide pretty quick on a health department option, because they were potentially locating in the Heritage Center. Mr. Harvey asked what costs the County would cover if the Health Department located in the Heritage Center. Mr. Carter noted that the County would be responsible for covering 40% of the lease. Mr. Carter explained that the County billed Social Services for custodial services and those revenues could be put towards the cost of the building also. Mr. Barton felt that the County would be contributing less towards a lease if the Health Department went in the Heritage Center. Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Carter both noted that they do not yet know the costs at the Heritage Center. Mr. Rutherford asked if the Board could get updates for the regular December meeting. He noted that if they could get Social Services and the Health Department in a space within the next year, that would be good.

#### D. Report – Agricultural Center Study (M. Smith – Architectural Partners)

Mr. Smith began the report on an agricultural center study that his firm had been working on for Amherst and Nelson counties. He pointed out the 300-acre property that was under consideration, located just south of the Amherst-Nelson line. Mr. Smith noted that the program information they had received, had mostly come from Amherst County. He explained that Amherst had looked at the Olde Dominion Ag Complex in Pittsylvania County. He noted that Amherst was looking at a larger scale program than what was being done in Pittsylvania. Mr. Smith pointed out that the property was much larger than where Pittsylvania's complex was located. He explained that all field areas were within 40 feet of elevation.

Mr. Barton asked who owned the proposed site. Mr. Carter and Ms. Kelley confirmed that the Fariss family owns the site. Mr. Smith compared the proposed site in Amherst which had about 300 acres, while the Olde Dominion site was situated on about 18 acres. He pointed out that the Pittsylvania site did not have any outdoor areas while there was a lot of potential for outdoor site development in Amherst. He showed photos of Pittsylvania's site which included an arena, horse stalls, offices, a cattle working area, conference space, a kitchen and market. He then presented the programming options for the Amherst-Nelson site to include: an arena, horse stalls, a cattle working area, a kitchen, offices and classrooms, conference space, market space, a cannery, meat processing area, a large bay training area, warehouse space and greenhouse. He pointed out that with the large property there was potential for several outdoor areas like an environmental education area, a pond/aquaculture area, paddocks for livestock sales, a campground, cabins, a heavy equipment training area, atv/riding trails, and fairgrounds.

Mr. Smith showed a proposed site plan.



Mr. Smith noted that the trail system would be significantly larger than shown on the layout. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the costs, noting that the land cost provided to him was \$1.2 million. He explained that the site work costs were significant as the property was large and there were no existing utilities. He estimated the total cost to be about \$51 million, which included the cost of the land, site work, and new buildings and structures.

Mr. Barton asked Mr. Smith if he had any revenue estimates. Mr. Smith and Mr. Carter both indicated that they had attempted to get revenue information from Olde Dominion but neither were successful. Mr. Carter noted that he had even asked for assistance from the Pittsylvania County Administrator, David Smitherman, and Mr. Smitherman was not able to get a response from the center either. Mr. Harvey did not feel that it was worth wasting any more time pursuing the ag project. He felt that what Pittsylvania at their facility was all that was needed for Amherst and Nelson.

E. Financial Planning (R. Kooch – Davenport & Co.)

Mr. Carter introduced Mr. Roland Kooch from Davenport. He asked Mr. Kooch to walk the Board through a few financial planning scenarios.

Mr. Kooch reviewed the cost ranges for the each of the projects that had been presented that day. He noted that the County’s unassigned fund balance was very strong relative to its peers and other rated local governments. He walked the Board through several financial planning scenarios, which were dependent on the projects selected, how much of the reassessment was kept, the amount of Transient Occupancy Tax, and when the projects were chosen to take place, as well as any use of capital reserve funds. He noted that the Board would be able to prioritize and determine what they wanted do and when they wanted to do it.

Mr. Reed stated that in the scenarios presented, the price of any private property was the one thing that was not fully determined and it would be helpful to know. He noted that it was hard to determine next steps without having all the details ready. Mr. Carter stated that he could work more to determine the cost of the private property, but that is dependent of the board’s decision to move forward.

Mr. Kooch suggested that if the only item the Board was going to proceed with was the brick remediation and roof at the high school, after subtracting out the CARES and ARPA funding that left about a \$2 million balance that they could potentially just pay in cash. Mr. Kooch also suggested that if they were going to be looking at the larger renovation project at the schools, they may want to roll the funding together and finance it. He noted that this would allow them to preserve the cash for another project.

Mr. Carter suggested the board take time to digest the information presented and then decide how to proceed. He stated that Mr. Kooch could possibly return to discuss options once the Board has had time to process the information. Mr. Reed felt like it would be helpful to see where the reassessment numbers are at after the appeals process and the Board of Equalization. Mr. Carter stated that the biggest factor would be what the Board decides to do with the tax rate.

Mr. Carter suggested that the Board consider the school consolidation study to see what additional savings would be provided to help with projects like those discussed. He had estimated that around \$4 million could be saved by consolidating. He also noted that he had sent an email to Creigh Deeds and the two Delegates regarding an additional 1% sales tax for education.

Mr. Reed asked about potentially having another work session in the near future. Mr. Rutherford agreed and asked to put a plug-in for Lovington for a few million dollars to help with streetscapes. Mr. Harvey asked what financial benefit that would have to the County. Mr. Rutherford noted that it would make people want to invest in Lovington. Mr. Barton noted that Mr. Carter's comments about cost savings had some validity and should be talked about, but he spoke strongly against school consolidation and felt that the children would pay the price.

Mr. Rutherford suggested having a work session during the first couple of weeks in January. Mr. Reed was in agreement to work towards setting a date. Mr. Carter suggested that it could take place after the regular Board meeting, which would give the Board time to review the information and they would also have information from the assessments.

Mr. Carter reminded the board that they had \$50,000 set aside for School consolidation and asked if they wanted to proceed with the study. Mr. Barton suggested that they should see what the School Board's thoughts were on the subject. Mr. Parr asked what the difference was in voting to approve setting aside the money in the budget for the study and approving to proceed with the study. Mr. Carter noted that he was encouraged to hold off on the study until after the elections. Mr. Reed felt that they should receive input from the School Board on the study. Mr. Parr felt they should have the study completed and then sit down with the School Board to go over the information obtained and discuss it further. Ms. McGarry and Mr. Carter pointed out that the school staff would be involved with the study.

Mr. Parr made a motion to direct County staff to move forward to complete the study on possible school consolidation. Mr. Rutherford seconded the motion. Mr. Harvey asked how much further schools could be consolidated. Mr. Parr stated that this study would look at combining the two elementary schools. Mr. Reed stated that he was completely against the funding to go towards the study. He felt that the School Board had the mission to have the best schools they could have and that mission should come before the money saved. Mr. Carter thought that the point of the study was to see if consolidation was possible without impacting the quality of education.

There being no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Harvey asked to abstain for the moment.

Mr. Barton - No

Mr. Parr - Yes

Mr. Rutherford - Yes

Mr. Reed - No

Returned to Mr. Harvey for final vote - Yes

Supervisors voted (3-2) by roll call vote to approve the motion, with Mr. Barton and Mr. Reed voting no.

#### **V. Other (Requires the Attendance of All Members of the Board of Supervisors)**

Mr. Reed asked if there was any other business to discuss before adjourning.

Mr. Carter brought up the American Rescue Plan funds. He noted that the County had received requests from the Service Authority another from a non-profit. Mr. Carter asked the Board to consider using the \$2.9 million from ARPA for the school project. Mr. Harvey asked what the schools were using from their ARPA funds. Mr. Carter explained that the schools were getting \$7 million in ARPA funds and they had set aside \$2 million for the roof project and the other \$5 million would go towards learning loss, hiring new positions, enhancing pay. Mr. Parr noted that he did not think the schools would be adding to existing salaries, rather paying new positions to help with learning loss in the short term.

The Board made a goal to set next planning session meeting date at the regular December meeting. Mr. Parr noted that they needed to be thinking about priorities. Mr. Parr asked about what would be discussed at the next planning session. He felt that the County would pull away from the ag project with Amherst. He wanted to go on record to expressing his concern for the proposed welding facility taking from an existing space rather than creating a new space when the ag program is strong. He noted that it was not the Board's decision but he would rather see more money put at the project to explore an entirely separate space.

Mr. Carter asked the Board to commit the \$2.9 million ARPA funds to the school roof project. Mr. Rutherford made a motion to use the ARPA money for the school project. Mr. Parr seconded the motion.

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There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

At 3:54 p.m., Mr. Rutherford moved to adjourn and Mr. Parr seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the meeting adjourned.