

January 29, 2021

**Virginia:**

AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors at 1:00 p.m. in the Old Board of Supervisors Room located on the fourth floor of the Nelson County Courthouse, in Lovingston Virginia.

Present: Jesse N. Rutherford, East District Supervisor – Vice Chair  
Thomas D. Harvey, North District Supervisor  
Ernie Q. Reed, Central District Supervisor – Chair  
J. David Parr, West District Supervisor  
Robert G. “Skip” Barton, South District Supervisor  
Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator  
Grace Mawyer, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk  
Candice W. McGarry, Director of Finance and Human Resources  
Roland Kooch, Davenport and Company LLC  
Chip Boyles, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission  
Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Absent: None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm, with all Supervisors present to establish a quorum.

**II. CAPITAL INITIATIVES PLANNING SESSION**

**A. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Ms. McGarry presented the following information:

**General Fund Local Revenue**

	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>5-Year Average Increase</u>	<u>Est. FY2022 Increase</u>	<u>Est. FY2022 Local Revenue</u>
<b>Local Revenues (Audit-FY2020)</b>	\$ 29,092,259	\$ 29,550,924	\$ 29,611,678	\$ 28,356,567	\$ 29,915,235	102.829%	\$ 846,257	\$ 30,761,492

*Note: FY22 Real Estate Tax Revenue will be comprised of Second Half 2021 collections based on current values and First Half 2022 collections based on re-assessed values as of January 1, 2022.*

**General Fund Balance at 12/30/2020**

Preliminary General Fund Balance at 12/30/20:	\$22,454,506
Use of Fund Balance in FY21 Budget at 12/30/20:	<u>(\$ 2,740,202)</u>
<b>Adjusted General Fund Balance at 12/30/20:</b>	<b><u>\$19,714,304</u></b>
90 Day Operating Cash Reserve (25% Operating Budget):	<u>(\$9,065,097)</u>
<b>General Fund Balance After Operating Reserve:</b>	<b><u>\$10,649,207</u></b>

*Note FY21 Operating Budget used to Calculate 90 Day Cash Reserve Requirement: \$36,260,388*

**FY22 Beginning Debt Balances**

<b><u>FY22 DEBT BALANCES</u></b>			
		<b>Principal Balance</b>	<b>Avg. Annual</b>
<b>General Fund Debt:</b>	<b>Last Payment</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>Payment Principal &amp; Interest</b>
VRA 2012 (Radio Project)	10/2022 (FY23)	\$ 370,000	\$ 195,129.70
VRA 2013A (Courthouse Judicial PH 1)	10/2027 (FY28)	\$ 3,195,000	\$ 529,350.52
VRA 2018C (Nelson Mem. Library)	04/2029 (FY29)	\$ 1,690,000	\$ 258,443.44
VRA 2015 (Courthouse PH 2)	10/2030 (FY31)	\$ 2,660,000	\$ 323,820.00
<b>School Debt:</b>	<b>Last Payment</b>	<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>Payment Principal &amp; Interest</b>
VPSA (NCHS/NMS)	07/2023 (FY24)	\$ 3,170,000	\$ 1,145,651.20
BB&T (NCHS/NMS)	08/2027 (FY28)	\$ 5,390,000	\$ 776,783.43

Mr. Carter noted that regarding the 2022 reassessment, the Board will decide how that reassessment influences the tax base.

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Ms. McGarry noted that as of January 28<sup>th</sup>, local revenues have been collected at 53.1%, and that is not including the state personal property tax relief amount. She added that the County is doing pretty well overall on the local revenue collection.

It was noted that there may be an uptick in the public service tax over the next couple of years depending on how long it takes to build out the fiber infrastructure.

**B. REPORTS (COUNTY DEPARTMENTS & OFFICES)**

Mr. Carter noted that Staff asked departments and Constitutional Offices to provide input on capital improvements valued at \$5,000 or more. He summarized the following list:

Department	Description	Cost	Priority	Total Cost
Building Inspections	McGinnis Building-Structural Repairs	\$ 114,000.00	1	\$ 144,750.00
	McGinnis Building-HVAC Replacement	\$ 22,500.00	2	
	Vehicles-Upgrade for Cellular Service	\$ 8,250.00	3	
E911 and IT	911 NICE Call Recorder Upgrade	\$ 35,000.00	1	\$ 2,106,034.00
	Rockfish School Generator Upgrade	\$ 52,000.00	1	
	Furniture Relocation for Carpet Repl.	\$ 8,834.00	1	
	Replace End of Life UPS	\$ 47,000.00	1	
	NG911 Costs	\$ 10,000.00	1	
	Replace Radio Subscribers (Sher & Fire & Resc)	\$ 1,060,000.00	2	
	Voter Registration Cyber Security Compliance	\$ 60,000.00	2	
	Email Archive System	\$ 12,500.00	3	
	Microsoft 365 Subscription for all County users	\$ 15,700.00	4	
	Sugarloaf Tower Construction	\$ 575,000.00	5	
Wintergreen Radio Console Upgrade	\$ 230,000.00	5		
Planning & Zoning	Comprehensive Plan Update	\$ 125,000.00	1	\$ 130,000.00
	Junkyard Cleanup Grant Program	\$ 5,000.00	2	
Recreation	Tye River Bridge Decking Repair at Rail Trail	\$ 20,000-30,000	1	
	Zero Turn Mower	\$ 7,000.00	1	
	Sports Field Complex	\$ 1.5-2,500,000	1	
	Playground at Wayside	\$ 100,000-150,000	1	
	Recreation Complex (included w/ County Admin)	-	1	
	VA Blue Ridge Railway Trail Culvert Repair	\$ 405,000-680,000	2	
	Gator/UTV	\$ 8,000.00	2	
	Attendant Building & 2 Restrooms at BRT	\$ 40,000.00	2	
	Boom Axe	\$ 100,000.00	2	
	LED Lights on 2 Baseball Fields	\$ 375,000.00	3	
	Basketball Court and Playground at Ryan Field	\$ 125,000.00	3	
Improvements and upgrades to Montreal Park	\$ 100,000.00	3		

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	Development of Sturt Park	\$ 150,000.00	3	
	Portajohn Purchase (6)	\$ 5,000.00	3	
	Restroom at VBRRT Piney River Trailhead	\$ 75,000.00	4	\$3,010,000-4,345,000
Registrar and Electoral Board	Replace Electronic Pollbook Laptops	\$ 27,700-33,733		
	Voting Machine Annual Costs	\$ 6,915.00		
	Voting Machine Replacement (need updated cost)	\$ 125,185.00		
	Security System	?		
	Office Furniture	?		
	Office Space	?		\$159,800-165,833
Sheriff's Office	Bathroom Conversion to Holding Cell	?		
	Impound/Storage Lot	?		?
Waste Management	Gladstone Recycle Attendants-Annual Payroll	\$ 24,235.00		
	Gladstone-Building for Attendant + Annual Utilities	\$ 6,675.00		\$ 30,910.00
County Admin	VDH & DSS Building & Land	\$ 3,073,000.00		
	VDH & DSS & Other County Depts Bldg & Land	\$ 13,094,880.00		
	Rec Center-Building & Pool Construction	\$ 9.5-25,000,000		
	Development of Larkin Property (Business Park)	\$ 25-30,000,000		
	Ag Center	?		\$37,573,000-68,094,880

**Grand Total:** \$43,154,494-75,017,407

**C. DAVENPORT PRESENTATION – Financial Scenarios (Mr. Roland Kooch)**

Mr. Carter introduced Mr. Kooch and noted that the County initially worked with Davenport around the year 2000, and the outcome of that was the construction of the middle school and high school project. He added that since then, the County has worked with Mr. Kooch and Davenport on other analyses.

Mr. Kooch of Davenport and Company LLC presented the following slides:

## Discussion Materials | Observations on Recent Financial Trends and Preliminary Debt Capacity/Affordability Analysis

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Nelson County, Virginia



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### Background



- Davenport & Company LLC ("Davenport") initially began working with Nelson County (the "County") on its \$25 million School Capital Program in 2002.
  - We assisted the County in analyzing its debt capacity, developing the Plan of Finance and implementing the funding for the School Capital Program.
  
- Since 2002, we have provided guidance on additional financial related matters from time-to-time including:
  - The County's undertaking with respect to its initial Courthouse financing;
  - Evaluation of the County's key financial trends;
  - Perspective on key Fund Balance and Debt metrics;
  - Review of the Nelson County Service Authority; and
  - Review of the County's debt portfolio for potential refinancing opportunities – we identified a refinancing opportunity that resulted in the County's 2012 School Bond refinancing that saved \$2.4 Million of interest expense.

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## Background

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- At the request of the County administration, Davenport has provided herein a preliminary review of the following:
  - The County's recent financial trends;
  - Key debt metrics of the County as they relate to industry standard benchmarks and National Credit Rating Agency medians; and
  - Preliminary evaluation of the County's Debt Capacity and Debt Affordability.

Mr. Kooch noted that Debt Capacity is the ability to potentially borrow, and it is what the County can reasonably borrow and still maintain very strong debt ratios. He noted that Debt Affordability is a perspective of how much of the budget is allocated to payments, and if the allocation of payments goes down over time, the perspective analyzes if those payments be reallocated to new debt.

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## Recent Financial Trends and Fund Balance Observations

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## General Fund Operations – FY 2016-FY2020



The County's recurring General Fund Operations have been managed very well allowing the County to generate positive financial results and invest one-time funds in capital projects.

### General Fund Observations

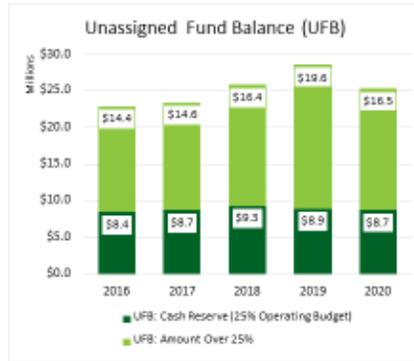
- The County has a sound financial practice of not using one-time fund balance for recurring operations.
- FY2018 Net Change in Fund Balance excess was related to a once time sale of property.
- One time funds (reflected by use of fund balance from time-to-time) are used for one time capital projects or represents funds that are carried over for unfinished projects (this is demonstrated by the issuance of bonds in FY 2019 which was carried over to FY 2020).

	1	2	3	4	5	
CHANGES in GENERAL FUND BALANCE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	5-Year CAGR
1 Changes in General Fund Balance						
2 Revenues	\$ 33,975,253	\$ 34,063,138	\$ 37,330,392	\$ 38,361,577	\$ 37,449,068	1.6%
3 Expenditures	31,719,046	34,347,804	34,817,184	37,340,024	39,759,187	4.3%
4 Excess (Deficiency) Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 2,256,207	\$ 615,334	\$ 2,513,208	\$ 1,021,553	\$ (2,309,219)	
5 Transfers Out	(1,729,882)	(240,000)	(290,000)	(530,180)	(891,050)	
6 Other Sources (Uses)	-	-	168,000	2,288,794	-	
7 Net Changes in Fund Balance	\$ 526,325	\$ 375,334	\$ 2,391,208	\$ 2,780,167	\$ (3,200,269)	



## Fund Balance | Observations

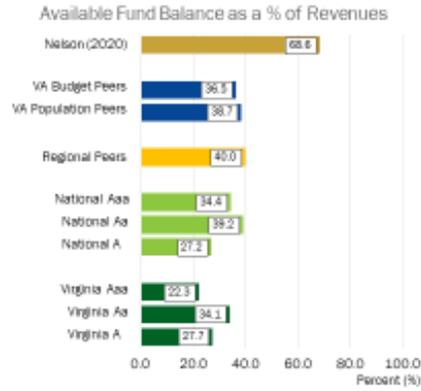
- The County maintains a very strong level of "Unassigned Fund Balance" that function as its "Reserves".
  - A portion of the Unassigned Fund Balance (approximately \$9 Million representing 25% of the General Fund Budget only) functions as the County's cash flow reserve.
  - The remaining \$16 Million (as of FYE 2020) provides additional financial flexibility for capital projects; capital reserve for future debt; or unforeseen emergencies.





## Fund Balance | Key Observations

- The County maintains a very strong level of "Available Fund Balance"
- "Available Fund Balance" is comprised of Unassigned Fund Balance and Committed Fund Balance in the General and Debt Service Funds.
- Based on FY 2020 data, 68.6% of Revenues approximates \$26 Million of Available Fund Balance.  
Note – as a percentage of Revenues:
  - 25% is approximately \$9 Million; and
  - 40% is approximately \$15 Million.
- The County is above its Peer Group medians in the Commonwealth.
- In addition, the County is well above National and Virginia "AAA" rated medians.
- Consideration: formally adopt Financial Policy Guidelines that establish a level of Unassigned Fund Balance and Budget Stabilization Reserves.



Source: FY 2019/2020 CAFEs, Moody's MPA Data, Virginia Comparative Local Government Report. VA Budget Peers represent counties that have General Fund-School Board budgets with a +/\$20 Million of Nelson County. VA Population Peers represent counties that are in WAGO County Regions 4, 5 and 9.

Mr. Kooch noted that adopting guidelines would put a target range with respect to unassigned fund balance, adding that it would not obligate future boards but rather establish a precedent that is a best practice that is widely used by many local governments.

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## Existing Debt Portfolio / Debt Capacity and Debt Affordability

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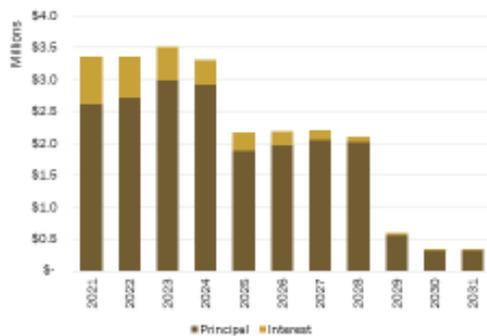
## Existing Tax Supported (General Fund/Schools) Debt Profile



■ Existing Debt - Observations and Considerations:

- The County's 10-year payout ratio of its General Fund Debt is approximately 98.4% - This is extremely strong and well in excess of National "AAA" rated medians.
- Our review of the County's portfolio has preliminary identified approximately \$5.4 Million of its remaining 2012 Lease Revenue Bond as a potential refunding candidate. Based on current market estimates, preliminary savings is approximately \$245,000 or 4.6% on a present value basis.

Total Tax-Supported Debt Service



Total Tax-Supported Debt Service

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total	10 Year Payout %
Total	\$ 207,468,006	\$ 3,120,319	\$ 210,588,325	
2021	2,602,888	748,442	3,351,330	98.4%
2022	2,711,390	638,262	3,349,652	100.0%
2023	2,980,234	519,747	3,499,981	100.0%
2024	2,909,433	393,644	3,303,078	100.0%
2025	1,874,000	297,825	2,171,825	100.0%
2026	1,958,948	228,963	2,187,911	100.0%
2027	2,039,289	157,797	2,197,086	100.0%
2028	2,012,225	83,059	2,095,284	100.0%
2029	845,000	32,889	877,889	100.0%
2030	315,000	14,922	329,922	100.0%
2031	320,000	5,000	325,000	100.0%
2032	-	-	-	NA
2033	-	-	-	NA
2034	-	-	-	NA
2035	-	-	-	NA
2036	-	-	-	NA
2037	-	-	-	NA
2038	-	-	-	NA
2039	-	-	-	NA
2040	-	-	-	NA

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Source: 2020 CDFE and supporting details provided to County Staff

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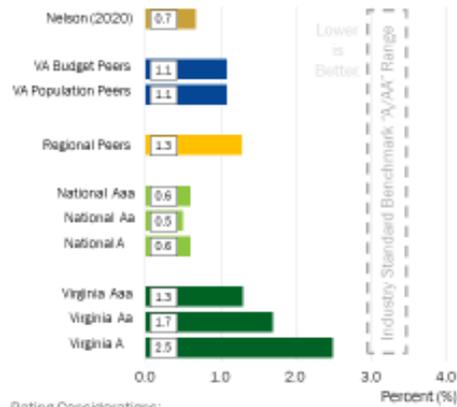
Mr. Kooch advised that this tax supported debt is paid for by the General Fund, and the existing debt profile of the county is comprised of debt that is paid for general projects as well as school projects. He then noted that in regards to 2021, the county is paying off 98% of its debt in the next ten years. In 2022, 100% of the County's debt will be paid off within ten years.

Debt Capacity | Debt vs. Assessed Valuation



- General Fund Debt Capacity
  - Debt vs. Assessed Value of taxable property is a key ratio that answers the question "Can I Borrow This?". It is commonly used by rating agencies to measure an issuer's capacity to support existing and additional debt.
  - The County's ratio is "Strong" from the Rating Agencies' perspective.
- Consideration: formally adopt Financial Policy Guidelines that establish a policy target range.

Debt to Assessed Value Peer Comparative



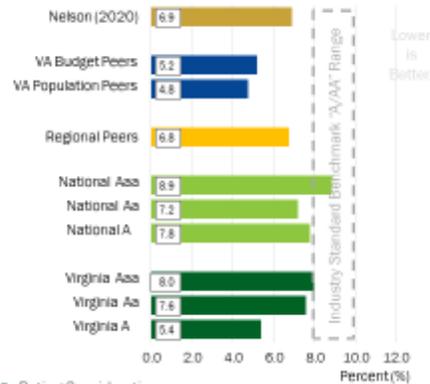
- Rating Considerations:
  - Moody's: Criteria for General Obligation Credits defines categories of Debt to Assessed Values as:
    - Very Strong (Aaa): < 0.75%
    - Strong (Aa): 0.75% - 1.75%
    - Moderate (A): 1.75% - 4.0%
    - Weak - Very Poor (Baa and below): > 4.0%
  - S&P: A positive qualitative adjustment is made to the Debt and Contingent Liabilities score for a debt to market value ratio below 3.0%, while a negative adjustment is made for a ratio above 10.0%.

Debt Capacity | Proposed Policy: Debt Service vs. Expenditures



- General Fund Debt Capacity
  - Debt Service vs. Expenditures is a key ratio because it measures how much of the annual budget is being spent to pay for debt, and can show how much additional debt service can be added before exceeding prudent levels. It answers the "Can I Afford This?" question.
  - The County's ratio is "Very Strong" from the Rating Agencies' perspective.
  
- Consideration: formally adopt Financial Policy Guidelines that establish a policy target range.

Debt Service vs. Expenditures



- Rating Considerations:
  - Moody's: Moody's criteria allows for a scorecard adjustment if an issuer has very high or low debt service relative to its budget Percent.
  - S&P: The Debt and Contingent Liabilities section defines categories of Net Direct Debt as a % of Total Governmental Funds Expenditures as follows:
 

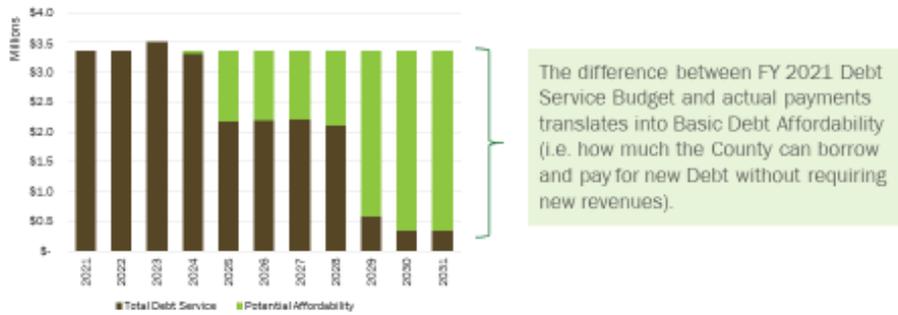
- Very Strong	< 8%
- Strong	8% to 15%
- Adequate	15% - 25%
- Weak	25% - 35%
- Very Weak	> 35%

## Key Observations | Debt Affordability



- On a combined General Government and Schools (debt service) basis, the County has new debt affordability assuming that the current FY 2021 budgeted debt service level is held constant in future years as shown below:
  - Basic Debt Affordability begins on/about FY 2025 from the natural decline in debt service.
  - However, with strategic structuring of Debt and dedicated capital reserves, the Basic Debt Affordability can be accelerated to as soon as FY 2022.

Potential Debt Affordability vs. FY 2021 (D.S.) Budget Level



## Debt Affordability | Preliminary Analysis



- Davenport has preliminarily analyzed the County’s Debt Affordability under the following approaches:
  - **Basic Affordability:** Demonstrates when new debt may be borrowed without requiring new revenues sources for repayment. This approach uses the natural decline in debt service.
  - **Accelerated Affordability:** Incorporates the limited use of Debt Structuring (i.e. interest only) and Fund Balance as a “Capital Reserve Fund” to offset Debt Service Peaks. This approach accelerates the use of the natural decline in debt service.

	Basic Affordability	Accelerated Affordability
FY 2022	\$-	\$10.0
FY 2023	\$-	\$-
FY 2024	\$0.8	\$10.0
FY 2025	\$18.3	\$-
FY 2026	\$-	\$10.0
Total FY 2022- FY2026	\$19.2	\$30.0
Strategic Capital Reserve Fund	NA	\$1.1 Million

■ Accelerated Affordability – Preliminary impact on Key Debt Ratios:

- Debt vs. Assessed Valuation is projected to remain below 1.5%
- Debt Service vs. Expenditures is projected to remain below 8%.

Amounts above shown in \$Millions.

Financing assumptions incorporate 25 year amortization and 3.5% interest rate assumptions

Mr. Kooch noted that this is just one example of what the County could do, and this one is using \$1.1 million. Mr. Rutherford asked if this would be without having to increase revenue, and Mr. Kooch confirmed.

## Potential Next Steps



- Potentially engage Davenport as the County's Financial Advisor (can be done on a cooperative procurement basis).
  
- Davenport could assist the County on a variety of financial matters including:
  - Potential refinancing of the 2012 Lease Revenue Bond – "Dual track" approach through either Direct Bank Loan or refinancing through VPSA.
  
  - Refinement of Debt Affordability/Capacity Analyses based on the County's capital project priorities to assist the Board with decision making.
  
  - Development of a strategic multi-year Plan(s) of Finance for the County's capital projects based on identified priorities.
  
  - Evaluation of financing alternatives and assistance with implementation of the most cost effective financing vehicle.
  
  - Assistance with and development of formal Financial Policy Guidelines for the Board's consideration and adoption (GFOA and ICMA "Best Practice" for local governments).

Mr. Kooch noted that the County's existing portfolio and fund balance have been managed very well and added that Davenport could assist with further analysis as a potential next step.

Mr. Carter noted that after the Board establishes its priorities and if they really want to do a particular project, the County could then work with Davenport to keep their finances strong.

Disclosure



The enclosed information relates to an existing or potential municipal advisor engagement. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has clarified that a broker, dealer or municipal securities dealer engaging in municipal advisory activities outside the scope of underwriting a particular issuance of municipal securities should be subject to municipal advisor registration. Davenport & Company LLC ("Davenport") has registered as a municipal advisor with the SEC. As a registered municipal advisor, Davenport may provide advice to a municipal entity or obligated person, an obligated person is an entity other than a municipal entity, such as a not-for-profit corporation, that has commenced an application or registration with an entity to issue municipal securities on its behalf and for which it will provide support, if and when an issuer engages Davenport to provide financial advisory or consultant services with respect to the issuance of municipal securities, Davenport is obligated to disclose such a financial advisory relationship with a written agreement. When acting as a registered municipal advisor, Davenport is a fiduciary required by federal law to act in the best interest of a municipal entity without regard to its own financial or other interests. 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**D. BOARD GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES (Facilitated by Mr. Chip Boyles & Ms. Christine Jacobs – TJPDC)**

Mr. Boyles noted that himself and Ms. Jacobs want to help the Board begin to prioritize what it is that they would like to do big picture-wise. He reminded the Board to also think about what it takes to maintain whatever they build. He added that a lot of times, capital improvements do take additional operating costs, and often, those costs can go on forever.

Mr. Boyles asked the Board to go around the table and each list what they believe are the most important capital items that Nelson County needs for its citizens.

Mr. Rutherford: Mr. Rutherford noted the need for revitalizing Lovington. He specified the need for improving the sidewalks.

Mr. Barton: Mr. Barton noted the need for a summer swimming facility. He added this would be wonderful for the community.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Reed noted the need for the Department of Health and Department of Social Services to have a combined building. He added that DSS is needing more space and the Health Department has to find a new home.

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Mr. Parr: Mr. Parr noted the need for development of a business park. He stated infrastructure is in place, and they now need to bring in some tax base.

Mr. Rutherford: Mr. Rutherford added the agriculture facility project to the list.

Mr. Harvey: Mr. Harvey noted the importance of a sports field complex.

Mr. Parr: Mr. Parr noted that he would like to see the County get rid of the porta potties at some of the parks and trails and added the need for permanent restroom facilities.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Reed noted that at the Planning Commission meeting last week, Ms. Bishop presented the possibilities for the McGinnis building. He noted that everybody loves the location, however, it is in a flood way. He added that the building has some age and needs help.

Mr. Barton asked if the County pays for the Health Department. Mr. Carter noted that the cost is shared 40% by the County and 60% by the State, adding this will change soon because the General Assembly is considering legislation to increase the County's share.

Mr. Harvey noted that the Millennium group is trying to proceed with a proposal for the Health Department at the Heritage Center, and he stated that the County does not want to be in competition with them. Mr. Carter advised that if the Board wants this to be a priority, it is probable that if the Board can show a plan quickly to the Health Department and Department of General Services (DGS), then they would want to pursue it with the County. He added that DGS will accept the best proposal. It was noted that the Health Department has to leave Blue Ridge Medical Center by December of this year.

Mr. Barton noted that while the Heritage Center is not in the center of the county, there are positive aspects to having the Health Department there.

Mr. Reed advised that the Health Department needs a new home ASAP, and the Heritage Center could provide something quickly for the Health Department on a lease that might be five years. He noted that this could give the County more time on the debt level to be able to project to build something a little bit farther down the line that might serve DSS and the Health Department.

Mr. Rutherford noted that he believes the County can support having the Health Department centrally located and also support the community center, adding that it doesn't have to utilize this government entity to be sustainable.

Mr. Carter noted that the Heritage Center would be incurring a significant capital cost, and they would be reliant on the monies from the County and the Health Department to pay that debt off. He added that they will not have paid that debt off in five years.

The Board then returned to their brainstorming of capital items.

Mr. Parr: Mr. Parr noted the need for park development and park improvements. He added that the County needs to find ways to attract business and residents, and developing parks will bring families to the area.

Mr. Parr: Mr. Parr noted the need for community center improvements. He stated that helping community centers such as Fleetwood and the Heritage Center would help them thrive and make them more attractive facilities for members of the community.

Mr. Barton: Mr. Barton reiterated the need for a community swimming area, adding that it becomes a part of the fabric of the community. He added “aquatic center” to his first point.

Mr. Reed: Mr. Reed referred to the Sturt Nature Park and it was noted that this would be included under Mr. Parr’s park development point.

At the conclusion of this exercise, Mr. Boyles distributed six (6) dots to each Supervisor with the instruction to place a maximum of two (2) dots on any two priorities. The results were as follows in priority order:

1. Swimming facility/aquatic center (7 dots)
2. VDH & DSS joint combined land/building (4 dots)
3. Sports field complex (4 dots)
4. Agriculture facility (4 dots)
5. Business park development – umbrella project (3 dots)
6. Lovington revitalization (2 dots)
7. Restroom facilities – parks and trails (2 dots)
8. Parks development – Sturt Nature Park (2 dots)
9. Community center improvements (2 dots)
10. Planning & Zoning building (0 dots)
11. Parks improvements (0 dots)

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Mr. Harvey noted that the agriculture facility would be a joint project between Amherst and Nelson Counties. Mr. Boyles suggested that the County look into working with Virginia Tech on this.

It was noted that the business park project is multi-faceted and could be an umbrella over a sports field complex and other projects. Mr. Boyles added “umbrella project” to the Business Park Development point.

Mr. Boyles asked if the sports fields would predominantly be serving Nelson County residents or predominantly be an economic development tool to bring people in to the county for sports. Mr. Barton noted that market is becoming saturated and added that he sees this primarily for the people of Nelson County. Mr. Parr noted a disadvantage of utilizing it to draw people in is our lack of overnight facilities. Mr. Boyles noted that it could be built for the locals first, and if the Board does a really good job, they could expand it over time.

Mr. Reed asked how the Board should move forward. Mr. Carter noted that Staff will be receiving proposals on Monday from engineering firms to assess the potential business park, adding that the issued RFP is broad enough that Staff can probably look at all of these listed projects once a firm is on board. He stated that assuming the County can acquire the land, they can look at a master plan for all of these facilities. He advised that the next step is for the engineers to assess the property and determine what areas can be used and what is the best use of the land. He added it will be a full engineering report.

Mr. Reed asked if the smaller priority items could be taken up sooner. Mr. Carter advised that they could be addressed in the budgetary process.

Mr. Parr referred to the ag facility and noted that he would like for it to be part of the umbrella, however, it is not yet part of that umbrella. He clarified that the vision for that right now is a separate location.

Mr. Barton noted that DSS is having a crisis right now, adding that they are out of room. Mr. Reed asked about the possibility of locating DSS at the Heritage Center for the short term. Mr. Carter noted that this could be looked into.

### **III. CONSIDER JOINT MEETING WITH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

Mr. Carter suggested that it would be better for the boards to engage without a lot of input from the staffs at present. He noted that the two boards can discuss their priorities and shape that into the next meetings, where they can have a real focus and defined agenda to speak to.

The Board noted they were comfortable with the distributed draft agenda, and the joint meeting would take place from 4:00-7:00 pm at the Middle School Auditorium on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**IV. OTHER BUSINESS (WITH THE CONSENT OF THE ENTIRE BOARD)**

There was no other business considered by the Board.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:33 PM, Mr. Rutherford moved to adjourn and continue the meeting until Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 4:00 PM 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.