

**At a Regular Meeting of the
Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6 pm**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Marian D. Johnson
Debbie P. Jones
Wayne O. Jones
Susan M. Seward
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.
Steve White, Tie Breaker

STAFF PRESENT:

Richard Douglas, County Administrator
Jeff Gore, County Attorney
Deste J. Cox, Treasurer
G. Reid Foster, Public Safety
Jeff Gary, Director of Public Works
Ernest Giles, Sheriff
William Hagy, Director of Social Services
Stewart Hudson, Deputy Sheriff
Eric Johnson, Captain
Kelly W. Moore, Director of Finance
John Ogburn, First Sergeant
Denise Parker, Sussex Central Elementary School Assistant Principal
Crystal Wyche, Lieutenant
Adriene Stephenson, Sussex Central Public Schools, Director of Human Resources
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

1. Commencement

1.01 Call to Order/Determine Quorum

The April 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Seward.

1.02 The Invocation

The Invocation was offered by Supervisor W. Jones.

1.03 The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

1.04 Agenda Amendments

Supervisor Fly requested to add under Item 6. Action Items as 6.05 Jarratt Senior Citizens Center and 6.06 Housing Department.

1.05 Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR W. JONES, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the April 15, 2021 regular agenda inclusive of adding under Item 6. Action Items as 6.05 Jarratt Senior Citizens Center and 6.06 Housing Department. All Board members present voted aye.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Consent agenda inclusive of the following: (a) March 11 Special (BWS), March 18 regular and March 25, 2021 Special (BWS) Board meetings Minutes; (b) the Approval of Warrants and Vouchers; (c) the Treasurer's Report; (d) Financial Update; (e) Animal Services Report; (f) Housing Department Report; (g) Public Works Department Report; (h) Public Safety Department Report and (i) Health Insurance Plan Approval. All Board members present voted aye.

3. Recognitions/Awards/Presentation

3.01 RECOGNITION: Deputy Sheriff Stewart Hudson

This item was held over from the February 2021 regular Board meeting to allow presentation in person to Deputy Sheriff Stewart A. Hudson, Jr for his fine deed.

Vice Chairman W. Jones gave a brief overview of Deputy Sheriff Stewart A. Hudson's fine conduct and community service.

Deputy Sheriff Stewart A. Hudson, Jr. began employment with the Sussex County Sheriff's office in July 2020 in the patrol division.

On Monday, January 18, 2021, local resident and Town of Waverly Dispatcher Pam Jones spotted and photographed Sussex County's Deputy Sheriff Stewart Hudson, Jr. picking up litter in Wakefield on Branch Street and Highway 460, an area which he patrols.

At its January 21, 2021 meeting, the Board of Supervisors was informed that WTVR CBS 6 News had aired/posted a story on Deputy Sheriff Stewart Hudson, Jr. recognizing him for this community service in the Wakefield area.

The County wants to take this opportunity to recognize and show appreciation to Deputy Sheriff Hudson for his dedication and services to the County and the community.

The following Certificate of Recognition was read aloud and presented to Deputy Sheriff Hudson:

WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Stewart A. Hudson, Jr. began employment with the Sussex County Sheriff's Office in July 2020 under the supervision of Sheriff Giles and Captain Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Hudson was assigned to the Patrol Division and has been patrolling in the Town of Wakefield for several months; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors that Deputy Sheriff Hudson exhibited exemplary conduct in the community; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2021 Deputy Sheriff Hudson was seen contributing in keeping the community clean by voluntarily picking up litter on Branch Street and Highway 460 in the Town of Wakefield; and

WHEREAS, this act personifies character, and is a source of inspiration and dedication to the citizens and its community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes and thanks Deputy Sheriff Stewart A. Hudson, Jr. for his dedication and commitment to the Sussex community.

3.02 County Broadband Update – Mr. Casey Logan, Prince George Electric Cooperative

Mr. Casey Logan, CEO and President of Prince George Electric Cooperative, was present and provided a brief update on the County broadband.

Mr. Logan stated that the overall system passings are now at 5,800. Connections are at 2,000 which is a 17+ increase. There are 965 residences in Sussex County that are available to have fiber in their homes. Sussex County's take rate has increased from 18% to 23%. Currently there are 223 sign ups.

The RURALBAND network is 100% fiber with gold-standard communications transmission; gigabit-capable symmetrical speeds (same lightning-fast upload and download); multiples devices running data-intensive applications (no service loss or shutdowns); and ushers in the ability to learn and work from home, new telemedicine options through telemedicine.

He stated that they were building their reputation and educating their residents on RURALBAND Fiber network superiority. Mr. Logan reviewed their Build Plan for 2021. He stated this information was on their website.

Mr. Logan reviewed a map he provided to the Board notating where fiber would be. He noted the help they had with federal funding.

Mr.

He discussed communication in updating the members/potential subscribers quarterly on new zones/build progress as well as “softening” market to increase take rates when crews are in zones, saving residents money.

A copy of the Sussex County Electrical Service Area Map was included in the Board packet. Mr. Logan provided the Board a handout of his overview.

4. Joint Public Hearing

County Administrator Douglas stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Sussex County Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Section 33.1-70.01 of the Code of Virginia, were holding a joint public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments on proposed Secondary Six Year Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 through 2026 in Sussex County and on the Secondary System Construction Plan and Budget for 2020. Copies of the proposed plan and budget were in the Sussex County Administrator’s Office located at 20135 Princeton Road, Sussex VA 23884 and at the Franklin Residency of the Virginia Department of Transportation, 23116 Meherrin Road, Courtland, Virginia 23837 for review.

Chair Seward opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Jerry Kee, VDOT Assistant Residency Assistant, was in attendance and gave a brief overview of all the projects in the VDOT Secondary Six Year Road Plan which documents how Virginia will obligate federal transportation funds. All of the projects were eligible for federal funds and will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

Chair Seward closed the Public Hearing.

Copies of the proposed resolution, Sussex County Construction Program Estimated Allocations, the Secondary System Construction Plan, and the advertisement for the Public Hearing were included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR JOHNSON and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approved the resolution for the Virginia Department of Transportation Proposed Secondary Six Year Plan and Budget, to-wit:

WHEREAS, Section 33.1-23 and 33.1-23.4 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, provides the opportunity for each County to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation in developing a Secondary Six Year Road Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation policies and procedures and participated in a public hearing on the Proposed (FY2022/2023 through 2026/2027) on April 15, 2021 after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Kee, of the Virginia Department of Transportation, appeared before the Board and recommended approval of the Six Year Plan for Secondary Roads and the Construction Priority List for Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, the Priority List is as follows:

Priority #1: Route 735 (Courthouse Road) Reconstruction and drainage improvements on Route 735, to Route 660 (Gilliam Road) and Route 631 (Gray Road) (2.1 miles) from Route)

Priority #2: Route 636 (Longevity Road) Pave non-hard surface road, to Route 626 (Courthouse Road) (1.2 miles) from Route 626

Priority #3: Route 609 (Butts Road) Reconstruction & Surface Treat Non-Hard Surface Road to Route 697 (Rowehampton Road) and Route 735 (Courthouse Road)

Priority #4: Future unpaved roads: 4-6 Years, various locations in the County

Priority #5: Glyndon Lane and Carver Lane; Glyndon Lane and Carver Lane Rural Addition, Various

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that since the plan appears to be in the best interest of the Secondary Road System, said Secondary Six Year Plan is hereby approved as presented at the public hearing.

All Board members present voted aye.

5. Appointments

5.01 Appointment to the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees

County Administration received notification from Mr. Ben Neal, the Blackwater Regional Library Director, that Ms. Jessica Moore's term on the library's Board of Trustees as Sussex County's member, is due to expire June 30, 2021.

Ms. Moore is willing to continue to serve if reappointed. If reappointed, her term will expire June 30, 2025.

A copy of Mr. Ben Neal's Letter, dated March 15, 2021, was included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Ms. Jessica Moore to the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees for a second term expiring, June 30, 2025. All Board members presented voted aye.

5.02 Appointments to Industrial Development Authority Board of Directors

County Administrator Douglas stated that the terms of Mr. George O. Urquhart, 7201 Newville Road, and Mr. Thomas O. Jones, 405 Railroad Avenue, both of Waverly, VA 23890, on the Industrial Development Board of Directors are due to expire May 15, 2021.

Staff has contacted Mr. Urquhart and Mr. Jones. Both are willing to continue to serve if reappointed. If reappointed, their terms will expire May 15, 2025.

Copies of the confirmation letters and IDA roster were included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR JOHNSON and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby reappoints Mr. George O. Urquhart, 7201 Newville Road, and Mr. Thomas O. Jones, 405 Railroad Avenue, both of Waverly, VA 23890, to the Industrial Development Board of Directors, both with terms expiring May 15, 2025. All Board members present voted aye.

5.03 Appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals

This item was tabled from previous regular Board of Supervisors meetings. Several members on the Board of Zoning Appeals have resigned. There are currently three (3) vacancies.

Nominations for appointment by the Circuit Court Judge need to be made for a term that expired January 31, 2021. This nomination will be for a term to starting immediately and expiring January 31, 2026. Two (2) nominations will need to be made for terms starting immediately, expiring January 31, 2023 and January 31, 2024, respectively.

The BZA needs to have at least three (3) members to have a quorum.

A copy of the Board of Zoning Appeals By Laws and roster were included in the Board packet.

No Board members found persons to be nominated for appointment. They will continue to look for nominees.

6.01. Lawn Maintenance Bid Award

County staff recently advertised a Request for Proposals for lawn care services for all county properties, and received proposals from Schultz Lawscapes, Inc. and Oak Ridge Enterprise, LLC. Even though the Oak Ridge Enterprise, LLC's annual cost is lower, staff recommends Schultz Lawscapes, Inc. at a cost of \$35,139.24 (annual cost), with the reasoning that the other contractor does not have a certified applicator for fertilizer and chemicals on staff. In addition, Schultz Lawscapes has significantly more employees that should ensure maintaining lawn care scheduling needs.

Copies of the letter of recommendation from the Public Works Director and proposals received from Oak Ridge Enterprise, LLC and Schultz Lawscapes, Inc. were included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves Schultz Lawnsapes, Inc. for County lawn care services at a cost of \$35,139.24.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Seward

Voting nay: none

Abstained: Supervisor Tyler

6.02 Waverly Law Enforcement/Dispatch Agreement

County Administrator Douglas stated that included in the Board packet for the Board's consideration is an agreement with the Town of Waverly for law enforcement/dispatch services effective May 2021. This agreement is modeled on the existing agreement between Sussex County and the Town of Wakefield, and has been reviewed by administrative staff, the Sheriff, and the County Attorney. It is designed to be cost-neutral for the County but will also be beneficial to the County in providing additional law enforcement and dispatch support. He stated that the Town of Waverly approved the agreement at its April 13, 2021 Town Hall meeting. County Administrator Douglas recommended approval from the Board.

A copy of the Police Services Agreement and a schedule of the proposed budget were included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR JOHNSON, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the agreement between the Town of Waverly, the County of Sussex and the Sheriff of the County of Sussex, Virginia, effective May 1, 2021. All Board members present voted aye.

6.03 Crater Regional Workforce Development Board (CRWDB) of Sussex County Payment Request

Supervisor Fly stated that Sussex County is a part of the Crater Regional Workforce Development Board in which he's Sussex County's representative. Supervisor Fly stated that an audit had been conducted on the CRWDB due to actions in 2016 through 2018. It was stated that the audit finding included disallowed costs that were not approved by the State. The State is asking for reimbursement from the members' localities. Sussex County's portion of the reimbursement is \$1,819.

Supervisor Fly stated that, even though this item may have to be revisited, his recommendation would be to not approve the payment at this time. It is an ongoing discussion with the State. He recommends to wait until they meet with the Governor and the audit by the State to find out what happened and get some answers. He stated that the County is obligated, by agreement with the CRWDB, to share in the costs of reimbursement. Supervisor Fly stated that it will take about a couple of months.

A copy of the Virginia Career Works CRWDB Letter as Invoice from Jasmine E. Gore, CEO Chair, dated April 2, 2021 and CEO Questions and Answers were included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves of Sussex County not participating in the repayment plan to Crater Regional Workforce Development Board, at this time. All Board members present voted aye.

6.04 Department of Social Services Structure

County Administrator Douglas stated that he was originally contacted by representatives of the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). After extensive discussions with Virginia Department of Social Services (Eastern Region) representatives, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider changing the DSS board structure from an Administrative Board to an Advisory Board due to some operational concerns of the Department of Social Services Board. County Administrator Douglas stated that under the State law/code, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to make this change.

Mr. Peter Gezzi, of VDSS, was present via Zoom and telephone to answer any questions. Mr. Gezzi gave a brief overview of the positive and negatives of an Advisory Board. Mr. Gezzi stated that the primary difference in the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board is the Administrative Board makes final decisions for all or most actions that occur within the Department of Social Services. The Advisory Board doesn't make those final decisions. They just advise, recommends and advocate to the local jurisdiction their recommendations. Some examples would include: (1) they would not make the hiring or firing decisions; the County would make those decisions; and (2) the final approval of the DSS budget would go before the Board of Supervisors and the County would make the final approval; however, the Advisory Board would be influential during the entire process.

Mr. Gezzi stated that the advantage of having an Advisory Board over an Administrative Board is that it allows the Department of Social Services to align to their structure with the County government structure. The employees of the Department of Social Services are County employees. He stated that when you have a Department of Social Services that falls under an Administrative Board, that Administrative Board has the autonomy of decision-making authority regarding disciplinary action and budget decisions. He stated that having an Advisory Board, switches the Social Services Department to be in alignment with any other department of County Administration Departments. He stated that it helps to reduce any kind of liability that falls on the County by having the Department of Social Services in alignment with the County structure.

He discussed other counties switching to Advisory Board. He stated that there are more Administrative Boards than Advisory Boards.

Mr. Gezzi stated that the Sussex County Department of Social Services is a non-deviating agency which requires DSS to follow the State Human Resource policies. It requires a certain level of expertise and knowledge of the business.

Mr. Gezzi stated that the advantage of having an Advisory Board helps the Board to focus on service delivered instead of the technicalities of daily operations. They are the eyes and ears of the community and help the local director with projects and reduces potential liability.

In summary, the Administrative Board makes final decisions; the Advisory Board doesn't.

It was requested to provide data and outcome matters.

There was inquiry as to whether it was an initiative of the Commissioner to have localities to switch from an Administrative Board to an Advisory Board.

It was discussion of putting more responsibility on the County Administrator. There was inquiry as to why it was recommended to change the Administrative Board to an Advisory Board. There was discussion of audit findings.

There was discussion of not making a decision at this meeting and waiting until the May Board meeting. There was inquiry of when the audit was completed and did the Social Services Board know about the audit.

Due to the details of audit findings, conversations were ended and a motion was made to discuss this item in Closed Session.

6.05 Jarratt Senior Citizens Center (JSCC)

Supervisor Fly stated that the County allocates funds each year to JSCC for outings/trips and different activities of the JSCC. Supervisor Fly stated that he wanted to bring to the Board's attention, a letter received from the Jarratt Senior Citizens Center (JSCC), advising of funds usage. He stated that the letter basically said that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, they weren't able to do their trips and outings. The group decided to use some of the funds to pay/assist six (6) people with groceries, fuel, electricity and medicine in the amount of \$1,200. A breakdown of the usage of the \$5,000 they received from the County and the balance were provided in the letter.

Supervisor Fly stated that as the Finance Committee Chair, the discretion of how funds could be spent was not JSCC's. He stated that the money could be spent only for what the County assigned it to be spent on such as trips and activities. Supervisor Fly stated that he would ask the County Administrator to check into the matter further and see who made the decision for the disallowable spending.

County Administrator Douglas stated that no one had contacted him or staff to request to use the funds differently. He stated that after discussion with the County Attorney, moving forward, the County would draft an agreement for the organizations so that there will be a clear understanding of performance measures the number of seniors going on trips, the number of trips, etc. for accountability of how the money is used.

There was discussion that the money appropriated to JSCC was used because they couldn't go on trips due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was used to assist some of the members with medicine and electricity, was a better usage. There was also discussion that it was believed that the funds appropriated were not assigned to any specific cost category and hadn't been done in prior years.

There was discussion that each person was given \$200 and could the County get in trouble for this type of spending in regards in regards to audits due to no record of reimbursement to the County for this usage of the funds by the JSCC.

County Attorney Gore recommended that as the County Administrator referenced going forward , to put in place a more structured grant agreement to clarify usage. He stated that he believed it was possible that the audit may flag this item; however, he was unsure as to whether the County would “get into trouble” for usage of the funds in the manner discussed. The County is not able to simply give money to individuals or individual businesses unless it’s done pursuant to the State Code. He recommends to protect the County and the County taxpayers’ dollars, he would recommend having a more structured process that works for the non-profits and provide clarification of expectations of terms and conditions in a grant agreement which can be revisited at the end of year. The non-profit organizations can provide results for record purposes.

6.06 Housing Department

Supervisor Fly stated that it had been brought to their attention that an audit had been done of the Housing Department by the State. He is requesting the County Administrator to provide the audit report to every Board member once received.

7. Citizens’ Comments

Citizens’ comments were heard from:

- Ernest Giles (Sheriff) – Invited Board and citizens to the dedication for fallen Public Safety employees scheduled for Thursday, April 29th at 12 noon in the Memorial Park in front of the Sheriff’s office.
- Reid Foster (Public Safety Coordinator) – Update on COVID-19 vaccination (18% first shot); second shot clinic at 4-H Center; no clinic for new vaccines for first shots; vaccines available Wednesday at Surry Recreational Center; Cameron Foundation gave Crater \$230,000 Emergency Grant to hire five people to oversee vaccinations – one person coming to Sussex (read in *Independent Messenger* newspaper); conference call regarding J & J vaccines; Sheriff’s Office inmate vaccination.
- Deste Cox (Treasurer) – Jarratt Senior Citizens Center and all other outside agencies requirement of funds spent.
- Kevin Bracy (Courthouse District) – Animal attack on farm; appreciate Sheriff and Animal Control; holding people accountable for their dogs; concrete at Courthouse Fire Department.
- Dennis Mason (Wakefield District) – Town Council and street signs.

8. Unfinished Business

8.01 Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief Ordinance

County Administrator Douglas stated that it had been several months that the Ordinance for the tax relief for the elderly/disabled was presented. The Board directed staff to have a public hearing.

A public hearing was scheduled back in December 2020 to consider the potential tax relief program for elderly and disabled persons. However, the public hearing was postponed to allow the public to make in person comments regarding this Ordinance.

A copy of the draft ordinance to adopt a Tax Relief Program for elderly and disabled persons was included in the Board packet.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby directs the County Administrator to advertise for a Public Hearing for the Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief Ordinance for the May 20, 2021 regular meeting.

All Board members present voted aye.

At a previous meeting the Board was advised that a Public Hearing was not required. A Public Notice was advertised for the December 2020 regular Board meeting where this item was tabled.

9. New Business

9.01 Presentation of FY22 Operating Budget and Proposed Taxes for Calendar Year 2021

County Administrator Douglas stated that the budget was a challenging budget due to revenue shortfall issues. He stated that he was pleased to present the recommended \$37.84 million operating budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 for Sussex County, which overall represents an increase of \$180,956, but reflects a significant decrease in local revenues. This budget was prepared in accordance with state budgeting requirements and is based on the following:

- Maintaining existing real estate tax rate of 58 cents and no proposed increases in other tax rates and fees
- No fund balance appropriation
- A decrease in local revenues of \$1,232,067, based in part on projected decreases in machinery and tools tax revenue (-\$313,917), landfill tipping fees (-\$685,489), and court fines/forfeitures (-\$185,000)
- Exclusion of all capital items and some operational expenditures (approximately \$1,319,000 could be funded with American Revenue Plan Act revenue, but these items have been removed from the proposed budget in order to balance expenditures and revenues)
- A \$250,000 decrease in local school funding, due to projected revenue shortfalls, but an additional \$1.127 million in state and federal educational funding

At the start of the budget process, two "big ticket" budget meetings were held by the Board of Supervisors, where each Department Head and Constitutional Officer was provided the opportunity to present capital requests, personnel requests, and requested programmatic changes that would result in new costs.

Following these meetings, the County Administrator and Director of Finance met with each Department Head and Constitutional Officer to review each line of the requested budget and consider each department's needs (any items meeting the criteria and not presented at the "big

ticket" meetings were excluded from the proposed budget). The budget worksheets have been changed to reflect the amount requested by the Department Head/Constitutional Officer for each line item, so that the Board of Supervisors can see the requested amounts of funding. In addition, the Board of Supervisors met during formulation of the budget to review draft revenue and expenditures and to hear organizational funding requests.

County Administrator Douglas reviewed the expenditures within the recommended \$37.84 million operating budget with comparison to FY20-21 approved budget.

County Administrator Douglas reviewed budget highlights for 2021-2022 that included:

- For all employees, a five percent (5%) salary increase, matching increases for State Compensation Board and DSS employees, are included in the proposed budget, but no merit increases (\$179,613 in local funds for increased salaries and benefits). No changes to health insurance or other employee benefits are proposed.
- Four positions have been eliminated in the proposed budget (Deputy County Administrator, two (2) Building and Grounds positions, one (1) Solid Waste management position).
- \$367,000 worth of capital project requests have been eliminated from the proposed budget.
- \$952,000 in operational expenses have been eliminated from the proposed budget, including \$163,000 in solid waste convenience site staffing.
- Includes a new expenditures of \$330,000 for public safety radio system maintenance (half to be, paid by DOC).

In summary, the proposed 2021-2022 operating budget is based on a continued uncertain climate and projected decrease in local revenues; but was prepared with the goals of continuing to provide quality services to the County residents and striving to improve the County's financial position. The budget is designed to function as a work plan in guiding county operations, in an attempt to accomplish all the goals and objectives of the Board of Supervisors.

County Administrator Douglas stated each Department Head and Constitutional Officer should be commended, for refining expenditure estimates and working to achieve only minimal increases as necessary in their budget requests. He also thanked the Treasurer for preparing the revenue projections, and the Director of Finance for many hours of preparing the budget document and coordinating the budget development process. He stated that the Board of Supervisors may wish to consider a couple dates for budget work sessions, if necessary, prior to the advertised public hearing on May 20th (April 29th and May 6th are suggested). County Administrator Douglas welcomed further discussion on this proposed budget.

A Budget Work Session was scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5 p.m. at the Sussex Central Elementary School Gymnasium.

There was discussion of Public Schools budgeting categorically.

The balanced proposed FY22 Budget Book was provided to the Board of Supervisors along with the Board packet. The County Administrator provided his budget message to the Board at the meeting.

10. Board Member Comments

10.01 Blackwater District – Thanked Public Safety and everyone in the County that helped with the clinic for COVID-19 vaccinations.

10.02 Courthouse District – none

10.03 Henry District – none

10.04 Stony Creek District – Thanked Jeff Gary for accompanying her to the Stony Creek Town meeting; acknowledged the DSS Board members present at the meeting; commended Sheriff Giles for recognition of fallen public safety employees.

10.05 Wakefield District – Advised that Q-Daddy Barbecue (Old Tasty Treat) will be opening; Virginia Diner warehouse.

10.06 Waverly District – Greeted everyone; advised everyone to stay safe.

11. Closed Session

11.01 Convene to Closed Session

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR W. JONES, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby enters Closed Session to discuss the following (1) personnel matters involving performance evaluation of specific Board appointed employee, pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1; (2) a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A); and, (3) consultation with legal counsel or actual or probable future litigation, pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A)7. All Board members present voted aye.

11.02/03. Reconvene to Open Session/Certification of Closed Session

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby reconvened to Open Session and convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves adoption of resolution for certification, to-wit:

WHEREAS, that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard discussed or considered.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Seward, Tyler

Voting nay: none

11.04 Action Resulting from Closed Session

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby converts the Department of Social Services from an Administrative Board to an Advisory Board.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, W. Jones, Seward

Voting nay: Supervisors Johnson, Tyler

Abstained: Supervisor D. Jones

12. Adjournment

12.01 Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the April 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

All Board members present voted aye.

12.02 Next Meeting

The next regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6 p.m.