

AT A HYBRID MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021, BOTH ELECTRONICALLY AND IN-PERSON  
IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE, SALUDA, VIRGINIA:

Present: Wayne H. Jessie, Sr., Jamaica District  
Peter W. Mansfield, Saluda District  
John B. Koontz, Jr., Hartfield District  
Reginald A. Williams, Sr., Harmony Village District  
Lud H. Kimbrough, III, Pinetop District

Matthew L. Walker, County Administrator  
Betty S. Muncy, Assistant County Administrator  
Ann Marie Ricardi, Assistant County Administrator  
Heather W. Lewis, County Attorney  
Susan C. Traner, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of deliberating and adopting the FY2022 budget.

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

Ms. Muncy read the Electronic Meeting Provisions allowing the Board of Supervisors to conduct county business by electronic means, pursuant to the Board of Supervisors' Government Continuity Ordinance, #81, adopted on May 5, 2020, and re-adopted on November 4, 2020, extending the ordinance for up to an additional six months.

**ROLL CALL**

Attendance was taken by Ms. Muncy with the following roll call: Supervisor Mansfield – Present; Supervisor Williams – Present; Supervisor Kimbrough – Present; Supervisor Koontz – Present; and Chairman Jessie – Present. All five Board members were present; there was a quorum.

**BUDGET ADOPTION**

Supervisor Kimbrough stated that this had been a very difficult budget year, especially since the Board did not want to raise real estate taxes while in the middle of a reassessment. He said he was surprised that there had been no public comment during the budget public hearing. He thanked the other Board members and staff for all their hard work during the budget season. Supervisor Kimbrough made a motion to adopt the FY21-22 budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Mansfield.

Mr. Walker informed the Board that a draft motion had been prepared for a Board member to read. Supervisor Kimbrough rescinded his motion to allow Supervisor Koontz to read the draft motion that had been prepared. Supervisor Koontz agreed with Supervisor Kimbrough that he was surprised that there was no public comment during the budget public hearing. He said that he recommended that constituents start following the budget sessions in March to allow for more public comment during the actual budget public hearing. Clubs and other organizations could begin asking questions of Board members as early as March to get as much information out as possible to their members.

Supervisor Williams said he was not really surprised that there was no public comment. He said he had been talking to residents and getting calls about the budget recently. He said that everyone had to learn to do more with less. He feels that communication is not what it should be and that when questions are asked, the truth is not always given in his opinion. He wants to equally divide the money given for raises so that the person already making more money does not get a higher portion than the person making less money. He said the Board needs to be more creative in getting more revenue for the County versus just spending revenue. Money is being brought in from the fund balance and no one seems to care; no one is doing anything different or altering their request. He stated that he is not in favor of raising taxes on automobiles.

Chairman Jessie said that receiving CARES Act money was very beneficial, but at the same time, things were being added to the budget with that money that will have to be paid for somehow next year when the county no longer has CARES money to spend. He said expenses for the Fire Departments and the Sheriff's Office were ongoing expenses that would need to be looked at next year. He said the Sheriff's Office building will probably also need to be looked at next year.

A motion to approve the FY21-22 general fund budget, as advertised, in the amount of \$29,442,838, to include \$10,371,514 as local funds for school operations, \$1,160,138 for school debt service, \$69,733 for the school textbook fund, and \$75,000 for school capital improvements, and to adopt the tax rates, as advertised, which includes an increase in personal property tax on vehicles from \$2.10 to \$2.60 per \$100 assessed value and an increase in personal property tax on jet skis, recreational vehicles, campers, and apportioned trucks from \$1.75 to \$2.60 per \$100 assessed value, with all other personal property classifications and real estate tax rates remaining at current rates, was made by Supervisor Koontz, seconded by Supervisor Kimbrough, and carried 3-2 by the following roll call: Supervisor Mansfield – Aye; Supervisor Williams – Nay; Supervisor Kimbrough – Aye; Supervisor Koontz – Aye; and Chairman Jessie – Nay.

Supervisor Koontz informed the Board that he had been working last year and this year on getting the Mill Creek Landing open for recreational fishermen as well as for local watermen and others that use the DGIF recreational public access ramp. It is his understanding that the Board had consented to authorize Supervisor Koontz to continue on with the dredging at no cost to the county. He wanted to verify that he

could continue on with the dredging project and work with the County Administrator, DGIF, NOAA, and all other involved agencies to obtain permits. Chairman Jessie told Supervisor Koontz that it was also his understanding that Supervisor Koontz could continue with the project at no cost to the county. The Board agreed, by consensus, to have Supervisor Koontz continue with his dredging efforts at Mill Creek Landing at no cost to the county.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. was made by Supervisor Koontz, seconded by Supervisor Mansfield, and carried by the following roll call: Supervisor Koontz – Aye; Supervisor Kimbrough – Aye; Supervisor Mansfield – Aye; Supervisor Williams – Aye; and Chairman Jessie – Aye.

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Wayne H. Jessie, Sr., Chairman  
Board of Supervisors