At a reconvened meeting of the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors which was recessed from the March 14, 2022 meeting held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Peter Francisco Auditorium of the Buckingham County Administration Complex, the following members were present: T. Jordan Miles, III, Chairman; Joe N. Chambers, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Dennis Davis; Donald E. Bryan; Donald R. Matthews, Jr.; Harry W. Bryant, Jr. and Danny R. Allen. Also present were Karl R. Carter, County Administrator; Kevin Hickman, Finance Director; E.M. Wright, Jr., County Attorney; and Jamie Shumaker, IT Manager. Those present from the Buckingham County School Board were Theresa D. Bryant, Chairman; Pamela P. Morris, Vice-Chairman; Joii W. Goodman; Rachel M. Castello-Dunn; Jacqueline J. Newton; Sherry S. Ragland; and Michelle Ford. Also present with School Board were Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent; Wendy L. Oliver, Clerk; J.B. Heslip, Director of Facilities and Ronnie Palmore, Director of Transportation.

Re: Call to Order

Chairman Miles called the Board of Supervisor’s reconvened meeting to order.

Chairman Bryant called the School Board meeting to order.

Re: Establishment of a Quorum

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

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

Re: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Chambers gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all who were in attendance.
Re: Dr. John Keeler, Superintendent, Buckingham County Public Schools: Presentation and Discussions of the Requested FY22-23 School Budget

Miles: We’d like to welcome the School Board members and their staff here. It’s nice to see everyone and thank you for coming as we navigate through this budget process together. Our next item is Dr. Keeler. But before we do that, we have a statement or two that needs to be read so I’ll call on Supervisor Bryan.

Bryan: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I’m advising that I sought an opinion from the Commonwealth Attorney concerning any conflict I may have with participating in discussions and voting on the county budget because I’m a school teacher for the Buckingham County School System. I’ve received a written opinion from Mr. Beasley that I can participate in the discussion and vote on budget matters. The Code of Virginia requires that I make a statement concerning my situation. According I make the following statement for the record. I will participate in the discussions and vote on matters relating to the adoption as well as the adoption of the 2022-2023 Board of Supervisors budget for the county. I am a school teacher employed by the Buckingham County School Board, which is funded in part by allocations from the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors. I am a member of a profession. The members of which are affected by the transaction. I am able to participate in the transaction fairly objectively and in the public interest. And I do not set the budget or authorize the expenditures of Buckingham County School Board. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Miles: Thank you Supervisor Bryan. I too have a statement that I’d like to read. I'm advising that I have sought an opinion from the Commonwealth's Attorney covering any conflict I may have in participating in discussions and voting on the county's budget because I'm an employee of Piedmont Senior Resources. I have received a written opinion from Mr. Beasley that I can participate in the discussions and vote on budget matters. The Code of Virginia requires that I make a statement concerning my situation. Accordingly, I make the following statement for the record. I will participate in the discussions and vote on matters relating to the adoption as well as the adoption as well as the adoption of the 2022-2023 Board of Supervisors budget for Buckingham County. I am an employee of Piedmont Senior Resources, which is funded in part by allocations from the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors. I am a member of a group of employees of Piedmont Senior Resources, that group being more than three which are affected by the transaction and I am able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. I do not set the budget or authorize the expenditures of Piedmont Senior Resources. Thank you for indulging us in those.

Now, Dr. Keeler, Interim Superintendent of Buckingham County Public Schools, I believe are going to have a presentation of the 22-23 Budget.

Dr. John Keeler: Thank you so much and good evening Board members. Good to see you all. I thank you for the opportunity to give Buckingham School Budget for 22-23. Before I start, I’d like to take a moment to thank you all on behalf of the School Board to allowing us to locate our Alternative Ed program in the Arts Council building. Tomorrow we will complete our third
week and we haven’t lost anybody. It’s going quite well. Also, I’d like to thank you again for the metal detectors that you bought us back in December and we have used those things every school day and the good news about it is you haven’t heard any bad things. We at that time ordered 4 and we finally got them in last week so we’ve got several down at the middle school and a couple more where they are needed. So, thank you all.
I’d like tonight to give you an update where we are at with the budget process. The first place we’d like to start is with the ADM, Average Daily Membership. We of course as you know, we receive state funding based on Average Daily Membership. So when you build a budget you have to, Superintendents have to take a guess sometimes what you think it’s going to be at the end of September. When school starts I usually, I would call them every day. I want to know how many kids we have and are there new people coming in because at the end of September I have to have a number and if my number that I built the budget on is under that number then I’m in pretty good shape but if it’s reversed then I’m sweating a little bit. That’s why I wanted to take a minute to talk about ADM. If you look at 21/22, you are at 1832.53. That’s the average. We built the budget off of 1817 in the count and I felt good about that because that’s low. That’s where you want it. Anything above it you are in pretty good shape. But I also want to talk about and I probably ought to do this on the next page.
Which is School ADM 5 Year Comparison if you could look at that. I think this graph really gives you a good idea of where we stand as a division by school. I’m going to start out at the top. Look at the five year growth at the high school we have been increasing a little bit every year until we are at a point where there were about 597 at the high school this year. That’s pretty good. I predict that next year the big eighth grade class we’ve got coming will probably be, I wouldn’t be surprised in the 630 range. With the seniors going out and the eighth grade coming in it may get higher. That’s encouraging.

The same thing with the middle school numbers. They are consistent or stable. Year before last, 513, and we are at 498 this year. That’s pretty decent. Then when you get down to the elementary numbers and the primary numbers you see we had dropped off. I want to talk to you about that. The pandemic, we celebrated on March 18th two years of the pandemic. I can remember vividly. It changed education. All of a sudden we were faced with learning packets to get out to everybody and we were hustling and virtual instruction became a priority and we had to train people right away. I found this out over the time period, that elementary kids and primary kids are so dependent on the parents to help them. Also found out by observing that when you’ve got a young child, kindergarten, first grader, second grader that needs that parent to get online and mom and dad are working jobs and come home and they are trying to get the meal together and then at 5:30, 6:00 or 6:30 they are sitting down with the child and trying to get online to help with the lesson. I found out it causes frustration a lot of time. People are desperate and I’ve seen this in my old school division, we decided that we were going to stay in when it broke. I’m talking about year before last when people were trying to decide are we going to stay out or go in. I’m part of Rockbridge County. Rockbridge is a big school system and has Lexington School System and Buena Vista and I thought we were all on the same page to be honest with you up until the last minute and the other two dropped out and I was there by myself. I talked to my Board and we said let’s stick with it. A lot of it had to do with the fact of how are we going to make sure the little ones are going to be served. So we decided on a schedule of Monday through Thursday every day from kindergarten through grade 7 and Friday would be virtual day which was really a catch up day too for staff. Then high school did a Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday rotation because I couldn’t, with 6 feet distance apart, I couldn’t because rooms weren’t big enough. We had a lot more courses. But the high school kids and middle school kids did well all through the schedule. The little ones we really had to help because we found out that the mama and daddy gave up trying to help so much during the first 9 weeks so we got them back which was good for us. It was so good for us that we did as well on testing that year than we did the year before. That’s a credit to our teachers. So I say this because a lot of times we think we’ve got the answer and we don’t have it until we get in there and deal with it. I wasn’t sure what to do with the little ones, but I think because of masks being optional now, I feel like we are getting back to business. I’m optimistic that if we continue this that we’ll see these numbers go back up. It’s not going to happen overnight. I’m not going to sit here and tell you we are going to gain 140 kids back. I’m not going to tell you that. I had the best year in Buena Vista the year that everyone else stayed home and I went in
because a lot of their kids came to me. I picked up 82 kids. That was the best budget year I ever had. $6000 per kid coming in and you do the math. It was a good thing for us. Now normality is important. Getting back to what it used to be. Talking to them. This is the first time our group of kids here in Buckingham have been together this long in a long time. I’m seeing it getting better. Prom is coming back. It’s been 2 years since we had a prom. I went and watched a baseball game, a school baseball game. It’s been 3 years since I could see that. I tell you one thing. We’ve got a good kid too. Probably going to see him on TV. The thing, when you think about the prom and getting back to business, that’s when things start coming back together. So tonight I wanted to tell you, that the high school and middle school are going to tell us just like everyone else said, you know, they are going to be okay because they can handle it. We still have kids online. Not that many. They are online because they can get ahead. They are online when they are junior and seniors because they’ve got jobs. I can pass and go to work. That makes sense to me and I encourage stuff like that if we can get it here. But I do want to see them. If we see them and talk to them and find out what’s going on with them we can do.

We’ve had a blessed year. The Anderson child go the Harry Byrd Scholarship. First class kid. Michigan State University. That’s a $20,000 scholarship. Probably the first one anybody’s won in Buckingham. I’m from that area up there and Harry Byrd didn’t give us any scholarships. I tell you. I’m proud of what our kids are doing and you guys know we’ve had 25 probably graduate with an Associate’s Degree before they graduate high school. That’s something to think about. I tell you. It’s good to be associated with these kinds of kids. I’m going to tell you that right now. I sent you an article up there. We lost 46,000 kids in the pandemic in Virginia. They didn’t come back. Out of 132 divisions, 121 of them, excuse me 111 of them lost kids. I mean we are not by ourself. 17,500 I think it said in the article are homeschooled. A number went to Christian schools and private schools and it’s not because they don’t like you, it’s because the people were desperate. I want to get my children somewhere. That’s why Rockbridge kids came to Buena Vista. That’s why Lexington’s kids came to Buena Vista. We want our children in school. I hope that makes sense. The staff here has done everything they can as far as mitigation. We are fogging stuff. We are wiping down. Just because we are at this point we don’t stop our habits. You know, a variant is going to pop up again with another crazy name and you know it will take them 6 months of how to see it and by that time somebody’s going to have a booster shot for it. We go on. I just feel we are in a place where we can really move on.
If you go over to the next slide, State budgets. The governor’s budget came out on December 16, 2021. These increases are Buckingham County increases ok. This budget is 3,155,102 increase for Buckingham County. He did put in which I really like, $1,658,324 for school construction for Buckingham. I really hope that stays in. We all know we don’t have a state budget yet for schools. But I really pray that stays in because that’s a big help for us for the next couple years. Then a 5% raise with $466,045 towards that. The Senate’s budget mirrors that a lot. A few key things. There’s a $3,404,575 increase with that construction that we need and $475,396 compensation supplement for 5% raise. 5% raise doesn’t cover everybody. That the Standards of Quality which is about 55-60% of them. Then we have to make up the rest of it to give it to everybody a 5% raise. We feel good that we can do that. I hope so. I should have said this up front. My name is John Keeler. I’m asking for the same amount of money that you gave us last year. I don’t want you to think we’ve got all kinds of money. I need you guys help. The House’s compensation was 4% with $378,396 and a 1 time bonus of 1% which is $79,684 which is not far off from what the compensation is with the Senate’s offer. Those are encouraging things and we hope and pray that they will come back and I heard just like you guys did that they were 2-3 billion dollars apart. I just hope it’s not in education but I hope we get it back. I’ve been told also not to expect a budget before the middle of April. It could be later. Remember a couple years ago it was late, almost in June.
So the highlights of it we put the ADM in 21/22 and the one we made the budget on for 22/23 with a variance of 93. The composite index with them is .3422 to .3273. The lower it goes as you guys know the more compensation you can get from the state. The VRS Professionals the rate was 16.62. We were hoping, there was some talk earlier, that they might drop that some. Which for school divisions our size would probably be about $250,000 come back to us. It hasn’t gotten enough traction to materialize. I may still but I don’t think so. There was a drop in the nonprofessional VRS from 4.98 to 3.25% of 1.73%. That’s for VRS rate for bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Then the Group life and health care credit those rates are the same. VPI slots what that means is that last year we got funding for 73 slots. I have never had enough slots that I had kids. I never turned away a kid. Pre-K. If you are ever having a bad day, let me give you some advice. If you have a bad day, go read to the pre-k kids. I did that for 5 straight days. A book about a little blue truck and I tell you what, I haven’t felt that good in a long time. They are sharp. They are sharp because we’ve got good people that work over there working with them. If that’s the way it’s going, the future looks bright for us. I can tell you. Whatever we get, we are going to find some money in our budget to make sure we can keep them. I don’t want you to think that 54 is all we are going to have. Because you know, that’s just where they think we are. Okay. They never get that number right.
Revenues for 2022/23 Proposed Budget. Wendy is going to help me go over that.

Wendy Oliver: This is a comparison of the totals in the area of Regular Operations versus this current year’s budget. Our internal local revenue on the first line, we are expecting to have another $5,000. We are proposing to have an auction sale this year so we are expecting additional revenue of $5,000 in that line.

State funds. An additional $989,199. That is based on the House budget. Dr. Keeler had said that earlier. That’s the regular operations portion.

SOQ Programs increasing $350,220.
Incentive Program increase $494,266
Categorical Aid increase of $235
Lottery Programs increase of $144,478
Other State is other state grants. We are losing the school security officer grant. We cannot apply for that anymore. We are applying for a new security officer at the middle school and we plan on locally funding the one at CGW. That is a reduction of that grant. We are also losing the one year grant behavioral specialist grant. We're losing that grant and that reduces that line by $47,029. And the federal line, we're reducing it $3,365,299. And that is spend down of all our CARES and Esser grants that we have gotten that is the majority of that line. County appropriations as Dr. Keeler spoke of, we are requesting the same amount that we received July 1 of this year $7,598,316. That is a reduction of $803,210. And that is the local appropriation that you all gave us back for the roof project. We are proposing that will be 50% done by July 1, based on Mr. Heslip’s recent meetings with architects. So we will not carry those funds into next year. Total reduction in the revenues for the regular operations is $3,221,339.
For our cafeteria budget, in local, we are proposing an additional $50,000. And that's because the fund has been running well. And we're projecting that we'll have another $50,000 at the end of the year in our local revenues. State has given us additional $21,312 and that is for their portion of lunch and breakfast grants. The federal funds are lowering $70,922 and that is a reduction of a one-time USDA Emergency Operations grant as well as Esser fund spend down. So that's only additional $390 for this program. Total revenues reduction for the entire budget or reduction of 3,220,949. Dr. Keeler will speak with you all about our insurance renewal.
Keeler: Well, health insurance hasn't changed. I wish I could announce some positive stuff about it but we are presently with Anthem. And on February 8 we received their first proposal for 54.4% increase. As you can see up there we currently pay with them $241,248 per month for $2,894,980. Now, their increase would be that 54.4% increase will add another $1,575,137 to that, which make the total grand total $4.4 million or $372,509 per month. That's an additional $131,260. I've never, ever been fooling with…this is my 12th year in finance, never heard of a renewal of 54.4%. And so we had a meeting with them and our broker, I think we stared at each other a disbelief for about 10 minutes for somebody spoke, but then after that, I said we couldn't do this. We can't do this. And so I said you’ve got to...you're going to have to come back with something that is realistic. So and you guys, you've dealt with health insurance. You know, how it is. If they think you, they got the advantage on you then you know, they will wait a while. They came back on March 1, and said Anthem negotiated a proposal of 34% increase, which amounts to $985,388 increase a year. So their total premiums would there be $3,880,368 or $323,364 per month. That’s an additional…that's another, that's an additional $82,116 per month. That's not going to work either. I'll be honest with you. We can't do that. And I met with all of our people. I got around to everybody last week. Met with them. Faced them to talk about raise and health insurance. And Buckingham has treated our people good. It’s one of the highest rates, you know, where we pay. The thing, too, is if you give somebody a 5% raise, which should be a good raise. But it's a nick on one hand, and you take it away on the other hand, because of renewals like this. Our people will go in the hole. So that's, I'm not trying to be belligerent or anything, but this this can't be. So we called our broker back and said that can't work. So they tried Local Choice proposal. That was worse than you know, the second option. It came back 47% increase and additional $1.3 million, which made the premium go, would’ve made it go up to $4.26 million or $355,338 per month, an additional $114,009 a month. Can you do that? But we're not giving up. And we are looking and I hope to have, we're in contact with another group. And I honestly hope to have something firm maybe as early as tomorrow or first of the week. I know it's going to go up. We’ve had a bad experience year. And but we got to be realistic and there's got...there are plans is gotta be plans there that we can work with us. So we are hoping for that. We'll be sharing that with you. Okay. Keep you all informed but that's our health insurance as it stands right now. But I have not lost faith. We’re going to get something that our people can have and keep hopefully keep the raise. Hope that makes sense.
What's next? Okay, you got the expenditure additions. The 5% salary increase for contracted employees. This is what, the total that includes what we get and what we have to put in. It’s a total of $867,450. A health insurance premium of a 10% increase from the employer, we put in $232,238. If we get a 10% renewal, they'll put us in a parade or something. Minimum wage increase non-contracted employees $53,000. We went up $1 per hour to try to get to where, I think we did that last year. So that's what that's costing. And when he talked about a security officer, we just felt, I feel very strongly by having people around. So we want a security officer located at the middle school and one at the complex, where it can watch the primary and elementary at the same time. And that way we keep our SRO up to high school. And that seems to work really well. The alternative education rental fees $13,000. That's $10,000 to the county, and $3000 to Maysville Church. If we're good, they let us shoot basketball at 12 to 1 on Tuesdays and Thursday. So that's what the extra money is on that. So they are very good people, I can tell you that right now. Our HVAC contract annual increase, that’s Honeywell is $10,000. The security officer that's coming off the grant, is that right? It's gonna cost is $8,200 to pick that up for a grand total of $1,199,888.
Oliver: This is the breakdown by area. Based on the additional expenditures that Dr. Keeler just discussed, and the reduction of expenditures for our federal grants. We are seeing a reduction in all of our areas other than debt service, reduction of $1,444,170 in instruction. Reduction of $1,058,283 in administration. Reduction of $45,863 in pupil transportation. Reduction of $68,915 in operations and maintenance. Reduction of $803,210 in facilities. Additional $5,055 for debt service and reduction of $705,953 in technology, which reduces the regular operation budget by $3,221,339. Including a cafeteria reduction of $390. Total expenditures reduction $3,220,949.
And now Mr. Heslip is going to discuss our capital projects that are federally funded and where they stand.

**Heslip:** And I’ve been watching the page numbers go and I know I’m starting on 12. So I’m getting nervous. I’d like to say thank you so much to the Board for giving me an opportunity to speak. I’d also like to just take a moment and thank Mr. Queen of your maintenance department helping us with the Alternative Ed, moving back and forth. I hadn't had a whole lot of dealings with him. But he’s very, very open and helpful as well as his whole crew. So I just wanted to say thank you for letting us use the building as well. The first slide shows you two things on the top and the bottom, both of which I think we have discussed before but if not, I'll give you a brief synopsis of the roof replacement project. We have given you a briefing on that. But right now that's going really well. I had a meeting with Jameson Lewis on the 16th. We had a walkthrough pre construction meeting talking about staging when they're going to start that project which will be mid-April like and ending up in July before school starts. That's the hopeful thing for the roof. Although we all know that weather could play into that. Um, on the bottom it is the, that is a vision of what we'd like to see using our grant money that we would receive, to have a new bathroom and concession stand facility at the middle school. I think we have talked about that for a long time. You guys have mentioned it so now we have funding using the grant to be able to do that as well. And we are in conversation with our architect now, visioning that and then hopefully, a lot of the pre work has already been done with the Facilities Committee. So these projects can move fast because we are working off the timeline.
Next slide you see is basically the Pre K, what they would receive during this, the HVAC grants. They would receive new units on their school, as well as being switched over to the EBI control system.

Opposite of that, primary and elementary school heating roof units inside their classroom HVAC to increase ventilation. Some of those units since the start, have given us trouble. We know that a few units were not performing. But now we have the opportunity to replace those and install new units. And take both of these schools, all three of these schools actually to EBI, which is Enterprise Building Integrations, which helps us to be better whether scheduling occupied versus non-occupied. Helps us be more efficient with our money and resources as well.
And then we'll also have a project with the middle school. As you guys know, thank you so much for giving us the money to do half of that project a few years back. We got a new chiller. It's been performing so well for us there. We get the opportunity to put in the second unit there. Hopefully we'll duplicate that unit, and then switch the whole building over now to an EBI, which gives us better control of that building.

And then lastly, you have the High School and CTE. High School has been running off of boilers that use No. 2 heating fuels for quite a long time. We've dodged several bullets on that. Having problems with an older unit being with heating fuel gelling up. We've dodged those. And luckily the forethought of the Facilities Committee and Mr. Ivan Davis, my predecessor, there's two propane cutouts already there for upgrading this to a propane building, which would really help the efficiency of this, and also switching over the high school to completely to EBI program. And then lastly, the CTE building. They've been operating with the out of date, I'm trying to think of the right word, past their expiration date. We've been working those units past their expiration date for quite a while without a catastrophic fail, which is great. And in this grant, we would replace all of those. There are 22 units. They're older with the new 410 ration which helps us to be much and also put that building on the EBI. We're also looking into just some long range planning with the Facilities Committee. Dr. Keeler would be looking with them for the auditorium. We know that that is in some disarray. And it's got such history with the county, with the school that we would like to see that come back up to its former glory. We were working with Architectural Partners to get an idea of just what it would take to bring that, what's the word I'm looking for when you, it's a basically an outline or a guide for us to start the conversation about what to do with that. A feasibility study. I'm sorry, I couldn't think of the word.
Any questions for me?

Miles: Dr. Keeler, does that conclude your presentation, or anything to add?

Keeler: No, I think it. I appreciate JB. We’re very fortunate to have him and as he pointed out, you know this project that we’re getting ready to start now it’s gonna start in a couple of weeks and should be done in July before we get back. That couldn’t happen without you all. And thank you for that.
Miles: Dr. Keeler, thank you and your staff and team for this presentation. And now it's time for discussion and questions regarding the requested budget for the 22/23 Operating year with regards to the schools. So questions

Bryan: Dr. Keeler, have you heard anything from DOE about Virtual Virginia? Are they going to continue Virtual Virginia?

Keeler: Yes, sir. They are. I don't, Donnie, I don't think it's going to be as big as it was this past year or a year before that. But they are, you know, we're taking, we got to take orders in the month of April for slots that we think we're going to have. Presently we got 66 people virtual through Virtual Virginia. I expect that to drop. As you know, that's not, that's not real cheap. And basically, it probably favors the high school, middle school kid more than it does the elementary child. You know, we're hoping we're going to gain those kids back. Right now I think we actually maybe have 25 kids in the primary, elementary using it. But I'm hoping we get them back. That 66, I would like to see be down in the high 30s at least if we got that many. I do point out it's not a bad thing. Because some kids can take it and run with it. And especially if they're junior, senior and they got they know what they're doing and they get a chance to, to work at the same time. I'm all for that. Especially if it's a field that they want to get into. Get some experience. It can be a really good thing.

Bryan: Okay.

Chambers: I just want to say I want to thank Dr. Keeler and the Board for doing a good job with your budget. You are asking for level funding. I think it's good. You got a lot of progress going on. And Dr. Keeler, you're doing a good job. I think things are working well with you.

Miles: Thank you Vice Chairman Chambers. Any other questions? Supervisor Allen?

Allen: Yeah, I'd like start off saying Dr. John Keeler, I'm tickled with you. I'm glad you're there. Right now you're temporary. But they're getting ready to hire somebody new. I'd like to see them hire you at full time because things are going good and looking better...

Bryant: Amen.

Allen: for the whole county and the schools right now. So if we keep you, things, in my opinion, if y'all would hire him, again in my opinion, it will keep things going good. Now I got something else. A while back, I came to the Board talking to y'all about transgender and face masks. Face masks are gone now because it's not a mandate. The mandate part was the biggest problem with me. I don't like seeing somebody say you have to wear a mask. So that's all gone. So I'm not worrying about that. But the transgender thing, I don't know exactly how everything's working out with y'all. I've talked to some people to say that transgender would take them to this
bathroom, one bathroom. But the idea with some of the people in the public and all too, is that if I'm a boy, and I walk down the hall and I say, Hey, I'm a girl today, I get to go to the girl’s restroom. I just want to make sure that y'all don't have that set up. So that the people some of the people in the county think you do. So you don't have it set up and people know that.

**Keeler:** And yeah, I'm glad you asked that question because a transgender child, we want to involve the family with this thing. This is I take it as a serious thing, because it doesn't mean that that child no one wanted to be a transgender is that how we can we make him or her whatever they're identifying as is part of our staff or our school, but it takes the family to be there with us. And I want to make sure that we have accommodations that don't offend anybody. If that means it's going to be in the office, a special restroom or wherever, you know, it's this thing is pretty much just common sense sometimes but I want the family to be included. It's not one of these things you just take this kid and say, All right, you're going to do this and you're going to do that. I'm not aware of any. But if it comes to my office, that’s the approach that I am gonna take. It's hard to say that I will make him go to the gym bathroom or her here. And I'm not and I'm not for anybody being harassed. The kids that are or are not. And you know, we're a public school. I'm a big fan of public schools. I think it's one of the building blocks of democracy. Because we teach everybody, everybody that comes to our door. We're gonna find a place for them. And in this yes, good question. I just want you all to rest assured, when and if it does happen, we're going to handle it the best way we can for everybody.

**Allen:** I see it as two different things too. One is, if you born that way, it is a totally different issue than if you walk down the street and say I’m going to change today. That's the difference. That's the thing. The other thing. I see the limousine bus at school and what did they use that for now?

**Keeler:** What’s that now?

**Allen:** It's a limousine bus. It comes to the school.

**Bryan:** That’s the Boys and Girls Club.

**Allen:** Boys and Girls Club? Good. Okay, cool. I didn’t know, I just want to check it out. And one more thing, I ain't finished yet. There was a question that came up a while back. They are selling some land in between the two schools, the high school and middle school. And I don't know if somebody had said something to y'all about it but I think it would be a good thing to buy that land in between. If you want to let me know when we could probably get in the middle and help you out.

**Keeler:** Does the house go with it?
Chambers: Yes sir.

Allen: The house goes with it and I think the trailer goes with it.

Chambers: I think it would be a good investment if the school was to buy it.

Keeler: Is it 9 acres?

Allen: I think it was. I think it connected both schools together.

Keeler: I’ve looked at that a lot. I was wondering is there any way that it would join our property from the high school connected to the middle school?

Allen: I think it does.

Chambers: If you look at the map it will connect to the school bus shop. Won't it Ronnie? From the house on the road down to the school bus shop. What land is between the school and what the county owns? That's what I'm saying. If you purchase that, will that give the County control of everything? That's what I'm saying. Yeah, right, right. Yeah. On the left hand side all the way to the bus garage is what I'm saying. I think it would be a good investment.

Keeler: If that’s so, then is there enough room to someday build something on it?

Chambers: 9 acres. You ought to be able to build something on it.

Keeler: You’ve got to think ahead.

Chambers: We are going to need a whole new high school one day.

Keeler: I think that they're going...that house is a nice house looks like to me. I was peeking at it through the baseball game. I think he was asking $350,000, does that sound right? With the house?

Allen: He came down a little bit I think. I’m not sure.

Ragland: But aren't there are two other houses still on that backside? Yeah. So I mean, it wouldn't be totally ours. And we'd still be adjoining up behind persons, you know, private citizens. So I mean, but I think that's something that the Board probably should also discuss to see if that's something I mean, we kind of have discussed it. But, you know, I think as a Board, we probably need to discuss that a little bit more in detail to see for futuristic purposes, what we could use it for.
Miles: Does anyone have any other questions for Dr. Keeler or the School Board?

Chambers: I’m just saying that one day we have to build a new high school. It is coming is coming. So you already had that land, you know.

Bryan: I’ve said that. I’ve said that for years. It's not going to be tomorrow. But you know, looking long term, we're eventually going to have to do that. So you know, it would be nice to have that land in between. We put so much money in the football field, and the track, that we really wouldn't have to move it there. We could kind of shift that a little bit. It would like you said Sherry, it would be terrible for the people living on the backside but you know, with a High School right there in their backyard. But if it came down to that.

Allen: They got one pretty close to them anyway. It would be just a little closer.

Bryan: I have one more.

Miles: Yes sir, supervisor Bryan.

Bryan: This one's for Ronnie. Ronnie. Buses. I know everything else in the world has gone up. Okay, I mean, hearing the budget increases you know, from that insurance. What are we looking like for school buses now?

Palmore: (didn’t pick up from audience so not verbatim) Buses now are in the $90,000 range.

Bryan: Okay, so we're still good there.

Miles: Thank you, sir. Any other questions before we turn it back over to the school board?

Allen: But you still can get three buses for $270,000?

Palmore: (summarized) We are going to have to get buses with air conditioning which is about $10,000. It's about 3-5,000 per bus.

Allen: Does that air condition go all the way from the front to the back?

Palmore: (summarized) There is one in the front blowing back and one in the back blowing front.

Allen: Cool.
Miles: Sounds like a chilly ride.

Chambers: Some kids have asthma and stuff. They need that.

Miles: Any other discussion, gentlemen, before we turn it back over to the school board?

Matthews: I've got some.

Miles: Yes, sir. Supervisor Matthews.

Matthews: I’d just like to tell the Superintendent, this is the first time in my seven years on the Board that you’ve come close, even come close to local funding. And I do have some other questions. My definition of local funding is not really the same as what you're saying it is. But you're making the move in the right direction. And I do appreciate that. And I know the citizens do and the taxpayers do so thank you so much. Appreciate it.

Miles: Okay. Anyone else? Other questions? We'll turn it back over to the School Board. Okay, seeing none, Madam Chairman.

T. Bryant: Thank you, Chairman Miles, and we thank you all for listening to our budget, and hopefully we will see what the Governor's budget will provide us. We're hoping. Thank you all and we are adjourned.

Miles: Okay, thank you, Madam Chairman. We're gonna pause just really briefly, and we're not going to go anywhere so we can continue as the School Board exits.

Re: Presentation of the County Administrator’s Recommended FY22/23 Budget and Tax Rates: Discussions Regarding the Budget and Consideration of Approval of Proposed Budget and Tax Rates for Public Hearing on Monday, April 18, 2022

Miles: Presentation of the County Administrator’s Recommended FY22/23 Budget and Tax Rates. So Mr. Carter?

Carter: Yes, sir, thank you, Mr. Miles. I prepared for you guys a kind of a guidebook or like a cheat sheet to highlight items on the budget. So we will not have to go through the whole thing, you know, line by line, but I'm here to answer any questions you guys might have. If you want me to, I can go through and start and just go through some highlights right off the bat. And that way might answer some of your questions.
Miles: Oh, it’s what the Board desires. Do you won't want to go through some highlights, Gentlemen?

Matthews: Will you do that at the public hearing? Will you go through every item at the public hearing won’t you?

Carter: I will do a PowerPoint presentation. I mean, I can include what you guys want, but I normally don't go through every item for the public hearing.

Matthews: Okay.

Miles: So how about some highlights?

Carter: Well, I'll start off with this, this budget is no tax increase. So hopefully, that'll satisfy a lot of your constituents that we're not raising, proposing to raise any taxes right now. You will see the total budget is a decrease of about $4 million from last year. And that decrease is due to those ARPA funds that we did not get this year. We got in the current year. That was about $3.3 million. We got another $1.5 million from Dominion grant. So those could not be in this budget this year, that's why you see the overall decrease in the budget. This budget does include a rate increase for health insurance. So we're nowhere near with the school got. But ours was 5.6% increase. We’re nowhere near the double digits like they were, so thank goodness for that for us this year.

Matthews: How about giving them that company's telephone number?

Carter: Yeah, I've never heard that kind of increase. But yeah, that's amazing. It also comes along with a 1.78 increase in our retirement rate. This budget also includes a 5% proposed salary increase to match what the state is doing. As in the past, we normally do your employees with the state suggested for their employees. So the state suggested 5%, we're gonna try to do that with our employees as well. The school has told you, they're not gonna ask them for an increase this year. Something different this year due to those ARPA funds we do have. I've taken out all the vehicle requests this year to help us balance the budget. Assuming that we got those ARPA funds, we used those onetime funds make those onetime purchases. So that won't cost the taxpayer any money. We will use for those grant funds. So that'll help save on our expenses and keep your rates down where you want them to be. On your budget sheet, you'll see there's an unassigned fund balance with $269,074. This is what you have left. And this is what you have to, I'll say play with. If you want to add anything, it'll decrease that number. If you take anything out that or increase that number. So that's your house money you have to play with and decide what you want to add to his budget or take out his budget.
Also, as Dr. Keeler said, our constitutional officers do not have their final budgets from the state yet. So what I've done in this budget is put in what they got last year, because I didn't want to change them and guess on and then they get their budget, I got to change it again. So I just went with this current year. So hopefully when they get their budget, those number were increasing but also increase at $269,000. I've highlighted some new requests we had come to our Board meeting last week and spoke to you guys. The Boys and Girls Club came and requested $10,000. LOC Family Services requested $60,000 and the library had came and Rick Ewing made his proposal. And at the time, I think Supervisor Miles asked what was the total amount he was requesting. And he didn't have it that night. But he did bring it to our office on Monday. And if I did my math, right, he's asking for an additional $11,949 above what I've included in this budget.

**Allen:** So you want motions on these three right now or one at a time?

**Carter:** One at a time.

**Matthews:** You want to get through the whole budget then we have questions.

**Carter:** Everything at one time. Yes.

**Miles:** Okay. What was your question, Supervisor Matthews? I didn't hear you.

**Matthews:** Just that when he finishes his presentation we will have…

**Carter:** We'll have a discussion on what you guys want to add. The other thing new you had to add this year is new positions. The Victim Witness position, that grant has been around for probably about five years. And that position is fully funded by our grant. So we pay no local funds to that grant at all for that position. The downside of that is she's been in that position for six years. And because it's fully grant funded, she doesn't qualify for pay increases when we get them. So this 5% that you guys are proposing for us, she will not get that because she's totally funded by the grant. She's asked to be supplemented with by the county. So like your deputies that you know their comp or position but we supplement their salary. So let's say the comp works, pays 40,000. You might have been making 50. So the county is paying that additional ten.

**Matthews:** What position is this?

**Carter:** The Victim Witness. It works down there in the Commonwealth Attorney's office. The registrar's asking for a full time position. She currently has three part time positions but wants to reorganize and do some shuffling to have a full time position. As you all know, election procedures or rules have increased a lot in the last few years. I've checked with all the surrounding counties, and most of them all have a Registrar that has a full time position. So she is unique in the fact that she does not have any full time staff at all. Commonwealth Attorney has
also requested a new position. But his position, fortunately, is a comp board position. So I did not include that in this budget. But if he does get that position, we can add it later because that will be funded by the comp board. So it shouldn't cost the county any money if they do that unless he increases the salary above with the conference providing. Um, some other highlights on page 413, personal property tax that's something we need to talk about. As you know, all right, personal property tax as you know is mainly vehicles. And you know, if you go by any car lot now, vehicles are in high demand. I've had another discussion with surrounding counties and it’s going across the country, everybody's having values increase. When people get their personal property tax bill, normally we have a vehicle, you're almost guaranteed that you pay less in taxes the next year because the value went down. Well, because values of vehicles are so valuable right now, the value is actually going up on used vehicles. So when you get, when your constituents get their tax bills, a lot of them are gonna have a higher tax bill for their vehicle than they had last year. So I'm preparing you now, you're probably gonna get some phone calls about why they're why they're going up.

Matthews:  Yes, but wasn’t there a bill proposed at the state level for that stuff, not that I mean, how can they inflate a used car, that's at the dealership. That's not my personal vehicle?

Carter:  It's not the dealership. They use the NADA book value. That’s the value, they get the values from that.

Davis:  Right now used cars are up 40%.

Matthews:  Yeah. But that's ridiculous. We don't have any control over that. I mean, that's the whole thing.

Carter:  You do not have any control. You're right about that. Mr. Matthews.

Miles:  We need to make that note, that we have no control over this.

Carter:  Right, because it’s the values, it’s not the rate going up it’s the values.

Matthews:  Well, I’d like to see that bill that they just passed, they talked about reducing that right. I've heard it has passed, but anyway, I think it was a…

Miles:  It was a Senate Bill, Supervisor Matthews?

Matthews:  I've got it somewhere. But anyway, somebody sent me some information on that it was complaining about it already.

Allen:  You get ready to sell your car, you sell it for more than you paid for it.
Matthews: That’s what they always say. But it never works out that way for me.

Bryant: I know a man, he had a pick up that was two years old. And He carried to a dealer and they said they would give $6,000 more than he paid for it.

Matthews: Isn’t that crazy?

Miles: Yeah. Any other discussion on that personal property tax, gentleman?

Bryant: What would you do after you signed the title?

Carter: Kevin's gonna pass out to you a worksheet. When he passes out that worksheet, the commissioner's office is trying to get this information out. So when people come in, she has a letter she's giving out explaining how this increase will occur and to hopefully calm them when they get this.

Miles: Gentleman.

Davis: Good luck with that... I have something with the personal property tax that's been chewing at my butt for a few years and I just want to say something about it tonight. Okay, you've got a camper in Buckingham and they eat you alive but you can own an airplane in Buckingham and you ain't got to play nothing. Now that don’t seem right to me.

Matthews: Call Morgan Dunnivant, he can enlighten you on that deal.

Miles: Alright guys, so what are these handouts?

Carter: The handouts that Kevin just passed out to you, you should see two. One is a news article that the Commissioner is handing out to people.

Miles: Gentlemen, please. We are having a hard time hearing.

Carter: The other is a letter giving to all customers trying to explain that their values are going up. The third piece of information you have is an Excel sheet. It's got a list of vehicles on it. It looks similar to this. So what we tried to do is give you some examples of classes on these vehicles that have had their values going up. So the first block you'll see on the first line on the first page, at the very top, those are examples. She picked some random vehicles, so it's not all the vehicles, just random selection. Those vehicles are semi-trucks. So the first two columns, you'll see last year's value and last year's taxes they paid. If you go to the far right, you'll see a column highlighted in gray with orange writing. That's gonna be the new column she's going to use for 22/23. So for that line on the very top, you can see lash on the far left, they paid
$3,965.76. This upcoming year, she's going to use the clean loan columns instead of the clean trade value as she did in the past. And so that one that vehicle we'll go down so I picked the bad one to start off with.

**Matthews:** Why did that one go down?

**Carter:** It's just the way that NADA Book Value charts listed. Let's see. Look at the last one. A Western conventional. That value they paid last year was $2,349. They're going to pay $2,460 this year. So that one didn't increase that much. But let's see if you scroll down to the next section with the passenger vehicles. I'll pick one like alright, I'm going to turn to the second page. And when you get to the Honda's. There is a Honda Accord, 2013. The very first one.

**Matthews:** How about a '09? Can you get that on this?

**Carter:** Yes, you'll see that Honda Accord, 2013, last year the value of that vehicles at $8600. You follow that line across, the value has now gone to $10,200. So that value has increased thus making their taxes go to $413.10 compared to $348.30 this current year. So you're gonna have a lot of vehicles like that when their taxes are going to go up compared to last year.

**Matthews:** I've got a question for you.

**Miles:** Alright, Supervisor Matthews and then Supervisor Allen.

**Matthews:** What about if you have in the high mileage rate still 100,000 miles? So you can still use that? Have they upped that amount? I mean, what is that, that should be, that should go up with this whole situation here or come down some I would think.

**Carter:** I'll check with the Commissioner on that but I don't think she's changing the discount rate. I think they still get a discount. I don't know how she does that discount.

**Miles:** Who sets that rate, whether it would come down or not?

**Carter:** The Commissioner.

**Matthews:** So under her discretion?

**Carter:** Yes. And that's why we're doing here with these changing the column she chooses. She can do that without you guys having to do any public hearings or anything.
Matthews: What about me and know how they get to arrive at the value with the Kelley Blue Book values. But does she not adjust that rate? I mean, why can't she have something to do with it?

Davis: She is changing to go by loan value.

Carter: She's going by value. In order to change the rate, you guys got to do that. And so surrounding counties are thinking, you probably don't want to change your rates because suppose they change next year you'll be changing the rate again. So she thinks it's easier by just changing the value you go by instead of the rate.

Allen: Well, I was just wondering is this total in the budget for the big change? You said $200,000. Do you think you'll get extra?

Carter: I put that in there. I mean, it could go more than that. But I was just being conservative. She used the lowest column she can use she tried to help the taxpayer as much as she can see that clean trade value is still pretty high as well. And then average trade.

Matthews: How about a Tesla? Have you got that on there?

Carter: I don't think she picked those.

Miles: Probably only one in the county.

Carter: But that's what this sheet is showing, just a random sample of vehicles. And you can see those two columns on what the person's paying currently and what they'll be paying next year. And you can see all the values have gone up.

Miles: Yes, Sir Vice Chairman Chambers has a question for you, Mr. Carter.

Chambers: I'm not trying to be funny. I got a quite a few comments. I mean, complaints about those buggies on the road. They want to know if they have to have county tags and stuff. I don't know.

Matthews: They don’t have a motor in it. It's got to have a motor to be taxed.

Chambers: The way gas is going, I’m gonna get me one.

Miles: Alright, so number three. Did we want to continue Mr. Carter? Or?

Carter: Yes, sir. I'll keep going. Let's see. What's another one to pick out?
Bryan: On the front page, Karl, the third from the bottom of the 2019 Ford F 150.

Carter: The third page you say? I'm sorry.

Bryan: No, the first page. The third from the bottom. Okay. I guess this year they paid $1,335.49?

Carter: Yes, sir.

Bryan: Next year, they would have paid $1637.21. But if we go with clean loan value, then it's only going to go up to $1,474?

Carter: That's exactly right. That's how you read it. She's picking the lowest column.

Bryan: Right. She's trying to keep it reasonable.

Carter: The values are going up so much.

Bryan: Yeah. They're skyrocketing.

Matthews: We shouldn’t have a car tax anyway. We paid tax on it one time when we bought it.

Carter: So this is some good information for your constituents. I mean, we're trying to help them as much as we can. You are going to get some calls. You can guarantee that.

Miles: Any more questions about that before we move on? Because I know that's a hot topic, and it's gonna stay a hot topic.

Carter: Let's see and try and go through some other ones. The permits and licenses on page 513. We increased that a little bit. Remember, you decided last week to charge $25 for solid waste stickers. So we'll see some increased revenue in that.

Miles: Page 5 of 13.

Carter: In your little guide book.

Matthews: Make a little speech about that what we talked about today Karl. Well, I mean, let's make a little analogy on the $25. Let's talk about that.
Carter: That $25, once again, you guys made it annual. So somebody comes in who's a nonresident, owns land in the County, they pay $25 for that Solid Waste sticker. Paying $25 for that sticker gives them access X amount of times a day, they can go 10 times a day to dump their trash. They can go 1000 times in a week. They can go a million times in a year. They can go as many times as they want and they're paying that $25 fee. Also, they can tear down a home, they can use those roll off. So they remodeling the house, they can take lumber. They can do all this kind of stuff, just for that simple $25 fee. So I don't think it's a lot to ask those people to pay for that. Because that's an annual service that you can use as many times as you want.

Matthews: It costs you $2 a month, $2.00 a month. That's what it costs. I think that's a pretty doggone pretty good deal. I don't see why anyone should complain about that. Really.

Miles: Which page are you on, Mr. Carter?

Carter: I'm just going through and trying to pick out some highlights. Let me go to Page 6 of 13. When you get to the expenses. At the very bottom, it says Page 42 Emergency Services, I had some typos in it, spellcheck must have corrected it for me or I just didn't type in the wrong word. But you'll see down toward the middle says now that Medicare and Medicaid are part of our insurance reimbursements, we are not seeing the revenue recovery and pickup coming months. That should say now instead of not. My spell check must have changed that to not but it should say we're now seeing revenue recovery pickup and come in in good amounts. So and then that next sentence as of the end of February, we received $385,000 in revenue recovery. In which is you know, we just started this back in August, September. So it hasn't been a 12 month period. We just got the Medicare, Medicaid going. So we're doing pretty good on that. As of Monday, when I checked this, we have to $426,000 in revenue recovery. So we're seeing that come in pretty good. So hopefully that'll continue and that will help, you know, put off that general fund kicking in to fund EMS. Debt service, that's a hot topic your constituents always ask about. That one up $160,000, about $161,000, we rounded up.

Matthews: What page is that one?

Carter: Page 7 of 13. I'm sorry. Page number 53. So we did some refinancing. And that debt service hopefully doesn't change much. When you refinance it, they look at our loan, our payments, and they try to smooth it out. So they look at months, years that we have a lot, they don't put that much toward it. Years we have a decrease to add that so it kind of stays smooth, so you shouldn't see up and down flows in our debt service payments. Page 56 IDA Fund. That’s two things in that right now. We got that $181,000 payment for the sewer, new sewer plant. And then something new this year, remember we chose to abate the In House Pharmacy for the purchase of Gold Hill, their taxes. We were going to follow that through the IDA. So when they pay their taxes, we give them credit for the first five years. So that's that $12,751 for that.
That's kind of the main highlights. I mean, I was hoping tonight we can get through and talk about those new requests. Because once again, right, we do not add new requests with a budget, we get your direction from you guys. What do you want to do about those?

**Miles:** If you all would…thank you for that, Mr. Carter…so if y'all would flip to page 3 of 13 in terms of the three new requests that we have before us. As you see Boys and Girls Club $10,000, LOC Family Services $60,000, and the Library 20,000. And my understanding Mr. Carter from the library is that $20,000 only covers their minimum wage increase. Is that correct?

**Carter:** I just gave you that number earlier. That went down to $11,949.

**Miles:** Okay, so those are the three new requests that we need to consider to potentially add in the budget.

**Boys and Girls Club**

**Chambers:** That Boys and Girls Cub is a good thing for the County. I think we should give that $10,000.

**Bryan:** I agree.

**Allen:** Is that a motion?

**Chambers:** I can make that a motion.

**Allen:** I second.

**Miles:** Okay. Motion by Vice Chairman Chambers, second by Supervisor Allen to include a new money $10,000 for the Boys and Girls Club into the budget. Any discussion for a vote?

**Matthews:** Yeah, What is the $10,000 paying for? What does that I mean, what did we do last year for the Boys and Girls Club?

**Carter:** We've never given to them.

**Matthews:** Why are they coming to us this year for the $10,000? Where were they getting that money before?

**Carter:** They were footing the bill themselves.

**Chambers:** That's what she said the other night.
Carter: That limousine service they're paying for their own pocket right now.
Matthews: Now she wants us to pay for it.

Carter: Right.

Matthews: A few years ago the school division paid for the gas to go to from here.
Carter: Using their buses. Yes.

Matthews: Use their buses. Okay. What was the reason they discontinued it?
Carter: I don't know why. Unless it's a driver shortage like everybody else has.

Matthews: Isn’t that the original plan helping in the school division that they're doing over at the Boys and Girls Club.

Miles: Hold on. Mrs. Oliver. Sorry.

Oliver spoke from audience but couldn’t pick it up.

Miles: Does that help answer your question?

Chambers: She says she services about 20 some kids from Buckingham.

Matthews: They must be picking them up at the school then if you saw the limousine up there. You're not servicing all those children. Right? I mean, is that correct?

Miles: About 26 students from Buckingham do use the Boys and Girls Club.

Chambers: That’s what she was saying the other night.

Miles: Yes, sir. So there's a motion on the floor. Any more discussion? Okay. So the motion from Vice Chairman Chambers, second by Supervisor Allen. So please hit the buttons if you would, please. All right. All in favor, record vote aye. Those opposed, no. It's unanimous. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Chambers moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve to put $10,000 in the FY22/23 Budget for the Boys and Girls Club.
LOC Family Services

**Miles:** Next on the list would be $60,000 for LOC Family Services, and we're going to clear the board so we can make motions and vote. So is there any discussion on that or any motions?

**Bryan:** She put in her presentation that she's federally funded. I can't see us putting any local money towards that.

**Miles:** You have a motion?

**Bryan:** No Sir. I'll just let it die.

**Miles:** Okay. So we won't take any action on that. Is that you all’s feeling?

**Chambers:** That's consensus of the Board.

**Miles:** Okay.

Library

**Miles:** Moving next will be library and that's $11,949.

**Matthews:** I will say something on this.

**Miles:** Yes, sir. Mr. Matthews.

**Matthews:** Mr. Carter and Mr. Chambers are on the library committee with myself and Mr. Wright. And I think I've actually personally talked to Mr. Ewing, and so did Mr. Chambers. And I think you did too, Mr. Miles. And they were originally up over $40,000 because they were trying to get into VRS. Now, this is a lot more realistic number. But that facility has really brought a lot to our county over the last couple of years since we completed it. So, you know, Mr. Ewing is always willing to work with us, and we're trying to do the best we can. We don't have a lot of extra money to throw around. So I think he's going to try to bite the bullet on this. But we're trying to get some of those people that are part time individuals up to where they need to be. I’m for this, and we'll make the motion to approve.

**Miles:** Alright, there's a motion by Supervisor Matthews, second by Supervisor Bryan to allocate this $11,949 for the library. All those in favor, please record your vote aye. Opposed, No. And it's unanimous.
Supervisor Matthews moved, Supervisor Bryan seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve an additional $11,949 in the FY22/23 budget for the Library.

**Victim Witness Protection Personnel**

**Miles:** So those two are taken care of and Mr. Carter, we need to take action on the two positions with Victim Witness and Registrar. Commonwealth's Attorney, we do not need to act on right?

**Carter:** Yes, sir.

**Miles:** Okay.

**Matthews:** I got a question.

**Bryan:** I’ve got one too.

**Miles:** Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Mr. Matthews.

**Matthews:** Okay. I know this is from the comp board that this is being funded by and the $10,340 is not funded by the comp board, because that’s a raise, right? And she's been there, how many years?

**Carter:** Six.

**Matthews:** Six years. So if you were out in the general public, and you were going to get a raise, has this state employees gotten a cost of living raise over the last six years, every year? Or when? How much is that?

**Bryan:** My question kind of goes to what you're asking Don?

**Matthews:** I'm just curious.

**Bryan:** I am too. How much of it is actually a raise, and how much of it is going to VRS and other services?

**Hickman:** I can speak on that. So out of that 10,000, that actually includes a new laptop for her. That would probably account for 2-3,000 as well. Part of that raise is, I believe, another 3-4,000. And then that would just bring her salary up 3-4000. Then the laptop, then office supplies, and all that other stuff. I have a breakdown of that of what she added if y'all would like as well.
Chambers: All that is included in the 10,000 is what you are talking about. That makes a difference.

Hickman: Yes. It's not 10,000 directly to her salary. No.

Miles: Mr. Matthews?

Matthews: Yeah, I mean, I'm just curious. Does our IT department have a budget that they can get laptops for? Is that something…how does that work? I'm just curious.

Carter: Each department pays for their own computers and stuff so yeah, IT doesn't pay.

Matthews: So this isn’t comp board stuff. But that's under Kemper Beasley's or Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Carter: She has her own department.

Matthews: This is her own department?

Carter: Yes, sir.

Matthews: She's only one person in that department?

Carter: Yes, sir.

Matthews: Okay.

Miles: Any more questions? Yeah, thank you, Mr. Hickman. That helps explain what the Supervisor was asking. Thank you.

Allen: Do you want make a motion on it?

Miles: I would entertain a motion.

Bryan: I move that we go ahead and approve it, Mr. Chairman, based on not all of this is a pay raise. She has not received a pay raise in six years. And I do know the work that she does for the people in that office and it is tremendous work. So yeah, I move that that we go and approve.

Miles: All right motion made by Mr. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Victim Witness position. All in favor, please record your vote aye. Those no? Motion is unanimous. Thank you, gentlemen.
Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Davis seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve additional $10,000 to the Victim Witness Protection department in the FY22/23 budget for salary increase, laptop and office supplies.

Registrar Position

Miles: The next and last position is with regards to the County Registrar. That's an additional full time position. And I have a question for Mr. Carter on that. So she's got three individuals, Mrs. Taylor, does who are part time right now. Their hours would assumingly go down right much once this new person comes in, right?

Carter: Yes, sir. Because when she did her budget request, she did drastically reduce her part time and increase the full time.

Matthews: What did you reduce? And what amount was it?

Carter: I can tell you.

Hickman: Part time went from 30,000 to 18,000.

Miles: Oh, that's pretty significant.

Chambers: Well, I think you need a second person in there because just one person so she gets sick or something, get to go out on maternity leave or something like that, you're gonna need somebody to run the office.

Carter: Right. She talks about that in her request. If she's out for any extended period of time, she has nobody else trained that can fill in for her.

Allen: I make a motion that we accept a new full time position in Registrar’s office.

Chambers: I have no problem with that. I second that.

(Supervisor Bryant pressed button first to second)

Miles: Motion by Supervisor Allen, second by Supervisor Bryant to go with the Registrar's request for $40,755. All in favor, please record your vote aye. Those opposed, no. The vote is unanimous. Thank you.
Supervisor Allen moved, Supervisor Bryant and Chambers seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the Registrar’s request for $40,755 for a full time employee in the FY22/23 budget.

Miles: Alright, so Mr. Carter, does that complete actual new items we need to consider?

Carter: Yes, sir. I’m getting my calculator out to tell you what that new unassigned fund balance is after we make these changes.

Bryan: $196,030.

Matthews: The Commonwealth Attorney's office. I like to go with the recommendation from Mr. Carter. We don't fund this until they actually make the hire. So let's make sure no action on that.

Approve Proposed Budget and Tax Rates for Public Hearing

Miles: Right. So that being the case, under E-2, Consideration of approval of a proposed budget for tax rates for advertisement for the proposed budget as discussed for a public hearing on Monday, April the 18th. And this is a change in our from our normal budget calendar. So unless anyone has any other questions on the budget, yes, sir. Supervisor, Bryan.

Gene Dixon Park

Bryan: I have really two questions. I know that we had talked about looking at page 12 of 13. We had talked about the Gene Dixon Park, of getting Todd to start advertising for bids for the lights and stuff. How's that going?

Carter: I've talked to Todd. He explained to me why he has put it on pause and I'll be glad to talk about that after. But he's had a reason why he had stopped doing stuff.

Dog Pound

Allen: How about the dog pound?

Miles: The Animal Control Facility.

Carter: We increased that number up to $1 million. That's on page 13 of 13. We had 730,000 and this was an increase of $270,000. And that's just based on construction cost now. We got a feeling I mean, we'll know when we bid it out what it’s actually gonna be but based on talking to
surrounding counties and make certain calls we think that's gonna be closer to a million dollars instead of 730,000.

**Bryan:** Another question. How much do we have left in ARPA funds?

**Carter:** We've only committed $1.5. So we got 3.3.

**Miles:** About 3.4 ish.

**Bryan:** I know it's in the past it's been, it's been a serious issue with the radio coverage. And it's probably about time to start looking at Radio upgrades. Can we use maybe some ARPA funds for that?

**Matthews:** If we show a negative balance we can.

**Carter:** I talked to some of you about that. Some of the rules on the ARPA funds have been relaxed. So you can declare loss revenue. And then once you do that, you can use those funds on normal government activity.

**Miles:** Supervisor Bryan, we can take that to the ARPA committee for you as well for this regard to radios.

**Bryan:** I know we committed $1.3 to the Gene Dixon Park Reserve, you know, for that, but with the skyrocketing prices of everything else, you know, that's why I'm kind of getting back into the swing of things because if we can use ARPA funds for this, then by all means we need to use them. Because I told you before, I don't want to give the federal government back a dime.

**Carter:** It only makes sense for this onetime funds you put it on one time projects.

**Bryan:** This is a good example of it. Thank you for looking at the ambulance and the other things and solid waste truck as well.

**Miles:** We have until 2024. Mr. Carter, is that right?

**Carter:** Yes.

**Davis:** I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

**Miles:** Yes, sir Supervisor Davis.
Davis: If I'm reading this correctly, Karl, Page 42, this with emergency services that what ambulance service for the county. That is a decrease of $459,000. Does that come from the recoup of the Medicare stuff like that where you adjusted from the grant? Page 6 of 13.

Allen: That the difference between last year and now.

Carter: What that decrease is that was at 1.5 million that Dominion gave us. So that's what we spend it down to. So we're saying we've spent 459,000 on it. Okay. So it's just a decrease in that Dominion money of 1.5.

Miles: Okay, any other questions? Is there a motion to consider approval and advertise the budget?

Carter: And advertise with the changes.

Miles: Yes, advertise with changes as amended? I should say.

Allen: One more question. Last April, Roy Jenkins came here talking to logging. What’s the latest on that? I know we had a committee for it. Does anybody know?

Matthews: I'll give you some enlightenment on that. We talked to him on a couple of different occasions, the full committee, and had some questions on if they had any ideas how we could recoup that lost revenue, and we haven't heard anything since.

Miles: Yeah, Supervisor Allen. The finance committee asked him numerous questions and a one of which includes what Mr. Matthews said we never heard back.

Allen: You haven’t heard nothing back?

Miles: Not on the questions. We did not hear back anything on the questions. Is that right, Mr. Carter?

Carter: Until today. I reached out to him again. He sent me an email, I can forward that email.

Miles: Okay, if you could send that to all of us, please. Okay. So is there a motion?

Bryan: I move that we go ahead and advertise the proposed rate with the changes that we've made. Real Estate would be 52¢ cents, Public Service Corporation 52¢ cents, the Personal Property $4.05. And that's with the change from the Commissioner of Revenue. State Corporation Commission at $4.05, Machinery and Tools at $2.90, Merchants Capital at $1 and Aircraft at 55¢.
Miles: And there’s a second from Supervisor Matthews and it was moved by Supervisor Bryan. Second seconded by Matthews. Any questions for a vote? All in favor? Please record your vote aye. Those opposed no. The motion is unanimous. Thank you for that.

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Matthews seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve to advertise the FY22/23 Operating Budget and Tax rates for public hearing on April 18, 2022 with amendments of addition of $10,000 to the Boys and Girls Club; an additional $11,949 to the library; an additional $10,340 for Victim Witness Program; and a full time position of $40,755 for the Registrar’s office. The tax rates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Corporation Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinery and Tools</td>
<td>$2.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchants Capital</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Craft</td>
<td>$0.55</td>
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Re: Consider change of Date for Dr. Carter G. Woodson Day from April 2nd to April 3rd

Miles: Before we go, Item F, we do have three items for consideration. F.1. Consider change of date of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson day from April 2nd to April 3rd. I see there’s already a motion. Motion by Supervisor Chambers. And is there a Second? Second by Supervisor Davis. All in favor, please record your vote aye. That's unanimous. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Chambers moved, Supervisor Davis seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to change the date of Dr. Carter G. Woodson day from April 2nd to April 3rd.

Re: Consider request for six month extension from Case 21-SUP289 Cellco Partnership for a Special Use Permit for Cell Tower at 12994 Howardsville Road

Miles: The next item and there's a letter on your desk regarding this under Zoning Matters F-2 Consider request for a six month extension for Case 21-SUP289 for a special use permit for CellCo for a cell tower at 12994 Howardsville Road.

Bryan: Have we ever extended that?

Miles: This is the first extension in my discussion with Mrs. Edmondston, is that this is the first extension to this project. They are having supply troubles is from what Mrs. Edmondston said getting the parts to actually get going.
Matthews: Supply chain is going downhill.

Miles: All right, motion by Mr. Bryant seconded by Mr. Davis, to grant this. All in favor, please record your vote aye. Those opposed, no. And that's unanimous.

*Supervisor Bryant moved, Supervisor Davis seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to approve the six month extension to 21SUP289 Cellco Partnership for 12994 Howardsville Road.*

Re: Cody Davis, EMS-Consider appropriation of Apex Grant

Miles: F.3. Mr. Davis, EMS, Consider appropriation of APEX grant. So Mr. Davis, if you could, please briefly address this if you would.

Davis: Briefly. I do appreciate you all letting me in on this kind of special meeting just to get this taken care of. It's something I'm pretty excited about. So I did want to kind of give you the full spiel on it. You guys know that I try to run the department that you put me in charge of with a very 21st century mindset, which is a big part of that is operational readiness, which physical fitness and health and wellness of our people I think is a goal for that, and something that I strive to try to push. However, our resources are limited to do that as it stands currently. So we have been exploring options for some time actually had applied to a grant through FEMA for funds to build out a gym within our station that would be open to all public safety, and county official personnel. And the grant was not funded. So I worked, you know, was letting our EMS committee know about it and Supervisor Matthews proposed the idea that we tried to see what Apex might be able to do with it. So some conversation with them, you know, they felt strongly that they wanted to support that kind of operational readiness notion, countywide for our public safety folks, fire, EMS, law, county officials, county administration. So we pursued the application process. James Barr, one of my full time employees, he's a bodybuilder aside from being a staff member of us. So pure fitness is his ancillary duty for the department. So he and I worked together to submit the grant request to them. It was funded at $50,000 for nothing but gym equipment for our Dillwyn station. So in short, we'll have a Gold’s Gym 2.0 at our disposal. We, I wanted to get this appropriated by you guys tonight, because we have a vendor online, actually the owner of the Elite Fitness in Appomattox and Farmville. He sells gym equipment and has been able to come up with some great deals. A lot of these big corporate offices that are doing nothing but telework from here on out, are kind of decommissioning some Grade A level stuff that you know, it's pretty much brand new that we're able to get our hands on and we're doing some brand new stuff. So I think with if you guys appropriate this within a month to two months the upstairs portion of our Dillwyn station over there behind BB&T will be packed full of gym equipment, from anything cardiovascular to strength training to CrossFit and functional fitness. Yeah, there'll be ellipticals and treadmills and rowers. And with that, you know, it's not
just gonna be a free for all, you know, my department has an SMG in place, they have to do an hour of PT every day, up to two hours a day. So with that asset at our disposal, I can now enforce that SMG finally, and then Mr. Barr can help tailor people's specific plans. And like I said, it's open to law enforcement, fire, you guys as well. So, you know, try to facilitate better operational readiness of those of us that have responded.

Miles: Thank you, Mr. Davis. The motion by Supervisor Bryan second by Supervisor Bryant to accept and approve this appropriation. All in favor, please record your vote. Aye. Those opposed, no.

Matthews: Just want to thank Mr. Davis for great job again. Appreciate it.

Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Bryant seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to appropriate the $50,000 grant from Apex to the EMS Department for Gym Equipment for the Dillwyn Station for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement and County Personnel to use.

Re: Other Board Matters

Miles: Alright, are there any other board matters before we adjourn?

Bryan: Yes. Chairman, I’d like to, if you would please consider making an appointment to look into the Economic Development of the Industrial Park Opportunity that we currently have. Set up a committee with the attorney, the finance director, Mr. Carter, and two board members and Ms. Edmondston.

Matthews: I’m already on the economic development committee here.

Bryan: But this is in my district. So I’d like to…

Chambers: I’ll sit on it.

Miles: Okay.

Allen: Have you heard and issues on it yet?

Matthews: We have two economic development committee members.

Bryan: Yeah. But this is separate. This is just for that project currently we have going forward.

Matthews: Right.
Miles: So we would have Vice Chairman Chambers and Supervisor Bryan because it's your district?

Bryan: Yes, sir.

Matthews: I want to be on it since I'm already on the Economic Development Committee. Me and Mr. Chambers.

Miles: This is totally separate.

Matthews: I know that.

Bryan: I'll yield to you, Don.

Matthews: Okay. We've already talked about it.

Bryan: Right. You and I have had a discussion about it. And you and Vice Chairman Chambers would make a good pair.

Matthews: Yes, sir.

Bryan: on that committee.

Matthews: Thank you.

Bryan: So I would that's my motion.

Miles: Okay. So it's a motion. Okay. So that's the motion. And it has been seconded by Supervisor Allen for Mr. Chambers and Mr. Matthews, if you're in favor, please record your vote aye. Aye. Those opposed no. And it's unanimous.

* Supervisor Bryan moved, Supervisor Allen seconded and was unanimously carried by the Board to appoint a committee for the Industrial Park Project consisting of County Attorney, County Administrator, Finance Director, Zoning Administrator, Supervisors Chambers and Matthews.*
Re: Adjourn

Miles: So we're now going to adjourn and keep in mind that we're going to adjourn until the 18th when we have our public hearing, so that's the third Monday in April, is that correct? Not the second, let the third due to the change in the budget calendar. We are adjourned.

ATTEST:

__________________________________  __________________
Karl R. Carter                      T. Jordan Miles, III
County Administrator               Chairman