

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FARMVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2025

At the special meeting of the Farmville Town Council held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the Town Hall, located at 116 North Main Street, Farmville, Virginia, there were present: Mayor Brian Vincent, presiding, and Council members Sallie Amos, A.D. “Chuckie” Reid, Dan Dwyer, Tommy Pairet, Adam Yoelin, Donald Hunter, and John Hardy.

Board of Supervisors present were Pattie Cooper-Jones, J. David Emert, Llew W. Gilliam, Jr., Victor “Bill” Jenkins, E. Harrison Jones, Odessa H. Pride, Jerry R. Townsend, and Cannon Watson.

Staff present on behalf of the Town of Farmville were Town Manager C. Scott Davis, Town Attorney Gary Elder, Chief of Police Andy Ellington, Emergency Communications Manager Crystal Barton, Deputy Clerk Jacqueline Vaughan, and Clerk of Council Mary McKay. Also present were Prince Edward County Administrator Douglas P. Stanley, Assistant County Administrator Sarah Elam Puckett, and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Trey Pyle.

Mayor Vincent called the special meeting to order as the Joint Meeting with the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors. The meeting was noted as the second gathering held jointly in the last two years allowing the opportunity to discuss mutual interests.

The Clerk called the roll, noting all Council members were present.

YMCA UPDATE

County Administrator Stanley offered an introduction of the YMCA of Central Virginia Vice-President Sharon Stiteler, who had asked for the opportunity to report on programs at the Southside YMCA. Ms. Stiteler also introduced their Board President, Dr. Chuck Taylor. An overview of the programs was provided:

- YMCA is in the planning stages to become a storm/weather relief location where an overnight stay could be provided as the facility has space with available showers. One obstacle is that the facility is an old building with deferred maintenance issues. It was mentioned that maybe a grant could help with these issues.
- Collaborations in the community:
 1. Centra Health Therapy Patient Discharge Program
 2. Centra Health Cardiac Rehab Phase 3 Program

3. Ortho Virginia Discharge Program
4. Longwood University Leisure Activities program
5. Working with Hampden-Sydney College to provide some seasonal soccer skill training and they have an MOU to provide lifeguards to the YMCA
6. Community service site

Ms. Stiteler outlined the YMCA's hopes for the future:

- Figure out a way to address the lack of deferred building maintenance;
- Board members are raising funds to provide scholarships in youth development;
- Installation of outside pickle ball courts;
- Trail along the 30-acre property cleared and available for the community to use;
- Naming opportunities for pickle ball courts and trail;
- Survey to be distributed soon to determine the feasibility of 24/7 facility access.

She concluded by offering a thank you for allowing the YMCA to be part of the community. Dr. Chuck Taylor followed Ms. Stiteler by mentioning that the YMCA is a very important part of the community. He reported that in the last year, over \$60,000 in scholarships were provided for people who would not otherwise be able to afford a membership.

County Administrator Stanley mentioned the grant writing provided by the Commonwealth Regional Council for non-profits in the community.

Before moving forward with the agenda items, Mayor Vincent offered an invocation for anyone wishing to join in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Reid.

2025 COUNTY REASSESSMENT

County Administrator Stanley reported that Prince Edward County decided to move from a six-year reassessment cycle to a four-year cycle with the last reassessment ending in December 2020. The current reassessment was to be completed in December 2024, but the schedule is a few months behind and expected to be completed at the end of March 2025. Reassessment notices are expected to be mailed by the end of next week. Assessor hearings are scheduled for February 10-21, 2025, (10th-14th in-person hearings/18th-21st virtual or phone hearings). Prince Edward County's Board of Equalization should begin scheduling hearings in April 2025, as needed. Mr. Stanley reported that based on looking at other localities, assessments are expected to have an average increase of 35-40%. The Board of Supervisors and Town Council will have to equalize the rate.

Town Manager Davis added that he recently looked at the current assessments for some houses that are listed for sale, with listing prices of \$300,000 having a current assessment of \$220,000. He noted the house with the land is worth more than \$220,000, and the elected bodies will need to decide on what increase if any is to be made. Some discussions were held.

TOWN RESIDENTIAL PROJECT UPDATE

Town Manager Davis provided an update:

- Thirty-seven lots off Layne Street are being developed by Ben Lapp.
- Fred Pearson has submitted a request for a building permit to start construction on one four-unit building at the Vernon Street development. There is a June 2025 deadline for the project to begin or a new site plan will be needed.
- Bryce Laconte is interested in the property beside Third Street Wrecker for 25-single family units as owner-occupied workforce housing. There has been no request made. A conditional use permit would be needed from the Town as property is zoned in a commercial district.
- Council approved for a mix of town homes and single family residences for the Meriwood Farms project. The Town has executed a sewer easement as the developer needed sewer access for the development.
- The Infrastructure Asset Management plan has been received with the next step being to load the data into the town's GIS system. Hurt & Proffitt will share in-depth information at the February Work Session and answer any questions from Town Council.

County Administrator Stanley reported that the County-portion of the Fairgrounds Road project is moving forward and will contain 50-54 modular units with individual well and septic. Two roads to meet state standards will be built and may be started this year. Brief comments were also made about the decrease in the number of permits possibly due to the unavailability of building lots.

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

County Administrator Stanley reported that the County's Comprehensive Plan Update is nearing completion. A variety of public engagement events were held to gather input including an online survey, two community workshops, and six focus groups. The land use chapter is in the final review stage and once all the chapters are finalized, an open house will be advertised and held. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the final draft plan.

Comments collected during the Open House will be shared with the Board and Planning Commission during a final joint work session. A second Public Hearing will be held before the Board and Planning Commission decides to revise or approve the plan.

Mayor Vincent asked about the participation received in the public engagement events. A brief discussion was held.

SANDY RIVER WATER PROJECT UPDATE

County Administrator Stanley reported that in May 2024, Prince Edward County received its Virginia Water Protection Permit from the Department of Environmental Quality for the withdrawal of water from the Sandy River Reservoir. The permit allows for an initial five million gallon/day withdrawal. The Town of Crewe, however, was selected by the Department of General Services and the Commonwealth of Virginia to serve the three state facilities in Nottoway County. Therefore, Prince Edward County will not be moving forward at this time with the construction of the water treatment plant. This may change if the County is able to attract a significant user or users at the HIT Park and/or adjacent sites. The project will continue to be evaluated as the HIT Park site is developed.

TOWN RESIDENTIAL PROJECT UPDATE - Continued

Town Manager Davis added that the Town internally did a boundary line adjustment for a piece of property off Clark Street that has been challenged. The property is owned by Longwood Foundation. A Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PROJECT/JOINT DISPATCH UPDATE

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Trey Pyle provided an update on the Regional Public Safety Radio System project. A review was made of the partners in the project who are currently using the radio system for some kind of emergency dispatch or emergency traffic. Mr. Pyle noted that the purpose of the upgrade basically was that the systems were out of date. The upgrade puts all on one platform and fixes the coverage issues. The proposed coverage map was reviewed. A review was made of the funding for the project, with two grants being mentioned: a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant and Consolidated Dispatch Grant.

The infrastructure equipment for the towers was ordered in December 2024, with the portable and mobile radios being ordered this month. A fleet-mapping kickoff meeting was held allowing the channels to be used to be selected. Tower leases are currently being worked on. The

civil work with the tower sites will start mid to late spring if all are approved. The initial project cutover was set as December 2025 but if coverage testing is not completed on time, a go live date may be spring or summer 2026.

Council member Donald Hunter asked about communication should one of the towers gets hit and goes down. Mr. Pyle advised that a little reception in the tower area may be lost and that the entire tower would have to be down to lose communication. Should this occur, a temporary radio cache from an outside source would be deployed to the area until the site is restored.

Mr. Pyle reported on the ongoing conversation of the regional communications center with the Farmville communications center as the primary and Prince Edward County Sheriff's Department being secondary, and a CAD system already being shared. The concept allows for uniformity in procedure and having multiple dispatchers on shifts. Similar localities were reviewed.

An overview was provided of the operations and administration boards. Mr. Pyle reviewed the next steps:

- Execute the joint agreement for the center;
- Schedule an organizational meeting with the two boards;
- Begin the budget process for the FY2026;
- Select a cutover date/time.

Town Manager Davis advised that the goal is to begin with the new fiscal year to make the changeover. Some possible renovation options also were reviewed.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY LANDFILL – PERMITTING AND UPGRADES

County Administrator Doug Stanley provided an update:

- Construction of Cell F at the landfill has been completed recently and will provide for 9-12 years of additional useful life depending on intake rates at the landfill. The remaining space in Cells D and E will add ten years of life. Currently the landfill has a maximum permitted intake of 300 tons/day.
- Staff will be working on the installation of a new scale house in the upcoming year with entrance improvements and a new solid waste ordinance.
- Some design work is being completed for the Worsham convenience site.

HIT PARK UPDATE

County Administrator Stanley reported that Prince Edward County continues to work with a prospect at the HIT Park and the responsibilities for infrastructure investment, water, sewer, and road improvements at the site. It is hoped that in the next 30-60 days, an announcement may be made on the site.

A grant was submitted to the Virginia Economic Development Partnerships Business Ready Sites program which could help fund the infrastructure and construction of water lines to the town water lines at East Third Street and Persimmon Tree Fork Road and the construction of a water tower for the site.

CREMAINS BURIAL PLOT CONCEPT

Assistant County Administrator Sarah Elam Puckett reported on a code section in the Code of Virginia that identifies the circumstances where a county or city may be responsible for the disposition of an unclaimed body. The Sheriff's Department oversees the process which requires two orders from the Circuit Court. It was reported that there have been 25 dispositions over the last ten years. Historically, the County has left the disposition of the cremains up to the funeral homes. Arrangements are made by the Sheriff with the Amelia Veterans Cemetery should veteran status be determined so that the remains may be interred at that location. Mrs. Puckett asked the Town Council to consider designating one 8x8 plot in Westview Cemetery for the disposition of unclaimed cremains and for the Town Council to consider granting Prince Edward County a waiver or exception to Town policy to allow more than two remains per plot. Town Manager Davis asked for the details to be forwarded, as a separate ordinance would need to be drafted for consideration for the County to be allowed that exemption. Discussion was held. Supervisor David Emert reported that the Prospect Community Cemetery has a plot for that purpose and asked that he be contacted regarding same.

Mayor Vincent opened the floor for questions or any additional items.

There being no other business, Mr. Yoelin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hunter, and with all Council members in favor stating "aye", the meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Brian R. Vincent, Mayor

Mary H. McKay, Clerk of Council