

March 26, 2020

Virginia:

AT A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors at 10:00 a.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
Thomas D. Harvey, North District Supervisor – Chair
Ernie Q. Reed, Central District Supervisor – Vice 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
Martha Eagle, School Division Superintendent

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, with five (5) Supervisors present to establish a quorum.

Introduced: Other items to be considered

Mr. Carter noted that there are 3 additional items to be considered:

1. Mr. Carter noted that Staff has conferred with Mr. Payne, who has acknowledged and agreed to the following matter. He stated that the Virginia Local Government Attorneys Association and VACo have conferred on the potential of using electronic meetings under these emergency conditions, and Staff has an emergency ordinance for the Board’s consideration. He noted it is crafted based on the Local Government Attorneys Association model that would enable the Board to conduct electronic meetings such as teleconference instead of coming in-person. He added that Staff would send the agendas and make sure the public is able to participate. Mr. Carter went on to say that the ability to do this would be established if the Board acts favorably toward this draft ordinance.
2. Mr. Carter advised that the Board also needs to reconfirm the emergency declaration.
3. Mr. Carter noted that lastly, the Board has the ability to confer with Ms. Royer on the recent outcome of the federal court’s decision on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline vs. Nelson County, and

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this would be in closed session. He stated that Ms. Royer is available at 11:00 am, and Mr. Payne will be here at 11:00 also.

Mr. Carter noted at the last work session, Staff introduced the draft budget as prepared. He added there are 2 items for consideration today: the setting of tax rates and the local personal property tax relief, which could be deferred until April. He noted decisions need to be made to enable the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer to get the tax tickets out for Calendar Year 2020. As far as proceeding with the budget, he stated Staff has had input from 2 Board members, including the Chair, about the Board considering just maintaining the next year's budget status quo with this year's budget, and Staff is prepared to talk about this. He added that Staff has received the School Board's budget proposal, but have not been able to confer with them yet.

The Board first considered Resolution **R2020-16**. Mr. Carter noted that Russell Gibson, in consultation with Mr. Harvey, who is the Director of Emergency Services for the county, issued a declaration of local emergency on March 18th, but the Board needs to confirm the declaration. He added that this resolution basically indicates that the Board affirms that the declaration is in place. Mr. Carter advised that it stays in place for 60 days, and the Board would have to act to continue it within the next 60 days, and Staff would facilitate the continuance of the emergency if need be. He noted that this establishes the County, if necessary, to be in line for any state or federal assistance, etc.

Mr. Rutherford moved to approve Resolution **R2020-16** Declaration of Local Emergency and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2020-16
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CONFIRMING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY (COVID-19 VIRUS)**

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors is designated as the Director Emergency Services for the County of Nelson; and,

WHEREAS on March 18, 2020 the Director of Emergency Services issued a "Declaration of Local Emergency" in response to the outbreak and continued spread of the COVID-19 Virus; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors to formally confirm the declaration of the local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors hereby confirms the declaration of a local emergency made by the Director of Emergency Services on March 18, 2020 and reaffirms the declaration of local emergency, as follows:

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

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WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the Covid-19 outbreak a pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of Virginia, by Executive Order Number Fifty- One (2020), declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia with regard to the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020 in response to the spread of Covid-19; and,

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak and continued spread of COVID-19, conditions exist such that there is a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County of Nelson, Virginia; and, that the severity and magnitude of the impact of COVID-19 is sufficient to constitute a “disaster” as defined in Virginia Code § 44-146.16, and warrants coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate the damage, loss, hardship or suffering threatened or caused thereby; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nelson, Virginia is now able to convene to consent to the declaration of a local emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT Resolved pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.21, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors declares and proclaims the existence of a local emergency in the County of Nelson, and, further, affirms the existence of a local emergency, as previously declared on March 18, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Nelson County Board hereby proclaims and orders (that) during the existence of said emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, the Emergency Services Director and the Emergency Services Department of the County of Nelson shall be all those prescribed by state law and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of Nelson in order to mitigate the effects of said emergency.

LASTLY, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors hereby provides (that) this Declaration shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the Board of Supervisors determines that all appropriate actions have been taken to address the emergency declared herein, and votes to end the declared emergency as provided by applicable law.

The Board then considered **Emergency Ordinance 2020-01**. Mr. Carter noted that what this does is enable the Board, if the decision is made to do so, to conduct meetings remotely so they would not have to meet in-person. He added that under the guidance of this ordinance, the Board would be able to consider other business that is pending or pressing but not necessarily related to the COVID-19 virus, therefore it gives the Board an additional ability that the Code, under the Freedom of Information Act, does not presently allow. Mr. Carter added that the public would be included in these meetings. Mr. Harvey suggested holding off on this so that the Board members would have a chance to read the

ordinance. Mr. Carter noted that this can also be approved electronically. Mr. Harvey advised they would discuss this further later in the meeting.

II. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Work Session

A. Establishment of 2020 Tax Rates (R2020-14)

Mr. Carter noted that it was proposed in the initial budget work session to maintain local property taxes at the same rates as currently in place. He advised that the School Division’s budget as presented to County Staff has about \$1.4 million approximately of additional operational and capital improvement requests from the division. He stated that the budget as County Staff has prepared, unless something is reduced on our side, would not sustain those costs without using fund balance.

Mr. Rutherford asked who sets the late fee and interest on taxes. Ms. McGarry noted it is currently set by ordinance by the Board. Mr. Rutherford noted that the next due date is in June added that he would soon like to start discussing late fees and interest and how the Board can provide some relief for constituents. Mr. Carter advised that this would likely encourage people to not pay their taxes and noted it is quite possible that the tax relief Congress is passing in the next day will relieve people financially. He encouraged the Board to think about this before acting. Mr. Rutherford noted that many people have lost jobs or gotten laid off, even just along 151. Mr. Parr agreed that the Board should not make a decision today and stated that he doesn’t think they need to abolish the penalty or interest, but they should reconsider the date that such penalty or interest would accrue. He suggested the Board give strong consideration to this.

Mr. Reed moved to approve Resolution **R2020-14**, Establishment of 2020 Tax Rates with no change 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 following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2020-14
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ESTABLISHMENT OF 2020 TAX RATES**

RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 58.1-3001 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, that the tax rate of levy applicable to all property subject to local taxation, inclusive of public service corporation property, shall remain as currently effective until otherwise re-established by said Board of Supervisors and is levied per \$100 of assessed value as follows:

Real Property Tax	\$0.72
Tangible Personal Property	\$3.45
Machinery & Tools Tax	\$1.25
Mobile Home Tax	\$0.72

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B. Establishment of 2020 Personal Property Tax Relief (**R2020-15**)

Mr. Rutherford moved to approve Resolution **R2020-15**, Establishment of 2020 Personal Property Tax Relief 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 following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION R2020-15
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2020 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

WHEREAS, the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998, Va. Code § 58.1-3524 has been substantially modified by the enactment of Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly, 2004 Special Session I (Senate Bill 5005), and the provisions of Item 503 of Chapter 951 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors has adopted an Ordinance for Implementation of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act, Chapter 11, Article X, of the County Code of Nelson County, which specifies that the rate for allocation of relief among taxpayers be established annually by resolution as part of the adopted budget for the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize tax year 2020 personal property tax relief rates for qualifying vehicles as follows:

- Qualified vehicles with an assessed value of \$1,000 or less will be eligible for 100% tax relief;
- Qualified vehicles with an assessed value of \$1,001 to \$20,000 will be eligible for **39%** tax relief;
- Qualified vehicles with an assessed value of \$20,001 or more shall be eligible to receive **39%** tax relief only on the first \$20,000 of assessed value; and
- All other vehicles which do not meet the definition of “qualifying” (business use vehicle, farm use vehicle, motor homes, etc.) will not be eligible for any form of tax relief under this program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the personal property tax relief rates for qualifying vehicles hereby established shall be effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

III. Other Business

A. Resolution – **R2020-13** Endorsement of VCA Grant – Wintergreen Performing Arts

Mr. Carter noted this is a State grant through the Virginia Commission of the Arts. He stated an application has been submitted on behalf of Wintergreen Performing Arts, and if successful, the State will provide \$4500 and the County matches it, and it’s subject to actual approval of funding once the

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budget is adopted. After discussion, Mr. Reed moved to approve resolution **R2020-13** and Mr. Barton seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION R2020-13
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF THE ARTS
FY20-21 CREATIVE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP GRANT
(FORMERLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE GRANT)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Board of Supervisors that said Board endorses the County's submission of an application to the Virginia Commission of the Arts for 2020-2021 Creative Communities Partnership Grant funding (formerly Local Government Challenge Grant).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, said application includes a local match of \$4,500.00 to be confirmed upon formal adoption of Nelson County's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget by the Board of Supervisors.

B. Feasibility Study – Nelson County Public Schools

Mr. Harvey noted he would like the School Board to have copies of this study and have a work session with both boards. Mr. Carter noted that copies can be distributed after the meeting, and Staff was not sure how the Board wanted to proceed. Mr. Barton asked why this has not yet been presented to the School Board. Mr. Carter stated he was instructed by the Chairman to see the Board's reaction to it and the direction they wanted to take before it is disseminated to anybody else.

Mr. Barton noted he read this report twice and added that consolidating the schools does save money but it does not cut costs because the costs are being put on other people, such as the students on the buses and the parents that have to pick up their kids. He urged that small schools work better. Mr. Carter advised there is no intent in this report to harm the schools. Mr. Barton noted that what makes schools work the best is a community in the school, and the smaller the better. He added that consolidating would not improve the quality of education, but rather diminish it.

Mr. Parr thanked Mr. Barton for his passion and comments on this subject and noted that the purpose of today's decision is to schedule a meeting to have this conversation with both boards.

Mr. Barton stated his intent is to try to kill the discussion and idea of consolidation right now, adding they need to work on the things to make the schools better the way they currently are. He noted the north district will not accept it. Mr. Parr stated if they kill the discussion right now, then they are making the decision with only half the information, and for them to make an informed decision, they need to know both sides of the story.

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Mr. Harvey noted that he has been there through all the closings of the schools in the county and disagrees with the idea that smaller schools are better. He stated that one thing they want to look at is the amount of money projected that consolidation would save, adding it would pay for itself and would also allow the County to do a whole lot more needed things for the public that can't happen on the route they're going. He noted there will be pros and cons, and he'd like everyone on both boards to have an open mind as they discuss this. He asked if this will make a better situation for the students and county in the end.

Mr. Harvey stated that the County cannot afford to continue to fund education at the route they're going. He noted that both elementary schools were built for 600 students, with the core facilities for 750 kids, so that one wing is made to expand for more students. He also advised that some major buildings are needed in the county to house Social Services, the Health Department, and Recreation, and this could be a golden opportunity. He added there are about 300 students currently at Rockfish River Elementary and about 400 students at Tye River Elementary.

Mr. Barton stated the study that should be done is one that would figure out how to use the excess space in those schools so that it could be turned into office space for the County. Mr. Harvey noted it may not be good to mix education with other businesses in the schools.

Mr. Parr agreed that these ideas are good ideas to bounce around. Mr. Parr then moved to postpone this discussion and move forward providing the consolidation study packets to the School Board Office for distribution to the School Board members and schedule a joint meeting to discuss the specific topic of the feasibility study for the Nelson County Public Schools. Mr. Rutherford seconded the motion.

Mr. Reed noted that the document in the folder does not address in any way the quality of education and gives the impression that the quality of education is not being considered. He added he knows this was not the intent of the document, however, that's what it does in the absence of the School Board, who is actually the professional body with the expertise, knowledge, and wisdom to determine the best for the students of Nelson County in terms of quality of education. He noted we do not have a firm foundation to start with and recognized that Mr. Parr's motion presents this opportunity to get it in writing that the quality of education is equal, if not more important, to the equation determining how to go forward with this.

Mr. Carter noted that there was no objective or intent in any way to reduce or harm the quality of education. He advised that his thought going into the report was that the schools would continue to maintain their level of excellence, and for it to not in any way be diminished.

There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted (4-1) by roll call vote to approve the motion with Mr. Barton voting No.

C. Other (With the Consent of the Entire Board of Supervisors)

Introduced: Closed Session

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Mr. Reed moved that the Nelson County Board of Supervisors convene in closed session to discuss the following as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (7): consultation with legal counsel and staff members pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body (regarding Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC vs. Nelson County Board of Supervisors et al). Mr. Rutherford 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. Reed moved to reconvene in public session. Mr. Rutherford 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. Reed 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.

Mr. Carter then briefed the Board on the emergency ordinance previously introduced.

Mr. Carter noted that Staff used the model that was presented by VACo and the Local Government Attorneys Association, adding that this basically circumvents the State Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) provisions. He advised that under the FOIA, the Board can convene in an emergency meeting, but they can't talk about anything else other than the emergency; this gives them latitude, because of the virus, to meet electronically and discuss other subjects that are important business to be considered. He added that if this ordinance is adopted, and if the virus worsens throughout the region, they could opt to meet by conference call for their April 14th meeting so that the Board would not have to meet in-person. He noted that members of the public could participate as well by listening to the meeting. It was noted that there could be a public comment period by unmuting the public while on the call. Mr. Carter noted that Staff would still post the agenda as is usually done.

Mr. Rutherford noted that this ordinance simply gives the Board the opportunity to do this, if they so choose to meet this way.

Mr. Reed asked if this would also allow the Planning Commission to have a meeting this way. Mr. Carter confirmed and noted there is a blanket provision for the Planning Commission, School Board, local authorities, boards, commissions, etc. He added that this would expire in 60 days, so they would have to go through the formal process of reenacting the ordinance.

Mr. Rutherford moved to approve **Emergency Ordinance 2020-01** and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

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EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-01
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN
CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC
HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF
OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One ordered implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to provide assistance to local governments, and authorization for executive branch agencies to waive “any state requirement or regulation” as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the governing body of Nelson County (“BOARD”) confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the local director of emergency management on March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD finds that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a “disaster” as defined by Virginia Code §44-146.16 being a “communicable disease of public health threat;” and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a locality may, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity of government in the event of a disaster for a period not to exceed six months; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 44-146.21(C) further provides that a local director of emergency management or any member of a governing body in his absence may upon the declaration of a local emergency “proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to performance of public work;” and

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WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) allows, under certain procedural requirements including public notice and access, that members of BOARD may convene solely by electronic means “to address the emergency;” and

WHEREAS, the open public meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) are limited only by a properly claimed exemption provided under that Act or “any other statute;” and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Health Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the President of the United States have recommended suspension of public gatherings of more than ten attendees; and

WHEREAS, The Attorney General of Virginia issued an opinion dated March 20, 2020 stating that localities have the authority during disasters to adopt ordinances to ensure the continuity of government; and

WHEREAS, this emergency ordinance in response to the disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic promotes public health, safety and welfare and is consistent with the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the BOARD of Nelson County, Virginia:

1. That the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one location a quorum for public bodies including the BOARD, the School Board, the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Equalization, and all local and regional boards, commissions, committees and authorities created by the BOARD or to which the BOARD appoints all or a portion of its members (collectively “Public Entities” and individually “Public Entity”), or for such Public Entities to conduct meetings in accordance with normal practices and procedures.

2. That in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, and notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, general or special, the following emergency procedures are adopted to ensure the continuity of government during this emergency and disaster:

- a. Any meeting or activities which require the physical presence of members of the Public Entities may be held through real time electronic means (including audio, telephonic, video or other practical electronic medium) without a quorum physically present in one location; and
- b. Prior to holding any such electronic meeting, the Public Entity shall provide public notice of at least 3 days in advance of the electronic meeting identifying how the public may participate or otherwise offer comment; and

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- c. Any such electronic meeting of Public Entities shall state on its agenda and at the beginning of such meeting that it is being held pursuant to and in compliance with this Ordinance; identify Public Entity members physically and/or electronically present; identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment; and identify notice of the opportunities for the public to access and participate in such electronic meeting; and
- d. Any such electronic meeting of the Public Entities shall be open to electronic participation by the public and closed to in-person participation by the public; and
- e. For any matters requiring a public hearing, public comment may be solicited by electronic means in advance and shall also be solicited through telephonic or other electronic means during the course of the electronic meeting. All such public comments will be provided to members of the Public Entity at or before the electronic meeting and made part of the record for such meeting; and
- f. The minutes of all electronic meeting shall conform to the requirements of law, identify how the meeting was conducted, members participating, and specify what actions were taken at the meeting. The Public Entities may approve minutes of an electronic meeting at a subsequent electronic meeting and shall later approve all such minutes at a regular or special meeting after the emergency and disaster has ended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that notwithstanding any provision of law, regulation or policy to the contrary, any deadlines requiring action by a Public Entity, its officers (including Constitutional Officers) and employees of its organization shall be suspended during this emergency and disaster, however, the Public Entities, officers and employees thereof are encouraged to take such action as is practical and appropriate to meet those deadlines. Failure to meet any such deadlines shall not constitute a default, violation, approval, recommendation or otherwise.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that non-emergency public hearings and action items of Public Entities may be postponed to a date certain provided that public notice is given so that the public are aware of how and when to present their views.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED, that the provisions of this Emergency Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for a period of 60 days, unless amended, rescinded or readopted by the BOARD in conformity with the notice provisions set forth in Virginia Code §15.2-1427 but in no event shall such ordinance be effective for more than 6 months. Upon rescission by the BOARD or automatic expiration as described herein, this emergency ordinance shall terminate and normal practices and procedures of government shall resume.

Nothing in this Emergency Ordinance shall prohibit Public Entities from holding in-person public meetings provided that public health and safety measures as well as social distancing are taken into consideration.

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An emergency is deemed to exist, and this ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

The Board then discussed the budget.

Mr. Carter noted that the County's unobligated contingency of recurring and non-recurring revenues is just over \$1.6 million. \$724,000 of this is recurring and the remainder is non-recurring. The budget as approved by the School Board would require, for requested capital improvement funding and operational funds, about \$1.4 million. He advised if the Board approves the full request, they would have about \$200,000 in contingency on the County's side of the budget. He added that unless local revenues increase substantially, we will probably be in the negative posture with revenues next year, looking at future cost requests for additional funding.

Mr. Harvey referenced the unsure state we are in right now. Mr. Carter noted it is almost probable that the County will lose meals and lodging tax revenues, but Staff does not have enough definitive information on this right now. Mr. Parr noted that we need to be prepared for the fact that not every business will survive this.

Mr. Harvey asked Dr. Eagle if this current situation has any effect on the schools, considering they are funded based on attendance, and they have no attendance right now due to the pandemic. Dr. Eagle noted it is based on ADM, and the third standard in the year is based on a March 31st ADM. She stated they have not sent guidance on that, yet, but more than likely, they will have an early cutoff for the ADM. She added that as of their March ADM, they were looking okay and were staying in tune with where they were in the fall, which is higher than the amount the State puts in their calculation tool. She went on to say that this situation will not have an impact on them right now, but she does not know what the future will hold. She noted that the VDOE has proposed measures such as waivers for SOL testing, and also, the governor may go back to the General Assembly and redo his budget and pull back the raise that had been initiated. She advised they are in a waiting phase right now.

Mr. Harvey asked Dr. Eagle if the school division plans to proceed with the planned capital improvements. Dr. Eagle stated that the studies for the welding facility, greenhouse, etc. have been started, and they do have an RFP coming back on the roof. She noted they do want to continue and finish up the projects they have going on and added there is about \$250,000 of approved CIP monies that they have not even touched yet. She added that they could possibly take that into next year.

Mr. Carter noted that there may not be a significant amount of additional business on the April 14th meeting agenda, so if the Board would like, they could focus on the budget that day. He added they could have work sessions in between as well.

Mr. Harvey asked School Board member, Margaret Clair, in attendance, if she had any comments. Ms. Clair stated she was hopeful that both boards could have a work session together so that they could have the opportunity to discuss any budget-related questions. Mr. Harvey advised that they are planning on doing this. He added that something may get approved right now as a band-aid/draft, and then they will finish it up at a later date whenever this pandemic has passed.

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Mr. Carter noted that the thing to keep aware of, depending on what the Board does with the School Division, that next year should be fine, however, it's the year(s) after that Staff looks at. He suggested the Board be mindful of that. He advised the local revenue increase currently is something around 0.014%.

Mr. Rutherford noted that in regards to the budget, there is not much to rush with all the uncertainty right now. He advised that he does know that they need to look out for their constituents during this difficult time.

Mr. Barton noted he received a couple calls over the last week regarding elderly people who are afraid to go into the store to get groceries. He stated Food Lion has a system whereas people can use a computer and order ahead of time so that they don't have to go inside to pick it up, but a lot of people like him do not have a computer. He asked if there are any services that the County can provide to the constituents to assist with food/groceries.

Mr. Harvey noted that in regards to the kids, the schools have opened up Wi-Fi so they can use it in the parking lots for homework. He added that the internet at the schools normally only works during school hours. Dr. Eagle noted this is in the front parking lots at all the schools, and they must be using a computer that is linked to the network. Mr. Harvey added that he learned from Mr. Wood of CVEC that CVEC is trying to create internet hotspots in areas not covered by anything. Mr. Harvey suggested churches, fire departments, and rescue squads as places that could be possible hot spots.

Mr. Harvey referred to Mr. Barton's concern and suggested looking to the food banks, churches, and social services for assistance. Mr. Carter noted that constituents can be referred to County Administration who can provide contact information for the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA). He added the elderly and certain qualifying constituents can potentially participate in Meals on Wheels or have it delivered by JABA.

Mr. Reed asked if there is any action that can be taken to have the County webpage more effective in terms of getting information, such as press releases, available for people to access. He noted he knows there is a coronavirus link on the webpage, but it is in reverse order, and the most recent information is all the way at the bottom.

Mr. Parr agreed that there is the opportunity for the website to be more user friendly. Mr. Harvey noted that more information needs to get out and more quickly.

Mr. Parr advised that the general public does not know the County website is even in existence, adding that like it or not, social media is the way that the vast majority of the public receives information. He suggested having a Facebook page for the County that refers the public to the website. Mr. Rutherford noted that Amherst has a very clean-cut Facebook page that could be modeled as an example. Mr. Reed noted he is not as big of a fan of this and suggested definitely prioritizing the website.

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Mr. Reed then noted he would like to get a joint meeting with the School Board scheduled. It was noted that they would have to figure out an appropriate place to meet to allow for social distancing. Ms. Clair suggested that the boards could be in separate places and do the meeting via video. Mr. Carter also suggested the middle school auditorium as a place they could meet, if they wanted to do so in-person. Mr. Harvey advised that they can get some ideas of dates that can work for both boards.

IV. Adjournment

At 12:25 PM, 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.