At a reconvened meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors held on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peter Francisco Auditorium of the Buckingham County Administration Complex, the following members were present: Donald R. Matthews, Jr., Chairman; T. Jordan Miles, III, Vice-Chairman; Dennis Davis; Harry W. Bryant, Jr.; Joe N. Chambers, Jr.; and Danny R. Allen. Donald E. Bryan was absent. Also present were Karl R. Carter, County Administrator, Jamie Shumaker, IT Manager and E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney.

**Re: Call to Order**

Chairman Matthews called the meeting to order.

**Re: Establishment of a Quorum**

Chairman Matthews certified there was a quorum. 6 of seven members were 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: Approval of Agenda**

Matthews: Approval of Agenda.

Allen: So moved.

Miles: Second, Mr. Chairman.

Matthews: We have a motion and a second. Let’s call for the vote. Unanimous.

*Supervisor Allen moved, Vice Chairman Miles seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the agenda as presented.*
Re: Refinancing Bond Sale Update and Request for County Attorney, Board Chairman and County Administrator be authorized to sign required documents

Matthews: So the first item on the agenda is going to be refinancing bond sale update and request with the county attorney, board chairman and county administrator to be authorized to sign required documents. Karl, you want to take care of this?

Carter: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. In your packet tonight, you should have the results of our VRA bond document sale that happened on the 21st. You know, we've been waiting on this report for a while to see how good the bonds did because you know when we started this process, we had to estimate, hope and pray that the rates were continuing to go down with time and I'm happy to report tonight that they did and this bond sale turned a lot better than we thought it could be. The goals we set for this refinancing of where we want the interest rate to be was less than 2.5. The interest rate came in at 1.87. We wanted to save at least $200,000. I'm happy to report with this refinance, we will save $576,000. And we also wanted to make sure the maturity rate didn't increase. So the same end date is what we had before. So we didn't increase the length of the loan at all. Another thing that is refinancing data is it locked in the rate for the remaining portion of the loan. So previous loan it reset in 2034. So with that reset rate, it could be, you know, there's uncertainty. With this right now we're locked in for the entire 17 years to 2038. On the second page, I just put this together showing you what the current loan amounts are and the parameters that we have kind of set ahead of time, which once again, we want the rate be less than 2.5%. We want the maturity date still be 2039. And we wanted $200,000 savings. Back in around June, they estimated that the VRA rates in that time were estimated 2.17. So you can see our estimate back in June is not even close to where it is now. So it was estimated 2.17. We dropped to 1.87. And you can see we've estimated before $415,000 and the final numbers are $576,000. Which if you take that by 17 years, you are talking about $32,000 a year in savings that we're going to accomplish on this refinance. And so this is very positive news. Very good news. It's one of those things that we roll the dice and hope it was going to be a better rate and it turned out a lot better rate than we ever expected. So I'm just asking you guys tonight to allow the chairman, myself and county attorney to sign the required documents to get this refinancing done.

Matthews: One thing before we do that, I just want to take this time and tell you, Karl, I think that's a great job. You've done a wonderful job. And I think the sentiments from the rest of the board were echoed by me. But I just want to tell you, thank you. Good job.

Miles: I move, Mr. Chairman, that we authorize the county attorney, Board Chairman, and the county administrator to sign the required documents.

Allen: Second.
Matthews: We have a motion and a second to allow county attorney, county administrator and the chairman of the board to sign those documents. Call for the vote.

Vice Chairman Miles moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to authorize the County Attorney, County Administrator and Board Chairman to sign the documents for the library refinancing.

Re: Finance Committee Update and Recommendation

Matthews: Okay, the Finance Committee update and recommendation

Carter: I’ll take that one too, Mr. Chairman. At our last meeting, we had the Board Supervisors instructed finance committee to look into three possible options. The first was to look at the extension office position that Mrs. Wallace came and presented to you about funding that position for the end of the fiscal year. The second was to look at the possibility to purchase a rescue squad vehicle with American Recovery funds. And the third was to find out more information about the possibility of participating in a regional cigarette tax program.

First one is the extension office position. The finance committee met and it was the recommendation of the finance committee to fund that. Let me go back a step. Mrs. Wallace came to you guys, you know, they wanted $24,700. But she said they could get by with 13,000 for the rest of this fiscal year. It was the Finance Committee recommendation to fund that position $15,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year, which would give them time to look at grant funding and other opportunities for funding for our position, and also decide if they want to keep that position on not. Because I think one of the things she mentioned, you know, that position, that person in that position might apply for a different position. So there might be some shuffling around going on there. So, the recommendation was to fund it through the end of the fiscal year. And once again, you can always look at that again in budget time in spring, but the Finance Committee recognizes that funded, that's a big increase with one department. And I think Mrs. Wallace also told you that you know, that $24,000 was only for three quarters of the year. So if you did it again, for next year, it would be like additional about $12,000 increase on top of the 24. But that was the first recommendation.

Second recommendation finance committee was to…

Allen: You want to go ahead and make a motion to get that behind us.

Matthews: Can I ask the question too? And I think we're doing the right thing on that. But can you draft a letter to her letting her know that funding is going to be just for this fiscal year.
Carter: We will. I'll get her a letter.

Allen: Did you want to make a motion to…

Davis: Second.

Matthews: Okay. We got a motion and a second on the request from the extension office for funding that position for the remainder of the fiscal year. Call for the vote. That's six Yes. And one absent.

*Supervisor Allen moved, Supervisor Davis seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the request for $15,000 funding for the Extension Office position for the remainder of this current fiscal year.*

Carter: The second item we were tasked with was looking at the possibility to purchase a new EMS squad vehicle with American Recovery Funds. It was a recommendation of the Finance Committee at this time not to purchase that vehicle right now. So factors that led to that decision was the EMS director told us that you know that vehicle is not a priority right now. That they might have some more capital projects they might need to get taken care of. So with the recent purchase of two new vehicles, he didn't think it was a pressing issue at this time. So what we can do, we can always go back and revisit that issue later. Another thing with that recommendation is those American Recovery funds are something that is very new and fluid right now. So we're still getting direction and instruction on how to spend those funds. What we can spend them on. We just got a letter or memo from the state just last week, as a matter of fact, saying what those funds can be spent on so it's kind of new to us right now. We are learning what we can and cannot spend that money on. So we don't want to get our hands slapped for spending for something that we can’t and we shouldn't be spending on and then later having to pay that money back. So, as we continue to learn more about the guidelines on spending, we will get that more information back to you guys. But right now for the squad vehicle itself, we decided not to, the recommendation from the Finance Committee was not to proceed at this time.

Matthews: Just a little bit more to what Karl just said, in case, you know, this money is being able to be spent through 2024? So if we needed another squad vehicle between now and 2024, if we got pressed that we weren't being able to use that money, the way we want to, we could always at some point between now in 2024, buy another one if we thought we needed to do that. But we can refer that to Mr. Davis, the Director of EMS. Can we have a motion on this particular item on the agenda?

Allen: You don't need to.

Carter: We didn’t take any action.
Carter: Yes, sir. And the final thing the finance committee was tasked with doing was looking at the regional approach with cigarette tax. We're going to punt on that one because we're still learning information on that. We had a webinar today that me, the chairman and Mr. Miles attended and based on that webinar today, there's still a lot of unanswered questions. That webinar didn't go very well today. So we're gonna continue trying to get more information and bring back to the full board on that.

Re: Consider accepting resignation of Frank Knott from the Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board and consider an appointment of a representative to this Board

Matthews: The next item is G. Consider accepting resignation of Frank Knott from Piedmont Regional Jail Authority Board and consider an appointment of a representative to this board.

Allen: So moved.

Miles: Second, Mr. Chairman, the resignation.

Matthews: Are you ready to have somebody tonight?

Miles: Not yet?

Matthews: Not yet. Okay. So we'll go ahead and vote on this to accept Mr. Knott's resignation.

Carter: And, Mr. Chairman, if it’s the consensus of the Board, I’d like to write him a letter of appreciation for his service.

Matthews: Oh, yes, sir. Absolutely. Thank you. Thank you for remembering that Mr. Carter. Okay. This six and one absent in favor.

Supervisor Allen moved, Vice Chairman Miles seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to accept the resignation of Frank Knott from the Piedmont Regional Authority Board as representative for Buckingham County and it was the consensus of the Board to send Mr. Knott a letter of appreciation for his service.

Re: Consider accepting resignation of Martha Holman from the Crossroads Community Service Board and Consider appointment of Betty Zumbro in her place

Matthews: Next item is going to be consider accepting resignation of Martha Holman from the Crossroads Community Service Board and Consider Appointment of Betty Zumbro in her place.
**Miles:** I would move that, Mr. Chairman, accepting the resignation of Mrs. Holman and then replacing Mrs. Holman with Mrs. Zumbro. Mrs. Holman has resigned due to family issues. Her father's health is declining somewhat and Mrs. Zumbro who is a retired psychiatrist has interest in representing the county as the citizen representative.

**Allen:** Should there be two different motions or just one? One to accept and one to appoint? Whatever y'all think I'm just…

**Matthews:** So we'll take the motion on accepting Ms. Holman’s resignation first. Call for the vote.

*Vice Chairman Miles moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to accept the resignation of Marth Holman from the Crossroads Community Services Board.*

**Matthews:** Okay, now we will take a motion on the appointment of Mrs. Betty Zumbro to replace Mrs. Holman.

**Miles:** So moved, Mr. Chairman.

**Allen:** Second.

**Matthews:** We have a motion and a second. Call for the vote. Six in favor and one absent.

*Vice Chairman Miles moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to appoint Betty Zumbro as Buckingham County Citizens representative to the Crossroads Services Board.*

**Re: Other Board Matters**

**Matthews:** We have other board matters. One thing. Going back to the financial committee, Finance Committee. We've been in discussions with a couple different things on that particular committee and one was with Central Virginia Electric Coop and I'm on that, Mr. Carter take that over and kind of fill us in on what transpired today. A little bit.

**Carter:** Yes. One of the things with the finance committee was tasked with, we at the direction of the chairman decided to talk about and discuss the possibility of that $1.5 million that Mr. Gary Wood presented to you last board meeting about the county giving $1.5 million to expand broadband within the county using the Dominion, customers that had Dominion power. So we had a meeting today, a zoom call with Mr. Wood. He's going to get us more information. We have some questions about what area of the county is being served now versus what will be served if we approved this grant. We also
wanted to know, there's some, Mr. Miles sent me an email today as a matter of fact. There's some other pots of money coming down the pipe from possibly from Virginia from the governor. So if that money is going to come through, we don't want to use our American Recovery funds on broadband when the government might be giving us money for infrastructure regardless. So Mr. Wood is gonna come back to you guys at the August meeting. He's going to probably ask you guys for a pledge saying, you know, we're going to think about doing this. He don't need to check yet, but he's going to want you to say whether you're in and out of this project. So between now and then, the Finance Committee, I'm sure we will meet again with Mr. Wood and his staff to get some more details for your meeting. So between now and August, you will have more information to decide if you will make a decision on that. That 1.5 is roughly half of what we get from the federal government for American Recovery funds. So it's a big chunk of change to fork over. I mean, it is going to be good for the county and citizens to get broadband to underserved areas, unserved areas but I guess it’s a possibility we need to look at and make sure we're using the right pot of money to fund this project. If you decide to do that.

Matthews:  I'm gonna give a little bit more information to right now. I mean, there was a couple numbers thrown out there today. I think its 3600 customers or 3800 customers that are not that are not in service right now for Wi Fi. And I think what was the other, the cost to that per customer was $750 to install that. So you know, I think the thing is, the urgency is they just want to know if we're gonna be at the...to have a seat at the table. I think the funding will eventually be there. Just like Mr. Carter just said, we got a couple different ways to go with this. So but, you know, you don't want to miss this opportunity I don't think and, but we'll have we'll have more information coming down the pike too.

Chambers:  Does the Finance Committee have an idea of what kind of figure you are talking about?

Carter:  $1.5 million.

Miles:  And there's a chance, Mr. Chairman, as I know, most of us want to hear that. But there's a chance that there could be money in the infrastructure deal that’s kind of in the senate right now and in the US Senate, in terms of getting that through the House of Representatives up in Washington, and that money does have broadband money in it. So if that progresses, maybe we won't have to use the monies that we've been pointing to. But that all depends … it's all contingent on their progress.

Carter:  Whichever route we go, we want to make sure we use those federal funds that are coming to us. We don't want to use local taxpayer dollars.

Allen:  I mean, did he did he say why he needed the extra 1.5 million? I mean, he was doing this in the beginning, and then all of a sudden now needs $1.5 from us. I know he’s trying to get to people that we don't have.
Carter: In the first round that we did for him. It was like, you know, tax abatement we did for him. We didn't collect on the new taxes. The machinery and tools tax. We didn't do anything with that. This… why he needs the money because this is Dominion lines now. So he's gonna need costs to help offset some of his costs. And that's why he needs extra cash just have not just a pledge from the county.

Miles: And Mr. Chairman, just to add to that Supervisor Allen. The cost is about double, is what we heard today, just because they're not CVEC lines. They are Dominion infrastructure. So that just adds to everything in the end that that take rates also about double just because of the construction costs.

Allen: Yeah, he was saying 12 million, and then he was saying they could get back about 6 million to pay it itself. And they just want us to give them $1.5 million to help them. But at same time, he said that the people in the county make calls into their department and let them know that they do not have internet service at all or they have a small internet service, which is like less than 25 or 25 megabytes and then they can get grants. That will help them get more grants to help with this thing. So somehow another we need to put that out more for people in our area. Anyway, just a thought.

Matthews: I guess we'll just once we talk to Mr. Wood or get those figures from Mr. Wood, we will have more knowledge and the board will have more knowledge to do what you need to do to move forward and finance committee will meet on that too, prior to our next meeting, probably. One other thing under other board matters. We have, Miss Joanne Meeks. She has a little issue in her district. And I'm just gonna let her explain it to you so and not anything…we're not going to commit to. But I think it's something that the board needs to know about moving forward. So she's in Mr. Davis's district. So anyway.

Meeks: I just want to say thanks. You were praying. I mean, it just blew me away when you're praying before your meeting. So I knew I came to the right place tonight. So anyway, I’ve been pretty much living out of my suitcase for six weeks now, because I'm trying to close on the house on Forest Road, which is in Georgia Creek subdivision, by the way, doesn't have very good internet service. And the problem I'm having is, I can't get anybody to take ownership of the road. Because it's, it's been down there for a while. But it's got two new homes down there, and one of them is mine. So I'm trying to ask the board, if they would approve, to VDOT to come down and help service the road so my house can close otherwise, I don't know what else to do. The two people that are down there now, though, the originals have been there for over 10 years, they didn't have this issue. And they won't sign a road maintenance contract. Because they're mad at VDOT and they're mad at Buckingham, because they've called several times trying to get help, and no one will help them. So I went I went down today to ask what you come and support me. No, they're not going to do anything. And so I'm just here, asking you all for help. Because I need to close on my home and I want to be a citizen of Buckingham. This sounds pretty good.
Chambers: We had this problem before Mr. Chairman. But it went back on the landowner. I think they wanted to put the subdivision in. I thought the responsibility fell on him to keep the road up. Like a house, you know, developer. He is supposed to be responsible for fixing your road.

Matthews: That's the quandary that she's in. Same thing you're talking about? You know, I guess …

Chambers: That’s the same road we had the problem with before. Forest Hill?

Meeks: Forest Road.

Chambers: Forest Road. That's the first one right?

Meeks: It's a Forest Pass down there. But that got paved. And it's got about the same homes that's on the on the road that I'm on. This one is Forest Road.

Chambers: If my memory serves me correctly, wasn’t that Forest Road that we had that problem before? I think it was Forest Road. It was in my district at the time but it got switched and then put in Mr. Davis’ district. It was bad. It was no doubt about it.

Meeks: And yeah, I mean, if you could come to an agreement with they would…

Matthews: Well, you know, we don't mind talking to them. I mean, letting VDOT know what the deal is, but we don't have any control over accepting or turning down or approving anything that they do. That's an entirely different scenario. We understand your position and, you know, we'll do anything we can do to help but I think the next move is going to be talking to the developer like we talked this afternoon. Jeff Davidson?

Meeks: J.T. Helms. Maybe to get him going, if you all would say we agree that this road would need to be developed through VDOT. Can't be tomorrow but it could be in a year. That way it would give him some kind of…

Chambers: Depends on the money.

Matthews: I got a suggestion. You know, our Zoning and Planning Director is in here this afternoon. And I've talked to her earlier today and would you be opposed to helping this let young lady out, Mrs. Edmondston?

Edmondston: I don’t have any problem helping her. (couldn’t hear the rest not at mic)
Matthews: It’s up to you when you have chance. Mrs. Edmondston.

Chambers: Ma'am, I'm asking the board a question. Can we put a stronger teeth in our ordinance that require the developer to maintain those roads? Subdivision ordinance. For the developer to keep the roads up, you know.

Davis: This is gonna be back as an issue again. If we're not making him develop…I know Coles Creek where I live at, they have a homeowners association. All of them have to take sign a thing. But then when you buy in there, that's part of the road maintenance. It’s all on you.

Matthews: Yeah, I agree with you. And I don't think this is the only place in the county that this is happening. So I think for the future, it would be wise for us to look at an ordinance to protect the land owners when they buy into a subdivision like this. And I think Mrs. Edmondston has already looked into that a little bit. And she's gonna have some information for us, but it's gonna probably need to go through the Planning Commission first, before that happens.

Miles: Are you in a homeowner's association ma'am?

Meeks: No, I’m not, because what I was told today was that property was older. The original owner made it public. And they thought that one road was public, because houses were already there. And when he built, I have a thing from VDOT that says it's private, and he's the owner of the road. They didn't realize that you'd have to put in a maintenance agreement, because I'm going through USDA and they want it and I can understand why.

Matthews: Who is the old owner? I mean, is that Jeff?

Meeks: Yeah. JT. What the document, I can show her.

Matthews: Okay. All right. As long as you have that, and she probably need to see that.

Meeks: Okay. All right. Thank you.

Re: Executive Closed Session

Matthews: Alright, we're going to move on to Item J, which is Executive Closed Session.

Miles: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would move that the Board of Supervisors enter into executive closed session for the purposes of discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment assignment, appointment promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or
resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body and evaluation of performance of departments based on the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711.A.1.

Allen: second.

Matthews: All right, we have a motion and a second. Call for the vote.

Vice Chairman Miles moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to enter into Executive Closed Session under the above stated Code.

Re: Return to Regular Session and Certification

Miles: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I would move that the Board of Supervisors now return to open session and certification that to the best of each board members knowledge only business matters related to the Codes of Virginia, of which the executive closed session meeting was convened was discussed or considered in the closed executive session, sir.

Chambers: Second

Matthews: Call for the vote.

Vice Chairman Miles moved, Supervisor Chambers seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to return to regular open session and certify that to the best of each board members knowledge only business matters related to the Codes of Virginia, of which the executive closed session meeting was convened was discussed or considered in the closed executive session.

Re: Adjournment

Matthews: All right. We're gonna adjourn. Have a good evening.

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

ATTEST:

___________________________________________  __________________________________
Karl Carter, County Administrator        Donald R. Matthews, Jr., Chairman