

A regular meeting of the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors was held Monday, July 14, 2025, in the public meeting room of the George D. English, Sr. Memorial Building, located at 111 Polk Street, Montross, Virginia.

Present: Board of Supervisors

Darryl E. Fisher, Chairman

Timothy J. Trivett, Vice Chairman

Jeffrey McCormack

Matthew Ingram

Woody Hynson (absent)

Staff

Richard Stuart, County Attorney

James P. Taylor, County Administrator

Donna L. Cogswell, Assistant County Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Fisher asked the Supervisors if there were any changes to the agenda. The Chairman made a recommendation to add item **8A – Closed Session - Under Section 2.2-3711 A7 consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to Custom Ts Motorsports Park** and remove **5D Appropriation for Judicial Center AC Repair**. With no discussion, upon, upon motion by Mr. Ingram, seconded by Mr. Trivett. Before the vote, Mr. McCormack asked if we need to state the reason for the closed session. County Attorney noted it is enough that you announce it before you go into closed session.

With no further discussion, the vote was carried unanimously with Mr. Trivett, Mr Ingram, Mr. McCormack and Chairman Fisher voting “aye” to amend today’s agenda.

3. COMMENT PERIOD

A. Chairman and Board Members Comments:

Chairman Fisher informed the public that Mr. Hynson was absent from the meeting today due to a medical procedure. He is doing well but the Supervisors would ask everyone to keep him in their prayers.

B. County Administrator's Comments:

Mr. Taylor informed the citizens that our primary public safety radio tower was hit by lightning on June 26, close to midnight which sent our public safety teams scrambling to assess the damage and work creatively to find solutions. This situation provided the County the opportunity to appreciate the great people we have working here. Many people responded in the middle of the night, but special recognition goes to Chief Blake Bird, Deputy Chief Robin Manthey, Communications Technician Shawnn Manthey, and their teams for the exceptional leadership. He also thanked some of the counties that helped us during this difficult time - King George County, Montgomery County, Charles County, and Hanover County. In particular, King George County went above and beyond to support us and we are grateful to them. Chief Byrd will touch on this later but I wanted to say how proud I am of the whole team, including Emergency Services, the Sheriff's Office, Dispatch, Assistant County Administrator, EMS, Volunteer Fire Departments, Colonial Beach Police, VDEM, Motorola and others for working together to serve our community. Mr. Taylor stated, he continues to be amazed by the generosity of Westmoreland County residents and community leaders who are helping their neighbors. He noted that some community leaders have stepped up to help the residents along Cabinford Road, Marion Way and Noriam Way with their horrible road conditions. We are indeed fortunate to have people willing to give their time, equipment and talents to help others.

Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that as of July 1st there were several changes at the Transfer Station. Now, there are no fees for residents for items such as tires, brush and electronics. Additionally, a new yellow sticker replaces the paper hang tag and these will be good for 18 months.

Next, the Committee on Animal Ordinances continues to meet and we hope to present some recommendations and receive direction for the board at our next meeting.

Now is the time to finally help us fight the bite as mosquitoes are in full force. What can you do to join the fight? Simply walk around your yard and eliminate any standing water, including containers, children's toys, gutters, bird baths, etc. Also, our extension office has some mosquito tablets and you can call their office for more information.

And finally, Mr. Taylor stated he would like recognize Donna Cogswell, who was recognized as this year's "Outstanding Assistant County Administrator" for the entire State of Virginia. Recently, Donna was awarded the Virginia Local Government

Management Association's Marcia Mashaw Memorial Award for Outstanding Assistants for demonstrating the highest standards of local government leadership. During a critical period for our County, Donna stepped into the Interim County Administrator role under challenging circumstances. When Westmoreland County faced the departure of two county administrators within a six month period, Ms. Cogswell stepped into the interim role with remarkable poise and professionalism. Donna actually became the fourth interim county administrator in about eight months. Her calm and effective demeanor provided much needed stability to the organization during this tumultuous period. She successfully navigated numerous controversial matters including a significant tax rate increase, Social Services Corrective Action Plan, retirement of the Finance Director and the mid cycle transition of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. She provided a stabilizing force for staff who were anxious about their positions offering reassurance and clear direction when uncertainty was at its peak. This calming influence preserved not only operational continuity but also team morale during a period of vulnerability. Ms. Cogswell's commitment to ensuring continuity of operations extended to facilitating a smooth transition for her successor. She played a vital role in the interview process for the new county administrator and subsequently served as a key confidant during the orientation period, sharing institutional knowledge and insights that proved invaluable for the new county administrator. Beyond crisis management, Ms. Cogswell demonstrated exceptional fiscal stewardship. Her comprehensive review of the county's trash contractor and hauling companies helped to uncover unauthorized charges that once addressed, resulted in annual savings exceeding \$1 million for county taxpayers. Ms. Cogswell exemplifies the qualities celebrated by the Marcia Mashaw Memorial Award for Outstanding Assistants. Through her leadership, dedication to public service and tangible contributions to Westmoreland County's government, her performance in challenging circumstances has strengthened the organization and benefited the entire community. Mr. Taylor stated he is certain that there were many deserving nominees for the award and that some may have many years of experience in the position but Donna is among the most effective, most caring and most deserving. We are indeed fortunate to have her as Assistant County Administrator. He also thanked Mr. Ingram and Mr. Trivett for taking the time to travel to the conference to be there for Donna. Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. Taylor for reading the accomplishments that the Assistant County Administrator has made and certainly done a herculean job in that capacity. Chairman noted it's a great thing to be recognized for the work in service. He stated that he is never at a loss for words, but

he is this time because he doesn't know how to thank Donna anymore that has been because she has done so much under some trying circumstances and to receive this award hopefully will remind her in years to come that when the challenge came her way she rose to meet the challenge and has been rewarded for it.

Chairman Fisher stated on the Board's behalf how extremely grateful they are and the staff are as well. It is no small feat to step in the role of county administrator when you are absent a county administrator. We are grateful for Donna and the work she did and think the county has been made better by it. Chairman Fisher turned comments over to the other Board members but first thanked Mr. Trivet and Mr. Ingram for making the trip to represent the Supervisors.

Mr. Trivett thanked Ms. Cogswell for her service to this county and noted the projects we have worked on together, the biggest obviously is the one we are still continuing to work on, the trash service and the money that it's saving the county. He stated this is very deserving and is such a great award to receive and to be the top person for the whole state of Virginia. Thank you so much and look forward to working with her for a little bit more.

Mr. Ingram congratulated Ms. Cogswell on receiving this award, stating it has been an honor to work with her thus far and looks forward to working with her in the future. He thanked her for everything she has done and also thanked Mr. Taylor for recommending her for the award. Mr. Ingram continued, Mr. Fisher said, "you rose to the challenge" but not only did she rise to the challenge but she blew the roof off the challenge.

Mr. McCormack stated this is not Donna's only award that she received this month. I'm not sure if we're going to announce this other award that Donna and Chief Blake Bird, received, but they both also received the Pro Patriot Public Award presented by the Employer Support of the Guard Reserve State Committee. Mr. McCormack read a little blurb from the announcement. Virginia Employer Support of the Guard Reserve as a Department of Defense under the Office of Secretary of Defense for Reserve affairs is pleased to announce that Westmoreland County Emergency Service has been awarded the Pro patria public award for 2024 to recognize employers who have demonstrated the greatest support to Guard and Reserve employees through their leadership and practices, including adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. This is the highest level award that may be bestowed by an ESGR state committee. So thank you, Donna.

Mr. Stuart stated he spent time behind the scenes working with Donna through this period and he was really astounded at how she managed to get through everything.

He agreed it was a difficult period and Donna handled it calmly and professionally, as well as thoughtfully with determination. I can't think of any anybody who is more deserving of this award. So congratulations and thank you so much.

C. Resolution for Retirement – Bonnie Grimstead

Chairman Fisher stated that Ms. Grimstead was unable to attend tonight, but he will read the resolution into the record. After reading the resolution, Chairman Fisher stated that Sheriff Balderson will accept the resolution on Ms. Grimstead's behalf. Chairman Fisher stated that it is bittersweet when someone who has been with the county for so long leaves, but when you can finally retire that it is a good thing. Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adopt the resolution in honor of Ms. Grimstead's retirement.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. Ingram, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and the Chairman voted "aye". The Board adopted the Resolution in honor of Ms. Grimstead's retirement.

Sheriff Balderson stated that Ms. Grimstead was unable to attend due to her being out of town. He thanked the Board for her recognition and stated that he would not be able to do what she does. He noted that she is a professional, dedicated, committed, and hardworking person, and he will miss her. Sheriff also mentioned the department held a retirement party for her, and told her they would love for her to come back part-time.

D. Proclamation- National Night Out

Chairman Fisher stated that the Proclamation is for National Night Out, which will be on August 5, 2025. After the Proclamation was read, the Chairman asked for a motion to adopt the Proclamation in honor of National Night Out.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and the Chairman voting "aye". The Board approved the Proclamation, as presented, in honor of National Night Out.

Sheriff Balderson stated that they started National Night Out a few years ago and have made it a part of their Certified Prevention Community. He noted that there are only 12-14 active counties participating in the prevention program. Sheriff Balderson stated that National Night Out is for law enforcement, the community, first responders, businesses, etc., to come together to show that there is a partnership between law enforcement and the community and without it might as well not exist. He noted that they love having the event, and they have many vendors that come, and that vendor from Northumberland County has reached out, wondering if they can

come to the National Night Out. Sheriff Balderson thanked the Board for coming to the event, which is free, and food is provided. The owner of Stan's Skate Land has let the kids come and skate.

E. Community Service Certificate –Bryce Conn

Chairman Fisher stated that they have an opportunity to do something special; they have a Community Service Certificate to present to Bryce Conn. The Chairman then read the certificate into the record.

Mr. McCormack stated that he enjoys being on the Board of Supervisors and that they represent over 20,000 people. There is also a State Senator, and Mr. McCormack thanked Bryce for his donation to the Westmoreland County Animal Shelter, and thought that it was a great thing that he did.

Chairman Fisher stated that he wasn't sure how the rest of the meeting will go but things like that show no matter what happened in this world, there is a glimmer of hoping that show there are still good people in this world that think about more than just themselves and waiting to look out for the animal that cannot lookout for themselves. The Chairman stated that it speaks to the hope and resilience of the still-embedded characteristics that show that there are still good people in this world. Chairman Fisher stated that he will have a bright future, and it is a good place to be.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Request for Approval of Minutes, Board of Supervisors Meeting – June 9, 2025.

Chairman Fisher stated that everyone should have had an opportunity to review the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on June 9, 2025. The Chairman asked if any changes needed to be made to the minutes; if not, he asked for a motion to approve. With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr.

McCormack, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes from the June 9, 2025, meeting, as presented.

5. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS

A. Request for Approval of Accounts Payable and Payroll Register June 2025

Chairman Fisher stated that you all received the Accounts Payable and Payroll Register and asked if there were any questions, observations, or concerns. If not, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Register and Accounts Payable as presented for June 2025.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, with Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, Mr. Trivett, and the Chairman voting “aye”. The Board approved the Accounts Payable and Payroll Register for June 2025.

B. Appropriation - DSS Respite Care

Keri Cusick, Director of Social Services, was present to discuss the appropriation. She stated that she came before the Board to request an appropriation of \$750.00, no local money needed. She noted that the money is needed for respite funds, which are for a child who is in a foster home, and the foster parent needs a break. They can utilize those funds for another licensed placement temporarily.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack and seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. McCormack, Mr. Trivett, and the Chairman voting “aye”. The Board approved the appropriation from the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$750.00.

Ms. Cusick stated that the Virginia Department of Social Services and the local departments are trying to bring awareness to accidental drownings. There have been over 13 drownings that have been accepted by CPS since May 2025. Ms. Cusick urged people to make sure that children have life vests, swimming lessons, and parental supervision to make sure they are safe. They had a resource fair on June 28, 2025, and it was successful. She noted that it was not the turnout that they hoped for, but many vendors came and shared many resources. Ms. Cusick stated that Mr. McCormack attended and was with United Ministries and that DSS works closely. She also thanked Hot Mix Virginia Radio for taking pictures and videos of every vendor to help spread awareness of what resources are available.

C. Appropriation – Public Utilities Tractor Replacement

Karen Foxwell, Finance Director, was present to discuss the appropriation for a tractor replacement for the Wastewater Treatment fields. This will be paid out of the sewer contingency fund in the amount of \$75,036.36. She noted that it is a John Deere Cab Utility Loader and a John Deere Rotary Cutter.

Chairman Fisher stated that the ones they have currently were bought used and have been used a lot, so they need to be replaced.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. McCormack, Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram and the Chairman voting “aye”. The Board approved the appropriation for Public Utilities in the amount of \$75,036.36.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Town of Colonial Beach Update, Natasha Tucker, Town Manager

Robin Schick, The Mayor, was present to discuss the events of the town.

- They had a great turnout for the Fourth of July celebration due to the weather and the carnival coming back, which was coordinated with the support of the Sheriff's Office. She noted that Mr. Taylor has been great to work with and collaborate with the town, and she thanked the board for their support.
- Ms. Tucker is at UVA on scholarship, attending the Senior Executive Institute, and to contact Assistant Town Manager, Kyler Brower, if anyone needs to get in contact with the town.
- On July 31, 2025, they will be having a level 82 backpack giveaway school event with Torey Smith. She noted that they would be giving away a proclamation at the town council meeting this month in honor of Torey and Janel Smith and the Level 82 Family for their support in the youth and community.

B. Town of Montross Update, Fran Taylor, Town Manager

Fran Taylor, Town Manager, was present to discuss the events of the town.

- Ms. Taylor thanked the Board for taking the time to recognize Mr. Conn and Ms. Cogswell for their achievements and good doings, which shows how great the county is. She congratulated Ms. Cogswell on her award and thanked her work they have done together before Mr. Taylor came, and appreciated their teamwork as they continue to work on local projects.
- One of the town council members, Aaron Hooks has decided to move back to Pennsylvania, and at the next town council meeting, the board will move to appoint a new replacement and will be looking for a replacement on the Planning Commission that his wife, Whitney, sits on.
- They are excited to be participating in the National Night Out event, and they will have banners, rack cards, etc. to hand out. They will also have a giveaway for kids.
- Pathways at the park have been paved, and the library has put a new book in the pedestals.
- The parking lot that was purchased a couple of years ago has also been paved.
- The next First Friday will be at the park with the Wind Bags Band performing, and are hoping for a good turnout. The last First Friday will be held on September 5, 2025.

C. United Ministries of Westmoreland County, Supervisor Ingram, and Supervisor McCormack

Mr. McCormack invited United Ministries of Westmoreland County to the podium. He stated that it is a new organization that was formed in October 2024 to help citizens of Westmoreland County with rental and medical assistance when needed financially and in other ways. They have helped 70 families so far and 163 individuals in Westmoreland County.

Pastor Mark Lawrence of the United Ministries of Westmoreland County was present to discuss United Ministries mission. He stated they have distributed \$29,000 to the 163 individuals. He noted that the money does not go directly to the individuals; it goes to property owners, utility companies, etc. Pastor Lawrence stated that he is the pastor of Carmel United Methodist Church and Coles Point United Methodist Church and came before the Board to raise awareness of the United Ministries of Westmoreland County. He noted that as a pastor, he gets frequent calls from people asking for help with utilities and housing, and he was unable to help very many people because he has a smaller church. By combining many churches and service organizations, they are able to do a lot more and have 14 churches currently. They also collaborate with Social Services, Bay Aging, and any church that has a food pantry. They have one part-time employee who does the intake and makes sure the individual has anything they need. He recognized his Co-Chair, Kristin Carrington, several officers and members. Pastor Lawrence stated that brings many churches and organizations together, they are able to make a big difference. They are looking for volunteers and funding and spread awareness that there are resources that can help people.

After Pastor Lawrence's presentation, he asked the Board if they had any questions.

Chairman Fisher stated that the United Ministries of Westmoreland County is doing a great job and is a great service to have in the county, when there is a need, and there always is a need somewhere. Chairman Fisher felt that it was a great thing that people are rising up and attempting to meet the challenges and many people will jump on board to make the community better. Mr. Taylor stated that he was pleased to hear about the organization and felt that the county is fortunate to have them. He then asked Pastor Lawrence how to make a donation if anyone wanted to. Pastor Lawrence stated that they have business cards and flyers they can hand out with that information.

D. 250th Anniversary Preparation

i. Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Lisa Hull, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator

Lisa Hull thanked the Board for inviting the NNK 250 Steering Coalition to share the successes. 3 years ago the VA 250, the Virginia State 250th Commemorative Effort asked localities to form a committee to figure out how to commemorate the 250th anniversary. She stated that the Northern Neck had gotten together previously due to them deciding to own the 250th anniversary due to Leedstown, where many presidents were born, the Lees of Virginia. She noted that they could not wait for other well-intentioned efforts to get going. In lieu of all localities forming their own committees, they asked each board of the five counties of the Northern Neck if they could do it as a regional commemoration. Ms. Hull came before the Board 3 years ago and requested that the Board designate the Northern Neck Tourism Commission to coordinate the efforts of NNK 250, the regional commemoration of the 250th of the Northern Neck, which the Board agreed to, as did the other 4 counties. She noted that it was before the Northern Neck was designated as a National Heritage Area, and are grateful for that. In August 2022, representatives of the region met and discussed a framework, which will be discussed in more detail at a later date, to include regional stake holder, historical sites, museums, localities, etc., to see what the commemoration will look like. She noted that they have also had public meetings and website launches, press releases, and events. Ms. Hull stated that the Northern Neck National Heritage Area sees NNK 250 as the primary interpretive programming, which is what they are doing to communicate the stories of what makes the place special. She also stated that it has created better collaboration among historic sites and are in a better habit of working together. They are collaborating with VA 250 with events and more information will be shared later and has been a team effort. Ms. Hull is grateful for the team and their hard work.

Melissa Cobern, Superintendent of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, came to the podium. She stated in 2022, leadership from Stratford Hall, A.T Johnson and the George Washington Birthplace National Monument joined forces with the Northern Neck National Heritage Area and the Rappahannock Tribe in Menokin to plan for America's 250th Anniversary. She noted that the group envisioned and created a coalition of

dozens of Northern Neck Historic sites, museums, and other entities to commemorate the Northern Neck's essential contributions to the birth of our nation. As well as a writing framework on which the organizations could plan and 4-year commemorative effort starting in 2024. She stated that planning in public engagement by the steering committee resulted in a framework that emphasizes broad storytelling and multiple perspectives that highlight the Northern Neck's history, as well as partnerships and collaborations for a foundation for success. Ms. Cobern stated that the emphasis on partnership and collaboration amplifies the collective impact and promotes a cohesive brand for the Northern Neck that will endure through commemorative events and have lasting benefits for the communities and region. The framework includes themes for each year around which events can be organized. 2024 was the Power of Place, which highlights the unique historical and cultural significance of the Northern Neck and its influence on American History. In 2025, the theme is, "We the People" which promotes an exploration of various people, circumstances, and aspects of the culture that shaped the nation. 2026's theme will be the American Experiment which will explore unique aspects of our evolution as a country; and 2027 will focus on preservation and commemoration which will highlight the Northern Neck's important role in the history of preservation and the ongoing preservation efforts. She stated that the coalition started with two events in 2024, which included a speaker series that hosted regional and national speakers and an academic symposium that featured regional and national scholars, researchers, and change-makers in a forum that encouraged inspiration. They added an event in 2025, called Virginia Resolved, which commemorated Richard Henry Lee's motion on the Second Continental Congress, recognizing the colonies as free and independent states. She noted that the events have been well-received and attended. Ms. Cobern thanked Mr. Hynson for his attendance at the majority of the events. She stated that the coalition also supports local entities through the opportunity to co-brand events with the NNK 250 logo and take advantage of centralized information dissemination on the Northern Neck 250 website, and recorded events are on the website. The coalition was one of the first organized planning groups for the 250th anniversary in the entire nation and is one of the few that are taking a regional approach. The coalition has created a call to action, inspiring all stakeholders and community members to actively participate in commemorating America's 250th anniversary.

Marian Veney Ashton came to the podium and stated that the NNK250 coalition has opened many doors for small museums to connect and to tell the story that is local. She noted that before the coalition, everyone was trying to tell the same story and if you tell the story jointly, it is a better way a spread that story. The A. T Johnson Building and the Westmoreland County Museum saw the need for fulfilling the void and they have had many programs and events so they can tell the local Westmoreland County story so they can embrace the community. She stated that the co-branded project is one that hopefully opens history books for people to go back, look, and learn. Ms. Ashton then went over the events they will have, which are on October 5, 2025, at James Monroe Birthplace, and on October 19, 2025, there will be an event at the Museum of the American Revolution First Oval Office Project at Stratford Hall. There will also be an event at George Washington's Birthplace in February 2026 and June 2026. They will also be in Colonial Beach for the Juneteenth event, and that it would be a great way to tell the story. She noted that they also have the Northern Neck Hidden Trail, which brings together the celebration they will be having.

Karen Daly, President of Stratford Hall, came to the podium to speak and stated that they have been hard at work commemorating the semiquincentennial before next year in Westmoreland County, and that this county is the center of the Revolutionary fervor that created our nation. She noted that this county is the birthplace of two Presidents of the United States and two signers of the Declaration of Independence. Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee were raised at Stratford Hall, who risked everything to create this very nation. They were also proud of the wives of these men who were involved in the widening of revolutionary ideas and to help expand women's rights. Stratford Hall and the other colleagues that previously spoke are all engaged in worshiping and acknowledging the conflict between the principles of freedom that were included in our nation's founding documents and the realities of enslavement, working with the African descendant communities to ensure their stories are included in the commemorations. Ms. Daly invited the county to be fully engaged in the 2025-2026 semiquincentennial plans. She noted that Mr. Hynson has been at every speaker event and that Mr. McCormack attended the Hidden Trail History launch and were grateful for the support. She asked everyone to come join and spread the word among neighbors and introduce them to other communities that would like to participate on the semiquincentennial and

invest financially for sponsored planned events. Ms. Daly stated that they would be hosting signature NNK250 events on October 3-4, 2025. Stratford Hall will be hosting a We the People Academic Symposium on Sundays, January- May of 2026 they will be hosting their signature speaker series and it will rotate among the counties of the Northern Neck. Westmoreland's speaker series will be held at George Washington's Birthplace. On June 7, 2026, Stratford Hall will be hosting Virginia Resolve, July 4, 2026 they will have their Fourth of July celebration, and the fall of 2026, they will be hosting the NNK250, the American Experiment Academic Symposium. She stated that the NNK250 Coalition would like to invite the county's full partnership in the June 7, 2026 event, Virginia Resolve, a commemoration of independence and the date is significant due to that date marking the 250th anniversary of the Lee Resolution of Independence. The resolution acting on the instructions of Fifth Virginia Convention marked a formal proposal for the American colonies to declare independence from Great Britain, responding to an increase in sentiment against British rule and. it reads, "Resolved that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states. That they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown." She stated that the large-scale celebration of citizenship on June 7, 2026 would begin with a citizenship ceremony, where they will welcome this country's newest citizens. The ceremony will be composed of people from all over the world who have worked hard to achieve American citizenship and will be sworn in front of family and friends. The oath echoes the very words of Richard Henry Lee's Resolution. This year's pilot event at Stratford Hall on June 7, 2025, welcomed 100 new citizens from 39 countries, and 800 people attended the daylong activities. The 2026 event will be co-hosted by the Virginia 250 State Commission, with statewide marketing underway with many events to happy. She stated that with county investment, they would love to expand the 2026 Virginia Resolve event to include additional family friendly activities and evening elements such as a light show and fireworks. She noted that Westmoreland County is where this nation began, a revolutionary ancestor sought to create a more perfect union that was inherited and are still working toward today. She and the entire of the coalition invited the county to join them in creating 250 anniversary for the entire county to celebrate. Chairman Fisher thanked all of the speakers for their presentation and stated that it seemed like the anniversary was a long time away. He noted that in Mr. Hynson's absence, he does have passion about the 250th anniversary as

everything moves forward and is encouraging the rest of the board to be involved and support as best they can.

Mr. Taylor thanked the representatives for their attendance and are fortunate to have them lead the charge for the 250 anniversary. He noted that the county is very interested in being more involved and he thanked them for the invites to the upcoming event.

E. LAND USE CASE NO. 2501-SE-01, **PUBLIC HEARING**, Special Exception for a Utility-scale Solar Facility at 22754 Kings Highway

Beth McDowell, Zoning Administrator, was present and gave a presentation on the utility scale facility. She went over the presentation slide by slide and stated that the project is located on Route 3 between Montross and the Richmond County line. She then showed a picture of the visuals from the road, and is currently farming that is shown. She noted that a part of the property abuts Richmond County, and landowners and Richmond County representatives were notified as part of the public hearing process. She then showed a picture of the five lots that are within the project, which are 512 acres in their entirety. She then went over the overview of the project, such as output, intended life of facility, solar arrays, connection, total area, etc. she noted that the approximate project area is 350 acres and the application includes an onsite battery energy storage system of 11 MW in the rear of the property. She stated that there have been several revisions to the plan and started with a 200-foot setback from Kings Highway and 50 feet vegetation and 30 feet vegetation on the sides. They are currently proposing a 300-foot setback from Kings Highway with 80 feet of vegetation and employed a turn in the driveway, which means that you will not have a direct site towards the panel area from the road. They are also proposing a 200-foot setback from the homes on the northern side, with 80 feet of vegetation, and the other side of the project will have a 150-foot setback with 80 feet of vegetation to limit view from route 3. They have also proposed to keep all inverters 500 feet away from any residence, which has come up a lot in past solar facilities in the USA. Ms. McDowell stated that there are cleared farm fields and woods. She then showed a picture from their conceptual plan that shows steeper slopes and the property drops into creeks along the edges. She noted that the applicant is not proposing panels in those areas that are covered by the Chesapeake Bay Act. Ms. McDowell stated at the Planning Commission meeting, it was voted unanimously that the application is in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan but when the motion was made to recommend for approval, the vote was split 2-2, with only four members at the time. Her next slide was a list of the conditions that were provided

by the applicant and I incorporates certain condition that were writing by county staff and have added certain conditions due to certain conditions being raised, including battery storage, family gravesites, etc. she mentioned that she has forwarded the conditions to Mr. Stuart for his review.

Mr. Stuart stated that the only issue he had was that there was a question he had was about revising it to a five-year special exception, and Mr. Stuart spoke with the applicant counsel. Mr. Stuart was not convinced that you could in fact; change it to a five-year special exception without notifying the public, and they would be stuck at a 3-year special exception. Mr. Stuart then asked Mr. McDowell if she had forwarded the recommendation of the 22-32 review and if there is a signing agreement.

Ms. McDowell stated that she showed the 22-32 review in the presentation and the Planning Commission did approve that in their meeting, and the signing agreement has not been provided yet. Ms. McDowell stated that if the board consider approval of the application, staff recommends acceptance with the exception of condition #19, which should specify 3 years rather than 5 years.

Ms. McDowell asked the Board if they wanted to go through the conditions that were provided in the packets.

The Board agreed not to go over the condition due to them already reviewing them prior to the meeting.

Tom Delafield, Chief Operating Officer of Renewable Energy Services, came to the podium to speak and gave a presentation on the special exception. He went through the presentation slide by slide. His first slide was the project overview and went over the size, wattage, and income to the county and it complies with the Comprehensive Plan. He then showed a vicinity map and it is approximately 3.5 miles north of downtown Warsaw. His next slide was a summary of the project, with it beginning in 2021; they have had many public meetings, numerous environmental studies and appeared before the Planning Commission. He noted that since the Planning Commission meeting they have met with Chief Byrd and Chief Balderson, held another public meeting, updated the site plan, and volunteered additional conditions of approval. He noted that they are tracking for a 2029 construction start date. His next slide was a picture of the site map and stated that it is a secluded location with only 2,000 feet of total road frontage. His next slide was the site design and went over the tailored setbacks Ms. McDowell had over in her presentation. His next slide was site design changes, and he went over the different changes to the site plan through the application process. He then went over the vegetative buffers and showed what they volunteered versus what Westmoreland County requires. His next slide showed pictures of the initial and current entrance designs, and he had changed

the number of plant species suggested. He then reviewed the reforestation area and stated that they had gone through several meetings with the surrounding neighbors, addressing issues such as noise, buffer screening, fire safety, EMS, possible cemetery, construction, battery safety, and storm water. He went over each concern and how they have addressed them in the project. He noted that people have stated that the projected solar farm will occupy farmland, and the facility will temporarily occupy 136 acres of farmland and 15 acres of pasture. He then went over the minimal impact of the project and listed then such as minimal traffic from operations, no noise, light, odor, etc. His next slide was pictures of the vegetative buffer from the road, which will show what it will look like 1 year and 5 years after planting. His next slide showed a picture of a permeable fence that they would have to let wildlife throughout the site. He stated once the solar facility is operational it will require 5-6 mows per year, daily remote monitoring, inspections throughout the year and maintenance as needed. He then reviewed the process of decommissioning the facility once it has reached the lifespan and he went over the procedure, plan details, and financial security. His next slide was voluntary conditions and substantial community benefits for the county if approved, and showed a graph of the tax base comparison. He noted that on June 24, PJM issued a maximum generation alert to ensure the reliable delivery of electricity to customers across its service area because of the intense heat wave, and Dominion Energy predicts 5.5% compound annual load growth for the next decade and proposes a new rate hike for the first time in 33 years. His last slide was a summary of the Kings Highway Solar Project.

****KINGS HIGHWAY SOLAR PRESENTATION BELOW****

AGENDA

- Project Overview
- Design Details
- Changes Made
- Benefits
- General Conformity with Westmoreland County's Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan



Project Overview

Kings Highway Solar

- Approximately 55 MW, about 8,850 homes
- May incorporate 11MW, 4-hour lithium-ion battery storage
- Approximately **\$4.4M-5.2M** in net new taxes to Westmoreland County (Years 1-40)
- Seeking approval for a Special Exception Permit in the Agriculture (A1) zoning district with extended vesting
- Complies with Westmoreland County's Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan



Vicinity Map



Development Status

Summary:

- Began development in 2021
- Completed numerous environmental / engineering studies
- Submitted into the PJM study process
- Hosted 4 Public Information Meetings for project neighbors
- Numerous individual neighbor interactions to answer questions and solicit design feedback
- Appeared before the Planning Commission on December 16th and moved forward with a unanimous 2232 recommendation



Development Status

Since December 16th PC meeting:

- Met with Chief Balderson of the Westmoreland Fire Department
 - Met with Chief Byrd of the Westmoreland EMS
 - Hosted our 4th Public Information Meeting on June 24th
 - Updated site plan, overhauled vegetative buffer & other project materials
 - Volunteered additional conditions of approval
- 



Moving Forward

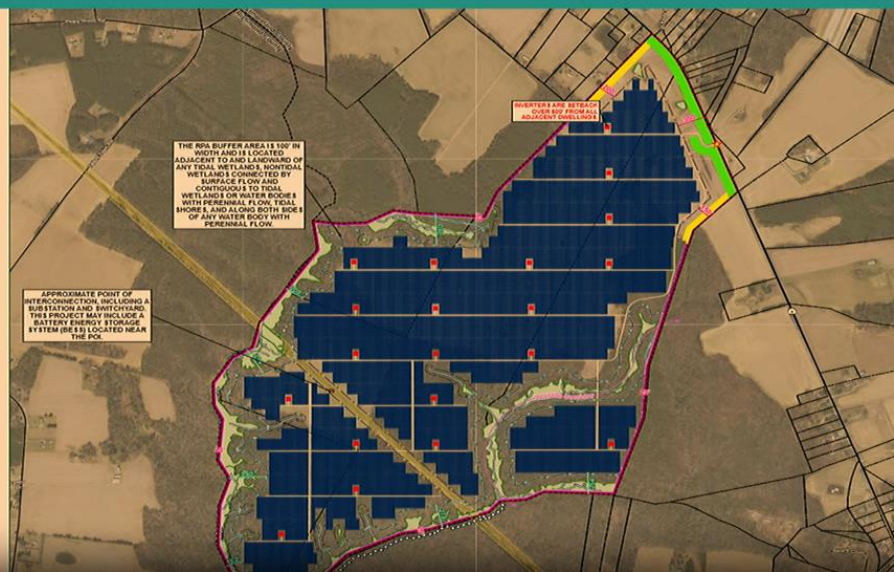
- Tracking for a 2029 construction start date
- Final engineering / design to commence after completion of

Site Map

TOTAL PARCEL AREA
=
± 512 ACRES

FENCED AREA
=
± 351 ACRES
(pending final site design)

**FENCED AREA
=
± 351 ACRES
(pending final site design)**



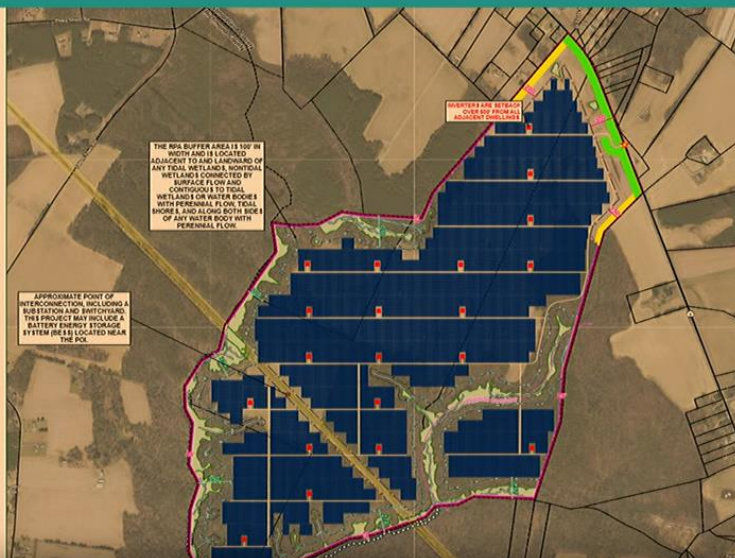
Secluded Location

Only ~2,000ft of total road frontage
(shown in green)

- 86% borders large, undeveloped tracts

RPA creates natural boundaries

No nearby neighborhoods, schools or commercial development



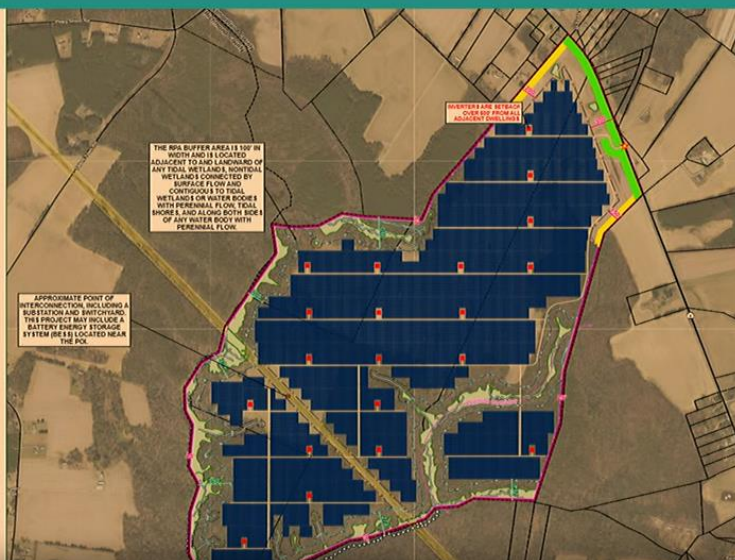
Secluded Location

Only ~2,000ft of total road frontage
(shown in green)

- 86% borders large, undeveloped tracts

RPA creates natural boundaries

No nearby neighborhoods, schools or commercial development



Site Design

Tailored Setbacks

- Along Kings Hwy / Route 3 (green):
 - 300 ft setback
 - 100ft vegetative buffer
- Side setbacks (yellow):
 - 150 & 200ft setback
 - 80ft vegetative buffer
- Other boundaries:
 - 25ft rear and side setbacks although actual setbacks of between 152-390ft result from the RPA
- 500ft inverter setbacks from dwellings

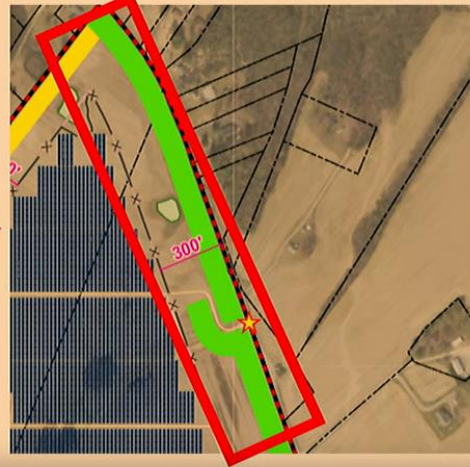


Site Design Changes

Initial Design



Current Design

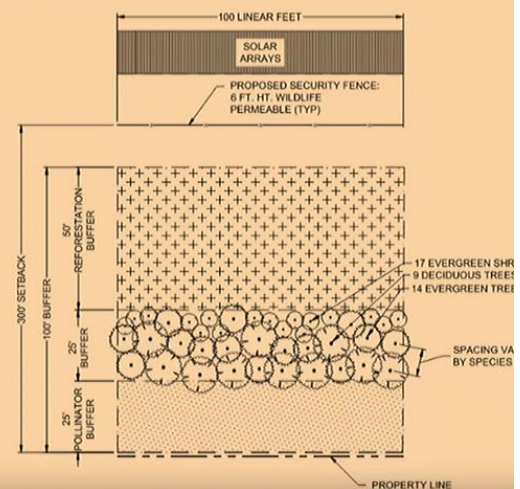


Front setback extended to 300ft – 6x county requirement

Vegetative Buffer

- **Volunteered Enhanced buffer:**
 - Volunteered 100ft in vegetative buffer width along Kings Hwy (Route 3) ; and 80ft where no vegetation currently exists along the borders of the northern agricultural field
 - Layers of planted vegetation include wildflowers, shrubs and evergreen trees, and a pine tree reforestation area
- **Westmoreland County Requirements:**
 - 30ft vegetative buffer
 - At least one tree and two shrubs per 400 sq ft. of landscape area

VEGETATIVE BUFFER PLANTING TEMPLATE



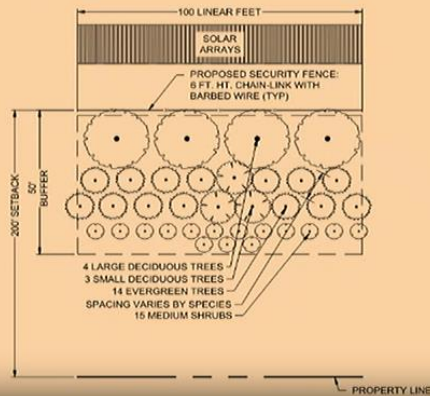
**Illustration shows the volunteered, 100 ft. enhanced*

Vegetative Buffer Changes

Initial Design

- Road frontage (Route 3): 50ft
- Adjoining Residences/NE Ag Field: 30ft

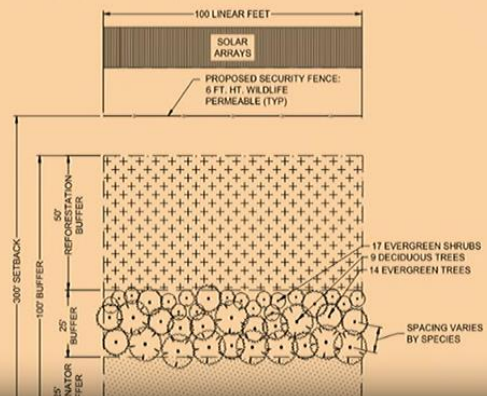
VEGETATIVE BUFFER PLANTING TEMPLATE



Current Design

- Road frontage (Route 3): 100ft
- Adjoining Residences/NE Ag Field: 80ft

VEGETATIVE BUFFER PLANTING TEMPLATE



Site Design Changes

Initial Entrance Design



Current Entrance Design



Landscape Plan Changes

Previous Design

RECOMMENDED BUFFER PLANT LIST				
BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	MINIMUM HEIGHT AT PLANTING	SPACING	CONTAINER
LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES				
QUERCUS ALBA	WHITE OAK	12 FT.	20 FT.	B&B
MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA	SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA	12 FT.	20 FT.	B&B
LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA	SWEETGUM	12 FT.	20 FT.	B&B
EVERGREEN TREES				
ILEX OPACA	AMERICAN HOLLY	6 FT.	10 FT.	B&B
JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA 'BRODIE'	EASTERN RED CEDAR	6 FT.	10 FT.	B&B
PINUS TAEDA	LOBLOLLY PINE	6 FT.	10 FT.	B&B
SMALL DECIDUOUS TREES				
CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICUS	FRINGETREE	6 FT.	12 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
CRATAEGUS VIRIDIS 'WINTER KING'	HAWTHORNE	6 FT.	12 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
CERCIS CANADENSIS 'FOREST PANSY'	EASTERN REDBUD	6 FT.	12 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
MEDIUM SHRUBS				
ILEX DECIDUA	POSSEUM HAW	2 FT.	6 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
VIBURNUM DENTATUM	ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM	2 FT.	6 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
LINDERA BENZON	SPICEBUSH	2 FT.	6 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER

New Design

RECOMMENDED BUFFER PLANT LIST					
BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	MINIMUM HEIGHT AT PLANTING	SPACING	GROWTH RATE (PER YEAR)	CONTAINER
LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES					
QUERCUS ALBA	WHITE OAK	12 FT.	20 FT.	2 FT.	B&B
QUERCUS RUBRA	RED OAK	12 FT.	20 FT.	1.5 FT.	B&B
GYMNOCADUS DIOICUS	KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE	12 FT.	20 FT.	1.5 FT.	B&B
PLATANUS OCCIDENTALIS	SYCAMORE	12 FT.	20 FT.	2 FT.	B&B
EVERGREEN TREES					
ILEX OPACA	AMERICAN HOLLY	6 FT.	10 FT.	1 FT.	B&B
MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA	SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA	12 FT.	20 FT.	1.5 FT.	B&B
JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA BRODIE	EASTERN RED CEDAR	6 FT.	10 FT.	2 FT.	B&B
PINUS TAEDA	LOBLOLLY PINE	6 FT.	10 FT.	2 FT.	B&B
EVERGREEN SHRUBS					
ILEX DECIDUA	POSSEUM HAW	2 FT.	6 FT.	1 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
ILEX CORNUTA BURFORD	BURFORD HOLLY	2 FT.	6 FT.	2 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
MYRTICA CERIFERA	SOUTHERN WAX MYRTLE	2 FT.	6 FT.	1 FT.	B&B OR CONTAINER
REFORESTATION					
PINUS TAEDA	LOBLOLLY PINE	SEEDLING	6 FT. ON CENTER	2 FT.	

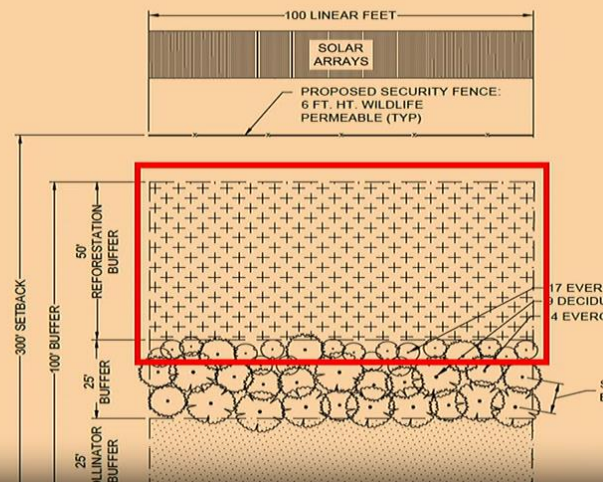


* Replaced Sweetgum at neighbors' request

Reforestation Area

- Area of planted loblollies behind the buffer
 - 50ft along Route 3
 - 30ft behind other planted buffers
- Planted off center to avoid the "tunnel effect"
- Planted at a major project milestone, approximately two years ahead of construction

VEGETATIVE BUFFER PLANTING TEMPLATE



Neighbor Concerns Addressed

Noise

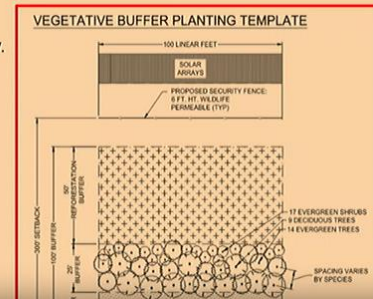
- Neighbors have noted that the noise from the Woodbine project have been problematic.
- This project has 4x the setbacks, and 3.5x more vegetative buffer
- Inverters are setback at least 500ft from dwellings

Buffer Screening

- Volunteered to significantly increase vegetation near residences, and along Route 3
- Condition of approval that dead and diseased vegetation be replaced within the next planting window.
 - Backed up with a landscaping bond until buffer becomes established
- Swapped species to create a faster growing, denser buffer.
- Incorporated reforestation areas to assist with long-term screening

Fire Safety/EMS

- Met with Chief Balderson of Westmoreland Fire Dept. and Chief Blake Byrd (EMS)
- Neither have specific concerns or require additional equipment.



Neighbor Concerns Addressed

Possible Cemetery

- Efforts to date by the project, the landowner, and the County, to accurately locate the grave site have been unsuccessful
- Phase I Archaeological Study will be completed in coordination with VA Dept. Historic Resources as a part of the DEQ PBR process prior to construction
- If one is found, it will be left undisturbed and with public access

Construction

- Daylight hours limitation condition of approval
- Approximately 90% of the site is over 1,000ft from the road

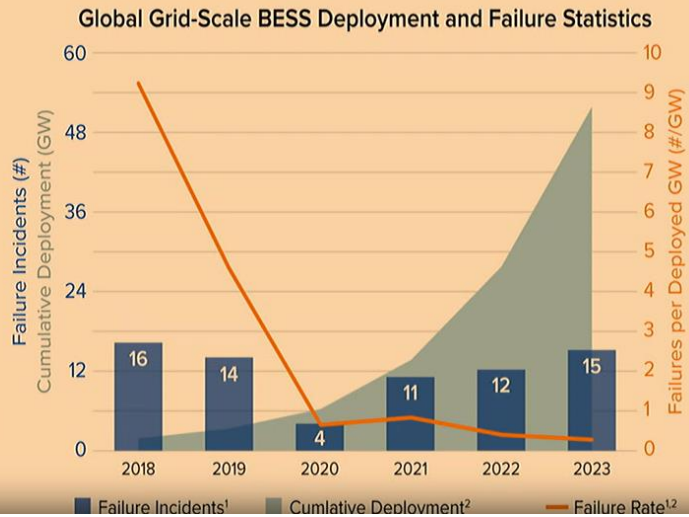
Stormwater

- Engineered to new state standards
- Volunteered to have additional inspections beyond statutory requirements

Neighbor Concerns Addressed

Battery Safety

- Better than 99.9% success rate
- Built to standards of:
 - National Electric Code
 - International Fire Code
 - National Fire Protection Association Fire Code 855 (highest standard)
- Automatic fire detection and suppression system
- Hazard mitigation plan to be provided prior to construction



Farmland

Kings Hwy Solar will temporarily occupy:

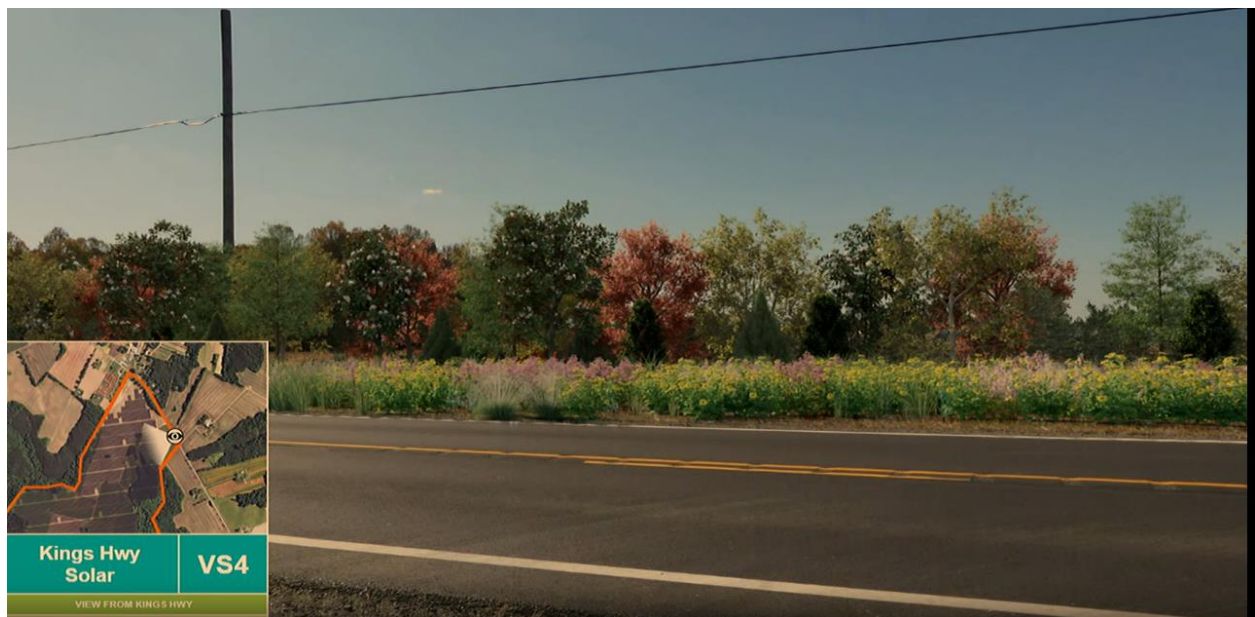
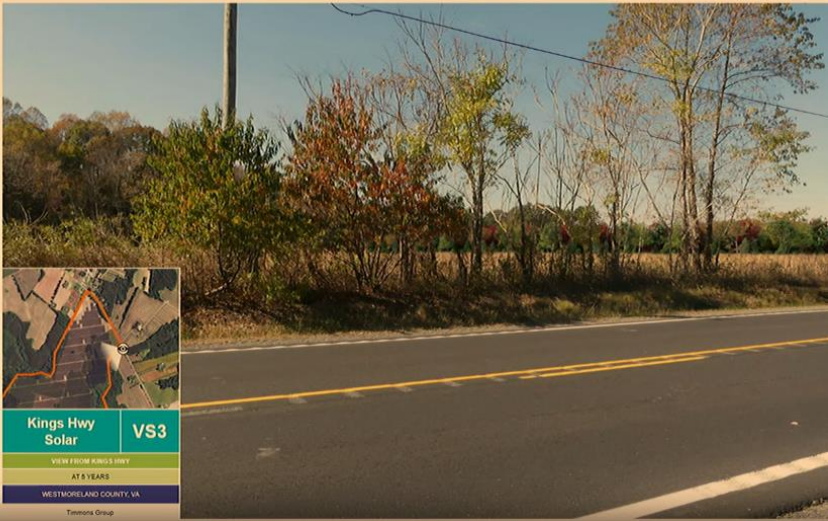
- 136 acres of Westmoreland's 27,774 acres of farmland
- 15 acres of Westmoreland's 1,651 acres of pasture

VCU Study

- 2017-2022: Solar was responsible for 3.4% of the farmland lost across Virginia
- Solar development sufficient to meet the State's clean energy goals will require approximately 0.5% of the State's forest and crop land.

Minimal Impact

- Full concealment of panels
- Minimal traffic from operations
- No noise, light, odor, emissions, or vibration
- No impact on public health or safety
- Temporary use, will be removed after usable life





Site Design

Environmental Design Features

- Plan to use 7ft wildlife permeable fencing
- 100ft minimum RPA setback from streams and wetlands
- Wildlife corridor
- Pollinator-friendly ground cover



Operations and Maintenance

- 5-6 mows per year during the growing season
- Daily remote monitoring
- Monthly + quarterly + annual inspections
- As needed maintenance



Decommissioning

Project will be fully bonded before commencement of construction

- Decommissioning plan and cost estimate included in SEP application
- Plan details:
 - \$6.47M total removal cost
 - Decommissioning procedures
 - Site restoration, including soil decompaction and rock removal
- Financial security will be the greater of a) 130% of the net cost to decommission; or b) \$250,000.
 - Updated every five years

Volunteered Conditions

Summary of volunteered conditions

- Inverter setbacks of at least 500 ft. from all residences.
- Any dead or diseased vegetation in the vegetative buffer to be replanted within the next planting window.
- Provide an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Set safety standards at the highest level possible (NFPA 855)
- Established decommissioning security calculations
- 3rd-party stormwater / erosion control inspector during construction (above and beyond statutory requirement)
- Continue to work to identify the location of the cemetery

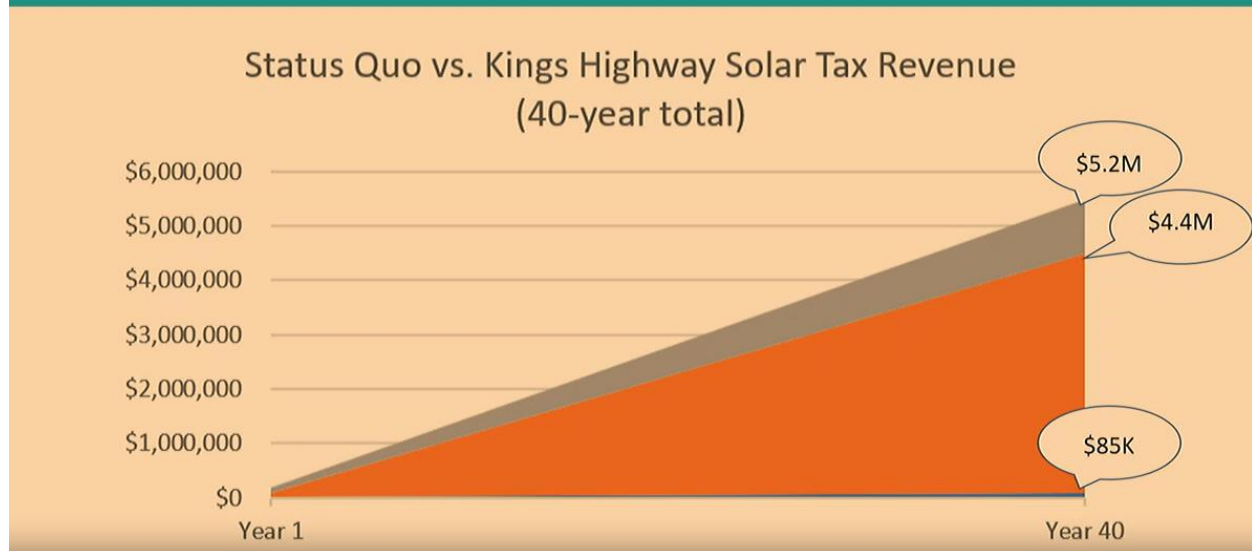
Volunteered Conditions Continued

- Four annual donations of \$5,000 to go towards scholarships for students enrolled at Westmoreland High School, to be distributed by the County.
- Host a local job fair in conjunction with the County economic development team.
- If BESS is included in design, a water tank will be provided on site, and a donation of \$5,000 will be made to the Westmoreland EMS, and Volunteer Fire Department
- Host a solar energy career/apprenticeship informational session at Warsaw campus of Rappahannock Community College prior to construction
- Vegetation maintenance bond

Substantial Community Benefits

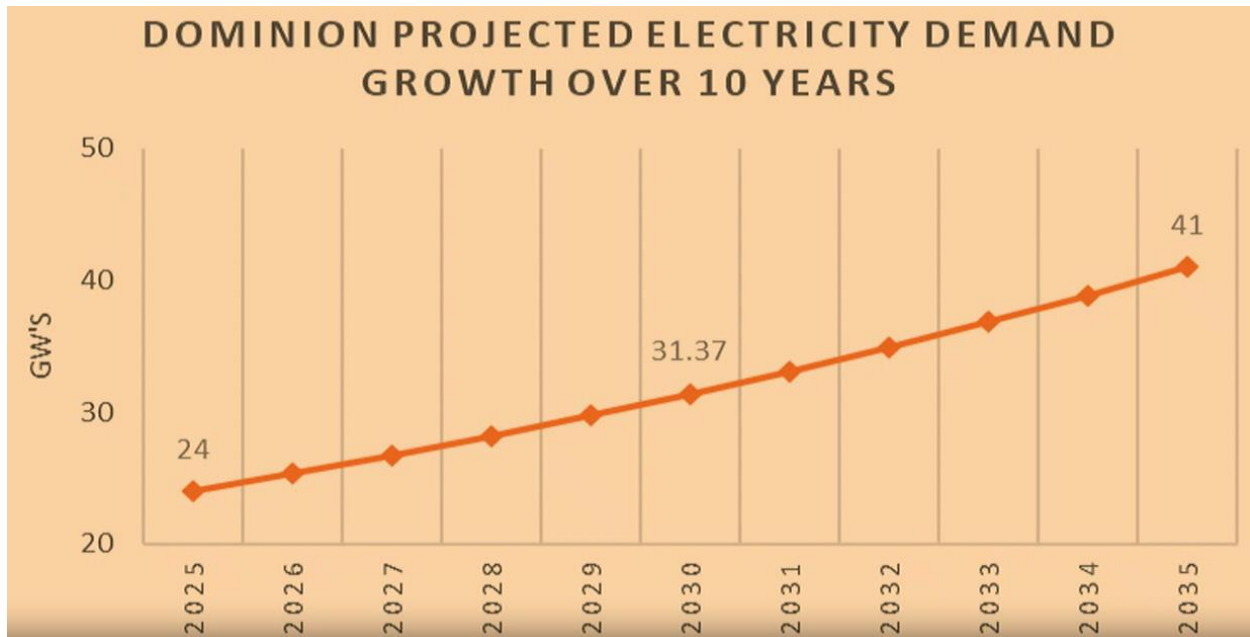
- Taxes:
 - Approximately **\$4.4M-5.2M** in net new taxes for Westmoreland County (40-year period), an over **5,000%** increase from the status quo
 - **\$4.4M-5.2M** (Kings Highway Solar) vs. **\$85k** (status quo)
 - **Y1: \$77,000 to \$91,000** (Kings Highway Solar) vs. **\$2,141**
- The EPA estimates Kings Highway Solar will produce at least, **\$7,700,000** in annual public health benefits.
- Construction:
 - Approximately 150 people required across a 12-18 month construction period
 - Plan to work with the County to utilize local contractors and suppliers wherever possible

Tax Base Comparison



State of the Market

- On June 24th PJM issued a Maximum Generation Alert to ensure the reliable delivery of electricity to customers across its service area as a result of the intense heat wave
 - This announcement shows how close to capacity the grid already is during periods of extreme weather.
- Dominion Energy predicts 5.5% compound annual load growth for the next decade
- Dominion Energy proposes new rate hike for first time in 33 years
 - Capacity prices rose 8x in 2024, reflecting concerns over a lack of energy supply across the mid-Atlantic
 - “Higher forecasted fuel commodity prices will result in a \$10.92 monthly fuel rate increase for a typical residential customer.” (Dominion Energy press release 4/1/25)



Kings Highway Solar Summary

- Legal use with design characteristics that exceed the ordinance
- \$80+ million investment that will create substantial tax base for the county
- Quiet, safe, and passive project
- Designed based on feedback from neighbors
- Exercise of private property rights

RES

Thank you very much!

Westmoreland County

RES

Chairman Fisher thanked Mr. Delafield for his presentation.

Adam Hall, the Landowner, came to the podium to speak and stated that they have all had different memories and attachments to the land, which has been in the family for many years. He noted that they did not want to sell the property, but as

time changed and different opportunities became known, they thought differently, but it took them a while, and they have done a lot of research on the benefits of solar. He stated that they have had larger companies try to get their attention, but Mr. Hall felt more comfortable with Mr. Delafield and their team due to their methodical approach, answering all questions and looking out for the surrounding neighbors. He was pleased to see the number of projects that the project has gone through as part of the conversations with neighbors. Mr. Hall felt that this was the type of collaborative approach they were hoping this team would bring to this project. He noted that they want to be good neighbors, and they want to help the county and ensure long-term ownership through a simple execution of property rights. Mr. Hall felt that this was a good way to keep the property in their family, and selling it would lead to long-term effects. He noted that larger investors are eager to buy the land and hold it in its approved value, and anything that keeps farms in the family is a good thing. Whenever the agreement is let out, the solar company is obligated to remove the panels, and they will have their farmland back in open space. Mr. Hall stated that you cannot predict the future, and it may be a good thing that the solar farm will be there. He noted that he has seen everything that was said on social media about the project, and it was never their intention to hurt anyone or stir anything up. Landowners have always had to adapt to survive and be creative to find income streams to keep people afloat. He asked the Board not to kneecap a landowner's ability to generate income from his land without having to sell it. He appreciated the county for all the attention and consideration that had gone into this project.

Rhode B. Hall III, Landowner, came to the podium to speak, stated that the land has been in his family for 3 generations, and he has great memories of working on the farm in his childhood. He stated that his father never wanted him to sell the land, and each child owns 25% of the land. He noted that they have a farmer who farms the land, splits the profits in half, and then splits the half between the siblings. Mr. Hall first considered doing solar when he read an article from The Northern Neck Cooperative Living. There is a need for electricity, and in the magazine, it described how much they needed the electricity. He stated that they want to be good neighbors, but they will need electricity, and when they were first approached about the solar facility, they were hesitant. However, when they learned about the technology and safety regulations, they felt good about the decision. Mr. Hall felt that it was a good way to get electricity, keep the land in the family, help him take care of his family with medical expenses, and there was no water or air pollution.

Mr. Hall stated that they need the Board's support to exercise their private property rights to make the project a reality.

After the presentations, Chairman Fisher asked if any Board members had any questions for the applicants.

Let the record show that there were no questions, and Chairman Fisher opened the floor for a public hearing, as advertised, regarding Case No. 2501-SE-01, Special Exception for a Utility-scale Solar Facility at 22754 Kings Highway.

Below is who spoke during the public hearing.

Dr. Pam Alderman - Her property is directly beside the proposed solar farm, and she is not in favor of the proposal. She also has a lot of acreage in the family and has had numerous solar companies try to get them to sell, but there are things worth more, and she hoped that they would not let them buy them either. She noted that the county beside them is moving to solar and has more solar farms than water. Dr. Alderman stated that the solar farms are trying to fix the issues of Northern Virginia, and this county does not get any benefit from them. She has asked the company if they have ever decommissioned a solar farm before, and they have not. She would like the county to stay what it is known for, which is lumber, hunting, and fishing, and if the Board continues to approve solar facilities, it will diminish that.

Paul Traub - Mr. Traub stated from the presentation that the county would lose a lot of acreage in farmland, pasture and forest. Mr. Traub felt that you could not keep taking trees down, approving a lot of solar farms, and that many of the applicants' families may not be around in 30 years when they are decommissioned. He noted that it would take another 5 years before you can start to plant again, and he asked that the Board deny the proposed solar farm.

Burnell Jones - She felt that change is good, but she asked how it would help the everyday resident.

Mr. Delafield stated that it would help the everyday resident through the taxes created by the project, electricity that flows to the bottom line, and no additional demand for water and sewer services or EMS. He noted that there is a higher energy demand that has not been taken care of and is underprepared for what will happen.

Richard Wilkins - Mr. Wilkins felt that it was a great presentation and asked if Westmoreland County will be known for solar farms as much as it is known for its history. He noted that solar farms are supposed to be located on rooftops, not on farmland or forestry, and there was no mention in the presentation about natural disasters and who would be responsible if the solar farm were destroyed. He had a solar facility come to him, and he did not work all his life to stare at solar panels.

Kyle Pritchard - He is strongly against the solar facility, and his property is close to the proposed solar farm. He noted that there are fresh water sources, and nothing was said about what happens with sludge land and the runoff to the creeks and streams to the bottomland. Mr. Pritchard stated that there are many graveyards there and was surprised that the owners are unaware of where they are. The land was patented in 1652 by Valentine Peyton from the House of Burgesses and has gone down the family line, and noted that there is a lot of history on that land. Mr. Pritchard stated that the runoff from the solar panels would cause many issues in the bottomland, which he owns half of. He asked Mr. Delafield if the land had been surveyed. Mr. Delafield answered no. Mr. Pritchard stated that the lines they are using in the project are wrong.

Linda Coates - she lives at the end of Longfield Road on the King George line, and there is a plan to build a solar farm across from a historical home. She noted that we have enough electricity and can provide it, and it does not have to come from solar farms or wind.

Kyle Pritchard – Mr. Pritchard came back to the podium and stated that the Board adopted a Comprehensive Plan about what will be happening with solar in the county, and he felt that the proposed project goes against everything in that. Chairman Fisher stated that Mr. Pritchard might be referring to the Solar Policy that the Board just adopted, and this project was in the works before the policy was implemented. He noted that they have made adjustments in the project based on what the policy is.

Rhode B. Hall, III - Came to the podium again and stated that there is a graveyard there and there are supposed to be wildflowers that come up in that area, and the issue is that none of the gravesites are marked.

Gary Alderman - He is the husband of Dr. Alderman, who spoke previously, and he owns a business in Richmond County. He asked where the energy goes when the electricity is stored. He noted that the land that he owns, he bought; it was not given to him, and he plans to give the land to his children. He also stated that they are a ½ mile from another solar farm, and they can hear it hum and the solar panels changing directions. He hoped that the board would put solar panels on each side of his house, but they are not sure of the repercussions of solar and what it will do to their health. Mr. Alderman stressed his concerns about runoff and that he already has erosion on his property from the other solar farm that he is adjoined to now, and no one has done anything about it.

Mr. Delafield stated that the energy produced is enough to power over 9,000 homes, and the electricity is put onto the Dominion Power electrical grid and the

transmission line, which moves the power southeast to northwest to this county and others serving the local delivery points.

Larry Hinson - He has appeared before the Board multiple times to oppose solar facilities, including this one. He noted that not everyone is saying anything good, and it is an easy answer.

James Howe - he lived in Texas for 50 years, and when you go back there, it is covered in windmills and several solar farms. He noted that the electric bills are probably high and we need to be careful about the drilling in the county.

Dr. Pam Alderman - She returned to the podium and stated that she was at the public meetings that were held and they asked them were the electricity was going and they were told Northern Virginia. She stated that if that was a lie, then it should not have been said.

Linda Coates - She came to the podium again and state that she was not sure that the county has 9,000 homes and if so, then the whole county will be served by the solar farm.

Rhode B. Hall, III. – He returned to the podium again and stated that he was not concerned about where the power is going but he was not sure what runoff comes off of the solar panel. He noted that the solar panels that were approved in the past have cows, and they have runoff. He stated that they have do not a lot of research and felt that Mr. Delafield and his team are the best fit.

Paul Traub – He returned to the podium again and stated that when you put solar farms in, and the land is leveled out but the water has to go somewhere. Mr. Delafield stated that the storm water handbook is currently being revised to address the runoff issue, and they will have new rules in place that will make the basins permanent, which are there to impound the water that comes off the facility. He noted that it is being reviewed at the state level, and this project will be bound by those rules.

Let the record show that no one else came to the podium to speak, and Chairman Fisher closed the public hearing portion of the meeting for LAND USE CASE NO. 2501-SE-01, Special Exception for a Utility-scale Solar Facility at 22754 Kings Highway.

Chairman Fisher stated that this project rests in his district and is familiar with the property and has memories there over the years.

Mr. McCormack stated that there were questions about how solar ties into the grid, and from his understanding, Dominion Power has power facilities all across the state, the majority of which are powered by natural gas and diesel as a backup. He noted that the solar panels are supposed to lower the impact on the facilities. He

stated that the issue is that Northern Virginia and other areas are building data centers everywhere, and it is taking all of their power and going to other places. All of the build-out that Dominion has to do to supply the power is funded by the county, even Northern Neck Electric, due to Dominion Power and the county supplying the bill. Mr. McCormack felt that they came up with a policy, and it is as it stands, and they need to follow it.

Mr. Trivett stated in the time he has been on this Board, he has received more phone calls, emails and information than anything else he has had to deal with. Mr. Trivett is aware that in the presentation that 86% of the property will not be affected by the 14% has to be the people that live there and the people that have contacted the Board opposed it, says something. He has not had anyone who has contacted him who was in favor of the project and should consider denying the project.

Mr. Ingram stated that there is a lot of talk about solar and clean energy, but no one can come up with a good decommissioning plan due to it has never been done. He noted that Mr. Delafield spoke about removing topsoil to put in the permanent basins, but it takes longer than the life of the solar panels to regenerate and turn back into farmland. Mr. Ingram had an issue with them cutting down the forest, and when it rains, the water goes to someone else's land and ruins their property. Mr. Ingram understands that people have rights as property owners, but when it affects the neighbor, you should waive those rights.

Chairman Fisher stated that they have heard both sides and have taken into consideration, not just this one, but where they are as a county, looking at the number of solar facilities they already have approved, built, and in process. He noted that he normally likes to lean to what the vast majority property owners and citizens that are directly affected and take the time to call, write and continue to follow up with their position and an over whelming response was that they are not in favor of the project being placed and it would be his position to not be in favor to advance the special exception.

Mr. McCormack made a motion to deny Special Exception for a utility-scale solar facility at 22754 Kings Highway. With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Trivett, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and the Chairman voting "aye". The Board approved the motion to **deny** Land Use Case Number 2501-SE-01, Special Exception for a Utility-scale Solar Facility at 22754 Kings Highway. Chairman Fisher thanked all of the residents who spoke for their input and the applicant.

Chairman Fisher stated there will be a 5-minute break, and they will continue with the items on the agenda.

After the break, Chairman Fisher called the meeting back into session and continued with the next item on the agenda.

F. Strategic Plan Update, Jim Taylor, County Administrator

Mr. Taylor gave a presentation on the updates to the strategic plan. He went through the presentation slide by slide and then went over the process update and was pleased that they had 192 people complete the survey. His next slide was the demographics of the people who completed the survey, stating that the majority of the people were 55 years old, and had great representation in all districts. He then showed a graph of how long the residents have lived in the county that completed the survey and most have lived in the county for at least 10 years. He stated that the full presentation was provided to all members with a lot of comments and valuable information to review. His next slide was public safety; they had asked the top three safety concerns in the community, and the top three were crime prevention, emergency response time, and traffic safety. His next slide was public schools and what the most critical areas for improvement are, and the top three responses were academic programs, teacher and support training, and college and career readiness. He then reviewed the top three human services that they believed to have the most attention, which were healthcare access, senior citizen services, and youth programs. His next slide was economic development and the three greatest challenges, which were attracting businesses, job creation, and retention of young professionals. He then reviewed cultural and historic assets, with the top three to be preserved being historical sites, community festivals, and historic preservation projects. He then reviewed the results for the top three most important parks and recreation improvements, which were more walking/hiking trails, community centers, and nature preservation areas. His next slide focused on affordable housing and identified the most significant challenges in the county from the survey, which include a lack of affordable rental options, limited housing for seniors, and high housing costs. He then reviewed the top three environmental concerns, which were water quality, waste management and recycling, and wildlife and habitat conservation. His next slide was financial stewardship and the 3 areas of financial stewardship should be prioritized were transparent, efficient use of tax dollars, and infrastructure investment. His next slide was a list of the responses to the last question on the survey about the single most important thing that could help

improve quality of life. His last slide was the next steps of the strategic plan. He noted that they hope to have a Capital Improvement Plan within the next few months and that Davenport is working on it currently, and they look forward to the recommendations coming from them. After Mr. Taylor's presentation, he asked if the Board had any questions.

G. Westmoreland County Seal, Jim Taylor, County Administrator

Mr. Taylor gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the county seal. He stated that they have been doing work on the county seal and it needs to be updated to a vector image for higher quality to make flags, banners, etc. He noted that it gave them an opportunity to modernize the county seal and they have been working with a graphic artist to provide some options. His next slide was a picture of the current county seal and went over the different insignia of the seal. He then reviewed the updated seal which is higher resolution, added birthplace of George Washington and James Monroe, moved 1653 down, improved images of oysters and wheat, and option of paper and quill pen. He then showed two different versions of the updated county seal and stated that the one to the left is similar to the original, and the one on the right has a different pen and paper option. Mr. Taylor felt that the picture on the right looked more like a pen and paper than the one on the left. His next slide was a side-by-side view of the current and the proposed updated county seal. He noted that they were also working on a special 250th anniversary logo and showed a draft picture of what it will look like. He noted that it is still a work in progress. After Mr. Taylor's presentation, he asked the board if they had any questions or further discussion.

Mr. Ingram stated that if you are looking to change the seal, you need to get citizens' input due to it being the seal of their county, too.

Chairman Fisher stated that he was not sure that they created the original; he thought that it was a Board creation.

Mr. McCormack agreed with Mr. Ingram that they should have citizen input, similar to what they did with the survey. He noted that they could do a quick survey with multiple options and see what they get.

Chairman Fisher stated if you get resident input, it would be major controversy on what should be on the seal. He noted that in his mind the seal should be the full makeup of the county and maybe have an oyster boat on the seal.

Mr. Taylor stated that they could put the different versions of the seal and see what responses they get and then present it to the Board.

Chairman Fisher stated that they do not have to change it if they do not want to, which could be the safest approach.

Mr. Trivett stated that it made him think back when they were going to name the new high school, and that process went on for a long time.

Chairman Fisher stated that he is open for whatever the pleasure of the Board is but when you look at changing, it is not bad, there are just more perspectives of what people think it should be.

Mr. McCormack felt that they should leave the seal the way it is.

Chairman Fisher stated that he did not see anything wrong with the original but they could refine it, but leave it the same.

Mr. Ingram agreed but felt that they could use the special commemorative one for the 250th anniversary, which could be put on different merchandise to promote the event.

Mr. Taylor asked the Board if the consensus was to leave the seal as it is but just make it into a higher resolution.

Chairman Fisher stated that seemed to be the consensus and the safest route.

Mr. Taylor asked the board if they were interested in adding "The Birthplace of George Washington and James Monroe" on the seal.

Chairman Fisher stated that it is an interesting question because the birth of two presidents is very important to the county as it relates to the seal.

Mr. Stuart felt that it would be best to leave it alone.

Ms. Cogswell stated that they could have that verbiage on the commemorative one for the 250th anniversary.

Chairman Fisher felt that it would be best to leave the current seal as close as possible with no changes and work on a new logo for the commemorative 250th anniversary.

With no further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Taylor to leave the current seal as is, only updating the current logo to a higher resolution. In addition, the Board directed Mr. Taylor to work on a new commemorative logo for the 250th anniversary, to include ideas suggested above.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Westmoreland County Radio Contingency, Blake Byrd, Chief of Emergency Services
Chief Byrd gave a presentation on the radio contingency plan as noted in his powerpoint presentation. He stated that the development of the CIP for the current county radio system included many discussions about updating the system.

Technology goes out of date so fast that it is constantly changing. On his first slide, he reviewed the current county communication system, including the types, sites, systems, and backup generators. He noted that the county has a P25 UHF Digital system and there have been a few overhauls to it to keep it going through the years. Chief Byrd reminded the Board that the county owns all of the tower sites and they lease the tower space to companies like Verizon, Atlantic Broadband, etc.

Chief Byrd stated the radio system has two components: the radio you talk into and the microwave system to help filter the messages and signals.

With that said, Chief Byrd reviewed lightning strikes and went over the incident that occurred on Thursday June 26, 2025 when a lightning strike affected the Montross Prime Tower Site. Chief Byrd recognized Shawnn Manthey, Communications Specialist, for getting things up and running quickly. Contingencies from the surrounding state and local resources were called upon, but at no point was the ability to call 911 lost.

After assessment of the damage, replacement parts were ordered and replacement of these components will continue throughout the next few weeks. Through this process, we have identified some areas that need immediate attention and will move us toward updating the system over the next couple years. These areas identified are important to address now due to public safety in the county getting busier and natural events are hitting the headlines more frequently.

Chief Byrd reviewed the Executive Summary page of his powerpoint, noting this proposal is to request funding for critical communication infrastructure enhancements for public safety departments across the county. These improvements are necessary to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a system failure, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event impacting emergency services.

Chief Byrd stated that it is important to begin to move the project forward now to ensure that the County is prepared to move to a larger scale upgrade in a couple years. He stated that the project is broken down into three requests. The first request is the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) which is a one-time purchase and will equip fire departments with in-vehicle MDTs. This will mean all first responders (sheriff's office, EMS and Fire) will be able to communicate with dispatch in the event they were to lose radio communication. Police and EMS are set up with the CAD system and MDTs currently. The project cost is \$97,285.00 and it outfits every fire suppression apparatus, response vehicle in the county.

Next is the Mobile Dispatch Center and if they were to lose the dispatch center for any reason, it gives them a place to locate a temporary dispatch center anywhere in the county. This is a multi-faceted approach looking at a big scale as the first

responders are getting busier. He noted that it not only prepares them for emergencies but for larger scale events all across the county. He stated that state resources only go so far and when they are not available, the county may not have what is needed to ensure the safety of the community. The project cost for the Mobile Dispatch Center is \$104,405.00.

The last request is purchasing Motorola APX NXT LTE Radios and is the most critical piece moving forward. He stated that the purchase of the Motorola radios is already in the CIP. Chief Byrd stated that this is for a replacement of what we currently have which is outdated and lack the LTE connectivity. These 40 Motorola APX NXT LTE radios and First Net LTE activation deployed with key personnel will provide seamless communications during outages. The project price is \$440,186.88.

Chief Byrd then asked the Board if they had any questions.

Let the record show, there were no questions from any Board members.

Chief Byrd stated that they separated this into three separate appropriations for action from the Board in three separate areas.

Mr. McCormack stated that they have spoken about the mobile dispatch center before and asked if it would be cheaper to have a separate site than having a mobile dispatch center, for example, a continuity of operations site, located away from here but somewhere in the county, where they can flip a switch and go from one building to another.

Chief Byrd stated that the goal is to not have something tied down and the biggest pieces is that it is multi-faceted and not just radios, the ability to take 911 calls, ability to dispatch, compatible with CAD, and to have all the licensing needed. He stated that the goal is to locate them in both ends of the county and to have access anywhere, you still have all of the computer and hardware and it is ready to go.

Mr. McCormack stated that his thought would be the hard lines and they will have to plug it somewhere. He noted that they can use startlink but it is not dependable in a storm.

Chief Byrd stated that this particular one comes with everything; it is self-sufficient. He noted that emergency services have priority. It is a First Response Network and they do have the priority.

Mr. Trivett stated that he does not have the appropriation request, and the amount is different from the summary of expenditure request and he wanted to know what the difference was.

Chief Byrd stated that they just received the last quotes today, and what is presented is the exact figures.

Chairman Fisher stated that the price is what it is and he asked where they would take the funds.

Mr. Taylor stated that it would come from the general fund and noted that the lightning strike incident has forced them to address several issues for them to advance. He noted that it will come off of the total upgrade project which is in the millions and they won't have to spend the money twice. He stated that with the radio system upgrade project, they will work with the financial advisor to see a way to fund the remainder of the project. Mr. Taylor stated that the LTE radios are the biggest expenditure, and it is 40 radios that are about \$10,000.00 apiece. He noted that Chief Byrd has come and asked what is needed to have sufficient backup while they are in the process of upgrading the current radio system.

Mr. Ingram stated that it is important to make this project happen and to build the system for the future. When Hurricane Isabel came through the county lost power for more than 2 weeks and saw how it really affected the community. He noted that they need to move along in society and have everything in place, and a lot has changed from 20 years ago to now. Mr. Ingram stated that he is in support of moving the projects forward.

Mr. McCormack stated that he was a 20-year Army NCO all over the world, and his motto was "You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us". He stated that the county has a problem with communication that puts citizens, EMS, Deputies, and firefighters at risk. He stated that they have had many discussions about this and talked about a lighting strike 18 months ago. Chief Byrd, personnel, deputies and others that were involved with this emergency worked many hours. Mr. McCormack felt that it is best to be proactive, not reactive, and is in support of the project moving forward.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr.

McCormack and carried unanimously with Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and Chairman Fisher voting "aye". The Board approved the requested individual appropriations (\$100,000 MDTs; \$104,405.00 Mobile Command Center; and \$440,186.88 Motorola Radios) totaling \$641,941.88 to support the Westmoreland County Radio Contingencies, as discussed above.

B. Northern Neck Planning District Grant Application- State's Broadband Grant with Colonial Beach, Jim Taylor, County Administrator

Mr. Taylor stated that the Town of Colonial Beach has an opportunity to apply for a grant, and the Northern Neck Planning District Commission has been requested to assist them with a grant application to the state's broadband office for a \$25,000.00

planning grant to study the assessment outline in the letter they were asked to provide. He noted that this is something the Board has to support to authorize the county to provide a letter. Mr. Taylor stated that this is something to support the Town of Colonial Beach and will answer any questions the Board has.

Mr. Stuart asked Mr. Taylor if they needed a resolution or if a letter of support was sufficient.

Mr. Taylor stated that they need a letter of support, and all that is needed is authorization from the Board to proceed.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and Chairman Fisher voting “aye”. The Board approved the motion to authorize a letter of support from the county for the Town of Colonial for the Northern Neck Planning District Grant Application.

C. Treasurer’s Office, Bonnie Self, Interim Treasurer

i. Delinquent Tax List

Ms. Self, interim treasurer, stated pursuant to Code Section 58.1-3924, she is required to present the following delinquent taxes as of June 30, 2025. She noted that a copy of the real estate and personal property tax list in the name of the owner which were due on December 5, 2024 and remains uncollected. Westmoreland County billed \$20.5 million in real estate taxes, and they have collected 97% of those taxes, leaving 3%, or \$441,505.000, uncollected. They billed \$10.2 million in personal property taxes and collected 89% of those taxes, leaving 11% or \$972,612.00 uncollected personal property taxes. She noted that with the hard work of the employees of the Treasurer’s Office, these totals would be possible, and she thanked them for their hard work. Ms. Self stated that the Code of Virginia gives the governing body to publish the lists as the Board sees fit, whether it be the local newspaper, county website, or local libraries, and she will assist with whatever the Board sees fit.

Chairman Fisher thanked her and her employees for their hard work and stated that the Board has options as to where they want to post the delinquent tax lists. He asked Ms. Self for her recommendation as to where she felt it need to be posted. He noted in the past they have published it online and in other places.

Ms. Self said that they have posted it on the county website in the past and have hard copies for all libraries and localities with the permission of the clerk of the court; they have a copy in her office as well.

Mr. McCormack agreed with what was said, and they should post it in all places they can.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and Chairman Fisher voting “aye”. The Board approved the motion to authorize the Interim Treasurer to post the 2024 delinquent real estate and personal property tax lists on the county website, the local newspapers, and delivering hard copies to all county libraries and in the circuit court.

ii. Proposed Dog Tag Process

Ms. Self stated that she has come before the Board to ask for a revision to the dog license ordinance. As of now, dog licenses are issued as one-year tags for spayed or neutered dogs at \$5.00, sexed female or male at \$10.00, kennel of 20 dogs at \$40.00 per year, kennel of 50 dogs at \$50.00 per year and duplicate tags at \$1.00. She stated that all dogs in the county are required to have a dog license 4 months or older and are good for one calendar year with proof of a valid rabies vaccination. Ms. Self wanted to amend the ordinance to “lifetime” dog tags for individual dogs regardless of the sex. Virginia State code 3.2-6524 requires all owners of dogs four months or older to be licensed, and Virginia State Code 3.2-6528 gives the localities the option of providing a lifetime dog license for their owners. She noted they still have to have a rabies vaccination by a vet and the license will only be for the lifetime of that particular dog. It is nontransferable or nonrefundable to any other dog or owner. Ms. Self has discussed this with the Sheriff’s office regarding this change and they did not see any issue with it and will continue to enforce the regulation as they do now. She noted that there are other localities that have switched to the lifetime tags due to it being less burdensome on the owner. The price will be higher initially but the owner will have a dog for an average of 10 years plus, so an ultimate savings. She noted that it would come into effect on January 1, 2026, if approved, and will start going on sale on October 1, 2025. Kennel, duplicate, and dangerous dog tag fees and requirements will remain the same due to their remaining the same at the state level.

Mr. McCormack asked how much time the Treasurer's Office put into the dog tags process.

Ms. Self stated that on average they have went over everything in 2024 and it is only a couple thousand and they spend an average of \$800 close for only 650 tags consider about mailing letters monthly about renewals. She noted that with the lifetime tags the amount at first would be higher and then level out. She has reached out to the company that they get the tags from and she can get triple the amount for lifetime for only a couple hundred more to last multiple years.

Mr. McCormack stated that the Treasurer's office will have a lot of work to do in October but next year will not be as bad.

Ms. Self stated yes and it is up to the owner to keep their pet vaccinated whether it is one or three years and the vets are required by law to send them the rabies vaccinations which will be updated in the system to see who is current and if it expires they can send a letter and after 30 days the tag in null in void.

Mr. Stuart stated that the Board needs to authorize the county administrator of this change and hold a public hearing.

Chairman Fisher asked if it was a change in the price if they are spayed or neutered or not.

Ms. Self stated that if they are spayed or neutered the tags are \$5.00 per year if they are not spayed or neutered it is \$10.00. she noted that switching it to a life time tag it will make the price \$20.00 across the board and she got that figure from the neighboring county that just switch to lifetime and that is what they are charging.

Mr. Taylor asked if it is an ordinance change and if it has to go through the Planning Commission.

Mr. Stuart answered no.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Ingram, seconded by McCormack, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and Chairman Fisher voting "aye". The Board approved to authorize the county administrator to advertise the ordinance change and hold a public hearing at the August meeting.

D. Appointment to Community Policy Management Team (CPMT), Jim Taylor, County Administrator

Mr. Taylor stated that this is the team that deals with the Children's Services Act, and they set the policy and approve the expenditures. Mr. Taylor recommended appointing Donna Cogswell, Assistant County Administrator to the Community Policy Management Team.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously. The Board approved the motion to appoint Donna Cogswell, Assistant County Administrator to the Community Policy Management Team.

E. Northern Neck Regional Jail Budget Amendment FY 24/25

Mr. Taylor stated that serving on the jail board there was a budget request for \$200,000 for the fiscal year that just ended. He noted that they had an increase in expenditures for things such as overtime, medical or pharmaceutical and were able to cover that through additional federal inmates. Mr. Taylor also stated that there is no cost to the localities but the way the jail is structured, any budget amendment has to come to each of the 4 participating localities. Chairman Fisher stated that each locality has to approve the amendment; it does not cost anything additional to be absorbed due to a change in the original proposed budget that was adopted by each locality.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by McCormack, carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and Chairman Fisher voting "aye". The Board approved the budget amendment for Northern Neck Regional Jail in the amount of \$200,000.00

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Fisher stated that they are now at the public comment portion of the meeting and asked anyone who would like to speak to come to the podium and state their name for the record and their concern addressing the Board. Below is who spoke during public comment.

Larry Hinson - he stated that he was hoping to have back up for the issues at the old Cople school but he will bring them back or the August meeting to talk about the issues. He hoped that VDOT would attend but he will give his road issues to Mr. Ingram to pass along to VDOT.

Mr. McCormack gave an updated on the old Cople School and stated that he stopped by the resident's house and have left messages. He noted that they have been trying to get in contact with the owner.

Linda G. Coates - she lives on Longfield road and had concerns about Custom T's Raceway events. She stated that there was a shooting there this past weekend and she wanted to know if the Board had any news on the person that was shot.

Chairman Fisher stated that they would not be the correct body to have that information; she will need to speak with the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Coates stated that she spoke with someone at the Sheriff's Department and they were not able to give her any other information. She noted that there have been several incidents over the years and nothing has been done or anything in the paper. She also heard that the shooting was about gambling and that she was not sure that it was legal to have gambling at those events or firearms. She asked if it would be possible to have them ban firearms so that it does not happen in large crowds and asked the regulations and requirements on security, emergency personnel. She also asked what the significance and involvement was in the county to make people want to have them in the county. She noted before Custom T's took over the events were only 1 day and now the lights are so bright that it blinds you when you drive by. She also asked if the Sheriff's department does checks every so often to make sure, everything is okay and if the county is liable for anything that happens there. She wanted to know if anyone in the Board has gone to any of the events to see what goes on and if the Board allowed them to have people stay overnight. Ms. Coates recommended that there should be a turning lane to help with traffic.

Richard Wilkins - He opened with a quoted that said " Life isn't about how you run, or how high you climb but by how bounce". He noted that the solar policy that is in place does not address anything 50 acres or less, and he felt that the regulations should apply regardless of the size. Mr. Wilkins felt that it was important to have language regarding if the solar farm is destroyed by a natural disaster, and the solar facility would be responsible, not the county or the landowner. He stated his concerns regarding Biosolids and stated that he agreed with Mr. Litefoot that Biosolids from any facility that test higher in PFAS that the EPA allows, it should be band in the county. Mr. Wilkins stated that there are other places that farmers can get their sludge and Maryland does not allow it, why should this county and the Board needs to take action. He made a comment to the news reporter and stated to do more reporting instead of recording. He then read another quote that stated, "Luck is where preparation meets opportunity."

Kevin Goldman - He wanted the Board to form a committee to look into the Biosolids issue and come aligned with what the adjoining counties are doing.

Mr. McCormack stated that he speaks to Mr. Litefoot regularly about PFAS and Biosolids. There is a meeting scheduled with the county administrator within the next few weeks on what to do moving forward. He noted that the Biosolids program is at the state level, the Board does not manage that program, and there are certain things they can and cannot do. He stated that they would need to speak to their state representatives on passing different legislations to figure something out.

Kenneth Johnson - He worked at the racetrack for 15 years, has also done security, and still attend the racetrack. He stated that people sitting back and wondering what really happens there and much of what is being said is not true. He stated that the previous owners had 3-day events and have had people stay overnight. He also stated that about the shooting that just happened, things happen and when he went to the track, last the owner had posted signs about not having firearms on the property. Mr. Johnson stated that there is always an issue with the things at Custom Ts and that the owner is trying his best to do what is supposed to do.

CLOSED SESSION: Under code section 2.2-3711.A7- with legal counsel and staff members pertaining to Custom T's Motorsports. Invited to the closed session is County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, Chief Blake Byrd, County Attorney, Sherriff Balderson, and Beth McDowell.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Ingram seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, the Board moved into closed session.

RECORDING WAS STOPPED, AND THE MEETING MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to return to Regular Session from Closed Session. Upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, the Board returned to Regular Session from Closed Session.

Chairman Fisher then asked for a Certification Motion stating that nothing other than what was listed on the call under Sec 2.2-3711(A)(7) was discussed during the Closed Session, and no action was taken.

Upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, Mr. Trivett, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Ingram, and the Chairman voted "aye." The Certification Motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher asked if there was any further business to bring before the Board, and then he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Taylor stated that during the storm, there were 1440 people without power and a tree fell that damaged a critical line, repairs are currently underway and restoration time is estimated for 2:45 a.m.

Mr. McCormack stated that his wife told him that they did not have power and they are in Stratford Harbor.

Mr. Taylor stated that the areas affected by the power outage were Westmoreland, Richmond County, Leedstown, Montross, Stratford Harbor, Phones wood and surrounding areas.

Mr. Trivett asked if they are still having a work session on July 28, 2025.

Mr. Taylor stated that the date conflicts with his schedule but they can look at scheduling something.

Chairman Fisher stated that he would be on vacation from Sunday to that Friday.

Mr. Taylor stated that the next meeting would be the second week in August unless the Board would like to schedule someone sooner.

Mr. Trivett stated that there are some things that need to be talked about sooner rather than later such as the state police investigation involving the transfer station and issue with the Colonial Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, which will need advice from legal counsel.

Chairman Fisher stated that we could schedule something before then or the first week in August.

Mr. Ingram stated that they could also talk about having a regional meeting pertaining to certain issues, such as Biosolids.

Mr. Ingram asked if July 22, 2025 would work.

Mr. McCormack stated that there is a meeting on the boat tax that day.

Mr. Trivett felt that the 22nd would work and would be advertised as a special meeting.

Chairman Fisher stated that they could continue this meeting.

Mr. Stuart stated that they would have to call for a special meeting.

Chairman Fisher answered yes, they would have to call for a special meeting and have an agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Taylor stated that if any Board members have any other agenda items they want on the special meeting that they could send them over.

Chairman Fisher asked if 4:00 p.m. would work.

All Board members present came to a consensus to call for a special meeting on July 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the boardroom.

With no further business, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the George D. English, Sr. Memorial Building.

Chairman, _____