

**See the bottom of page 3 and
the top of page 4 for the
Confederate Monument
Referendum Information**



Mathews County Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

Harry M. Ward Auditorium

Mathews High School

9889 Buckley Hall Road, Mathews, VA 23109

Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Pastor Ed Jordan of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Board of Supervisors Members

Present:

Michael Rowe, Chairman
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor
Amy Dubois, Supervisor

Board of Supervisors Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Mrs. Melinda Conner, County Administrator
Mrs. Julie A. Kaylor, Deputy County Administrator/Clerk
Mr. Thomas D. Jenkins, Planning, Zoning and Wetlands Director
Ms. Andrea G. Erard, Esq., County Attorney
Mrs. Caroline Oxley, Communications Manager/Deputy Clerk
Mr. Michael Lesniak, IT Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Hudgins stated that changes were made to the agenda packet since Friday, noting that 8 pages had been added, but was unsure of what the changes were.

MOTION: On Motion of Amy Dubois, seconded by Melissa Mason, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Amy Dubois - aye; Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram - nay; to approve the agenda as presented.

Supervisor Dubois questioned how complaints received regarding the frequency of landings and departures would be handled. Mr. Jenkins stated that it would be on a case-by-case basis. She stated that having the stats on the number of emergencies would demonstrate the true need. Mr. Jenkins stated that he did not have that information. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the location is not an appropriate place for a helipad, but that he would support one in a different area, noting that the Gwynn's Island bridge would be an issue for access. He also stated that there is a liability here and that staff would not be able to police this.

Mr. Shewmake suggested the Board approve the CUP with the conditions offered, and that if the rules are not followed, the CUP be revoked. He again stated the need for this for public safety.

Supervisor Hudgins questioned landings regardless of weather conditions. Mr. Shewmake stated that ordinarily in certain conditions pilots cannot fly. Vice Chair Mason questioned the public safety concern, noting that if it were a true concern this facility could be built in a more suitable location.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Melissa Mason, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 2-3-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Paul Hudgins - aye; Melissa Mason, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - nay; to deny the request for 4-CUP-20.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman - Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair - Nay
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor - Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Nay
Amy Dubois, Supervisor - Nay

MOTION: On Motion of Amy Dubois, seconded by Melissa Mason, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 2-3-0 as follows: Amy Dubois, Melissa Mason - aye, Michael Rowe, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, - nay; to table the matter and confer with EMS for more information.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman - Nay
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair - Aye
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor - Nay
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor - Nay
Amy Dubois, Supervisor - Aye

Both motions died. The matter will come before the Board again in June.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chairman Rowe recognized the following staff members for years of service to Mathews County: Rebecca Barnhardt, Library - 15 years, Colanne Bunting, Library - 5 years, Maude Donovan, Library - 5 years, Melissa Keel, Dispatch - 5 years, Gregory Lewis, Library - 25 years, Willie Love, Emergency Services - 5 years, Patricia Miles, Dispatch - 5 years

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Hudgins stated that he felt the meetings needed to be recorded so that he may go back and review the meeting to make sure the minutes are correct and that without the recording, he could not approve the minutes. He then noted a typographical error on Page 91, where the route number is listed as 18. He stated that there is no Rt. 18 in Mathews County and that it should be corrected to read Rt. 618.

2. Children at Play Street Sign

Mr. Jenkins stated that his office had received a request for a Children at Play Street sign to be erected on a portion of Circle Drive. He stated that VDOT requires the sign to be paid for, installed, and maintained by the County, even though it will be erected in the VDOT right of way. He noted that VDOT changed the section of road in question to 35 mph, so it meets all requirements. Mr. Jenkins stated that he did not have information regarding the cost of the sign and hardware.

Supervisor Hudgins questioned how many children were in that area. Mr. Jenkins stated that Mr. John Sokor, who lives at 511 Circle Drive, was the person who made the request. Mr. Sokor addressed the Board and noted that one of his grandchildren is autistic and he is concerned for his safety should he get in the roadway.

Supervisor Hudgins stated that he would like to know the cost before deciding. Chairman Rowe asked Supervisor Hudgins if he would like to table the matter until that information is available. Supervisor Hudgins agreed and put forth a motion.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None - nay; to table the matter until June to get more information on costs.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman – Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair – Aye
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor – Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor – Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor – Aye

C. Mathews County Broadband Advisory Board: Mrs. Judy Rowe, Chair

Mrs. Judy Rowe provided an update on broadband activities. She stated that an updated study would be presented at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated that the Broadband Advisory Board continues to look at ways to service the remaining unserved homes as well as other grant opportunities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Confederate Monument Referendum

County Attorney Erard prepared a brief presentation to explain the legal requirements. She stated that in 2020 a motion was offered by Supervisor Hudgins and seconded by Supervisor Ingram to put the matter to referendum. Attorney Erard stated that state law says that within the locality, the governing body has the ability to remove, contextualize, or cover the monument as it sees fit. She noted that at public hearing held in September of 2020, quite a few people spoke on the matter. She further noted that some of them offered contextualization, some talked about leaving where it is, and that tonight is about getting clarity on the question the Board wishes to ask the citizens in November. Attorney Erard stated that the results of the referendum are not binding, noting that future Boards are not bound by any decision this Board makes with regard to the question on the ballot. Attorney Erard stated that she reviewed how other localities have approached the matter where others have been put to referendum. She provided two sample questions for the Board's consideration and stated that the Board needs to select one question and that it must be a yes or no question. Chairman Rowe stated that this has to go to the Circuit Court Judge to get on ballot in November.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None -

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman – Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair – Aye
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor – Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor – Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor – Aye

NEW BUSINESS

A. Audit Contract

Mrs. Conner stated that the County has worked with Robinson Farmer Cox Associates for a number of years and recommended renewing the contract with them subject to a cooperative procurement agreement with Gloucester County.

Supervisor Ingram questioned why the County does not go with a new auditor. Supervisor Hudgins stated that the County needs a new set of eyes. Mrs. Conner stated that there are not many firms that conduct these types of audits, and that RFC has an excellent reputation. She noted that it is a Board decision, but the recommendation is to continue with RFC and that is a strong recommendation. Supervisor Ingram insisted that staff advertise for audit services.

Supervisor Dubois stated that she conferred with staff who noted that for continuity purposes it is important to remain with RFC. She then referred to Mrs. Kaylor for clarification. Mrs. Kaylor stated that with the upcoming staffing changes, continuity is important and that it would be best to stay with RFC. Mrs. Kaylor stated that the cost for this service does not rise to the level of a formal bid but noted that the County's adopted Small Purchase Policy allows for direct solicitation and offered to move forward with that process if the Board wished.

MOTION: On Motion of Paul Hudgins, seconded by Jackie Ingram, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None - nay; to direct staff to follow the Small Purchase Policy for the procurement of audit services.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman – Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair – Aye
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor – Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor – Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor – Aye

B. Public Hearing: Budget Amendment

Mrs. Conner stated that a public hearing is required when amendments to the budget exceed 1% of the budgeted expenditures and requested the Board schedule a public hearing at the June meeting.

MOTION: On Motion of Amy Dubois, seconded by Melissa Mason, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0-0 as follows: Michael Rowe, Melissa Mason, Paul Hudgins, Jackie Ingram, Amy Dubois - aye; None - nay; to schedule a public hearing for budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Michael C. Rowe, Chairman – Aye
Melissa Mason, Vice Chair – Aye
Paul Hudgins, Supervisor – Aye
Jackie Ingram, Supervisor – Aye
Amy Dubois, Supervisor – Aye