Re: Call to order

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order.

Re: Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Allen certified there was a quorum. Six of Seven member were present and the meeting could continue. Vice Chairman Bryan arrived later.

Re: Work Session with Central Virginia Electric Cooperative Rural Broadband

Gary Wood: I’ll go through a little presentation and then go through question and answer and then a request for you all to provide us some assistance. Before we get started, I’m Gary Wood, I am present CEO of Central Virginia Electric Coop and I appreciate you making time for us tonight on the agenda. With me tonight I have a couple of folks. Melissa Gay is out Communications and Member Services Manager, Gayland Creekmore is our Key Accounts Rep and is an excellent newer addition to our staff. So, he’s been here for a couple months. Melissa a little longer and I’ve been here a lot longer. Let’s talk about rural broadband. We are looking at building a fiber optic network across our system and I want to give you a little background on it. I won’t spend a lot of time, I’ll leave these slides if you want to look at them later. Some of you are familiar with the Coop. We’ve been in business since 1937. We’ve got about 37,000 members. We are not for profit, private utility. Some people think we are a public utility because we have a public service with electricity but we are really a private company just owned by the members who buy electricity from us. We were formed in 1937 because in 1937 places like Richmond had electricity for 50 years but out here in the countryside the market could not get enough return so they didn’t build electric lines in rural areas. Doesn’t that sound familiar with broadband today? So at the time the government, after the great depression, set aside a 0 interest loans for companies like Dominion and Appalachian Power and across the county the big investors in utilities to build into rural areas. They would loan money at 0% interest. No utility took them up on that because there was still not enough money to be made. So farmers got together and went to Washington and said if you’ve got that money we want to build our own
electric utility and that’s how the coops were formed. With that came a lot of regulations because the REA at the time said if you are going to build it we need to set up a structure that allows people who aren’t used to running an electric utility build one and run it. So we have a lot of regulations about how we keep our books, how we run our lines and those types of things but on the other hand it gave us a way to get infrastructure in rural areas. Since we were formed, we’ve been very competitive even though we are not large. Our rates stay pretty competitive and we are very reliable when it comes to electricity. 99.9% of the time people’s lights stay on and that’s been an improvement over the last couple of years knock on wood because this weekend we are going to get a challenge I think. We’ve had very high customer satisfaction ratings. We have a local board of directors made up of the members we serve with nine members on there and they regulate us. The State Corporation Commission regulates us in terms of our rates and the way we treat our customers. Right now we have 4 different filings with the State Corporation Commission. We have a lot of things we do that they have to bless. In fact they are going to look at this. One of the filings is the arrangements between the Coop and our subsidiary where we would lease the fiber to the subsidiary and I’ll talk about that a little more later. They want to make sure the lease is fair to the members of the Coop and we are not subsidizing in some way the broadband. Then the rural utility services, that’s our banker, the old REA, they keep controls on us because they loaned us a lot of money. We have about 37000 accounts. That’s 14 counties, 4600 miles of line, mostly residential. We don’t serve any of the urban or suburban areas. Not a lot of real big plants either which tend to be in places that had service back in the 30’s. We are a midsize company in terms of finances. About $90 million. Only $2 to 4 million a year in margins or what would be profits if we were for profit. If you look at those numbers and do math real quick it’s 2-4% profit margin and if I were CEO at a company trying to make money and sending it back to shareholders I would have been fired long ago. We are used to running thin margins. That’s just what you do when you are not for profit. We do have a significant impact on local economy. We’ve got 104 employees in good paying jobs. Our average wages are $35 an hour and there are folks in Buckingham, if they are not employed are contract employees. We have a number of right of way workers. Everybody from people who work on our trucks and our buildings to lots of other things that provide us assistance. We do have an active role in Virginia. All of the money staying in Virginia that comes to the Coop. We don’t send it somewhere else. It’s going to be the same thing when it comes to broadband. Now the broadband project came up from the Coop side because the Coop needed better communication. We have 33 substations spread around in parts of the counties. Right now we communicate with them a little bit by radio, but that’s not really reliable and a little by telephone. But we can get data back, our meter readings we can do right now, we do them just once a night because that is about all we can do with the speed we have. We’d like to be able to communicate better so we can read meters more often. We have information about outages that we can’t get back that would provide us with better information about where to go to start working on outages. We also are very limited on security on the substations. We’d love to have cameras but we can’t get video back with the speeds we have. So we need high speed communications at the substations. Down the line from that we have voltage regulators and circuit breakers and capacity banks and a lot of equipment that we can manage but we don’t have any communication down the line. So we don’t communicate with anything outside the substation. We’ve got about 6-800 pieces of equipment that would allow us to restore outages quicker. Right now, when you finish an outage, you get in the truck and drive to the nearest circuit breaker and reclose it. That
extra time you can gain in addition to that, from a safety standpoint, when we first start working we go to the nearest circuit breaker, open it, ground it and then go down and work it instead of working it remotely. So, there are a number of things that having communication across the grid would be good for us and improve things on the electric side. The finally the meters. Today, we can read meters once a day which is better than the old days where we read it once a month with a person driving around them. But there are times when we’d like to communicate high speed to the meters. This past winter, we were buying electricity on the coldest day at $0.50 a kilowatt hour and selling it for $0.07 a kilowatt hour. That’s not a good deal. We would love to be able to tell people, it’s a really peak period, could you help us cut things back. We could even send a financial incentive. But price for electricity changes every 5 minutes. So we can tell you a day ahead. We can give you an idea what we think but we really need fairly high speed communications. Ultimately, that’s going to mean tying into people’s water heaters, dish washers, heat pumps, dryers if they allow us to. If they say you can cut some of my appliances off in exchange for lowering my bill if you want to do that at peak times. To do that I need communication to the meter and the meter be interconnected and we can adjust and save people on their electric bill. But to do that we need high speed communications. We don’t have it. So, several years ago we started looking for other ways to get this done. We asked other telephone companies, cable companies would anyone come build to all of our members and give us access to the network. We offered free pole attachments and got no takers. So we decided last year to do a feasibility study to see if it made sense to make it work to provide fiber optic cable for high speed network and it came back yes, marginally. Close. We will look at that in a minute. But to put in fiber optic network and use it for this high speed communications and then to make it work financially we are going to sell internet service to the members so they can make use of that same fiber that they will be paying for anyhow where they need it so bad for broadband service. It’s a five year project. For the first year we just ask for a pilot project approval because you will see in a minute but it takes us without any outside support it will take us about 11 years to break even with our subsidiary. We are going to take losses for a while. We will eventually make it available to all 37,000 accounts in a five year period. We are going to be building about 3500 miles of line. I told you we had 4600 but that includes secondaries but it will be run to all our customers 6-800 miles of line a year and we are talking about a significant deficit of $110,000,000 which is for our size company, huge. $20-24 million a year of new fiber optic going up on the lines. We will put the lines on overhead poles. Where we have underground wires, we will put it underground. Central Virginia Electric is not allowed by law to sell anything but electricity service because Coop’s by state law can only sell electricity. But Coop’s can own a subsidiary that can be any legal business in Virginia. Through that subsidiary, Central Virginia Services will sell the internet service. They will lease the fiber from us and pay the full amount of fiber so that our electric rate payers don’t have to pay for that. All of our construction will be contracted and we’ve got 15-20 miles a week is what we will be building for a five year period is a lot. That’s really for a building to start and grow. We’ve got to keep that pace to get the customers in in five years. In fact, if we can find a way to do it quicker we will but that’s right now what we’ve got. We just started up, but we probably have 60-70 extra people on our system every day. We’ve got about 45 lineman on a normal day. We’ve got 60-70 extra people, combination design folks, electrical contractors moving things around on the pole and the fiber contractors and that’s going to get to more. We will probably be running 125-150 a day once we get to full speed. The business plan does show it marginally feasible if we have no outside
support at all. The subsidiary takes a loss the first 7 years. Starts making a little money. Takes 11 years to break even and offsetting it’s first losses. Our board of directors when they looked at that they said ok, let’s do the first year as a pilot program. You go see what you can do to find some other outside support so if prices go up, if something goes wrong with the model, we can keep going and make this work. Again, it’s a significant project. We are looking at over $110,000,000 of debt for the Coop to borrow to put the fiber up. Here’s what our model is based on. 100 megabit services, it’s really simple, 100 megabit service at $49.99 and gigabit service at $79.99. For comparison, if you have cell phone internet service you are probably somewhere between 5-7 megabits average. So it’s about 10-20 times as fast as that. The really fast service is one of those that you will never wait on anything else when you try to load it again unless there is a problem on the other end. Voice over IP is a telephone service that comes through the internet. We have to provide telephone service for certain federal support we are looking for. We will make that available. We are not looking to get into the telephone business but it gets us a way to get additional support. We are offering it for $29.99 for unlimited local and long distance if you buy it with internet service. Just that function for another $5. The router we are just throwing in. We are not doing that as an optional anymore. We are doing $100 installation fee and waiving that when we first come in the area building it because it’s cheaper to connect people. I’m not showing you this to make a big sales pitch as to showing you really competitively priced service we think. We went into this with the idea that this can’t be a luxury service. We really want to make it available and make it affordable. That’s the reason also that we are asking for some assistance to be able to keep these prices at prices that the average person can afford. Not have it something that is out of reach of the folks in the demographics that we serve. We don’t serve only the wealthy areas. Here is Buckingham County and we serve about 4500 accounts. There is actually a typo and I sent you a separate request for assistance and I think it said $10 million in Buckingham County but its $14 million. You can see the substations, the little gold boxes, in this of the substations. We have one at Mt. Rush, one at Centenary, one down at Curdsville and we also feed from across the river in Nelson County. We feed over at Schuyler and then down at Gladstone. We feed a little bit from Appomattox County at the Tower Hill substation to serve the areas a little bit over there from the east like Cartersville Area. We serve a good part of the surface area of Buckingham County. We don’t serve the Courthouse. If you see the areas that we are not in, particularly the eastern quadrant, that’s the area that had electricity in 1937. That’s where Dominion already had connections. We were assigned the area that there was not electric. You will also see on the western side there is a little bit of gap area there but that’s where the state park is and there is just no service. We’d serve it if anybody wanted it but nobody lives there. So that’s the areas that we serve electrically. The different colored lines represent the different substations. The way we will do this project is we will go into a substation and put in a hut and bring in the fiber optics as backbone to the internet and build out to every customer served electrically from that station. We will build out the fiber. Then we will go to another substation. We are not necessarily building one after the other as neighbors. We are building where it’s the lowest cost to serve. The first one will be Appomattox County. We had a grant from the Tobacco Commission that made that the lowest cost. When we finish that we will go to Nelson County. Nelson is giving us some fiber that they already had in place that made that a little less to serve from the station there. We have stations in Appomattox we won’t be back to right away. We will get back eventually. We’ve got other places in Nelson we want to get back to but we are going to Fluvanna after that. We are going
site by site and looking at the lowest price to serve. It’s the density of population but also the
cost of construction and cost overhead. There are a number of things that go into it and outside
support is one of those. So that gives you an idea of the area we serve in Buckingham. I
mentioned looking for outside support. We had an original goal of 20% of the total project costs
to come in from outside from all the different resources. We are really looking at everything
federal, state and local to do that. We wanted to stabilize the project business model so we can
be comfortable committing to the full five years. Let’s start from the bottom to the top there, at
the federal level, RUS is our lender but also a place that provides grants through a small program
called Community Connect program. I’ll get to that in a minute because one of those could
impact Buckingham. They also have been assigned a new responsibility for a new $600 million
a year program that has just been approved this year for grants and loans for rural broadband and
that would come through RUS for creating rules for that as we talk so we will see what those
look like and pursue them. The FCC has some funding options we are looking at those. The
State level, I mentioned several here the biggest thing the state has are grants through Virginia
Telecommunications Initiative. That used to be a $1 million for the State of Virginia which in a
year is really nothing. You can see we are looking at $110 million just for our little piece of
state. This year the VATI program got moved to $4 million a year. I understand that the
Governor is going to request that that go to something close to $25 million or more in the next
General Assembly. One of the next things I’ll talk to you here at the end is offering support
beyond financial support. One of the things we are just asking the folks in Richmond is to step
up and give a little more money for this. Then locally we are talking to the counties about
several different ways. I was a former Supervisors is Nelson County. I had 2 terms up there. I
understand that rural counties are not sitting on a pile of cash waiting for somebody to show up
and ask for it. We will take grants if those are available from local governments. But another
way that we are looking at doing this is through an economic incentive that will be equivalent to
giving us the first few years in taxes back on this new infrastructure. In Nelson when I was on
the Board we did that with a couple new manufacturers that came in. That gives you a way to
provide an incentive back after you have seen the investment. If we don’t build it and don’t pay
taxes, there is nothing, you don’t have tax money to give back to us. It gives us incentive to
build here quicker because the money flows back and it gives you a way to tie it so it’s not what
if we find a cheap way to do it rate, it’s cheaper because you don’t have to pay as much taxes.
So that’s one of the ways we’ve looked at doing this. Another way is asking counties when your
ERate comes up for bid again with the schools, when you need communications services, 911
services things like that we intend to be here and be competitive. Our business model doesn’t
assume we are getting but 1 out of 10 businesses. It doesn’t assume any kind of government
services other than if we have a county government building connected. So any additional
support like that is a way to help us with our business model. Real quickly the Community
Connect grant, we did look at the Pamplin-Curdsville area earlier this year and we put in a grant
application through RUS for a Community Connect grant. They told us they will have that
decision by October which isn’t to far away. If we get that grant, we applied for a $3 million
grant and it will cost us $5 million in total to build 2 substations. We will be building that after
the 2nd half of the year next year. We are hopeful that we will hear something positive. It’s a
competitive grant so we won’t know until they make the announcement if we will get it for sure
but we think we will grade out pretty well and did a good job putting that proposal together. The
other thing that’s coming up is Virginia Communications Initiative and we may put in
application for some money through that program for a piece of the county. Again, I would love to be able to come in and tell you we are going to build Buckingham in the next year. That’s not going to happen. We are going to have to hunt and peck and find some other money and if we get money that speeds it up a little bit we can build where it wouldn’t be otherwise as low costs. The good news is that money is mostly available in areas where there is really not many other service providers and there is some areas in Buckingham that need the service badly. If we can find a good match for that and put in an application for that, we will be doing that. The one other thing I will tell you about the state, in talking to several of the folks in the Governor’s office, Eric Fineman is the Governor’s Rural Broadband advisor. He just announced a couple months ago and also happens to be the executive director of the Tobacco Commission so he understands rural broadband and about Coops after last year and we were fortunate enough to get a grant. He tells me the Governor will be asking counties to put together plans to make sure you have a plan of how broadband will be available to all your members within a 10 year period. They are going to ask for plans like that as part of being eligible for funding and wants to expand that pool of money so I’m sure you will hear all about it later. One of the things that I want to touch on while I’m here, is the picture of the map of Buckingham County that is shown on the Center for Innovative Technology that says, broadband is already available in the State of Virginia and the green areas are areas that are shown today as having options for DSL service in Buckingham from the local incumbent telephone company. The purple area and it’s kind of a dark green purple, that’s fiber along Rt. 60 and then the yellowish area is all wireless service at 20 megabits per second from SCS Broadband and they say anybody that’s inside that yellow service area already has options. If you look at this map and you are in Richmond, you will say Buckingham doesn’t need a lot of help. Because there are a few little white spots but it’s mostly covered. If the State gives you an opportunity…particular if they match your money or asks you to spend some money to put together a plan, one of the things I would suggest is spending a little bit of money to get an accurate survey or something because if we go back to the state right now and they look at this map they are going to say you applied for service in some of this green area that’s already available and that’s not eligible. There are just not good maps available and these guys are not trying to fool anybody, they are giving the things they have to in terms of service available.

Dunnavant: Do you need us to pass a resolution that we find this map is in error?

Wood: That won’t help me, not at this time but may help if we put in for a grant somewhere. I will tell you in the case of the Pamplin-Curdsville area, you can see that Curdsville does have some open areas that’s kind of a whitish, greyish area that means nothing is available but we went in and showed some surveys and things that said here are areas where the map shows things available and it’s not. We may have to do that in other areas but it would be easier if we could eventually get some more accurate maps. Just to give you a heads up. If you do a study, one of the things to think about is how to get very good maps of services available. The other thing, you remember what our map looked like, and where our overlap is, those open areas in the northern part of the county, that’s where we serve, we are going to be putting fiber in that area and then in the Curdsville area from Mt. Rush to over there, we serve that area so we are going to cover parts where there is absolutely nobody today and parts where there are other providers but maybe they are not able to provide the speeds we are showing here or availabilities that we are
showing. That’s my story and to wrap it up, about a guy that knew a little bit about hard work and electricity. Opportunities missed often because like overalls, it looks like work. We have a whole lot of work in front of us. I would like to ask you to consider the request we put in with Mrs. Carter to pass along to you. We set a goal of $400-500,000 in outside support. That’s not necessarily writing us a check today for $400-500,000. In fact the easiest way to look at it is as an economic incentive that equivalent to the taxes coming back. You can waive our taxes. If you are committed to something like that, once we build it and we show you how much investment we have here and we are paying taxes on it we just ask that you then provide the equivalent to that tax for 5 years after we’ve built it. That would give us the years that we are going to be taking losses, the most sensitive years, it gives us a little more traction and then you have the tax revenue for years after that. We are taxed sensually at the real estate property rate, the State Corporation Commission sends the value of our construction over but we will be building a total of about $14,000,000 worth construction here over the 5 year period.

Matthews: I have a couple questions for you. We were at a meeting last week with the Commerce Commissioner for Virginia and there were a couple questions about broadband service. Looks like to me, I know what a coop is and I understand all that but it looks like to me it could be some type of partnership with other coops in these rural areas, like Southside Virginia and I don’t know how to get the ball rolling because we have several, not just Central Virginia services Buckingham County. I’m concerned about all the citizens of Buckingham County with broadband specifically, I’m the district supervisor for District 3, and I’m really anxious to see how this is going to work but we have a lot of other companies in the county that I’d like to see some language between Central Virginia, Southside and Dominion Power. How do we get everybody to the table so all these people are on the grid and every citizen in the county? It’s important, not just for me and my constituents but it’s also important to all these other citizens in here too. You know, a portion of them might not be serviced by Central Virginia.

Wood: I understand that and I appreciate that. That’s the first question I get everywhere I go. So the Coops are independent companies. We do have an association, we have several relationships with other coops, I know the folks at Southside and other coops well. But they each make their own decisions about whether or not to go into a project like this. At this point, Southside has held back from it. I will tell you that we have had talks with everybody adjacent to us at different times and will continue to have talks if things make sense. We’ll be glad to do that. Dominion and Appalachian Power are required this year by the State Corporation Commission to provide reports by the first week in December of how they can provide rural broadband using their infrastructure. I don’t know what to expect from those reports. We’ll see if they have ways that they can allow us to get under their proposal a little cheaper or to do some things that helps offset some costs. We will certainly look at it. When we build off system, it costs us about twice as it does to build on our system. That’s because when we build on our system we can build up closer to the phase wires since we are using them for our communication purposes, we are allowed by code to build closer. When we go off system, since we are not using that for our communications, it’s somebody else’s wires, we are not allowed to build as high. That means that more poles have to be changed out. That means its more work to be ready. So, there are also more easements to get. I’ve got easements on our system. Off system I don’t. A number of things go into it but it costs twice as much. If you go back and look at the
11 years to break even, it doesn’t take long to figure out if we go off system…unless we can get some other things calculated a little different way, it’s going to be difficult to make the math work. But we are looking. We are looking for partnerships. We are looking for commonality. The other thing that we are doing is by providing fiber to these 4500 points in the county, if you have wireless providers, we have more places the towers might work. We may have places that other folks may want to extend fiber themselves up from our system a little further. It gets you closer to those areas and may give you other options to serve them. If we can figure out a way to serve them, I’d like to do it. We just haven’t quite cracked that yet.

**Dunnavant:** Question, I did a little math on your figures, what you are proposing is $4.63 a foot roughly. 23 million feet, 4500 miles. Have you made any contacts with the users? A lot of them when REA came through here, a lot of users are a good ways off the main line. I know when REA came through here, kind of like the VDOT road system, there’s not so many services and count of poles, if you wanted the service you had to pay for it yourself. Which mine, was like that. My father had to pay. Have you talked to the proposed users for that aspect to get any prepayments from them to help you? I am in favor of giving you the tax benefit. I am in favor of doing that when that time comes.

**Wood:** We have not when it comes to the Coop members and there is a couple reasons for that. One goes back to our need to communicate. So if we need to get to that meter eventually and read it, if you don’t pay for it, I’ve got a meter I can’t get to when I need to for other information. But that’s one of the things when you talk about going off system that we have looked at.

**Dunnavant:** I know about that from a cost standpoint because I’m 6 poles off the main line. I’m the only service there. It wouldn’t be fair for the rest of the county to subsidize the ¾ mile to get it to me.

**Wood:** The model we set up when we first looked at the fiber for all the numbers was to treat all the members equally under it which is extending all the members we have today, and it’s really when you get down to those like you are, 6 poles off, at that point we are running the small fiber that is less than $0.50 a foot. That’s something that made the decision a little easier. As far as putting on those poles. So our business model is based on extending service when first coming through to everybody that will have it. We have that $100 connection fee that will be cover part of that costs once we are through and going back to only $0.50 a foot that provides us some offset. In the future, we will probably have it like the electric system where we provide so far beyond the customer would pay but since we have members in place, they are all going take the burden on of taking on the $100 million debt and wanted them all to have access to it equally. That’s just the business model we chose.

**Matthews:** I have another question too. If you are already a member of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, I understand that you are going to develop another entity to the company so we are going to have to form another membership to get service or is that waived? I saw something about something being waived?
Wood: It’s not a membership because it’s a for profit company and you are just buying a service from another company. It’s $100 connection fee and we are waiving that if you sign up when we first build it. Because that $100 connection fee is what is going to pay for somebody to come back and string that last little piece to your house. But when we are coming through building the main line, it’s pretty cheap and if you let us know we won’t charge the $100 to connect you when we come through. So after we finish the substation area and you tell us the next year you want service, you pay the $100.

Matthews: Initially you can say, hey, I want it and it’s not going to be $100. Is that what you are saying? Ok. I mean, you know as well as I do that rural communities, they probably have a particular job and things and we are not a rich county but I think that internet and broadband is important to citizens of Buckingham County and if they give up anything they are probably going to try to get internet service to their house if any way possible. You said you are going to be competitive with your pricing, I’m just thinking about my own scenario, CenturyLink does a bundle now, is our phone service going to be…I hope it’s not going to be any worse than CenturyLink but if we get it with Central Virginia…is that the case or not the case?

Wood: I don’t know what service you have with CenturyLink but ours will be voice over ip, crystal clear delivered by the light not by the copper. I had an old copper line a few years ago and I took it completely out and went to voice over ip phone because every time it rained I could hardly talk on it. I have Verizon up in Nelson County and I asked the local guys working on it last time he came to work are yall doing anything to upgrade this and he said no. We are not and are not going to. There is no money to be made in copper so we are told to do the best we can maintenance wise but they won’t be any new investment in copper. He suggested that you may want to go to wireless because that’s the area they are investing their money. I’m not trying to speak for them. Ours will be voice over ip and it will come over internet service. It’s a good service. It’s not the primary reason of going in but it’s a very good service. It has all the modern features.

Dunnavant: Let me ask you a question, I’ll leave you alone. I’m a math guy. At 110 million and 37000 users, my math says that its 2973 per user on average. That’s a chunk.

Wood: That is a chunk.

Dunnavant: You are going to get that back and in 5 years break even?

Wood: No, that’s not the break even and have everything paid off. The breakeven is for the subsidiary, it’s first year of operation, it’s going to pay at least, it will at least pay off the fiber over a 30 year period.

Dunnavant: What I’m trying to fish for, at the infrastructure cost of $2900 per service, assuming every 37,000 households in the 14 counties take you up on it. What kind of bill are they going to be looking at per month?
**Wood:** We are going to pay for that over 30 years. So if you look at the mortgage, we borrow from RUS at about 3 1/2 % interest so you are looking at a $100 million mortgage at 3 1/2 % interest we are going to be billing the subsidiary and I forget what that number is, but it’s going to be about $7-8 million a year. The subsidiary has to sell $7-8 million a year in internet service just to cover the cost of the lease of the fiber. At $40-$50 a month you’ve got…

**Dunnavant:** That’s what I was fishing for something to have that on the record.

**Wood:** $79.99 for gigabit service. $29.99 for voice service. Depends on what level of service they have and different things. It’s $50 a month for 100 megabit service. $79.99 for gigabit service.

**Allen:** My question, you have the cell towers around here and they keep talking about more people get cell phones and more people get in the area, we will end up putting up more cell towers closer together. So once you get this, do you have to come back and put another line in? Is it going to be more lines? Is it sufficient to handle great numbers?

**Wood:** This can handle huge numbers of people with the fiber we are putting in. We are putting in spare capacity on top of that. Then the equipment keeps getting better and better. Today there is a test going on in Arkansas on a similar system to what we are building that run 10 gigabit speeds to our 1 gigabit. With the same fiber, you just change the laser at the end back at the substation. So the way it will be upgraded at the end, the fiber itself will be able to handle the capacity.

**Allen:** I don’t know much about it. You said 100 megabits per second.

**Wood:** That’s the speed.

**Allen:** That’s the speed so what do we get right now for internet cell phone?

**Wood:** If you have good cell phone service which is hard to find out here in the country, if you have real good cell phone service you are probably running between 5-10 megabits per second. So this is 20 times as fast as that. If you have poor service on your cell phone, it’s running very slow. If you want to think in terms of people who watch Netflix, the movie. A high definition movie uses about 6 megabits per second. So you can run multiple ones of those on 100 megabit. If you have 2 different people in a household watching that and someone else doing other things, they can use the data at the same time without slowing each other down.

**Allen:** It could help us with no more cell towers in the future?

**Wood:** It could, people like cell towers because they like being mobile. This will work well inside your home but once outside your home you are back on the cell tower.

**Matthews:** Your cell companies are charging by the plan of so many gigabits. Is that how this is going to be billed?
Wood: This is unlimited data. We just sell you the amount of speed and then you get unlimited data. Cell phone companies tend to cap you at 10 gigabits or 15-20 gigabits.

Dunnavant: Towards the end of the month, you are not going to slow folks down?

Wood: Not slowing anyone down. No limit on the amount of data. No contracts.

Carter: Morgan, I’ve been think about what you were saying about all taxpayers paying for…I think what, and correct me if I’m not right, I think what you are asking for is the tax incentive only on the new build out. This is money we are not getting now anyway, so at the end of the period…

Dunnavant: Yeah. Like what we did with Rockwood.

Matthews: So you are talking about 100% or what are you talking about as far as forgiveness of your taxes, what are you talking about?

Wood: What I had asked for is for the first 5 years to get the equivalent of what we pay and because we are going to be building in phases, so if we build Curdsville the first year, it costs $5 million, the cost of that $5 million for the first 5 years at 100%. Then if we build Mt. Rush, 2 years after that, then 5 years of the Mt. Rush build.

Dunnavant: If they don’t build it they won’t get anything. If they do build it, whenever or whatever level of relief if they offer you that, when that expires, then we are getting the revenue hence forward if the facility stays active. That’s a good deal to go that way.

Allen: You say we need to build a 10 year plan as far as…

Wood: I think you will do that for the state this year. They will suggest to you that you need to show them a plan of how you will get everybody internet access over a 10 year period in the county in order to be eligible for the funding they are going to have. Let me say one other thing talking about assistance and it’s real early to be talking about this because we’ve got all we can build right now in our service area unless we can find a fast way to do, but going back to being more expensive to build, on the other hand it’s still a rural area and the money from like the $600 million RUS program, that’s just for rural areas not just the rural coops. So we might be able to go in and say this is an area of Dominion territory in Buckingham and it’s rural even if it’s more expensive, can we get a larger grant. We are willing to look at that. I don’t know what the likelihood is but there may be some other areas to offset those costs down the road.

Matthews: I just want to ask you again to try to bring some other people to the table other than Central Virginia and you’ve got a lot more power than I do. You see those people more than I see them and I just want to urge you to help all the citizens of Buckingham County. I don’t see any reason why Virginia Power wouldn’t want to work with you on something like that. It’s going to help them, even Southside too.
Carter: Doing that with another company, I won’t call any name right now, but a consultant for that company pursuant to what you are saying has asked about doing studies. I must say you all, we would like for them to follow what you all are doing. They are not there yet. They are not there yet. It’s really good that you all are moving ahead with this.

Wood: We have met and will continue to meet and pursue every option. We came to this point for our members because that is something that we have control over with our poles and where we can be. But, we see it as a community issue that goes beyond our lines as well so if we can possibly find a way, we recognize the need and will be glad to work with people.

Carter: Would it be possible the company that will be operating to work with the other instead of you all, they work with the other power companies?

Wood: It certainly is possible. There are a number of different ways to look at it. People want to put up fiber but not want to be in the internet business a subsidiary can provide the back office things and run the internet side. If people are not interested in putting up the fiber that’s when it gets more expensive but we can look at ways to do that too. It’s a lot and we’ve had some of those talks with different folks.

Carter: This is certainly a way to reach those that the other companies that are not financially feasible to build out.

Matthews: Thank you for your time.

Wood: If you have any more questions, I’m easy to find. Becky knows how to get back with me and I appreciate your time again this evening.

Re: Adjourn

Allen: We need a motion to adjourn. Alright. Motion made and a second to close this August 13, 2018 Board Meeting. Let’s vote. And it’s closed. We will start another one at 6:00.

Supervisor Bryant moved, Supervisor Dunnivant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the reconvened meeting of August 13, 2018.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Allen declared the reconvened meeting of August 13, 2018 adjourned.

Attest:

Rebecca S. Carter
County Administrator

Danny R. Allen
Chairman
At a regular monthly meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peter Francisco Auditorium of the Buckingham County Administration Complex, 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; Rebecca S. Cobb, Zoning 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

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

Re: Announcements

There were none.

Re: Approval of Agenda

Supervisor Jones moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the agenda as presented.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2018 meeting as presented.

Re: Approval of Claims

Supervisor Dunnavant moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the claims as presented.
Re: Approval of Second Quarter Appropriations

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Supervisor Matthews moved, Vice Chairman Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Second Quarter Appropriations as presented.

Re: Public Comments

Allen: We do not have any public hearings tonight so whatever you want to talk about, you have 3 minutes.

Quinn Robinson, District 4: Good evening, gentlemen. Quinn Robinson, District 4, I live out in Andersonville. Last month I asked for some option to have advanced registration for comment period. I heard nothing so I will make a written request on that. The second thing is the flood plain map status. I thought there would be some development with Dominion paying for the presentation explaining it. It seems to have disappeared. Has there been a change that we should know about? The last thing is the rescue squad. Many people think we basically don’t have one right now. It doesn’t function and they are making liaisons with neighbors to ensure they can get where they need to go if there is an emergency. It makes no sense. It’s an embarrassment. Thank you.
Valarie Carter, District 5: Good evening. My name is Valarie Carter and I’m a resident on Old Thirteen Road in the James River District. I would once again like to comment on the proposed SUP for Old Thirteen Road. As you know we are opposed to this permanent change as it could change our day to day life forever. While that may sound dramatic, it is a fact. I was told last week that the SUP if approved stays with the property forever while the property value for the applicants would increase, it could decrease ours. I have talked to a local real estate appraiser that has confirmed this. In the new narrative there are several conditions that I feel should be addressed if this SUP moves forward. Music, the noise is a real concern not only for us but our livestock. It has a potential to hurt our livelihood and safety. The handling of stressed out animals is dangerous if you are familiar with livestock, you are well aware of the potential problems. Please consider dropping music out of the permissible events if this SUP goes forward. Secondly, 20 events while it may not sound like a large amount it is potentially almost every weekend during summer months when it’s most conducive for summer activities. As a potential 300 people, that is a large number for our rural area. I was told that fire and rescue would be required for events over 300 people, please consider lessening that number. I feel we are all on the same page with wanting this proposed SUP to be safe for all involved. In a recent email to Mrs. Carter, I said that weddings, family reunions and small family gatherings are not that threatening but in fact they are forever changing the property status from Agriculture to an event venue in the middle of agriculture country, it is a huge deal. Another thing I mentioned is privacy. When you purchase 100+ acres and farm an addition 300 of family property, you move into the area with a certain level of privacy expected unlike when you move into a subdivision. I think we all need some further clarification for what the vision is for Dancing Hills Ranch. It’s still to open. It’s one thing to have a small gathering of people with family sitting around a campfire playing a guitar but to talk about a music event with potentially 300 people that would require speakers and amplification equipment it’s a whole different thing. Ideally we would request to not have an event venue beside us. We have already lost a level of privacy with the approved Air B&B SUP and we really just don’t want to lose any more of that. Thank you for your time.

Chuck Meek, District 4: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. I’m proud Buckingham teacher but more importantly a proud Buckingham parent. My son is a member of a unique group of students at the Buckingham High School. The JROTC Raiders. This past April these students took part in competition against other Raider teams from 6 different states, including D.C. They’ve accomplished something only a few have done and that is to qualify for Nationals in Georgia this November. The Raider team is currently ranked 1st in the State of Virginia, 2nd out of 6 states. Currently they are one of only 25 teams qualified to go to Nationals in Georgia. These young men and women have accomplishments that have been bestowed upon them, the way they carry themselves, how they represent their county as well as their school. They’ve been featured in various restaurant websites, ROTC videos as well as a number of newspaper articles about their accomplishments. I’m asking for your support to help offset this cost of their travel, the meals and lodging as they travel to Georgia. As they did qualify for Nationals, Buckingham Raiders are able to take 2 different teams this year. This past year these men and women have grown as individuals through their travel and teamwork to various states for competitions. They’ve had the chance to observe unique places and situations which allowed them to realize that Buckingham is the best place to live and to grow up. If possible I ask for
your support to allow them to show the Buckingham Pride and hard work this November at Nationals. Thank you.

**Marie Flowers, District 3:** Hello, Marie Flowers, third district. I had to come tonight to respond to some of the comments that were made about the proposed, um, um, um, the proposal on assault weapons that was presented last month. From what was said at the meeting that I got was that people will die and it doesn’t matter how. We don’t want to restrict freedom as to how they should die. I’m sure not one of you would object to restricting a woman’s productive right, meaning abortion which is murder. Correct? I’m sure there aren’t any of you that have taken in unwanted children. Now you have to have a license to fish. You have to have a license to hunt. Just think, take an assault weapon on a hunting trip. Just think of how many deer you can get or turkeys. It’s just like taking an assault weapon into the school, into a school room. You’ll get lots and lots of um, um, dead deer or dead children. Thank you.

**Thomas Hutcherson, District 6:** Good evening. My name is Thomas Hutcherson. I reside in District 6. On behalf of Buckingham County School Board I would like to introduce to you and the others, the new Superintendent of School System, none other than Dr. Daisy Hicks. She comes here from Nottoway County. She was the principal in Buckingham some years ago down there at Gold Hill. I present to you, Dr. Hicks.

**Dr. Hicks:** It is a pleasure for me to serve back in I always say my county because I started my career here as a principal. I must say this is one of the most fantastic counties with community support and everybody is family oriented. I come from a rural area. I was raised in a rural area all my life. So I feel like I’m home when I come to Buckingham and it will be my home very soon. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the community in Buckingham and the students.

**Allen:** Congratulations and we look forward to working with you.

**Laura Rann, District 5:** Hello gentlemen. How are you this evening? My name is Laura and I’m in District 5. I live on top of Spears Mountain with my husband Steve. He’s not here and he is a much better speaker than I am. I just wanted to come and give my support to one of my neighbors who wants to do a Bed and Breakfast. We are probably a little over a mile from them as the crow flies. It takes about 20 minutes to get to their house because it’s a long way down the mountain. I live about 3 miles east of the Henshaw’s on Old Thirteen. We actually spoke to Danny and Cindy about a month ago about their plans for the property and from what we saw and what we heard we really think it would be an asset to the neighborhood and Buckingham County. I really think we need to do more with tourism in this county. We have been in the tourism business ourselves internationally as well as in Texas. It’s a great industry. I tends to help other businesses make money. It seems to be some rumors going around. I’ve actually heard that they want to do a lock in festival there and they really don’t want to do anything there on that scale. So, I just wanted to let you know that not all the neighbors are against what they want to do. I just wanted to let you know that. Thank you.
Re: VDOT Road Matters

Carrie Shepheard: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board. I’d first like to introduce you to a guest I have with me tonight, Mike Miller. We are part of a leadership program and he is here for a few days shadowing me. He will be back for a short term assignment in our residency in January and February. Please welcome him. So for a maintenance update we are currently finishing up our second round of mowing. We should be continuing to work on primaries this week depending on the weather. We have a final cut planned for the first week of October. We are almost complete with our rural rustics throughout the county, our 2018 Rural Rustics. We are almost complete with a safety and operational improvement on Rt. 633 the trench widening will be applying the surface treatment and hopefully everything will be done. A couple weeks ago the Deputy Chief Engineer tasked us with primary route litter pick up to be completed by this past Friday to help maintain the State’s beauty. So we picked up trash on Rt. 56, 60, 15 and 20 that totaled about 16 miles and cost us about $7300. We will begin contract patching on Rt. 60 beginning in Buckingham Courthouse, right out here, up to Mt. Rush within the next couple weeks. This past Thursday we also held a public hearing for Shephard’s Corner, the Smart Scale Project at Rt. 15 and 636. The turning lane improvements. Public Comment is still open until September 20 so if anyone would like more info on the project or if there are additional questions or comments please feel free to make them. I have the contact information for the contact manager. His name is Daniel Brown. His number is 434-856-8265. If anyone wants more information from us, you can feel free to contact me or Scot. We are also in the process of signing up our snow vendors for this year’s snow season. We have extended our date for signups to September 29th. So we are encouraging all emergency employees and contract vendors and come out and we will help you sign up. Last but not least, we are preparing our equipment and crews for the upcoming storm this week. We are prepared to work 24 hour shifts and after the event we will be machining all unpaved roads. Any questions for me or concerns?

Jones: Yes, maam. At the last meeting that Scot attended here I asked him to look into the fact that I have several people that have come to me complaining about signs for the horse and buggy on the highway. I asked him if he would consider, or the State, consider putting a sign of that nature at the beginning at each of our main roads that go through Buckingham. 15, 60 and 24 where it starts and where it ends. Just one sign at each of those. I was wondering if they had taken any action and what it was?

Shepheard: Yes, Scot actually did look into that. He talked to the District Traffic Engineer. From what I can remember and I will double check but that was acceptable. They are going to look into that. But I will make sure that Scot lets you know the specifics.

Jones: Thank you. We’ve had one accident and don’t want anymore.

Shepheard: Agreed.

Bryan: You said you spend $7,300 for trash pickup?
Shepheard: That’s correct.

Bryan: How was that money spent? I’m just being curious.

Shepheard: On our crew.

Bryan: Have you ever thought about contacting the school system? Just had a gentleman speak about the Raider team. Maybe some of the organizations in the School System could adopt a highway and then maybe yall pay that organization especially in the event of fundraising.

Shepheard: I completely agree with you. That was going to be our next move to work with you to try to get more involvement from the community to help us out. In this instance, it was a directive that came down from our Chief Deputy Engineer to do it within 2 weeks.

Bryan: If you call the school and offer that much money, I’m sure you will have people beating your door down.

Shepheard: I agree with you. We will be looking into working with the community more often to get more help with trash pickup to keep everything clean.

Matthews: What was the number for the fellow about the intersection at Shephards?

Shepheard: Yes, his name is Daniel Brown. His number is 434-856-8265.

Matthews: Two other things. On the rural rustic resurfacing, have they started any of those?

Shepheard: Yes, most of them are complete. With the exception of...

Matthews: Old Shephard Road. Is that on there?

Shepheard: I’d have to pull out my list.

Matthews: It was on there but I’m curious is it one that’s complete.

Shepheard: I’ll have to check my list. We have about 3 that is not quite finished.

Matthews: But you are going to get those before the weather turns bad. Not this week but they were on there last year and yall couldn’t get them done.

Shepheard: Yes, within the next couple weeks. Yes.

Matthews: Trimming. I noticed yall do it every year. On Rt. 15 there are a couple spots right across from Willis Mountain, on the right hand side there is a guardrail there where Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Holman live, they’ve had issues of getting out of that area in the past some of the...I can
see myself. She has already contacted me and she’s probably contacted the state, but they do it every year. I’d like to see that cleaned up a little if you can.

Shepheard: At Willis Mountain?

Matthews: Right across from Willis Mountain. Kyanite Mining Corporation.

Allen: Anyone else? Thank you maam.

Re: Congratulations and Presentation to the 2018 Buckingham County Dixie Youth Majors Virginia State Champions and the Dixie Youth League World Series Sportsmanship Award

Carter: It seems to be our year for JROTC and state champions and going on to Nationals. If Chairman Allen would come down we will make a presentation to the coaches and our players. I’ll read the resolution:

The Buckingham County Board of Supervisors
express Congratulations and Appreciation
to the
Buckingham County Dixie Youth League Majors
as the 2018 Virginia State All Star Champions,
Sixth Place in the World Series Championship
And very special appreciation for representing your
County in such manner as to earn the most prestigious award, the
2018 World Series Sportsmanship Award

By order of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors
This 10th day of September 2018

Medals and certificates were given to each of the players and coaches.

Camden Allen; Nick Allen; Wyatt Bickford; Jacob Carter; Daniel Farrish; Shawn Garceau, Jr.; Justin Gunter; Ethan Martin; Harrison Mitchell; Cameron Newton; Rocco Raynor; Avery Schaeffer; Coach Walter Edwards; Coach Travis Hicks; Coach John Toney

We really appreciate all you all done and you really caused a lot of excitement there for a few days with all of us watching you on YouTube and the County was really cheering you on. So Congratulations.

Coach John Toney: We would also like to thank you for donating to us and helping us get down there. We got a plaque with our picture and everybody signed it.

Allen: Congratulations. You did a good job. You made the County proud. Sportsmanship. You can’t beat that. Good job.
Jones: I think it would be in order for a standing ovation.

Bryant: The Sportsmanship Award is the best.

Carter: I would also like to thank the parents. You contributed a lot to this and to the Sportsmanship.

Re: Gwyn Tyler, Virginia Department of Forestry: Annual Report

Mr. Chairman, Board Members, Mrs. Carter, and fellow citizens,
It is a pleasure to come before you again tonight to give you our annual update of forestry activities in Buckingham County and some of the things the Virginia Department of Forestry has been doing. There have been a couple of changes within our organization to make you aware of. First of all, we have a new State Forester. His name is Rob Farrell. Rob has replaced Bettina Ring who was recently appointed by Gov. Northam to be the new Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. The second thing I wanted to share is that Chad Wisecarver is our new forest technician for the Buckingham-Appomattox area. He started work on August 27th. His primary responsibilities will be related to logging activities and control of wildfires.

We still have seven people working within our work area, which includes Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward, and Appomattox Counties. We all are staying busy inspecting logging jobs, assisting landowners with reforestation and timber management practices, fighting wildfires when they occur, and performing other duties as needed.

The forest industry continues to remain strong here in Buckingham. The latest stumpage data or value of wood to the landowner in 2016 was $12.9 million which ranked us 5th in the State for timber value paid to landowners. In 2017 there were 122 logging jobs with some type of timber harvesting on a little over 8,400 acres. This is about 1500 acres less than the acres harvested in 2016.

Much of the harvesting was done in pine stands that were thinned or in stands that were clear-cut. The majority of the clear cut areas will be replanted within the next year. Sometimes there is a time lag because some type of site preparation work may need to be done.

This year we were also able to assist 47 private landowners with replanting almost 2100 acres of cut over land. The forest investment companies planted many more acres. These newly established pine plantings will help to meet the continued demand for timber in the future.

This has been a good year from the wildfire standpoint. So far, we have responded to seven wildfires that burned 35 acres. The causes of these fires were debris burning, downed power lines, and equipment use. The various fire departments responded to several additional small fires that occurred along the road side or in people’s backyards. The combination of a wet spring and people being careful with fire contributed to the low number of fires.

As a reminder to our citizens, fall fire season officially begins on October 15, and runs through November 30. We would like to encourage everyone to be careful when burning leaves and other debris during this time.

Later this fall we will be offering training for wildfire suppression to members of our local volunteer fire departments. This will be a basic fire suppression course from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.
We have not had many insect or disease issues this year. However, we did discover an infestation of Emerald Ash Borers that have killed about 20 acres of ash trees along the James River near Scottsville. I just found out today there is another infestation not far from here. The forest industry continues to remain a strong industry in the County. Not only does it provide income for landowners, it also provides a source of employment for many of our residents. This is vital to our local economy as these individuals pay local taxes and shop at the local businesses. The Department of Forestry has traditionally promoted and recommended multiple use management of our forest land. This includes timber production, enhancing wildlife habitat, maintaining an aesthetic quality of the forest, soil and water protection, and creating recreational opportunities.

A number of factors influence management decisions. These could include but are not limited to the economy, natural disasters such as ice storms, insect and disease problems, public policy, and the landowner’s goals and objectives.

As timber markets change and land ownerships change, the management decisions we make today may be different tomorrow. The problem is that it takes years to grow a forest. Our concept of what a forest should be or how it should be managed may be very different in the future.

As I have said before, keep in mind that timber is a renewable resource, and that with good management techniques and the landowner’s desire to keep his land for timber production, we will continue to enjoy our forest resource for years to come. Good management of our forest land is vital to our local economy as well as our environment. If anyone has questions about managing their timberland they can contact us at our office in Cumberland. Our phone number is 804-492-4171. There is also a wealth of information available on our web site at www.dof.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your time. If we can be of any assistance to you please let me know.

Re: Michael Womack, Forest Manager, Virginia Department of Forestry Presentation of County Payment from the Department of Forestry

Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. I’m Michael Womack, Forest Manager for the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. I would like to start off by reporting a couple successes we’ve had over the past year. I would like to report that the Virginia State Forest Land have been certified by the Sustainable Forest Initiative and the American Forest Foundations and American Tree Farming System. Now what these are, these are two organizations that certify the management of private and public owned forest land in the United States and across the globe. So the question is why do we want to have our land certified? So achieving certification shows that the Virginia Department of Forestry has a commitment to sustainable forestry and demonstrates that Virginia State Forest System is doing its part to protect America’s forest legacy for future generations. So in order to be certified, a forest landowners forest operations must undergo an independent audit from a third party certification body. So an auditor came from NSF International and audited our forest management practices on our land throughout the State of Virginia. So the auditor found out that our timber management operations were in compliance with the standards of both of the certification bodies. So the standards are and include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forest exceptional conservation value and they also use to evaluate the forestry practices done by woodland owners to achieve their goals by maintaining a healthy productive forest. These standards delineate best management practices and address four key areas, water, wildlife, wood
and recreation. In addition to finding that we conform to the standards, they found that we exceed the standards in providing recreational opportunities to the public and our support of research on the State Forest land and providing educational opportunities and promoting sustainable forestry. This is in line with the State Forest and providing opportunities for the public such as hunting, horseback riding, hiking trails and that sort of thing, providing research so we can find new ways of forest management for landowners of Virginia and pass it on to them and also educational opportunities by giving tours to forest landowners and the public come look at forest management practices. So what does it mean to be certified? So consumers want products from forests that have the following standards of conservation and they want products that were produced using sustainably harvested products. Being certified validates that Virginia’s State Forest meet the standards of sustainability and products produced by State Forests can be labeled as such. For example if you buy a forestry product, lumber or boxes, paper, you will see…I have an example here on this flat rate shipping box, see this label in the corner. It has a symbol for sustainable forestry initiative and a little tree so that means that the fiber used to make this box came from timberland that was certified as a sustainable by that certifying group. So we are proud to be able to say that our lands have been and were able to be certified. So additionally, something I would like to report on, the Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation awarded us the Andy Huffman Award recognizing our efforts to further wild turkey management on the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. We were glad to be able to receive that award from them. So as you know the State forest are funded by generating revenue from sales of forest products and sale of permits. We do not use any General Fund revenue to manage our state forest system and additionally the County receives a portion of the timber sale income. So this year I have a check for you for $18,338.35. Do you have any questions for me?

Bryan: Thank you.

Matthews: We appreciate your good job, Mr. Womack.

Re: Zoning Matters: Continuation Special Use Permit for Events 18-SUP258

Cobb: Yes, sir. This is Case 18SUP258, Applicant Cynthia Henshaw, on Tax Map 131 Lot 8A and 8C on Old Thirteen Road in the James River Magisterial District. You will recall that last month you approved the bed and breakfast portion of the application and you were continuing discussion on the events. The applicant provided a new narrative that narrows down and gives more details of the scope of the request that’s attached for you all as well as I contacted VDOT for some further information about Old Thirteen that is also attached as well as new drafted conditions and the applicant is here if you have questions for her as well I am available if you have questions for me as you discuss this further.
Conditions:

1. That all federal, state and local regulations, ordinances and laws be strictly adhered to.
2. The facility shall meet all safety requirements of all applicable building codes.
3. That commencement of the facility shall begin within two years of the approval by the Board of Supervisor’s or this special use permit shall be null and void.
4. If after commencement of the business no events are held for a period of 5 years or more than the special use permit shall be null and void.
5. That all documentation submitted by the applicant in support of this special use permit request becomes a part of the conditions.
6. Ample parking for occupants shall be supplied on premises and no roadway shoulders shall be used.
7. There shall be no more than 300 persons at an event.
8. The sheriff’s office shall be notified three weeks prior to any event inviting or expecting 300 persons.
9. There shall be no more than twenty (20) events per year.
10. The property shall be used for weddings, receptions, graduation parties, birthday parties, reunions, guest speakers and similar such events. If the owner/applicant wishes to expand the use to a campground and/or events such as but not limited to archery competitions and festivals, etc., then a new permit shall be required.
11. Nothing in this approval shall be deemed to obligate the County to acquire any interest in property, to construct, maintain or operate any facility or to grant any permits or approvals except as may be directly related hereto.
12. In the event that any one or more of the conditions is declared void for any reason whatever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of the permit, which shall remain in full force and effect, and for this purpose, the provisions of this are hereby declared to be severable.
13. That any infraction of the above mentioned conditions could lead to a stop order and discontinuation of the special use permit, if it be the wishes of the Board of Supervisors.
14. That the applicant obtains and utilizes a commercial solid waste container. The County Solid Waste Ordinance must be followed and adhered to.
15. The County Zoning Administrator and one other County staff member, as appointed by the County Administrator, shall be allowed to enter the property if a complaint is registered against the property for noncompliance with this permit. Any complaints not solely related to this permit will be given to the appropriate department or agency.
16. The Buckingham County Noise Ordinance must be adhered to.
17. That the applicant (s) understands the conditions and agrees to the conditions.

Allen: The Bed and Breakfast is already approved so we are going over what we’ve looked at before. I know yall have looked at the changes. What do you see that you don’t like, do like, where do we stand?
Bryan: I’ll go first Mr. Chairman. Condition #7 says there should be no more than 300 persons at an event. That’s a lot. Ok. I share the concern of the neighbors in the area. I’m recommending that no event shall have more than 150 people with an exception. You may have no more than 3 events per year with a limit of 300 guests. So meaning you can have 3 events per year with 300 people. Condition 8 will still be in there that the sheriff’s office will have to be notified. Additionally #9, it says there shall be no more than 20 events per year. 20 is fine with me however during the summer months, I share again the neighbors concern. No more than 2 events per month during the summer months. That is my recommendation. So moved. Any suggestions, complaints, concerns?

Allen: We need a second so we can discuss it.

Dunnavant: Second.

Allen: We have a motion and a second to make the changes which I may have to get you to read over your changes again. No more than 2 per month.

Bryan: Right. I’ll read it again. Condition #7 says there shall be no more than 300 persons at an event. The new condition #7 I’d like to see is no event shall have more than 150 people with an exception. You may have no more than 3 events per year with a limit of 300 guests. Meaning you can continue to hold the events there but you can only have 3 events per year where it has 300 guests. The rest of the time the events have to be no more than 150 people.

Allen: That’s still to notify the sheriff’s department.

Bryan: Yes sir. Condition 8 will still be in effect when you do hold an event of 300.

Allen: There is only 3 per year.

Bryan: Yes, sir.

Jones: Do the owners have any problem with this?

Bryan: Conditionally, Condition 9 stated there should be no more than 20 events per year. 20 events is a decent number but I do share the neighbors concern that you can have one every other weekend, large events, 2 per month during the summer months. That’s May, June, July, August, September.

Matthews: May is spring time.

Dunnavant: Does this work for you Mrs. Henshaw? We want you to say yes so we can get it on the record.

Bryan: Those are my conditions. I liked everything else in here.
Allen: How about 10 where it says similar such events. Is that to broad of a statement? Should we leave it?

Sammy Smith: Mr. Chairman, may I step to the mic?

Allen: Yes, since you are planning commission.

Smith: On the book I was issued it says there is no longer a request for camping or archery events and then on the limitations on 10 it says as not limited to archery competitions and festivals etc. Which one is right? Are we not going to have archery events or are we having archery events?

Cobb: It means that if they wish to expand to those types of events, they will come back …

Bryan: Right, if they want to do campgrounds or archery events, they must come back to the Board. That’s the way I interpreted that.

Dunnavant: It was put in there to specify. We are not approving them but if they want them they can come back and ask for that at a later date. That’s my understanding.

Allen: I’m just saying that similar such events leaves it open to whatever.

Smith: The point I was trying to make on the record you want to make sure it says if they wish to expand by coming back to the Supervisors.

Matthews: It does say that. If the owner wishes to expand.

Allen: It says a new permit shall be required.

Bryan: Right, if they wish to expand, then they have to get a new permit.

Smith: Just for the record. Thank you.

Allen: Thank you. How do you feel about the similar such events? Leave it in or take it out?

Dunnavant: Should be get Mr. Wright to form an opinion for the verbiage because he’s the one that will have to fight the battle if it comes to that.

Bryan: Which one?

Allen: #10.

Matthews: It already says if the owner wishes to expand…

Jones: I don’t see a problem with it.
Allen: I don’t either but if somebody says…

Bryan: I don’t see a problem with it. We already know they are going to do weddings, receptions, graduation parties, birthday parties, reunions, guests speakers and similar such events.

Chambers: I think it sounds alright.

Dunnavant: I think it sounds good. If people have a question with it, Mr. Wright can…

Allen: Alright, I’m just asking.

Bryan: I’m satisfied with it.

Allen: Any more discussion?

Bryan: I move to approve the amendments as read.

Wright: If yall are satisfied with the wording, that’s fine.

Allen: A motion and a second. Call for the vote. So approved.

*Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Dunnavant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve 18SUP258 for the events portion with changes to the conditions #7 to include no event shall have more than 150 people with an exception. You may have no more than 3 events per year with a limit of 300 guests. Condition 8 will still be in there that the sheriff’s office will have to be notified, #9 to no more than 2 events per month during the summer months.*

Re: Zoning Matters: Update on Conservation Easement Request

Cobb: Yes, sir. If you recall I think it was back in July there was a request before you to adopt a resolution that would involve changing our comprehensive plan and you referred it to the Planning Commission to review. The Planning Commission is recommending that the Comprehensive Plan not be changed at this time. So I’m just bringing that to you.

Bryan: When do we plan on reviewing the Comprehensive Plan? I see…

Allen: It says something about a year from now.
Cobb: So, the Comprehensive Plan has to be reviewed every five years. It was last adopted in 2015 so we would have to review and adopt again by 2020 or summer 2020. We would start working on that in a year or so and we can address those at that time. The Planning Commission just felt that when they looked at this particular growth area mentioned here, those 2 parcels were the largest parcels that’s available for development. Taking that out drastically changes the growth area there. Not to mention, you know, going into such a large document just because one landowner comes forward and is requesting something, it would rather change that document as a whole considering all the lands instead of just catering to one individual.

Allen: So what are you thinking? It’s going to be reviewed…

Jones: I don’t think it should be changed. That is my district and its involving 35% of the property that is dedicated for use for business and we need business. If he puts a conservation easement on the property, then you can’t do anything with it as far as business goes. So I’m against it.

Allen: Do you want to make that into a motion?

Dunnavant: Mr. Jones, before you make a motion. It’s Mr. Pembleton’s land. He bought it from Maynard Davis’ estate. If his comes out by our actions here tonight, then you will still have an option to get another piece of land up there when they do the comprehensive plan to take its place. Now, I had a meeting with Mrs. Cobb last week, with the Commonwealth Regional Council, the DEQ was there. They requested of us, Mrs. Cobb you correct me if I get this wrong, they requested of us to come up with ways to self-regulate ourselves dealing with it and I think yall read in the paper what I told them, but one of the things they eluded to in my understanding if we have conservation easements in the county, when we do have a site to develop the score card for the lack of a better way to call it, the score card that DEQ scores us with, that comes into figuring the amount of permit fees that will be put onto that new business so by having conservation easement land set aside in Buckingham, if we get another industry in here closer to Dillwyn or somewhere that can tap into the gas tap that may be coming down the pike, we will get or that business development which we will be involved will get a cheaper permit fee as the way the score on the card, the way I understood what he was explaining to us. So it can actually be in the county’s benefit even though the tax benefit we will lose some of that which is his benefit for doing it. But it would possibly be an economical benefit to the county to have that increased count of conservation acres in the county. If we do it and give Mr. Pembleton the break he’s looking for and when we redo the comprehensive plan, just recapture that acreage somewhere else from a landowner that will be willing to sell it because I don’t believe Mr. Pembleton is going to be willing to sell it because I don’t think yall read in the paper what I told them, but one of the things they eluded to in my understanding if we have conservation easements in the county, when we do have a site to develop the score card for the lack of a better way to call it, the score card that DEQ scores us with, that comes into figuring the amount of permit fees that will be put onto that new business so by having conservation easement land set aside in Buckingham, if we get another industry in here closer to Dillwyn or somewhere that can tap into the gas tap that may be coming down the pike, we will get or that business development which we will be involved will get a cheaper permit fee as the way the score on the card, the way I understood what he was explaining to us. So it can actually be in the county’s benefit even though the tax benefit we will lose some of that which is his benefit for doing it. But it would possibly be an economical benefit to the county to have that increased count of conservation acres in the county. If we do it and give Mr. Pembleton the break he’s looking for and when we redo the comprehensive plan, just recapture that acreage somewhere else from a landowner that will be willing to sell it because I don’t believe Mr. Pembleton is going to be willing to sell it because he’s put a substantial investment of forestry from which we just got a good check for. That’s my spill on it. I’m done.

Jones: I understand what you are saying Mr. Dunnavant. Also, I would appreciate what I am saying and that is I am not in favor of that. We are looking at something that is going to be a year from now when we change things when we look at the comprehensive plan over and that’s the time we can adjust it or talk about it now. Right now, no. I am not for it.
Bryan: Question, so once you put land in a conservation easement, it doesn’t come out?

Cobb: Correct.

Bryan: So if the landowner owns whatever he owns, ok, a lot of acres, and there is a huge business that wants to come here, then he’s out of luck.

Dunnavant: Not completely. The taxes and the interest that the state would have lost on it can be repaid. The land can come out. But it’s expensive but can come out. It’s not permanent. It can be permanent but it can be broken as well. It is expensive. As far as acreage goes, the acreage when they redo the comprehensive plan can be recaptured.

Jones: I guess any rule we have can be changed.

Pembleton: May I speak?

Allen: Go ahead.

Pembleton: We may have gotten off on the wrong foot a little bit here. When it went back to the planning commission I asked them to change the comprehensive plan. I don’t believe the comprehensive plan needs to change at all. It can stay just like it is. All I need is…

Allen: When you make that easement it will change our comprehensive plan automatically and that is what we are talking about. That doesn’t have anything to do with what you are talking about and what you do to that land and what it’s zoned at. It changes the comprehensive plan.

Pembleton: It will take that part but it doesn’t do anything to the balance of the plan.

Allen: In that area it does.

Pembleton: It does? It will change somebody else’s land?

Allen: Not somebody else’s land. The land you are wanting to change is already in the growth area and if you put it in conservation easement, then the growth plan is completely changed in that area.

Pembleton: Ok. What I needed…my attorney said…the trust people that hold the easements…they need the blessings of Buckingham. Not to change the comprehensive plan, not to reconstruct the comprehensive plan. What you are saying it changes anyway. I understand it lessens the amount unless you gather up some more.

Allen: That’s what we are saying. In a year from now, we will look at the comprehensive plan again and it will be a good time to look at the changes in the area.
Bryan: To help offset your 35%. To look for more area somewhere else in that area because we know what you want to do so we may need to move down the road a little bit.

Pembleton: I will tell you the conservation easement is real good for Buckingham. It’s good for me. I’m not going to lie. It’s good for me. It’s good for you guys too. It brings some benefits. It totally complements what Mr. Tyler and Mr. Womack said. It’s a hand in hand for forestry which looks like the biggest money in Buckingham and agriculture. It’s a good thing for all of us. I’d like to do it. I understand if we can’t do it. I’ve already planted the land in trees. I’m not going to sell the land Mr. Jones. I bought it. I like. It’s pretty. I’m not going to sell it. So just to hold me back and keep it, you just told me I can’t sell my own land. I do believe in landowners having their rights too you know so you are really restricting me of my rights by telling me I can’t sell my own property. You tell me I’ve got to sell it.

Jones: I feel like you do that you can do what you care on your own property but if it doesn’t affect others. In this case it’s going to affect the county if it taken out of there. That’s my problem.

Pembleton: How can it affect the county if I’m not going to sell it?

Jones: If you put that in that easement, then no business can go on there.

Pembleton: It’s not anyway because I’m not going to sell it. No business is going to go there. I’ve planted it in trees. It’s not going to ever be a business. I’m just saying that’s how it is. If you try to restrict me and say you just can’t do that with your land I didn’t know it was like that. I’m sorry.

Jones: I didn’t mean to do that either.

Pembleton: I paid good money for a pretty piece of land on Rt. 15. Conservation people in the conservation world, the whole state likes it. It’s beautiful. It protects your grandchildren that likes big tall trees. It’s got new trees coming. But I know the timber business. That’s what we do. I’m not building Walmart’s. I’m not going to do that.

Jones: The other thing I have against that is the fact that to me it’s the first step to land use because that 300 and some acres that you have, you can get your taxes brought down on whatever you are paying now to practically nothing. The problem I have with that, it’s like robbing Peter to pay Paul. Somebody has to make up the taxes that you are going to take away from us to do that. We just don’t have that much business to help us with our taxes.

Pembleton: One thing sir, I’m never going to use your police force. I’m not going to use your emergency squad. I’m not going to use your schools to put children in. If my taxes are lower than yours or somebody that does use those sources, I think it’s justifiable.

Allen: Thank you. Appreciate it. Are you going to make a motion?
**Dunnavant:** I’m going to make a motion that we approve the conservation easement request from Mr. Pembleton and subsequently adjust the comprehensive plan in the next cycle to account for the loss of acreage in the comprehensive plan.

**Matthews:** Second.

**Allen:** We have a motion and a second to approve a conservation easement. Any more discussion. If not lets vote. We have 2 yes and 4 no’s and 1 abstain.

**Bryan:** I would like to look at it after we adjust the comprehensive plan. I would be more amicable than right now.

**Carter:** For clarification, Supervisor Jones said no but vote came as abstain. You want to clarify.

**Allen:** Did you abstain or not?

**Jones:** It should be no.

**Bryan:** So 2 yes and 5 no.

*Supervisor Dunnavant moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded to approve the conservation easement request from Mr. Pembleton and make changes to the comprehensive plan in the next review cycle. This motion failed with a 2-5 vote. Supervisor Dunnavant and Matthews voting in favor. Supervisors Jones, Bryan, Allen, Bryant and Chambers opposing.*

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**Re: Consider Nomination to the Board of Assessors and Board of Equalization**

**Bryant:** I have to withdraw mine. At first he said he would but now he says he won’t. (Lindsey Tapscott)

**Matthews:** What is this for now?

**Allen:** Board of Assessors.

**Matthews:** The Board and then what’s the other one?

**Carter:** Board of Equalization.

**Matthews:** We voted on doing even and odd didn’t we?

**Carter:** I think you all discussed that.
Dunnavant: I’ve got one citizen that has agreed to sitting on the Board of Equalization. I think he’s here tonight. If we’ve got room to put another one on mine.

Chambers: Mrs. Carter, we put Louise Davis on there last month.

Carter: Yes, we have Louise Davis on the Board of Equalization.

Dunnavant: How many can sit on the Board Mrs. Carter?

Carter: 3 to 4.

Matthews: What is involved? Are they going to be here every day?

Carter: The Board of Equalization comes on Board at the end when people start appealing the decision of the Board of Assessors. They don’t meet as much. They are not through the whole process like the Board of Assessors are. I think we discussed that instead of the Board of Assessors going out on every visit, to review what the assessors have done…

Matthews: And come as needed. Is mileage involved in that?

Carter: Mileage and $50 a day.

Matthews: Ok. Alright. We going to do one first and then the other?

Allen: We will do both. Whatever one you’ve got.

Matthews: I’ve got somebody for the second one which is the…

Allen: Equalization.

Matthews: No.

Bryan: Equalization is at the end when they don’t like what they see.

Matthews: Ok.

Dunnavant: While Mr. Matthews is looking for his, I’ve got Ivan “Chip” Davis who is willing to sit on the Board of Equalization for my district.

Bryan: Is that a motion?

Dunnavant: I make that in form of a motion.

Bryan: I’ll second that.
Allen: A motion and a second to add Mr. Davis to the Board of Equalization. Any discussion?

Matthews: Are we doing one at a time?

Allen: Any more discussion? If not let’s vote. 7 yes.

_Branch_Dunnavant moved, Vice Chairman Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to nominate Ivan “Chip” Davis to the Board of Equalization._

Bryan: We currently have Alvin Thomas on the Equalization. I will try to reach him tonight.

Carter: I’ll bring it back in October for at least the final Board of Assessors because we have to have the training done. The Virginia Department of Taxation will come up here and do the training.

Matthews: I make a motion to nominate Pam Waycaster, she’s not here tonight, to the Board of Assessors for District 3.

Allen: Motion made and seconded to add Pam Waycaster to the Board of Assessors. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes.

_Supervisor Matthews moved, Supervisor Chambers seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to nominate Pam Waycaster to the Board of Assessors._

Allen: Anybody else?

Re: Consider Vehicle Bid for Building Inspection Truck

Bids were advertised for the purchase of a 2019 Ford F150 for use in the Building Inspection department. Bids were due August 31, 2018 and we received only one bid. That bid was from Gilliam Motors for a price of $29,689.

Bryan: Move to accept the only bid, Mr. Chairman from Gilliam Motors.

Matthews: Second.

Allen: Motion made and second to accept the only bid received from Gilliam. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes.

_Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to accept the only bid received for the Building Inspection truck from Gilliam Motors at a cost of $29,689._
Re: Consider the Personal Property Tax Relief Act Adjustment Rate of 37.47%

After running several reports, the Commissioner of the Revenue feels a PPTRA credit of 37.47% will keep Buckingham in line with the State’s funding.

Carter: With this the taxpayer will be paying a little bit more taxes but by law she has to adjust this rate according to the Personal Property Tax Relief.

Bryan: So moved, Mr. Chairman, to set the new rate.

Allen: Motion made and second to set the new rate at 37.47%. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes, so approved.

Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the PPTRA credit rate of 37.47% for Tax Year 2018.

Re: Consider reimbursement of $2,112.82 for taxes paid by a disabled veteran

Documentation was received from the Department of Veteran Affairs on August 24, 2018 verifying the disabled veteran owner of Tax Map 38-39A is qualified for the DV exemption since January 18, 2000. Adjustments made to the FY2015-2018 will result in a refund of $2,112.82. This amount includes penalty and interest paid. Commissioner of the Revenue respectfully requests that this veteran be reimbursed for the $2,112.82 refund due.

Supervisor Chambers moved, Vice Chairman Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the reimbursement of taxes, penalty and interest paid in the amount of $2,112.82 for Tax Map 38-39A.

Re: Sheriff’s Department: Consider Transfer of 2008 Ford Explorer to the County

Kidd: Good evening. I come before you tonight for two separate requests that were outlined in your board packet. First involves a surplus vehicle from the fleet to the County for their use. After hearing the need of an additional vehicle, I evaluated my fleet and can offer the 2008 Ford SUV. I’ve spoken to Mrs. Carter who has accepted the offer and I respectfully request the transfer be approved.

Dunnavant: I move we transfer the vehicle from the Sheriff’s Department to the County Administration.

Allen: Motion made and a second to transfer the 2008 Explorer from the Sheriff’s Department to the County. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes so approved.

Supervisor Dunnavant moved, Supervisor Chambers seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the transfer of a 2008 Ford Explorer from the Sheriff’s Department to the County Administration.
Re: Sheriff's Department: FY2018 Budget Appropriations

Kidd: The second request is the hard one. It involves additional appropriations to zero out last year’s FY2017-18 budget. Like always I am requesting that reimbursement funds be applied to offset overages suffered throughout the year. Although the reimbursements totaling $62,619 drastically reduces the shortfall, I remain at a negative $90,759. Some of this is due to unforeseen expenses including a total lost vehicle and insufficient salary and wages. The total lost vehicle was a result of an accident that the insurance did not fully cover. This is reflected in item #8205 where a replacement vehicle with similar equipment was purchased for $35,872. However the insurance claim only paid $19,355 resulting in a $16,517 shortfall that was absorbed in my budget. Another substantial shortage occurred in line item #1300 Part time Salaries and Wages. After applying the requested reimbursements from the Courthouse Security Fund, I remain at a negative $78,246. This line item has remained static over the years at $54,128 in costs of annual reimbursement from the Courthouse Security Fund. Noticing this trend and at the recommendation of Mr. Carter a budget increase was requested last fiscal year for this fiscal year elevating future shortfalls. With that being said my first priority has and remains the safety and security of our county citizens with ever increasing state mandates being pushed I’ve been utilizing part time employees to fulfill constitutional responsibilities at significant savings to the county. With our limited resources, I have maintained a robust operation using the most fiscal efficient methods as possible to meet these ever growing obligations. The Part time salaries and wages above is the direct result of these mandates that has placed a strain on all of us. To give you some examples, due to the Piedmont Regional Jail’s latest policy many transports, 61 of them last year, used to be accomplished through them are now being carried out by my part time officers. Many of these trips are from jurisdictions that require 3 hours up and 3 hours back. Additionally last year we had 72 circuit court days, 49 general district court days, and 67 juvenile court days. All of which require bailiffs and someone to man the metal detector. Laws concerning mental patients require our officers to spend a minimum of 12 hours with patients who we transport. More often than not, the time spreads out to 16 hours or more. Also last year we had 5 extraditions where we had to send 2 officers out of state to pick up prisoners. A majority of these duties are carried out by my part time officers which believe it or not saves money because full time officers are paid at a higher rate. As new public safety issues arise I will continue to do my best to address them in the most fiscally efficient manner. Speaking with Mrs. Carter it has been determined that the best course of action is to meet quarterly with her office to better determine our budget issues and transfer reimbursements as soon as possible so I can have a better grasp as to how much is available. I share in your belief of transparency and invite anyone here with additional questions to meet with me for further discussion. In closing I humbly stand before you asking for your approval of these requests.

Chambers: I make a motion. We’ve got to protect our citizens.

Carter: I might add that since the whole entire county budget was not overspent, you will not have to appropriate any money from the general fund or ending year balance and offset it from other places. We didn’t spend all of our reserves. A lot of departments did not spend all their money. Another I might add is that he had someone on sick leave for a good while but yet had to
pay someone. These things are justifiable. We just need to work with them quarterly to keep in line.

Dunnavant: I have one question, I’m pretty sure we are going to agree on this one more than we agreed on the one a few minutes ago. But about the insurance not covering the cost of the vehicle, are you looking into that because if we are paying for full coverage, and they are not giving us full coverage, maybe we should find a point of diminish and return with that insurance and cut it off and just go with liability. We might you know, with the amount we are paying and the likelihood…

Matthews: Then you would be responsible for a $35,000 instead of a $17,000.

Dunnavant: My point is, how much are we paying for full coverage on the vehicles and at what point does the point of diminish and returns come in on the insurance. Just something to look into.

Matthews: I think we need to look into it and do we need to change insurance companies. That’s one question also. Who are we insured by now?


Bryan: I also sit on the Crossroads Board and one of the issues I’ve raised is you are not the only sheriff’s department that is catching it with the temporary…TDO’s. I’ve asked and asked and asked. Is there any way you can get me how many TDO’s you’ve done in the last 6 months and how much time you’ve spent and how much money you’ve spent because what we are trying to do at the Crossroad’s Board is to cut down on that time because we know it’s labor intensive to you and it’s also expensive to the counties so we are trying to lessen the impact. How can we lessen the impact on the Crossroads side as well? If you could let me know. I just want to know how many trips you’ve had, how long it’s taken and how much money you have expended. Thank you.

Matthews: What’s the reason the insurance gave you for not…

Kidd: They didn’t give me any.

Carter: It’s the value of the vehicle.

Matthews: I was going to ask is it due to the mileage on the vehicle?

Kidd: It was a 2015 if not mistaken.

Matthews: That’s only 3 years old.
Dunnivant: I think the insurance coverage needs to be looked at. They didn’t pay that much but there was full coverage on it to reimburse you. At some point we are paying more for the insurance than they are willing to pay us back. We may not need that Cadillac plan.

Matthews: You are going to try to meet with Mrs. Carter and Karl quarterly or monthly? What are you trying to do?

Kidd: Quarterly.

Matthews: Do we need to do that more often? Is once a quarter to maybe look at it a little more?

Kidd: Let’s start at quarterly and play it by ear after that.

Matthews: Ok. What about, I see we have to pay the guys a lot of overtime I see on one of these lines here, what’s the hiring looking like? Are you able to hire any deputies?

Kidd: Right now we’ve got one opening.

Matthews: Just one? Any prospects?

Kidd: Oh yeah. Getting ready to interview.

Allen: A motion and a second to approve. Any more discussion? If not, let’s vote. 7 yes. So approved.

**Supervisor Chambers moved, Vice Chairman Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the budget appropriation of $90,759 for the FY18 Budget.**

Re: Consider Fire Department Reimbursement Request

**Memo from Karl Carter:** The four volunteer fire departments put their funds together to purchase a much needed commercial washer and dryer to clean all their turn out gear. The contaminants that accumulate on the turn out gear are harmful and potentially deadly. The washer and dryer is housed at the Dillwyn Fire Department but for all the fire departments in the County. The four squads are asking if the Board of Supervisors would like to contribute to the costs of these machines and make the costs decrease from being fourth to a fifth for everyone. Listed below would be the costs numbers if the Board decides to contribute. I would also recommend if you want to contribute that these funds come from ending year balance because this equipment is not training related and so they should not come from reserved training funds.

| Cost per station without Board Support: | $1,956 |
| Cost per station with Board support: | $1,565 |
Email from Fire Department: Please find attached a copy of the invoice where we purchases the washer and dryer. The Fire Department installed all plumbing and a gas hot water heater and will make it available to all fire departments in the county. We are hopeful that some of the training funds could help us with the expenses.

Dunnavant: We just gave the fire departments $200-250,000.

Bryant: $50,000 each. That should take care of that.

Dunnavant: I don’t see where this needs to come forward.

Bryan: Seeing there is no one from the fire department here, then we will move along.

Re: Consider Support Letter for SERCAP’s USDA Housing Preservation Grant

Carter: Last month you all did not take action to find out more information and at our Commonwealth Regional Council Meeting with Supervisor Dunnavant there, our executive director explained that they even sometimes turn to them for help so there is no competition there. It’s not a…the service is not repeated. So all they are asking from you all is a letter of support.

Dunnavant: I’ll move that we authorize Mrs. Carter or the Chairman to sign the letter of support in thought only. No revenue attached.

Allen: Motion made and a second to sign a letter of support. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes. So approved.

Supervisor Dunnavant moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve to sign a letter of support for the SERCAP’s USDA Housing Preservation Grant.

Re: Solid Waste Report

Jones: Have a comment when we get to that.

Bryan: I just have one question Lyn. It looks like this month there has been a lot of construction costs. I mean to the point where it’s the most it’s been in past years with the exception of September 2016 and March 2016. Is there a particular reason? You are looking at 148 almost 149 tons of construction waste.

Hill: One thing to remember, the rain all month, May, June and July was little bit drier and people were able to get out. That’s the only thing I can attribute that too. It’s not as much tonnage with that as is number of trips. It doesn’t cost any more for a ton and a half to go as it would 5 tons. Just because every time it leaves, it’s $300.
Carter: I haven’t had time to look at them today, we got a good number of invoices in today from August.

Hill: Actually August was 19,202. It’s basically runs about $20,000 a month. March through November, general rule of thumb on that.

Dunnavant: Are you treading within budget right now?

Hill: I have no idea. I’d just be frank with you. I doubt it.

Carter: Karl, do you know?

K. Carter: He is a little over but hopefully make up for it by the end of the year.

Hill: We tend to slow down quite a bit.

Carter: Those are the highest months and it will slow down some. We also look at other items in his budget to offset that. So we will have to look at that as we get closer to the end.

Jones: The yearly cost in 2016 versus 2017 is a lot higher so it has come down considerably so it has come down in 2017.

Carter: I might add for the fiscal year we are in now, we reduced that a little bit because we thought a new program would be in affect so we might have to adjust that. There is a meeting about Rt. 600 this week. Mr. Wright might have an update on the contract I believe.

Matthews: What about the Bates Market? I thought they would have started on that.

Carter: They were supposed to start at the middle of August. I talked to Pearson’s Friday and they said they would be starting in the next two weeks.

Hill: They will start cutting trees tomorrow.

Carter: They went out last week to mark it.

Allen: Anything else you want to talk about with solid waste?

Jones: One other comment, even though the roll off costs on 2017 was the highest that it’s been, the actual cost of construction had come down $30,000 or so. What Mr. Hill is doing and what we are all doing in riding herd, this trash is going to show that we are on the right track. The other thing I had, when are we supposed to have the trial run on 600? Isn’t that supposed to be the trial run place?
Carter: We have not signed the contract yet because there was some difference of opinions and some differences of money so they are still working with that but they are supposed to meet with Lyn this week. It’s getting there.

Allen: Good enough.

Re: County Vehicle Fleet Status

Bryan: I read that and strongly recommend that we do that. Develop a plan because our vehicles are aging and aging rapidly and we are at the point now where it is time to start rotation of our vehicle fleet.

Dunnavant: Do we want to task Mrs. Carter, well somebody for coming up with a rotation plan.

Bryan: It says here that regardless Karl be directed to conduct a comprehensive review of all the vehicles for a 10 year fleet replacement schedule. We need to get on that now so we can look short term. We definitely don’t want to get caught in the winter months without vehicles to do what we need to do.

Carter: Build a reserve and you all would consider it every year.

Bryan: Definitely. I move that we task Mr. Carter to conduct a comprehensive review of all the vehicles and prepare a 10 year fleet replacement schedule so we can look at reserving the money each year for possible replacement of vehicles.

Allen: A motion and a second to do what he just said. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes. So approved.

Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to task Karl Carter with conducting a comprehensive review of all the vehicles and prepare a 10 year fleet replacement schedule.

Carter: First what is your consideration on purchasing vehicles at the price that we received on the bid? We received the bid for the building inspectors truck which was an F150 for 29,219 which is an excellent price but yet, the vehicle that Rural Development is paying for the sewer plant which was a F250, 2019 for $25,849 whether you get an extended cab or not. It will take three months to get that building inspectors truck and sewer system truck after you award this bid tonight. It takes them at least 3 months to get it. So we are going to be pushing into December. I talked to Gilliam Motors since they were the only bidders on both vehicles and asked them if you all approve to purchase additional vehicles tonight, could they honor that price since right now we only have 1 general properties vehicle in service. They do the snow removal.

Bryan: So, you are saying replacing the 150 with 250 at the current price.

Carter: No, Tommy doesn’t need a 250 but general properties pushes snow with snow plows.
Bryan:  It looks like Todd’s vehicle is aging too. The one they use for grounds.

Carter:  We are hoping that…the one Tommy is driving right now is having a lot of problems with the transmission. If we can get that fixed for a price that’s worth it, we can pass that down to the recreation department. You all save…we used to bid out the snow removal at $12,000 a year and our staff is doing that now. We haven’t had to buy a lot. We’ve bought a few plows. The sewer system is getting a new tractor with the grant money so they are giving us their old tractor which will save us there. We are trying to build up that snow removal. Gilliam said they can honor the price of the 150 or another 250, 2019, or both.

Bryan:  Did we spend all of the library money? Do we have enough to buy…at this price…you can’t beat this price.

Carter:  We are in another fiscal year now and we are starting to pay out some A&E fees. You’ve got some reserves that you haven’t…but we are in a new fiscal year.

Bryan:  Ok. Because this price is good. I’d rather pay it now instead of increasing the costs. If we can swing it now. Could you look at the money and see if maybe we can…

Carter:  We need to award the bid tomorrow but we do have reserves that we most likely will not spend this year. We will not have a library payment this fiscal year. We will be paying some of the A&E fees out of it until we get the loan but I do not expect it to exceed $250,000.

Bryan:  Is it possible to possibly purchase 3 vehicles at this price?

Carter:  You mean the one you awarded and 2 more.

Bryan:  Yes, maam.

Carter:  It will get you in good shape for the rotation.

Bryan:  My motion is to accept it the way it is that we got the bid on at Gilliam’s. Replace the 150 with a 250 and if we have the funds available purchase another F250.

Carter:  Wait a minute. Tommy’s 150 you have already awarded that bid. Do you want to purchase an additional F150 or F250?

Allen:  What is it going to be doing?

Carter:  The general properties will pull mowers, push snow.

Chambers:  What about the guy we just hired?
Carter: He has the vehicle the state paid for but there are times it will not pull the hazmat trailer.

Chambers: I think we should get 2 F250’s.

Bryan: We already bought the one.

Carter: The 250 costs less than the 150. They said it’s a special price.

Matthews: Diesel or gas?

Carter: Gas.

Matthews: They are having problems with the diesel turbos.

Carter: The F250 will use more gas but general properties don’t travel a lot of miles. They pull a lot. I’ve looked at that. We’ve talked to Tommy about downgrading him to a SUV once we get the fleet straightened out. He doesn’t really need a truck just 4 wheel drive. I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about this trying to finagle.

Allen: The motion is to buy 2 additional F250, 2019 trucks. Long bed, short bed, any specifications?

Bryan: Looks like the long bed.

Carter: I think they need the long bed for general properties.

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

Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Chambers seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve to purchase an additional two 2019 Ford F250’s for the use of General Properties department at the bid amount received by the Wastewater Department of $25,849 each.

Re: Consider State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Florence

Carter: Yes, and I also ask that you retroactive that back to Saturday, September 8, 2018 when the Governor declared the emergency. Talking to some of the fire departments today, they have already started spending money in preparation of the storm and if we are declared and do have a disaster, they can’t get reimbursement on anything until it’s declared so if we can go back to make it affective Saturday. The primary reason for that is to get reimbursement if we have to operate the shelter. Cody is doing a great job of getting everything activated and ready. We are going to have a couple meetings and monitor things to see if we need to do that. The State of Emergency is very important in order to get reimbursement.
Chambers: Do you need a motion for that?

Carter: Yes, sir.

Bryan: Date back to this past Saturday?

Carter: Yes, sir.

Chambers: The 8th. I need to ask Mrs. Carter a question, what places will be open if we need a shelter?

Carter: Right now, just the middle school is what we are looking at if we have to activate it. We are having a meeting on Thursday morning early with all the people that will assist with that. We will not open unless we absolutely have to. It’s very expensive.

Allen: Right. Thank you. Any more discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes.

*Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve to declare a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Florence effective Saturday, September 8, 2018.*

Re: County Attorney Matters

Wright: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, I’ll be brief. I just wanted to give you an update. We had discussed the contract with the individuals providing the gates for the entry to the solid waste sites. We had indicated to you that a few little things needed to be resolved and the last meeting you authorized the county administrator to sign that when it became an acceptable form. We had a meeting after the meeting of which you took that action and we got some things clarified. After that meeting they were going to make the modifications. I have not received them before this meeting. In fact I have not heard from them but I think today after conversations regarding this meeting that’s going to occur on site on Wednesday that they are supposed to bring the contract with them for us to look at. So assuming they’ve made the changes we discussed, we should be in a position to sign that before the end of the week. If it needs to be tweaked maybe the following week. I don’t like for those things to linger and you not know where they stand. That’s the information I wanted to provide you with.

Carter: We needed clarification with can and shall and can and will.

Wright: We wanted to make sure that the tag communicated with the device and the device communicated with the car and the device communicated with the county and the county communicated with that. Those things seemed to be clarified. We didn’t want any misunderstanding with the communications of it. Later on in the package you will see that the Victim Witness Coordinator got a grant and with that you authorized last year. There is no county money involved in that. Everything is in-kind. That grant has been awarded so that
needs to be appropriated. Becky will talk about that in a minute but I do want to say I appreciate the support of the county in allowing that to happen.

Carter: While the county attorney is there, if I could just make a comment. I have signed the paper and the check has been cut on the Love Landfill deal with an original invoice of $4,499,269. Our County Attorney has successfully negotiated it down to $125,000 and I received the order from the courts and that is settled.

Wright: There were a lot of people involved in that and I just happened to be in the front end of it.

Re: County Administrator’s Report

Letter from VACORP regarding Courthouse Brick Wall Coverage: The first item is about the insurance again. This is our risk pool with Virginia Association of Counties. They will not pay for the wall we had the problem with. They said it was inferior, faulty, or inadequate design played a role in the collapse. We’ve been dealing with that for several months now. We expected to receive this.

Dunnavant: Does the insurance company know that a gentleman had hit it a few years ago with a car?

Carter: The wall?

Dunnavant: Yes, the west wall. This is the south wall that fell in the front. But the west wall was hit a few years ago.

Carter: We’ve been looking into the other walls…

Dunnavant: I read the report and what they say is probably the root cause with hydraulic pressure behind it. It might be a good idea to go and do some weep holes in the other walls before it catches up with them. I do know the one on the east end of the courthouse, that footing… the footing is above the sidewalk there because I was the contractor that did it, per the plans guys, per the plans, what that was actually done on the face of the footing, was the brick was saw cut and epoxied to it. Those engineers, I asked them, but they said no, shut up Morgan, you don’t know what you are talking about. But they didn’t add any weep holes to the new structure so we would probably be beneficial to go ahead and do that before another one falls.

Carter: I also provided to you that Daniel is trying to get estimates. He received a masonry estimate for the courthouse wall that includes the labor for laying the brick, block, filling the block cavities with sand for $2100. I was worried it was going to be way more than that. That doesn’t include if we need more brick. We don’t know about that. But he is still looking at other prices on that and get some more quotes.

Dunnavant: Mrs. Carter, I think the county has got the brick.
Carter: We’ve got some brick but we don’t know if it’s the Virginia Brick.

Dunnavant: It’s the same brick. It’s the brick that I sold the county years ago that was left over from the old social services building, where we tore down the building and put the wall around. I held those brick for future reference before I got elected to the Board. I sold those brick to yall. Yall should have enough brick to make up the shortage. I don’t know where you hid them at but they are in the county’s possession somewhere.

Auditor of Public Accounts: Report for Treasurer, Commissioner of the Revenue and Sheriff: Next item is we received a report for the Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue and Sheriff by the Auditor of Public Accounts and everything is in good accountability and order there. That is for the Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue and Sheriff’s office.

VRS Audit Report: Also, from Robertson, Farmer and Cox you have a Virginia Retirement System audit. It’s very complementary to get a good report on that. It’s fairly new and difficult report as you can see. A lot of information there.

Award of $70,669 for the Victim Witness Program: This is what Mr. Wright talked about. The award of $70,669 for the Victim Witness Program. There is money in the budget for this. Did we put in in the revenue?

K. Carter: We put it in their budget but at the time we didn’t know the exact amount so we went ahead and put $69,283.

Carter: So if you all could appropriate the additional…go ahead and appropriate the grant award and that would cover what we need to do legally.

Bryan: So moved Mr. Chairman.

Allen: Motion made and second that we appropriate the $70,669. Any discussion? Let’s vote. 7 yes. So approved.

Vice Chairman Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to appropriate the $70,669 grant award for the Victim Witness Program.

Letter of Appreciation and Commendation from the Virginia Dixie Youth Baseball State Director: The next item, I would like to call this to your attention because you know our Gene Dixon Park and Youth League has gotten some bad publicity and you see tonight how with the young gentlemen how well things have been going. This is a letter from the State Director of the Dixie Youth League commending Todd Shumaker, Director of Recreation and his staff for their outstanding performance during the Virginia Coach Pitch and Major state tournament. They did a superb job in maintaining the fields and building and grounds during the tournament, worked long hours from the start on Friday to the remainder on Wednesday. What you like to hear was
the bathrooms were clean, the grass was cut. They spent a lot of hours down there and we are really appreciative for what they did for that.

**USDA Approval of purchase of vehicle:** The vehicle we were talking about earlier. You have a letter from USDA Ed Smith, the State Engineer from the office of Rural Development approving the bid for the F250 short bed extended cab for the sewer plant. That was with the grant money that we talked about.

That concludes my report Mr. Chairman.

**Re: Other Board Matters**

**Chambers:** The gentleman that came up here, Mr. Meeks, I would like to help them out.

**Bryan:** The Junior ROTC Raiders.

**Chambers:** How much did we give the youth league?

**Bryan:** $3,000.

**Chambers:** I make a motion that we do the same thing for them.

**Dunnavant:** Do you have any idea how many of them is it?

**Bryan:** Two teams, Coach Meeks?

**Meeks:** Yes sir. Because the original Alpha team qualified, we are able to take a second team. One of 25 to represent the nation.

**Bryan:** How many are on a team, just out of curiosity?

**Meeks:** Because this is a different type of event, normally we would have 10 on a team. We have to have 10 members and 2 alternates so we are going to take an equivalent to 25 kids.

**Matthews:** How many coaches?

**Meeks:** Col. Vader and Sgt. Grazier are the Cadet Commanders and then…

**Matthews:** Is the school system helping you guys any?

**Meeks:** They are sir.

**Chambers:** So each team $3,000.
Wright: You can’t give this money to individuals. You are going to have to give it to a qualified organization that can accept money.

Bryan: To the school?

Wright: Yes the school but you can’t restrict it if you give it to the schools.

Matthews: How many days are you going to be down there?

Meeks: They will leave November 1st (couldn’t hear on tape)

Bryan: Mr. Wright, clarification please? You said if we give that money to the schools we can’t tell them how to spend it?

Wright: You can’t go that deep in their budget line items?

Carter: You can appropriate for the purpose.

Wright: You can appropriate what you want and category and suggest it but you can’t control it. I’m not suggesting anything of the school board.

Matthews: Is $3,000 good Chuck? Do you need something else?

Meeks: Any amount is beneficial to these kids.

Matthews: How much is the school giving? Is that part of the athletic department?

Meeks: No.

Bryan: It’s part of the Jr. ROTC department.

Meeks: Because we qualified in the top 3, we need to rent 4 vans for transportation. You cannot take a bus out of state. We will have to pay for that.

Matthews: How much is that going to be?

Meeks: I don’t know.

Chambers: $3,000 a piece?

Matthews: No.

Jones: When are you leaving?

Meeks: November 1st at 6:00 in the morning.
Bryan: You don’t know how much the school is giving?

Meeks: No sir. I don’t.

Matthews: I think we should give $3,000 and then the school will take up the rest of it.

Meeks: We are trying to do other fund raiser activities. We had one last week at Pino’s. We will have one a Buffalo Wild Wings.

Bryan: Aren’t you guys doing something Friday night at the game?

Meeks: (inaudible)

Matthews: Can’t you do a 50/50? We used to when I was a member of the Booster Club.

Allen: We have a motion made and a second to give $3,000 to JROTC, to give to the school and appropriate it to them. Any more discussion? Let’s vote.

_Supervisor Chambers moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried to appropriate $3,000 to the Buckingham County School System for the purpose of the JROTC to go to Nationals._

Re: Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Allen declared the September 10, 2018 meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

__________________________________________  ___________________________________
Rebecca S. Carter                               Danny R. Allen
County Administrator                           Chairman