

**At a Special Meeting (BWS)
of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors
Held in the General District Courtroom Judicial Center on
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas W. Baicy, III
Alfred G. Futrell
Wayne O. Jones
Phyllis T. Tolliver
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.
Steve D. White

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

C. Eric Fly, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Douglas, County Administrator
David J. Conmy, Deputy County Administrator/
Economic Development Director
Deste J. Cox, Treasurer
Michael Poarch, Planner
Regina Sykes, Commonwealth Attorney (Virtual)
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Item 1. Call to Order/Determine Quorum

The April 11, 2024 Special (BWS) Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Jones.

Item 2. Invocation

Supervisor Baicy offered the Invocation.

Item 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Item 4. Agenda Amendment

There were no agenda amendments.

Item 5. Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR TOLLIVER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors April 11, 2024 Special (BWS) meeting agenda was approved as presented. All Board members present voted aye.

Item 6. Presentations of Requests from External Organizations

1. American Red Cross of Capital Virginia

No representative attended.

2. Blackwater Regional Library

Ben Neal was in attendance to discuss Blackwater Regional Library's request. He presented information regarding activities, programs and services offered by the Blackwater Regional Library.

Blackwater Regional Library total funding request is \$163,935, which 8.46% of their budget. Their request is approximately one percent less than FY24 funded amount.

The purpose of their request is to continue providing high-quality library services at the Wakefield and Waverly libraries, including outreach/Bookmobile services throughout the County.

A handout was provided to the Board.

3. Brightpoint Community College

No representative of Brighton Community College was in attendance. They requested \$915 which is 0.96% of their budget. This request is 2.9% less than FY24 funded amount.

David Conmy shared the following information received from William (Fred) Taylor, Director of Governmental and Administrative Services.

On behalf of the students at Brightpoint Community College and the Community College Workforce Alliance, we wish to thank the citizens of Sussex County and the Sussex Board of Supervisors for their support of the college. The college serves 10 jurisdictions and each locality makes a contribution to our local funds budget. This money is used for community outreach and community engagement to make available information to our citizens about our educational and workforce training programs. We also use some of the funds for small projects to keep our campuses up to date for students and visitors.

We offer 85 degree and certificate programs and over 40 workforce training programs that serve our business and industry partners. Brightpoint and CCWA are vital to the economic growth of our region. We are particularly proud to have provided to letters of support for Sussex's Tobacco Commission Business District Redevelopment Grant and its VEDP grant request for the Business Ready Sites Program. When these or any other businesses need training, we will be excited to provide the tools necessary for them to be successful!

4. Chesterfield County/Medflight

No application received.

5. Chowan Basin Soil and Water Conservation District

No representative attended.

6. Community Coalition of Sussex

Community Coalition of Sussex requested \$7,500, which is less than 1% of their budget and 50% greater than FY24 funded amount.

The purpose of their request is to assist with the purchase of food for our monthly foodbank, funds to purchase items for our "Back to School Event," to help purchase and deliver prepared dinners for the elderly citizens of Sussex County, to assist with our annual Christmas Toys for Tots give away at Sussex Central Elementary. It will also provide funds that will go towards the Youth Day/Career and Job Fair Day that we partner with the Sussex School System on.

Mr. Millard "Pete" Stith was in attendance. Mr. Stith discussed their food bank fed 300 families. He also discussed the job fair with the schools; blacktop first layer for pickle ball; Halloween trunk or treat; backpack giveaway; raised garden; picnic shelter and basketball court. Community Coalition purchase an additional 3.5 acres of land fronting Route 301, working with 4-H Center kids via churches to transport, as well as other community activities.

7. Crater District Area Agency on Aging

No representative attended. There was brief discussion of concerns with Crater District in regards to Wakefield seniors.

The Board asked the County Administrator to send an email to inquire. Administrator Douglas stated that it has been done. It was requested to send a certified letter to CDAAA Board's Chairman.

8. Crater Health District

Crater Health District requested \$162,000, which is 23% of their budget. This request is 9.2% greater than FY24 funded amount.

Nita (Florence) Smallwood, Business Manager, was in attendance. She stated their 35 districts, 119 Health Departments and seven local offices. She discussed Environmental Health Services swimming pools and AEDs.

9. Crater Planning District Commission

No representative attended.

10. Crater Regional Workforce Development Board

No representative attended.

11. District 19 Community Services Board

District 19 CSB requested \$109,854, which is 0.4% of their budget. It was noted that D19 CSB budget was not adopted yet. Their request is based on projected State funding for the upcoming fiscal year. This request is an increase of \$13,480, 14% greater than FY24 funded amount.

Terrell Stewart, D19 CSB Executive Director, was in attendance. Ms. Stewart that D19 CSB is member of Region 4 She read their Mission Statement. They with the localities of Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Emporia, Greensville, Hopewell, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry and Sussex. She reviewed CONTINUUM of Services, as well as, Regional programs and services. Sussex's D19 location at 232 Coppahaunk Avenue Waverly, Virginia. Ms. Stewart reviewed the summary of services provided by the month for individuals residing in Sussex to in mental health services, developmental services, substance use disorder services, and Energy & Ancillary Services.

Section 37.2-500 or 37.2-611 of the Code of Virginia requires the CSB to function as the single point of entry into publicly funded mental health, developmental, and substance disorder services. Section 37.2-509 and 37.2-611 of the Code of Virginia establish criteria for allocation of funds to community services boards by the matching funds requirement reciprocally at 10 percent.

D19 CSB has been serving its localities for more than 50 years.

A handout was provided to the Board.

12. Friends of Miles B. Carpenter Center Museum

Friends of Miles B. Carpenter Center Museum requested \$10,000, which is 50% of their budget and 20% greater than FY24 funded amount.

Ms. Debbie Rose was in attendance. The purpose of Friends of Miles B. Carpenter Center Museum requests is to focus on bringing the Museum back to prominence in the Town of Waverly. Our focus at this point is to offer studio space to artists and to develop curriculum for a summer camp to be held in the summer of 2024. We are soliciting up to 8 artists to work with an estimated 32 students ages 6- 13. The camp will be held from 10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday and would include a break for lunch that would be provided as part of the camp. The students would be broken into small groups to work with each artist. The students would be exposed to clay, wood working, painting, needlework, drawing, etc. The goal each day is for the student to complete one piece of art to take home. The first part of the day would be learning, then lunch, and the second half of the day would be creating.

Ms. Rose provided a brief background of the Museum. It was noted that they will be building a stage.

It was noted that there was a new Board formed in 2023.

13. Jarratt Senior Citizens' Center (JSCC)

JSCC's total funding request is \$6,000, which is 50% of their budget and 20% greater than the FY24 funded amount.

Ms. Catherine Owens thanked the Board for funding the Jarratt Senior Citizens' Center. The purpose of their request is to provide senior citizens wholesome activities to enhance socialization, decrease depression and stress among the elderly population. Activities include: (1). Field trips to area parks, museums, and other interested locations 2. Meals/food 3. Physical activities 4. Medications assistance 5. Emergency utility assistance 6. Supplies (walkers, etc.)

14. Jessica Ann Moore Foundation

No representative attended.

15. Longwood University Small Business Development Center

No representative attended.

16. Save-A-Seed

No representative attended.

17. Senior Citizens of Eastern Sussex

No representative attended.

18. Sixth Judicial Circuit

No representative attended.

19. Southampton Sussex Baseball League

No representative attended.

20. Southeastern 4-H Educational Center

Southeastern 4-H Educational Center requested \$25,000, which is 27.28% of their budget and the same funded amount for FY24.

The purpose of Southeastern 4-H Educational Center's request is to help improve the center facilities, work on the pool and rec center, and possibly get new bunks in our lodging rooms or a new Clover Shack. We also need to replace a coil in Pamplin (\$2,235). Pamplin is used as the mental health break space for all camp volunteers and teen counselors during summer. The room needs to function properly. These improvements overall will provide a cleaner and safer feel for our guests and Sussex County youth and residents, thus allowing everyone a more enjoyable outdoor experience during their stay.

Dr. Kathy Guindon, Director, thanked the Board for their support. Dr. Guindon stated that 4-H Center was up to 23 employees. She stated that they did not receive funding from the Division of Wildlife Resources. They will be offer special interest clubs and specialty camps. She discussed different activities, programs, festivals and camps offered. She discussed

She noted that they wanted the pool open for the public this Summer. They are trying to hire two additional lifeguards to allow the pool to be opened to the County on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays when Summer camps are not happening. She mentioned the use of the gym as well. She stated that the generator was down and wanted to get it up and running because it a shelter for the County.

There was discussion of voting for an additional \$20,000 in funds for the 4-H. Dr. Guindon advised that the funding was never received. Finance Director Kelly Moore noted that no funding request was made to receive the funds. There was discussion of identifying Sussex residents to utilize the pool and gymnasium, etc.

21. Sussex County Young Men's Athletic Club (SCYMAC)

No representative attended.

22. Sussex County Youth and Adult Recreational Association (SCYARA)

Sussex County Youth and Adult Recreational Association requested \$10,000, which is 27.28% of their budget and is 66.67% greater than FY23 Budget reserve amount.

The purpose of SCYARA's request is to assist with operational costs to provide recreational and wellness services to citizens, as well as quality educational workshops and corporate experiences to citizens of Sussex with a focus on the youth.

SCYARA has been successful with gaining more than \$200,000 worth of updates on their swimming pool. They are in the process of opening an \$180,000 Wellness and Fitness Community Center for fitness, meetings, seminars and workshop on site.

Mr. Ricks advised that SCYARA received a \$100,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Education and instituted a program called Youth Today for Tomorrow. They have been successful in offering workshops on Cyber Security, Self Esteem, Financial Planning, etc. They are in Phase I.

He reviewed pool repairs, handicap accessible chair added to the pool for aquatics and aerobics. They were successful in having a cover installed on the pool.

He advised the pool opening in August 2023 for a short swimming season. They were able to secure a grant to start a building.

SCYARA is requesting full funding because they will be open year-round. They have purchased weight equipment.

There was inquiry of a SCYARA being private organization and posted "No Trespassing". Mr. Ricks clarified that it was private property maintained by SCYARA. It's not maintained or owned by any government.

It was recommended to speak to the County Attorney regarding a legal document regarding trespassing. or private property.

A handout was provided to the Board.

23. The Improvement Association

No audio.

The Improvement Association requested \$114,000, which is 2.70% of their budget and 9.6% greater than FY24 funded amount.

The purpose of the Improvement Association's request is to support our Head Start Program operations, Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, Project Discovery Program (middle and high school) youth program, and Housing Assistance to prevent homelessness.

The Improvement Association's Mission Statement was shared.

Keisha Kelly explained the Maternal Infants Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) was explained to a home visiting initiative available to pregnant moms and children from the birth to five, at no cost. It's implemented through the Parents as Teachers research-based curriculum. It helps to appropriately deal with social-emotional behaviors in efforts to reduce child abuse.

Ms. Kelly also explained the Head Start program which is a comprehensive early childhood education initiative for ages 3-5 which funded to serve 222 children and families with 15 classrooms throughout The Improvement Association's service area. Head Start provides nutrition, dental, health education, social-emotional parenting skills, and school-readiness skills to prepare children for kindergarten.

Ms. Sheryl Tayler, Coordinator for Math Specialist discussed the 21st Century Community Learning Center. The Improvement Association addresses the educational and social needs of all

families of local communities by (1) helping students meet state and local academic standards through tutoring and remedial educational; (2) reinforcing and complementing students' regular school day academic programs; and (3) providing literacy and related educational development opportunities to families with family engagement and literacy.

Renita Murphy (grades 6-12) discussed Project Discovery. It is a community-based and state-funded program that addresses the problem of unequal access to higher education by low income and/or potential first-generation college students. Program activities were discussed. '

Ms. Murphy discussed Work Development Initiative. There was information regarding Housing and Homelessness Prevention and Dominion Energy Share.

A handout was provided to the Board that contained more detailed information about The Improvement Association and its programs and activities.

24. The Wakefield Foundation

No representative attended.

25. Virginia Cooperative Extension - Sussex Unit Office

No audio.

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Sussex Unit Office requested \$29,600, which is 2.77% of their budget and 26% less than FY24 funded amount.

The purpose of Virginia Cooperative's Extension request is to continue to provide Sussex County residents with Extension programming. This request will cover a portion of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension Agent's salary as well as provide a small amount of additional funding for programming. This additional funding would allow the office to continue to provide programming to local community groups and residents at low or reduced costs.

26. Virginia Legal Aid Society

No audio.

Virginia Legal Aid requested \$1,327, which is 0.02% of their budget and is 4% greater than FY24 funded amount.

The purpose of Virginia Legal Aid Society's request is to provide a wide rang of civil legal services in the areas of housing, access to healthcare, income and health benefits, family relations, domestic violence, consumer, and education. These services include advice, counsel, brief service, drafting of contracts and applications, negotiation, representation before administrative forums, litigation before state and federal trial and appellate courts.

27. Virginia's Gateway Region

No representative attended.

28. Waverly Youth Association

No application received.

29. Williams and Co., LLC

No application received.

Chairman Jones departed at approximately 8:33 p.m.

Item 7. Budget Discussions of Requests from External Organizations

Administrator Douglas advised that they could review by each line item if they so desired.

He advised that Chesterfield Medflight request is \$0. It is his understanding that Chesterfield County is absorbing those costs. The County doesn't have to pay anything year,

He also noted that Mr. Conmy stated that CDAAA application was incomplete. There is a lot of unknown positions with the Agency in terms of the Wakefield seniors. CDAAA suspended van service around the March 1st without any notice to the County. There was discussion of funding.

Administrator Douglas advised that Greene Machine did not submitted an application.

Item 8. Presentation and Discussion of Projected Revenues

Administrator Douglas stated that revenues are flat. He noted that the County has a new EMS contractor. The costs are approximately \$800,000 more dollars per year. to maintain what the County had.

There are no ARPA Funds to pay for Capital items. He noted that there are approximately 12 teacher positions that were funded by ARPA, which is an increase need as well.

He stated that he's not formally asking for a tax increase. He stated that a

Item 9. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Item 10. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR FUTRELL, seconded by SUPERVISOR TOLLIVER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourned at 8:50 p.m. All Board members present voted aye,

