At a reconvened meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors from Monday, April 16, 2018 held on Monday April 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peter Francisco Auditorium in the Buckingham County Administration Building, the following members were present: Danny R. Allen, Chairman; Donald E. Bryan, Vice-Chairman; Robert C. Jones; Don Matthews; E. Morgan Dunnavant; Harry W. Bryant; and Joe N. Chambers, Jr. Also present were Rebecca S. Carter, County Administrator; Karl Carter, Asst. County Administrator; and E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney.

Re: Call to Order

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order.

Re: Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Allen certified there was a quorum. Seven of seven members present and the meeting could continue.

Re: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Allen gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all who were in attendance.

Allen: Supervisor Bryan, you have a statement you’d like to make.

Bryan: Yes. Mr. Chairman. I do work for the school system as a matter of record. At this time I have a statement that I have to read. I am advising that I have sought an opinion from the Commonwealth’s Attorney concerning any conflict I may have in participating in discussions and voting on the County’s Budget because I am a school teacher for the Buckingham County School System. I have received a written opinion from Mr. Wright that I can participate in the discussions and vote on the Budget matters. The Code of Virginia requires that I make a statement concerning my situation.

Accordingly, I make the following statement for the record:

1. I will participate in the discussions and vote on matters relating to the adoption, as well as the adoption, of the 2018-2019 Board of Supervisors’ budget for the County;
2. I am a school teacher employed by the Buckingham County School Board, which is funded in part by allocations from the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors;
3. I am a member of a profession, the members of which are affected by the transaction; and
4. I am able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.
Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Re: Consider Adoption of 2018-19 Tax Rates

Bryan: Mr. Chairman, I move that we set the rate at:

Real Estate $0.55
Public Service Corporation $0.55
State Corporation Commission Personal Property $4.05
Personal Property $4.05
Machinery and Tools $2.90
Merchant’s Capital $1.00
Air Craft $0.55

Matthews: Second.

Allen: There’s been a motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes that the rate will stay the same.

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board that the above stated tax rates be set for the 2018-19 Operating Budget for Buckingham County.

Re: Consider adoption of 2018-19 Operating Budget

Allen: Next is the adoption of the 2018-19 Operating Budget but first Mrs. Carter has something to say.

Carter: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The finance committee is still in discussions and meetings and have requested information from the rescue squad. It’s my recommendation at this time that you move the $195,000 from the appropriation line item down to a reserve. With the reserve, it just means you all will take consideration to release that money and then if you want to put more in or whatever. But at this time to move it to a reserve and not to where they just come and request it.

Matthews: Mr. Chairman, I’d like to make a motion on that.

Chambers: Mr. Chairman, before we adopt the budget I’d like to make a statement. The lady from Virginia Crossroads made a presentation last month and I’d like to put that back in. They do a good thing for the county with what they are doing to help the county. $4500. I’d like to put it back in.

Carter: Yes, it was Virginia Retreat. $4500.
Allen: Yes, but we’ve got to finish what we are doing here.

Matthews: I make a motion to put the line item for the rescue squad for a reserve to be used at our discretion once we’ve received all the answers to the questions we have regarding their financial situation.

Bryan: I’ll second that.

Allen: That’s a motion and a second with the changes. Now…

Matthews: Shouldn’t we vote on this first?

Allen: You don’t want to vote on…

Bryan: We have to make a motion on the budget…

Allen: This is voting on the adoption of the budget.

Bryan: We have to vote on the changes.

Carter: Any changes you make you need a separate motion for each change.

Allen: So we have a motion to take the rescue squad money and put it in a reserve. Any discussion on that motion? Let’s vote. 7 yes to put it in a reserve.

Supervisor Matthews moved, Supervisor Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to move the appropriation to the Buckingham County Volunteer Rescue Squad to a reserve to be dispersed at the Board’s discretion.

Chambers: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we give that $4500 back to Virginia Crossroads.

Bryan: Which is the Virginia Retreat?

Dunnavant: Where is that money coming from?

Carter: Reserve for Contingency. The $228,970.

Matthews: Are you with that organization? How many people does that actually, in Buckingham County, how many people or businesses do you actually reach as far as what we do with the county? I know about Crossroads…

Maggie VanEps: (This is not verbatim. Speaking out in the audience, the mics do not pick up but bits and pieces) This is Virginia’s Crossroads. Not Crossroads. We were Virginia Retreat.
Virginia Crossroads is a tourism. You’ve been a member since 1993. We advertise for events and places and people come here and spend their money.

Matthews: I thought I made a suggestion that you contact Commonwealth Regional Council about possibly helping you write a grant. Did you do that or not?

VanEps: I wrote a grant. I write all the grants we receive.

Matthews: I’m talking about an additional grant. We have an organization that works with us and several other counties that does grant writing for us or may put you in a situation they may know something that you don’t know as far as what’s out there that we can possibly get our hands on.

VanEps: Mrs. VanEps stated that they couldn’t pay someone to do grants when she does it without a fee.

Dunnavant: The grant writing fee comes out of the grant itself.

Mrs. VanEps spoke again but did not pick up on the tape.

Matthews: Can you get your hands on any type of demographic that will show what kind of economic impact that this has on our county.

Mrs. VanEps stated that we are not like South Hill or something that has a lot of hotels and such. But we do make money from events and the people go to the stores and get gas or restaurants and buy food and Buckingham gets revenue from that.

Carter: I think one of the deals is the brochures go out and it’s on their website. Historic Buckingham and Lee Wayside said they’ve gotten a lot of visitors based on going online and the state parks and I don’t know about those millions of dollars.

Matthews: I think that would be a stretch being I was in business for 30 years in Buckingham County and I don’t think I’ve ever seen that kind of impact. I was on the Lee’s Retreat Route at one of the major intersections. We saw some but not $15 million worth.

Carter: I don’t know where the millions come from.

Mrs. VanEps stated she drove by an event that had hundreds of vehicles out and she stopped at a store and asked if they knew about the event and they didn’t. If they had of known they could have put flags out welcoming the guests and did promotions to get people in the door.

Matthews: I’m all for helping small businesses in the county across the board with whatever endeavors they want to be in. We are spending the taxpayers money here and I want to make sure we are getting the biggest bang for our buck as far as what we are doing for you and in turn what you are doing for the county. That’s all I have to say.
Dunnavant: I’m going to vote for you this go around but I am going to ask for you to get with Mrs. Carter and send her a copy of every mentioning of a Buckingham County activity and the site or means that it’s advertised this coming fiscal year so when it comes budget time next year we could look at it and see what we’ve gotten for our $4500 and that way all of us up here can look back and forth and see if it was a good investment.

Carter: Rebecca Cobb is the representative.

Mrs. VanEps said she didn’t come to very many meetings to get the information.

Matthews: What are something things, we have the May Day coming soon, Hatton Ferry and the Bateau thing in June.

Bryant: I don’t know the exact date but it’s usually the first week in June.

Allen: We have a motion and a second to put the $4500 back in for Virginia’s Crossroads. Any more discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes to add it back in.

*Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to put the $4500 appropriation back in the 2018-19 budget for Virginia’s Crossroads.*

Allen: Is there anything else we need to do before we vote on the budget? Any other changes?

Bryan: In the Sheriff’s budget he did request salary increases. If we can get with the Sheriff’s office and get those salaries effective 1 July. We gave them some money in the past and he sat on it a bit and that effected their state pay raises as well.

Chambers: So moved.

Bryan: Second

Allen: We have a motion and a second to adopt the 2018-19 Operating Budget. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes. Approved.

*Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to adopt the 2018-19 Operating Budget as amended.*

Re: Consider authorization for approval of writing a letter of support for Central Virginia Electric Cooperative’s Broadband Project and their grant application

Carter: Supervisor Matthews brought up last week and this is the county’s support for them getting a grant. We already know there is a meeting at Curdsville Community Center tonight and we have made a request to ask them to have another one in a more centralized area of the
county and they will get back to me. Brian Bates actually is the representative there now. He’s been in touch with me. It is something that we hope will be really good.

Matthews: How are you going to approach this letter? Are you going to write the letter?

Carter: Yes. He’s given me a sample letter to use.

Allen: Do we have a motion?

Bryan: So moved Mr. Chairman.

Matthews: Second.

Allen: A motion and a second to approve to write a letter of support for the Central Virginia Electric project. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes. So approved.

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to authorize the County Administrator to write a letter of support for Central Virginia Electric Cooperative for a grant for internet service.

Re: Executive Closed Session

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to enter into executive closed session under Section 2.2-3711.A.7 – Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Re: Return to Regular Session and Certification

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Dunnivant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to return to regular session and certify that to the best of each Board member’s knowledge only business matters related to the code of which the executive meeting was convened was discussed or considered in the closed executive session.

Re: Other Board Matters

Chambers: Mr. Chairman, I’d like to see us change our meetings back to 6:00. I think it would be better. We can get it out the way and I’ve talked to employees and they are good with it. I make a motion that we change it back to 6:00.

Allen: You are talking about full time.
Chambers: Yes, 6:00 year round.

Allen: Motion made and seconded to change the meetings to 6:00. Any discussion?

Bryan: How would we have to advertise that?

Carter: You are changing your By-Laws permanently. That motion would need to be to change the By-Laws for the time of the meeting.

Chambers: I add that to my motion to change the By-Laws to 6:00.

Allen: Any other discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes.

 Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to change the By-Laws to have the meetings at 6:00 p.m. year round.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Allen declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

____________________________________  _________________________________________
Rebecca S. Carter                  Danny R. Allen
County Administrator              Chairman