

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: G. Matt Garten, Chairman  
Stephen A. Bennett, Vice-Chairman  
Shannon P. Cox  
James M. Griffith  
Cletus W. Nicely  
Richard Lee Shull  
M. Joan Vannorsdall

and Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator  
Suzanne T. Adcock, Director of Finance  
Ryan D. Muterspaugh, Director of Public Safety  
Jim Guynn, County Attorney  
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the regular meeting to order. Mrs. Frances Stewart gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Garten stated that this meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with ordinance O-20-2 which was adopted on April 3, 2020 and readopted/amended on June 2, 2020 and August 4, 2020.

MINUTES:

Hearing no corrections or deletions, the Chairman declared the following minutes approved as submitted: (1) a regular meeting of August 4, 2020.

Mr. Garten stated that the public comment section is being moved to the beginning of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

Ms. Audra Hill, 808 N. Augusta Avenue, read the following prepared statement which is a part of the records of this meeting:

*I am a lifelong resident of Covington, VA. I am proud of our community and I am dedicated to making it a better place for not only my children and grandchildren, but for everyone in this County. I will live in a community that supports diversity and appreciates the beauty in all of us. My name is Audra Hill and it is time for a change.*

*As a member of the Board of Supervisors, you are sworn to have the best interest of all families in our community. Most of us in the Black community have trusted this Board for the past 20 plus years to approve policies that govern our County and ensure accountability of the budget. You see members of the Board, I am not mad, I am tired. Tired of ELECTED officials not holding up to the oath of office that they took after the election. When I look at the membership of this Board, I don't see anyone that looks like me or any person of color, but still I trusted that you would do what you were voted to do...until this week.*

*This week Mr. Cletus Nicely made me question the integrity of everyone on this ELECTED Board of Supervisors when he wrote on his social media page that Senator Harris should "go to the corn field." I am not going to debate what he said or what he meant - not my issue. As a leader in this County for over 30 years he should have known that telling a Black woman she should be in the corn fields was racist.*

*As the beautiful Maya Angelou wrote - "When someone shows you who they are - believe them." Cletus Nicely showed over 100 people in that post who he is, and we believe him.*

*Cletus Nicely, until you resign, we will work tirelessly to make sure that every policy that you have voted for or against is transparent to our community. Cletus Nicely, until you resign, we investigate each commission, appointee, and committee that you lead.*

*Cletus Nicely, you have the right to be racial and gender bias, but you do not have the right to represent our community and children while doing so. You have the right to express your racism on a social media platform, but you do not have the right to be on this Board and have that kind of power while doing so. Cletus Nicely, until you resign, we will continue this fight for justice.*

*Cletus Nicely has the right to be gender bias and a racist; however, he does not have the right to represent this community while doing so. Never did he offer a written apology, he only went public to defend his statement and accuse the hurt of taking his statement wrong. Another form of cyber bullying what does that show our children? Is this who the Board wishes to represent us? We have been verbally attacked by a family member calling us uneducated. His support system has name called and made threats while Cletus Nicely said nothing. He only wished us away so this would pass. Mr. Nicely, we plan to stay!*

*Mr. Chairman of the Board, I present to this Board a copy of our Petition asking for the resignation of Cletus Nicely with 706 signatures as of 6:00 p.m. this evening. Along with published comments on change.org, I present to*

*you a copy of Cletus' social media comment, letters from our supporters, and a web address to locate our online continued petition.*

NOTE: The abovementioned items are a part of the records of this meeting.

Ms. Erin Osborne, 303 Clark Lane, spoke regarding growing up with Mr. Nicely's grandchildren; having a son that is bi-racial and the way he is treated; that Mr. Nicely's comments regarding Senator Harris were hurtful; that Mr. Nicely should realize his mistake and apologize; that it is time to be accountable; etc.

Ms. Dora Godfrey, 356 E. Prospect Street, read the following prepared statement which is a part of the records of this meeting:

*This serves to document certain concerns that have come up in reference to a recent social media comment made by Cletus Nicely, a member of the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.*

*Mr. Nicely, referencing Senator and Vice President nominee Kamala Harris, indicated that she "should be in a corn field." In context, in the 1830's slavery was primarily located in the South where it existed in many forms. Black people were enslaved in cities and fields alike, which included tobacco, cotton, and yes...corn fields. It is my understanding that Mr. Nicely considered his comment a joke, and he does not feel a need to apologize for his racist statement. We do not need Mr. Nicely's apology, we need his resignation or removal from the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors.*

*If Mr. Nicely thinks his "joke" is a representation of Alleghany County, he is sorely mistaken and has no place representing his constituents in the Sharon District. Mr. Nicely's comment was not only racist, but misogynistic as well. African American women are tax paying citizen of Alleghany County and Mr. Nicely cannot/will not/does not represent us or our children. Mr. Nicely's bias is showing...what's in a man's heart will come out of his mouth, and Mr. Nicely's mouth has revealed that he does not have the best interests of African Americans in his community at heart.*

*We need our local leaders regardless of their political affiliation to stand with us and to see Mr. Nicely's statement for what it was: outdated, inappropriate, hateful, and downright embarrassing to your Board of Supervisors. We ask that you stand with us in requiring Cletus Nicely's resignation. We are asking that Cletus Nicely no longer hold the privilege of representing or servicing the people of our community.*

Ms. Wanda Moore, 331 E. Hawthorne Street, read the following prepared statement which is a part of the records of this meeting:

*This letter is regarding the recent remarks made by Board member Mr. Cletus Nicely regarding Senator Kamala Harris. As an African American woman, I found his remarks to be degrading, unprofessional, insensitive, and beneath how a public figure should conduct himself online.*

*Mr. Nicely stated in his letter that he had been on the Board for 30 years. One would be inclined to think that with this many years of working in the public eye, he would have known better. However, when a person does not care how his or her words affect others it shows in their character. It is a poor reflection on his years of service, and to the Board of Supervisors by using this type of insulting, belittling comments to anyone, especially in this case, a woman of color who also is a public servant such as he.*

*Lastly, he claims his comments were not racist. It is nothing new that when racist stereotypical comments are made by individuals from the majority race it is often said that "It was nothing meant by it, and no harm." The African American Democratic community was deeply offended and request he be removed from his position. It is my hope that he will be held accountable for his actions.*

Ms. Kim Lewis, 315 McCormick Boulevard, spoke regarding comments by Mr. Nicely being uncalled for, disrespectful, ignorant, and hurtful; that Mr. Nicely should apologize; invited everyone to join the reactivated NAACP branch in the area; etc.

Ms. Mazie Green, 205 Heatheron Drive, spoke regarding Mr. Nicely's comment being offensive; not wanting to be reminded of slavery; that you are supposed to set an example for our children; the need to support and love each other; etc.

Letters were also received and distributed to the Board from Ms. Desiree Hill and Ms. Courtney Howard. The letters are a part of the records of this meeting.

#### CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mrs. Cox, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3) and (5) for the purpose of: (1) disposition of publicly held real property; and (2) prospective business or industry. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the Board come out of the Closed Meeting with the following certification:

CERTIFICATION  
SECTION 2.2-3712

To the best of our knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session.

/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
/s/Richard L. Shull	Yes
/s/M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
/s/G. Matt Garten	Yes
/s/Shannon P. Cox	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING - APPOINTMENT TO THE ALLEGHANY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (FALLING SPRING DISTRICT):

Public Hearing was held to consider an appointment to the Alleghany County School Board from the Falling Spring District to complete the term of Mr. Randall Tucker beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2022.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 and Tuesday, August 18, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Garten stated that one letter/resume was received for the appointment from John Littleton. He asked Mr. Littleton if he would like to make an opening comment and then answer any questions the Board may have.

Presentations by candidate and questions/comments from Board members:

Mr. John Littleton, 300 Edgehill Road, reviewed highlights from his letter of interest which was included in the agenda packet. The entire letter is as follows:

*I am writing in interest to the posted Alleghany County Public Schools school board opening in the Falling Spring District. With my dedication to the community, leadership experience, and enthusiasm to continuously improve our local education system, I feel I am a prime candidate for the position.*

*Throughout my life, I have worked to serve my community. I was born and raised in Falling Spring and am proud of the education I received at Falling Spring Elementary School, Clifton Middle School, and Alleghany High School. Coming from a family of teachers, I know the importance of providing our children with the best possible education. My family has been involved in public education for almost 100 years. My great-grandmother, Lilian Clingan, started a private day school for Covington residents in 1932. My grandmother, Betty Littleton, taught English at Covington High School for 40 years. My mother, Joy Littleton, taught elementary school for 23 years at Edgemont Elementary and Falling Spring Elementary. My brother, Robert Michael Littleton, started his career as a middle school English teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools, and is currently a middle school assistant principal with Williamsburg James City County Public Schools. This wealth of experience in my family, at every level of public education, has provided me with a well-rounded understanding of the amazing work our teachers do today, but also the struggles we face. With joining the school board in Alleghany County Public Schools, I can help provide solutions to our greatest challenges and help promote our many successes.*

*I believe I can help make the Alleghany County Public Schools the best school system in the State of Virginia. I feel that a great school system is the hallmark of a great community. After I graduated from West Virginia Tech in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, I never questioned moving anywhere but back home. At the same time, with the education I received in the division, I was always encouraged by my teachers to dream big and never give up. As a parent, I know everyone in our community wants the same for their kids: to have every opportunity to succeed in life. I want to help make great leaders for the next generation in this county, state, and nation. By representing the Falling Spring community on the school board, I will work to give our children the tools and knowledge to reach their dreams, and provide our teachers, parents, and community partners with the support they need to succeed.*

*I know I will be a valuable asset for the school board with my management experience, work experience with municipalities, and ability to work well with others. I appreciate your consideration of my application and have enclosed my resume and reference for further evidence of my qualifications. If you need additional information, I can be reached anytime at (540) 969-9097. You can also contact me through my email at [JBLLandA@aol.com](mailto:JBLLandA@aol.com).*

Regards:  
/s/ John Littleton

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if he has any focus areas that he wants to advocate for or special interests. Mr. Littleton replied that he does not have any special interests and just wants to make a difference in the community.

Mr. Bennett asked his thoughts on the consolidation process. Mr. Littleton replied that he attended the Joint School Services Committee meeting last week. He commented that there are mixed feelings across the area, but he has not seen everything yet and would like to review information before he makes up his mind. He stated that he heard that if the

consolidation does not get approved, there would be less opportunities for the children and possible tax rate increases. He mentioned that Covington students would get more opportunities with DSLCC, being closer to JRTC, and sports.

Mr. Matthew Smith, 310 Sammy's Road, stated that he would like to be considered for the Falling Spring District School Board appointment. The Board was given a copy of his letter/resume which is a part of the records of this meeting. He reviewed highlights from his letter of interest which is a part of the records of this meeting. The letter is as follows:

*I am writing to express my sincere interest in filling the unexpired term of Mr. Randall S. Tucker for the Falling Spring District on the Alleghany County School Board. Please accept this as my letter of application.*

*I am an Alleghany County native, attending Callaghan Elementary School, Clifton Middle School, and graduating from Alleghany High School in 2008. I studied at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College before transferring to Shenandoah University where I graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology with a focus on sports management and minors in business and history.*

*My wife and I moved back to the Alleghany Highlands to get married and start our family. We consider ourselves fortunate to be able to raise our daughter, Harper, here where we both grew up. As an active participant in sports, church, and as a small business owner, I feel well connected to the community.*

*In my current and prior positions, my responsibilities have included developing, preparing, and implementing various procedures and policies as well as creatively solving problems and issues. I believe my education and experiences will be an asset to the Alleghany County School Board in moving our school system forward and creating the best learning experiences for the youth of our community.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration.*

*Sincerely,  
/s/ Matthew S. Smith*

Ms. Vannorsdall asked what type of small business Mr. Smith owns. Mr. Smith replied that it is a sporting goods/t-shirt business run out of his house.

Mr. Bennett asked his thoughts on the consolidation process. Mr. Smith replied that he is for consolidation. He stated that NewTech plus the regular curriculum gives the students a better chance to learn, and consolidating would allow you to provide better opportunities.

A copy of the study on the proposed school consolidation was given to Mr. Littleton and Mr. Smith.

Mr. Garten commented that the Board can adjourn to September 8<sup>th</sup> (have to wait a week per the Code of Virginia) to vote or the Board could adjourn to September 9<sup>th</sup> and meet with the School Board on consolidation, then take action that night. The Board agreed to meet on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed and stated that action would be taken on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY21 (FEDERAL CARES CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to the County Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 in the amount of \$1,296,478. The amendment is needed due to the receipt of Federal CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Lanford stated that the County received the second allocation of \$1,296,478 from the State for CARES Coronavirus Relief funding. He commented that the distribution was based on population and the County will also be distributing a portion of those funds to the towns of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate. The County must track their use of the funds. He mentioned that the funds must be spent by December 30, 2020; however, they plan to meet with State and Federal representatives to see if there can be some flexibility on work that is procured.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the Board waive its policy of not acting on a public hearing on the same night.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, after holding a public hearing on September 1, 2020 to amend the FY 20-21 budget in the amount of \$1,296,478, hereby budget and approve the following supplemental appropriation due to the receipt of Federal CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds:

<u>Revenue Account</u>		
Fund 190 - CARES Act COVID-19 (190-4190115)		\$1,296,478
<u>Expenditure Account</u>		
Fund 190 - Professional Services (1900-53002)		\$1,296,478

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - SALE OF PROPERTY IN THE ALLEGHANY REGIONAL COMMERCE CENTER:

Public Hearing was held to consider the sale by Alleghany County of an approximate +/- 2.00 acre parcel located in the Alleghany Regional Commerce Center. The property is further identified on the Real Property Identification Maps of Alleghany County as a portion of 04200-00-000-001A.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. Lanford stated that there is a small economic development project with a Fortune 500 company that is interested in property in the Commerce Center.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the Board waive its policy of not acting on a public hearing on the same night.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the County received a request from Saad Development Corporation asking that the County consider the sale of +/- 2.00 acres of property located in the Alleghany Regional Commerce Center which is identified on the Real Property Identification Maps of Alleghany County as a portion of 04200-00-000-001A. Exhibit A is attached showing the location of the property; and

WHEREAS, SAAD Development Corporation has offered thirty cents (30¢) per square foot, estimated to total approximately \$26,000, which shall be finally calculated based upon a survey to be obtained and paid for by SAAD Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Board held a public hearing to dispose of the property on September 1, 2020 in accordance with Section 15.2-1800 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors agrees to sell the abovementioned property, as shown on Exhibit A, to SAAD Development Corporation at a price of thirty cents (30¢) per square foot once a survey is completed to determine final acreage amounts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to sign documents in relation to the sale of property to SAAD Development Corporation.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

MS. SUSAN HAMMOND, VDOT RESIDENT ENGINEER - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Mr. Lanford stated that a report has been received from Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, on the following VDOT activities:

Maintenance

- County-wide brush cleanup on primary and secondary routes.
- Replaced pipes on Rts. 835, 613, 616, 600, 607, and 699.
- Patched all pipe replacement crossings.
- Completed primary route mowing. Secondary route mowing is underway and approximately 60% complete.
- Ditched Rt. 712, Dunlap Beach Lane.
- Cleared paved ditch on Rt. 42.
- Patched Rts. 601, 673, 679, and 699.
- Repaired shoulders in various areas with milling material.

Construction

- Rt. 696 bridge replacement - Footer to be poured for abutment this week. Headwall poured for storm sewer pipe. Project is on-time and on-budget.

Other

- Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting this month will include how to move forward with the Six Year Program and public hearings. An update will follow.
- VDOT attendance was deferred with a written report this month to better accommodate other participants. I plan to attend in person next month.

Mrs. Cox asked if there is a law regarding people mowing their grass into the roadway. Mr. Lanford replied that Covington has an ordinance. Sheriff Hall replied that he will check into whether there is a State Code regarding this. Mr. Griffith replied that there is a State Code section regarding throwing debris into the highway.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. DONALD LUGAR TO THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION:

Mr. Garten stated that an appointment needs to be made to complete the term of Ms. Beverley Bowers (Jackson River District) on the Water and Sewer Commission beginning immediately and ending March 1, 2022.

Mr. Bennett commented that Mr. Donald Lugar is interested in the appointment.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Mr. Donald Lugar (Jackson River District), 210 Chapel Drive, Covington, VA 24426 be appointed to the Water and Sewer Commission to complete the term of Ms. Beverley Bowers beginning immediately and ending March 1, 2022.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

MRS. INGRID BARBER, ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - APPROVE EXTENSION OF FY21 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:

Mrs. Ingrid Barber, Alleghany Highlands Community Services Executive Director, stated that the first drug court session was held today and they received their first referral. She commented that the existing performance contract (adopted last August) for the CSB has been extended effective July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 due to COVID-19. She asked the Board to approve the contract extension.

On motion of Ms. Vannorsdall, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors approve the extension of the performance contract between the Alleghany Highlands Community Services Board and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services for FY 21 until December 31, 2020.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

PRESENTATION FROM JOINT SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED MERGER OF SCHOOL DIVISIONS:

Mr. Jonathan Arritt, Member of the Covington School Board and member of the Joint School Services Committee, handed out a copy of the Committee recommendation and consolidation study (which is a part of the records of this meeting) and gave the following presentation:

*Supervisors – thank you for having me this evening. I'm Jonathan Arritt with the Covington City School Board. In addition to serving as the co-chair for the Joint School Services Committee, I'm also the chairman of the Joint Board of Control at JRTC and a board member with the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce.*

*Before I begin, I would like to thank Mr. Griffith and Mr. Garten for their service on the committee. Their contributions and time spent over the last year has been invaluable and I speak on behalf of the rest of the committee in appreciation for their service.*

*I would also like to thank this body for supporting us in our efforts. When issues pit possibilities against limitations it is difficult to know the best path forward, but I thank you for your leadership in this regard.*

*The documents you have before you represent the entirety of the Joint Committee's work. Throughout the process, we have tried to keep our stated goal in mind – to maintain and continue to pursue excellence in education for our area young people while providing the fiscal responsibility the citizens of our community expect and deserve. I believe our committee has shown there are possibilities to those ends.*

*At various times throughout this process, members of the committee have traveled to Richmond to meet with leaders at the state level - to include Delegate Austin and Senator Deeds, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane, and Education Secretary Atif Quarni. All have expressed interest in our efforts and have offered their support should our proposal be accepted and approved at the local level.*

*The foundation of our work is contained in the Feasibility Study authored by James Regimbal and Dr. Richard Salmon. Those gentlemen combine for nearly 80 years of experience in state, local, and school finance and their work was a major catalyst for our committee.*

*Following that report's release last December, our committee broke into 5 subcommittees, those being finance, governance, facilities, transportation, and curriculum. Those subcommittees were comprised of committee members, local experts, and educational professionals from both city and county governments and school divisions.*

*Before going over the subcommittee recommendations, important to distinguish work the committee was required by state code to do and work that we have done to provide a foundation for local leaders should they agree to move forward. It is no small task to get busy local professionals together many times over to discuss these important matters, but we felt it was vital to give as complete of a picture as possible of a consolidated division. The full subcommittee roster is on page 6 of the proposal document you have. We are very blessed to have had their experience, competence, and willingness to cooperate.*

*The subcommittee Recommendations are as follows:*

- 1. Finance subcommittee recommends a per pupil funding formula basis for both yearly budget process as well as shared capital expenses. Existing debt service transferred to localities for retirement. An early retirement incentive package should be offered to right size division staff over time. A 3-5 year budget agreement term length should be used to provide flexibility while retaining continuity and stability for budget considerations.*
- 2. Our Governance subcommittee recommends a 4-3 board make-up; with initial appointments giving way to elected seats via referendum. 2/3 majority of the entire body is recommended for superintendent hiring/termination and building closure/construction. Our timeline calls for a July 1, 2022 beginning of the new division; a 2023-2024 joining of the student bodies.*
- 3. Facilities subcommittee recommends a high school/middle school configuration with K-5 elementary, 6-8 middle, and 9-12 high school. Current AHS would serve as the high school and current CHS would serve as the middle school. JRTC is very important to K-12 education as well as area economic growth. Casey field was recommended as the preferred venue for the athletics it allows, and the Jackson River Sports Complex would also provide well maintained options for other sports, namely Girls Softball.*
- 4. The Transportation subcommittee recommends current ACPS logistics program Transfinder to help tackle bus routing.*
- 5. Curriculum subcommittee explored many different concepts – traditional, project based, magnet school, and a greater integration with DSLCC. Career and Technical education as well as arts and humanities have possibilities for expansion. This was far and away the most exciting committee to be a part of. If anyone here would like to have a wonderful conversation about education and learning possibilities, I recommend putting Dr. Rainone, Dr. Fuhrman, Mrs. Huff, and Mr. Callaghan in a room together. You will not be disappointed.*

*I am happy to take any questions you all have.*

Mr. Nicely asked why this is not going to a referendum. Mr. Arritt replied that the Committee followed Section 22.1-25 of the Code of Virginia which is the same section used when the County and Clifton Forge school divisions consolidated. He commented that with this section the consolidation is decided by the School Boards with the consent of the governing bodies. To go to a referendum signatures must be collected and put on the ballot. Mr. Garten added that a referendum would take approximately a year and a half to hold and the goal is to get in with the biennium funding.

Ms. Vannorsdall asked if funding for equalizing pay has been delayed, but forthcoming. Mr. Arritt replied that is correct and if approved by all then it would pass to the State to go forward. He commented that we were always told that the money was unallocated.

There was some discussion regarding:

- The breakdown of students for funding being based on per-pupil allocations (Alleghany County 2/3 and Covington 1/3).
- If there would be a blended composite index or the lower of the two (the difference would be minimal).
- Transportation costs (marginal savings essentially and discussions held on leasing versus owning buses which would be a savings on maintenance/longevity).
- If a public hearing will be held and the process following approval (the two school divisions are required to hold a public hearing. Public hearings are being held by the County School Board on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and the Covington School Board on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. No public hearing is required for the governing bodies, only consent after School Board approval. This Board will meet with the County School Board on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Covington is to meet on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Once approved the plan will be submitted to the Department of Education before being sent to the General Assembly for funding consideration.).
- If there will be an elected School Board (the initial School Board will be appointed and then a referendum is required to go to an elected School Board. Initial terms would be staggered either way.).

- How has the public been receiving information on the proposed consolidation (information has been published in the newspaper by the committee throughout the process and documents have been available and shared in a drop box link).
- Previous funding issues between the County school system and City of Clifton Forge when those systems were merged (to be addressed in the agreement and budget structuring).

APPROVE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (PPTRA) RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2020:

Mr. Lanford reviewed a memo from Mrs. Valerie Bruffey, Commissioner of the Revenue, to the Board which is included in the agenda packet. The memo is as follows:

*As you may remember, the Personal Property Tax Relief percentage now changes from year to year. It is based on the total qualifying vehicles for the current year, and the set amount of money coming from the state, which does not change. We have completed the calculations for the personal property assessment book, and for 2020 the amount of relief granted will be 56%. As in the past, this applies to the first \$20,000 of value on cars, light trucks, and motorcycles. Also, vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less will receive 100% relief.*

*Melissa is preparing a resolution to this effect to be considered at your board meeting. I will be unable to attend the meeting, so please call or e-mail me at [vbruffey@co.alleghany.va.us](mailto:vbruffey@co.alleghany.va.us) if you have any questions.*

Mr. Lanford added that the rate last year was the same (56%).

On motion of Ms. Vannorsdall, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998, Virginia Code Sections 58.1-3523 *et seq* (“PPTRA”), has been substantially modified by the enactment of Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly, 2004 Special Session I (Senate Bill 5005), and the provisions of Item 503 of Chapter 951 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly (the 2005 revisions to the 2004-06 Appropriations Act); and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to Ordinance O-05-13 which was enacted by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2005 (“Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors now desires to set the rate of tax relief for tax year 2020 for purposes of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. That tax relief shall be allocated so as to eliminate personal property taxation for qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less.
2. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$1,001 - \$20,000 will be eligible for 56% tax relief.
3. That qualifying personal use vehicles valued at \$20,001 or more shall only receive 56% tax relief on the first \$20,000 of value.
4. That all other vehicles which do not meet the definition of “qualifying” (for example, including but not limited to, business use vehicles, farm use vehicles, motor homes, etc.) will not be eligible for any form of tax relief under this program.
5. That the percentages applied to the categories of qualifying personal use vehicles are estimated fully to use all available PPTRA funds allocated to Alleghany County by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE TERM CONTRACT WITH AECOM FOR FINAL DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR COVID-19 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT RENOVATIONS USING CARES FUNDING:

Mr. Lanford stated that there is a copy of the Scope of Work from AECOM for final design/construction documents as well as the amendment to the term contract in the agenda packet. He commented that in July the Board approved amendment #1 with AECOM on concept level work. He mentioned that options were presented to offices involved on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated that CARES funding would be utilized for the safety improvement renovations chosen for social distancing and physical separation in those offices. He commented that with the concept work, the General District Court Clerk Office and the Treasurer's Office have been added. He asked that the Board approve the amendment in the amount of \$72,421.

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Allegheny County Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Jonathan A. Lanford, County Administrator, to sign Amendment No. 2 to the Term Engineering Contract with AECOM in the amount of \$72,421 for final designs/construction documents for COVID-19 safety improvement renovations using CARES funding.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE PROCLAIMING AUGUST 2020 AS "ALLEGHANY COUNTY WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MONTH":

Mr. Lanford stated that there is a document in the agenda packet to proclaim August 2020 as "Allegheny County Women's Suffrage Month." He mentioned that Mrs. Cox went to the official proclamation signing with other localities that was held today.

Mrs. Cox commented that a proclamation signing was held today at City Hall and there was a group of women present with signs. She mentioned that the rights of women and how long we had to wait to vote was discussed and it is important that we all have that right. She stated that it was an honor to be there today.

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Ms. Vannorsdall, that the following resolution be adopted:

***Centennial Proclamation Proclaiming August 2020 as  
"Allegheny County Women's Suffrage Month"  
In Celebration, Recognition and Honor of  
The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment  
To the United States Constitution***

WHEREAS, the bold, courageous and powerful women who fought for the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920, deserve special celebrations, especially on the 100th anniversary of its ratification in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment did not guarantee suffrage for all women, including Native Americans who did not gain the right to vote until 1924. For Asian Pacific Islander Americans it was 1952. African-American and Latin Americans suffered voter suppression until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and 1975; and

WHEREAS, the fact that today women are active in local, state and national government and are running for office in unprecedented numbers reminds us that we all follow in the footsteps of these resolute American suffragists; and

WHEREAS, the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution has played an important role in advancing the right of all women

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the residents and civic institutions of the Alleghany County join the Covington Woman's Club of GFWC in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

- to honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;
- to reaffirm the opportunity for students and adults in the city to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and
- to reaffirm our desire to continue to strengthen democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPOINTMENT OF MS. ANGELA CAMPBELL TO THE TAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Shull, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors that Ms. Angela Campbell (Falling Spring District), 4711 Johnson Creek Road, Covington, VA 24426 be appointed to the TAP Board of Directors for a term of three years beginning September 9, 2020 and ending September 8, 2023.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Shannon P. Cox	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
Richard Lee Shull	Yes
M. Joan Vannorsdall	Yes
Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lanford gave a report on the following items:

FOCUS Program

He commented that a group went to Giles County on their FOCUS Program. He mentioned that data is being gathered by September 30th from various agencies in order for us to map core areas that use reactive services (i.e. DSS, AHCSB, law enforcement, etc.).

Water/Sewer Cut-Off Update

He stated that the Board approved a resolution in April due to COVID-19 that prohibited utility cut-offs until September 30th; therefore, the County will begin cut-offs in October. He mentioned that the SCC had a similar provision and extended their time to September 15th. He commented that the individuals that could be cut-off will be contacted to set up payment plans and that information will also be included with delinquent notices.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Griffith thanked the candidates for the School Board appointment and for their interest. He also thanked Mr. Arritt for his presentation.

Mr. Shull stated that he appreciates everyone for coming out and Mr. Arritt for his presentation.

Ms. Vannorsdall commented that she is grateful that there are two individuals interested in the School Board appointment and thanked Mr. Arritt for his presentation. She stated that she heard a lot of honest reactions tonight to Mr. Nicely's comment and it was very touching. She commented that she had hoped to hear an apology tonight from Mr. Nicely. She mentioned that she will separate herself from what was said as it has been difficult to hear people attribute his comments to the entire Board. She stated that she hopes the Board can move forward with integrity and respect.

Mrs. Cox thanked the School Board candidates. She commented that there was a lot to take in tonight and she is not here to judge anyone. She stated that she knows the Board will continue with integrity and respect. She mentioned that she does not see someone for their size, color, wealth, etc., but look at the individual for who they are. She commented that she thinks the world of Mr. Nicely and with the years she has been with him on the Board she does not see that side of him. She stated that we need to come together in peace in the world that we live in and she prays for all.

Mr. Bennett thanked the candidates for the School Board appointment. He commented that there were a lot of good presentations tonight.

Mr. Garten stated that it was a great meeting and the Board heard a lot tonight. He commented that we are lucky to have two fine people who are interested in the School Board appointment and want to invest their time.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mrs. Cox, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. to Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Gleason Forum Hall at Mountain View Elementary School Motion carried.

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G. Matt Garten  
Chairman