

**MINUTES**  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Prince George, Virginia

Budget Work Session  
April 6, 2021  
5:00 p.m.  
County Administration Bldg. Boardroom, Third Floor  
6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia

**MEETING CONVENED.** A budget work session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George, Virginia, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 in the Boardroom, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia by Chairman Floyd M. Brown, Jr. for a work session to discuss the budget.

**ATTENDANCE.** The following members responded to Roll Call:

Floyd M. Brown, Jr., Chairman	Present
Marlene J. Waymack, Vice-Chair	Present
Alan R. Carmichael	Absent
Donald R. Hunter	Present
T. J. Webb	Present

County Staff present: Percy C. Ashcraft, County Administrator; Jeff Stoke, Deputy County Administrator, Economic Development; Betsy Drewry, Deputy County Administrator, Finance; and Dan Whitten, County Attorney.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Broadband Update from PGEC Enterprises, LLC.**

Mr. Casey Logan of Prince George Electric Cooperative Enterprises, LLC, gave a brief update on closing the digital divide with fiber broadband. He stated that they are now passing 2,658 homes in the County. They are increasing the Ruralband customer base with 1,256 sign ups. They are building a reputation as being a transparent, proactive communicator. They are strongly linking Ruralband and PGEC and leveraging PGEC reputation of reliability, community commitment to all fiber subscribers. They are educating Prince George County residents on Ruralband Fiber network superiority. They are updating members/potential subscribers quarterly on new zones/build progress. They have softened the market to increase take rates when crews are in zones, saving residents money and consistently communicate as zones open. They are raising awareness in 2021 by increasing availability. Their overall passings are now at nearly 5,800 overall with 2000 connections. Connections have increased by 17+%. The overall take rate has increased from 31% to 35%. Prince George County's take rate has increased from 41% to 48%. Prince George County can join Surry County and Louisa County in their commitments to providing high-speed broadband to all residents. Ruralband will be leveraging its existing relationship with Dominion Energy to provide fiber to the home to their customers. They are looking at 275 miles of new construction to serve the entire County looking at about 7,700 homes. This would provide a totally secure LAN network for all Emergency Facilities/Systems and the entire Prince George County School system. They are also looking to establish a County Digital Education Center. This total project will cost \$11.7 million to complete by year end 2024. Mr. Webb asked if they still have personnel in the County to deal with trouble shooting. Mr. Logan stated that they do have a call center. Mr. Webb stated that citizens have had trouble getting through to someone at the local office and are having to speak to someone in Georgia. He stated that when people pay for a service, the last thing they want is for something to go wrong and they have to speak to someone in another state. Mr. Logan stated that they are hiring three more local service representatives to take care of that issue. Chairman Brown expressed the frustration of citizens that are right on the edge for service. Mr. Logan assured that they are going to get to those folks and may even eventually be able to serve anyone that may already have service through another provider. Mr. Stoke suggested that the resolution that the Board will be taking up later to Congressman McEachin be changed to \$11.7 million. The Board agreed.

**CCAM and Richard Bland College Advance Manufacturing Academy**

Mr. Lorin Sodell and Ms. Betsy Odell of CCAM gave an update on the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME), which is an umbrella for several training programs centered

around the Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program. This is a multi-skilled maintenance technician; 5-semester, 3/2 work week program to provide a multi-skilled maintenance technician. The FAME career pathway is for intentional K12 exposure to STEM, robotics, and manufacturing to build awareness of and an affinity for the AMT program. It provides a career pathway post-AMT that includes a maintenance career and/or a four-year degree. It is designed to fulfill the industry's collective challenges of not having enough skilled workers to support high-technology equipment and operations, new hires are not work-ready and not "globally-competitive", and current technical employees approaching retirement. It also addresses students/parents collective challenges of not enough knowledge of Manufacturing Jobs, no incentives to join a manufacturing environment, and an indirect pathway to advanced degrees. The AMT program develops global-best, entry-level multi-skilled maintenance technicians through specific academic foundation, intensive, consistent reinforcement of distinct professional behaviors and practices, deep integration of core competencies in manufacturing, on-site, intentional work/train experience for two years, and a work/study co-op model (College and employers co-educate) 8 hours/day, 5 days/week, 5 straight semesters each week: 24 hours with sponsoring employer, 2 days with college partner. It is an employer-owned, employer-led and an employer-approved and reviewed curriculum. Students are recruited and sponsored by employers. Once completed, Richard Bland College awards an A.S. degree and FAME awards recognition of mastery of competencies. They are encouraging Chapter expansion with manufacturers in Prince George County. This is a valuable business attraction tool for the County and the overall region. In a study commissioned by CCAM & Richard Bland College to create a business plan in 2020, the region's manufacturers (including Prince George County) indicated the AMT skill set is in high demand. They have been working with our region's high schools and businesses to make this a reality. The \$613k GO VA grant is designed to mainly fund the equipment for student lab at CCAM, and to hire a program director. Students will learn in CCAM's state of the art facility and have the option to live on campus at RBC –all in Prince George County. Prince George High School is well-positioned to ready students for FAME careers under the leadership of Bill Barnes (and previously Pete Fisher) who worked very hard to make this a reality. They are actively recruiting Prince George County businesses to join the Virginia FAME chapter. They invited members of the Board of Supervisors to be on the FAME Advisory Board and are actively seeking a chair. They are asking for a \$100k contribution from Prince George County to help CCAM with start-up administrative costs not covered by the GO VA grant award. Mr. Webb asked what exactly does the skill set cover. Mr. Sodell replied knowledge of computer controlled equipment. Mr. Webb asked if their credits earned for their Associates Degree could be transferred to obtain a Bachelor's Degree. Mr. Sodell stated that they would be transferable. Mr. Sodell clarified for Mrs. Waymack that they are working on the criteria for 17 high school students. Chairman Brown asked if there will be a certain number of spots from each locality. Mr. Sodell stated that at this time it will be up to the employers and what students meet the criteria to meet their needs. Mr. Webb stated that any student that is fortunate enough to be picked by any of these employers needs to pull their weight to meet expectations to keep their spot. Mr. Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator, asked Mr. Sodell and Ms. Odell to get with him when they want the Board to appoint a member for the FAME Board. Mr. Jeff Stoke, Deputy County Administrator, stated that the \$100k contribution can come from Meals Tax Surplus. Mr. Webb made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Waymack to pay the \$100k out of Meals Tax Surplus.

On roll call the vote was:

In favor: (4) Webb, Hunter, Brown, Waymack

Opposed: (0)

Absent: (1) Carmichael

#### **Discussion of Access at Lower Scott Field**

Mr. Ashcraft stated that construction of a restroom and concession stand was an approved CIP Project in the FY2019 budget. The building has been completed, and \$38,508.81 remains in the project budget. There is a need to establish a handicap-accessible path from the concession stand to the lower fields and a direct tie in walkway from the parking lot to the new pathway. Additionally, there is a need to establish a path from the handicap parking area to field 3 bleachers. Mr. Keith Rotzoll, Director of Parks and Recreation, has been working with Causey Contracting, Inc., one of the County's contracted Construction Contractors on Demand (RFP 20-0504-19) on pricing to complete the access path to the concession stand using stairs as an affordable option. They provided updated pricing to establish a curved pathway and crushed stone as a more handicap-accessible option; and they provided pricing for a path from the

parking area to field 3. 2021, and provided direction to complete both access path options, with a path in lieu of steps. The total price is \$73,055 [\$65,855 for a curved path from concession stand to fields (with tie-in from parking lot); and \$7,200 for a pathway from parking area to field 3]. Mr. Webb asked about the degree of the slope. Mr. Rotzoll was not sure of the angle. Mr. Webb suggested they adjust the angle by zigzagging and make it accessible for a wheelchair. Chairman Brown stated that he was not originally an advocate of the concession stand project, but now it is there and they need to support a safe access. The Board agreed that they need to complete both access path options, with a path in lieu of steps. Ms. Betsy Drewry, Finance Director, stated that the remaining \$34,546.19 could come from accumulated SNAP interest for Series 2019 Bonds within the CIP Fund. Staff will bring the award of contract to the Board at its April 13 Board meeting.

### **Budget Matters**

#### **Revenue Update**

#### **Business and Professional and Occupation Licenses (BPOL)**

Ms. Drewry stated that the BPOL revenue is due in March. She has since ran a report and collaborated with the Commissioner of Revenue's Office to determine that there is an opportunity to fine tune budget projections for FY22. Projections indicate that they can increase budget revenues by \$62,085 making the Contingency Fund balance \$375,793.

### **Business**

**Resolution; Approval of Prince George County, Virginia Projects Submitted to Congressman A. Donald McEachin for FY2022 Federal Budget Community Project Funding.** Mr. Jeff Stoke, Deputy County Administrator for Economic Development, stated that the United States federal budget for FY2022 is allowing each Congressional member to submit ten (10) projects for consideration as part of the community project funding (CPF) process through the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. The proposed County projects are 1) Extension of the Central Water System to Route 10 Corridor (\$4 Million); 2) Temple Avenue Tank and Booster Station (\$5 Million); 3) Fiber to the Home Broadband Public/Private Partnership with PGEC Enterprises, LLC (\$11.7 million); and 4) Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Radio Read Meter Installation (\$2 Million). The County broadband request has no required local match. The three (3) County utility projects have a 20% local match required. The match funding for the utility projects will come from the Utility Department. Staff is requesting that the Board approve the ranked order of County projects to be submitted to Congressman McEachin's office by resolution to show local support of the projects. The County resolution will be included in the applications sent to Congressman McEachin. Mr. Hunter made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Waymack to approve the resolution. Roll was called on the motion.

R-21-062

#### **RESOLUTION; APPROVAL OF PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESSMAN A. DONALD MCEACHIN FOR FY2022 FEDERAL BUDGET COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING**

WHEREAS, Congressman A. Donald McEachin represents all of Prince George County, Virginia as a part of the U.S. Congressional 4<sup>th</sup> District in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the United States federal budget for FY2022 is allowing each Congressional member to submit ten (10) projects for consideration as part of the community project funding (CPF) process through the U.S. House Appropriations Committee; and

WHEREAS, the CPF process allows local governments to propose projects in alignment with federal department technical requirements that address significant needs, provide a significant public good, and have demonstrated community support; and

WHEREAS, the utilities CPF requests have a required twenty percent (20%) match from the County Utilities Department utilizing Fiscal Year 2022 Utility Fund Cash Reserves and Utility Capital Projects Funding; and

WHEREAS, the fiber to the home broadband request does not have a required local match;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Prince George County Board of Supervisors, this 6th day of April, 2021, do hereby submit the following ranked list of projects to Congressman A. Donald McEachin for consideration in the FY2022 U.S. House Appropriations Committee community project funding process:

- 1) Extension of the Central Water System to Route 10 Corridor (\$4M)
- 2) Temple Avenue Tank and Booster Station (\$5M)
- 3) Fiber to the Home Broadband Public/Private Partnership with PGEC Enterprises, LLC (\$11.7M)
- 4) Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Radio Read Meter Installation (\$2M)

On roll call the vote was:

In favor: (4) Webb, Hunter, Brown, Waymack

Opposed: (0)

Absent: (1) Carmichael

In addition, for the Board's consideration, Mr. Stoke drafted a letter of support from Prince George County for the City of Petersburg Poor Creek Sanitary Sewer Service Area to upgrade the area of sanitary sewer, which effects major employers within the City and impacts County development on its western side. Chairman Brown stated that he is in support of this. The Board agreed by consensus.

**ADJOURNMENT**. Mr. Webb made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Waymack, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

On roll call the vote was:

In favor: (4) Webb, Hunter, Brown, Waymack

Opposed: (0)

Absent: (1) Carmichael

[Draft Minutes prepared April 16, 2020 for consideration on April 27, 2020; adopted by unanimous vote.]

---

Floyd M. Brown, Jr.  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

---

Percy C. Ashcraft  
County Administrator