

**At A Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Held in the General District Courtroom – Sussex Judicial Center
Thursday, May 22, 2014, 7pm**

Board Members Present:

Charlie E. Caple, Jr.
C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Alfred G. Futrell
Robert E. Hamlin
John A. Stringfield
Raymond L. Warren

Others Present:

Thomas E. Harris, County Administrator
Michael R. Packer, County Attorney
T. Robertson Blount, Director of Finance
Onnie L. Woodruff, Treasurer
Arthur Jarrett, Superintendent of Schools
John Broderick, Supervisor of Finance and Technology
Anne K. Ellis, Accounts Payable Clerk
Deborah A. Davis, Assistant to County Administrator
Deste J Cox, Deputy Treasurer
Lyndia Person-Ramsey, Commonwealth's Attorney
Dwight Gay, Deputy Sheriff
Ellen G. Boone, Commissioner of the Revenue

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Item 1. Call To Order Determine Quorum [7:14:26 PM](#)

The May 22, 2014 meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Fly.

Item 2. the Invocation

The Invocation was offered by Supervisor Stringfield.

Item 3. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Item 4. Approval of Agenda

Supervisor Hamlin requested that County Administrator Harris be allowed to read a statement regarding his career. He asked that it be added as a New Business item.

Chairman Fly suggested that it be added as Item 9a.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR CAPLE and carried: RESOLVED that the May 22, 2014 agenda of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors is hereby approved with one (1) addition: County Administrator's statement regarding his career be added as Item 9a.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Item 5. Resolution Recognizing Sussex Central High School 2014 Graduating Honor Students

Chairman Fly advised that included in the Board packet is a resolution recognizing the Sussex Central High School 2014 Student who will graduate with honors. Those students are:

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR CAPLE and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts a resolution recognizing the Sussex Central High School 2014 Honor Graduates; to with

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Sussex Central High School will hold its fifty third (53rd) commencement exercises; and,

WHEREAS, the eighty-three (83) graduates of the Class of 2014 are to be acknowledged and congratulated for their outstanding achievements; and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Board of Supervisors and County Employees are proud to urge each graduating Senior to continue along the path of academic progression, professional development and lifelong success; and,

WHEREAS, a special recognition is given to the nineteen (19) students who have maintained an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better and for that reason will graduate as Honor Students; and

WHEREAS, these outstanding and talented members of the Sussex County family have exhibited extraordinary academic and social skills to be so honored; and

WHEREAS, each parent, grandparent, family and community member who have helped raise the Sussex Central High School Class of 2014 are to also be acknowledged for their contributions and support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that *(name of student)* is encouraged to continue the pursuit of excellence and high achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be spread upon the Minutes Book of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors May 22, 2014 meeting and presented to said graduate.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

The Honor Students are:

Felicia Rose Miller	Michael Lawrence Poarch	Audrey Kathleen Wells
Quennita Celeste Lensey	Ricki Aaliyah Parham	Summer August Forehand
Devin Jamal Giles	Briana DeVonae Ellis	Candace Marie Clark
Kevin Gerard Diggs	DaQon Jaquel Myler	Zhada Mona' Barrow
Delta Karen Jones	Imani Tesia Dillard	Breyon Monae Barnes
Crystal Linette Chambliss	Terrell Andrew Harris	Iesha Monae Jarrett
Isaac Bruce Whear		

Item 6. Overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget [7:18:54 PM](#)

County Administrator Harris provided an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget. He shared a Power Point Presentation of the proposed budget. He recommended that the Board invest \$88,000.00 to the Sussex County Public School System to set up a 4 year old program.

Supervisor Hamlin recommended that the Improvement Association be funded in the amount of \$64,000.00 as requested and that the balance be taken from the Contingency Fund.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR HAMLIN, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD that the Board of Supervisors hereby approves funding for the Improvement Association in the amount of \$64,000.00 and approve funding for the School System an additional \$88,000.00 to begin a 4 year old program.

After some discussion, Chairman Fly asked Supervisor Hamlin to restate his motion.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR HAMLIN, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD that the Board of Supervisors hereby approves funding for the Improvement Association in the amount of \$64,000.00 and approve funding for the School System an additional \$88,000.00 to begin a 4 year old program.

Chairman Fly offered a substitute motion to approve the \$7,500.00 for the Improvement Association; seconded by Supervisor Futrell, to be moved from the Contingency Line Item to the Outside Agency Line Item for the Improvement Association.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Hamlin, Stringfield

Voting nay: Supervisors Fly, Futrell, Warren

Motion fails due to a tie vote.

County Attorney Packer stated that this is a little complicated because the motion would have amended the proposed budget by \$7,500.00 and advised that he would have to do research to determine whether or not the tie breaker has the ability to break that type of tie. He suggested that the Board consider passing the budget without making the change as presented in the stated motion, since the money is still in the budget in the contingency fund and the Board has the ability to move that at a subsequent time.

Chairman Fly called for the vote on the primary motion to fund the Improvement Association in the amount of \$64,000.00 and fund an additional \$88,000.00 to the School System to begin a 4 year old program.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Hamlin, Stringfield

Voting nay: Supervisors Futrell, Warren

Item 7. Laying of the Levy for Fiscal Year 2015

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR CAPLE, seconded by SUPERVISOR FUTRELL and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby affirms that the Levy for Fiscal Year 2015 was properly advertised for public hearing; and,

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Board of Supervisors held its public hearing on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the Sussex County Levy for Fiscal Year 2015, as follows:

Public Service @	R. E. \$0.54/\$100	P. P. @ \$4.85/\$100
Real Estate @	\$0.54/\$100	Mobile Home @ \$0.54/\$100
Machinery & Tools @	\$2.43/\$100	Merchants Capital @ \$1.00/\$100
Personal Property @	\$4.85/\$100	Fire and Rescue @ \$2.43/\$100
Personal Property Tax Relief (PPTRA) 52%		

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Item 8. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2015 Budget (9:02 pm)

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR CAPLE, seconded by SUPERVISOR HAMLIN and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby affirms that the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget was properly advertised for public hearing; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Fiscal Year 2015 budget in the amount thirty-eight million, four hundred, sixty-nine, thousand, three hundred, twenty-six dollars (\$38,469,326.00); and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fiscal Year 2015 budget: does not include the extra \$500,000.00 contingency; does include an additional \$88,000.00 from fund balance to be part of the lump sum appropriation to the School Board to be used for a four year old program; and does include the transfer from a line item, \$7,500.00 contingency to the Improvement Association's allocation.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield

Voting nay: Supervisor Fly, Warren

Item 9. Appropriation of Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD seconded by SUPERVISOR HAMLIN and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby appropriates the Fiscal Year 2015 budget in the amount of thirty-eight million, four hundred, sixty-nine thousand, three hundred, twenty-six dollars (\$38,469,326.00).

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

County Attorney Packer stated that since the Board has now resolved the tie vote that occurred earlier in the meeting, by adopting the original motion, it is no longer necessary for him to do the research to determine if the tie breaker is needed in that particular situation. But he will become more knowledgeable about that issue in general, so if a similar situation arises, he will be able to advise the Board without having to do additional research.

Item 10. Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 Intergovernmental Transfers

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR STRINGFIELD and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Intergovernmental Transfers for Fiscal Year 2015 in the amount of fourteen million, one hundred nineteen thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$14,119,688.00).

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

County Attorney Packer stated that there are specific numbers for the budget and the appropriations starting July 1st. He recommended that all appropriations coming to the Board on and after July 1st will show the total dollar amount presently appropriated in that particular fund, the amount of increase or decrease that is being recommended and then the new total, as it relates to that expenditure. On the same proposed resolution, will be the amount of money that has been projected from the revenue source being used to fulfill that appropriation, the total number, the amount of increase or decrease that will come from that general fund number and then the new number that will then be, if the Board approves that resolution, the total amount of that revenue source. And then the next time that it's done, we will have the new numbers. That will help the Board to know where it is as it relates to its budget and appropriations and also cause the Board to know whether or not

what the Board is anticipating to appropriate exceeds one percent of the total budget. Under state law, when you appropriate during the fiscal year, an amount of money that exceeds one percent of the previously adopted budget, you must advertise and hold a public hearing before that change is made.

Item 11. Closed Session [9:10:59 PM](#)

Chairman Fly asked that the Board's permission to amend the agenda to enter Closed Session for Personnel matters.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FLY, seconded by SUPERVISOR WARREN and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors amends the May 22, 2015 agenda and hereby enters Closed Session for Personnel Matters, applicable Code Section 2.2- 3711(A)(1).

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Item 12. Return To Open Session [10:43:25 PM](#)

County Attorney Packer announced the certification stating that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby returns to Open Session; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors of Sussex County, Virginia 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 Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Item 13. Action on Closed Session Item

Item 13a. Letter by Thomas E. Harris, County Administrator (Resignation)

"It is with the utmost respect and concern for my staff and the people of Sussex County, along with a very heavy heart, that I stand before you this evening to tender my resignation as County Administrator; effective October 1, 2014. In so doing I

want each of you to know that serving as Sussex County Administrator has been a position that I have loved, in a community that I love and without a doubt I consider it one of the greatest honors and privileges that I have had over my thirty plus years in public service. Consequently it should come as no surprise that this announcement is the end result of days of personal anguish and arrives with many regrets.

I regret that I will not see the growth and prosperity of the County that I have dedicated myself to for the past three years, I regret that I will no longer be able to work with the many fine employees and elected officials of the County, I regret that I will not have the honor of announcing those businesses and the corresponding jobs that I have worked so hard to recruit over the past several months, I regret that I will no longer be able to assist the many residents in need in the County, I regret that I will not be there as our Tigers successfully compete in the classroom and on the athletic fields, and most importantly I regret that I will no longer be able to help provide stability, focus, vision, collaboration and selfless leadership to a community that is in such desperate need of each.

None-the-less there comes a time in every man's life when he must reflect, evaluate and assess his and his family's future, along with an objective understanding of the real needs of those he most cherishes.

As you know, I am blessed with a beautiful and loving wife, a close family, supportive colleagues and friends and over the past several months, these are the people I have turned to and shared my concerns and desires with; and as a result of the aforementioned protracted struggle, like many before me, Rebecca, Ariel and I have concluded that my need to explore new interests, combined with our love and respect for the Sussex community and our desire to build for our future requires that I now step aside and move on to more beneficial and perhaps less stressful opportunities in a timely and professional manner.

To this end, I must acknowledge that I am proud of my three year tenure in Sussex as part of a thirty plus year public service career in Virginia, one that has allowed me to travel the world, to have two books and multiple articles written about my public administration contributions, to be the first, and perhaps only, local government administrator to ever serve on a United States Delegation to the United Nations, and perchance, more significantly, one of the very few Public Administrators that had citizens voluntarily rally to his defense with time and money so that he could be reinstated to his former position ... and let me say here that each of these life changing events remains a cherished memory of hopefully a life well spent in the public domain.

However as my family continues to grow, I more and more realize the value of being, and a need to be, a more available and supportive husband for Rebecca, a more attentive and active father for Ariel and her siblings, as well as, a more visible and nurturing grandfather to three (and counting) beautiful children.

So in conclusion let me take this opportunity on behalf of Rebecca and myself, to thank those Board members who have been so loyal, along with our staff and our people, for the faith and support placed in me over the years; even as I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to each his blessings and protection.

And finally, may I add that with an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to Sussex, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself and my family, I bid each of you an affectionate farewell.”

Respectfully,

Thomas E. Harris
Sussex County Administrator

Item 13b. Acceptance of Letter of Resignation of Thomas E. Harris, County Administrator

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR HAMLIN and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the letter of resignation from Thomas E. Harris, County Administrator, effective October 1, 2014.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Item 14. Public Comments

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR WARREN, seconded by SUPERVISOR HAMLIN and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby amends the May 22, 2014 agenda to include citizens’ comments.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none

Comments were heard from the following citizen:

Chester Carter, Stony Creek District

Item 15. Adjournment [10:51:26 PM](#)

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR WARREN, seconded by SUPERVISOR CAPLE and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns the May 22, 2014 meeting.

Voting aye: Supervisors Caple, Fly, Futrell, Hamlin, Stringfield, Warren

Voting nay: none