

WESTMORELAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DRAFT MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2025

A regular meeting of the Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors was held Monday, August 11, 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

The Chairman received a request before the meeting and asked the public to turn down their phones or put them on vibrate.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Fisher asked the Supervisors if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Trivett asked to **add item 7E- Resolution declaring an official intent to reimburse expenditures from the proceeds of bonds and remove 3C and 3D- Resolutions for the Retirement of Anthony Darby and K9 Strict, and defer these until next month due to them not being able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.**

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and Chairman Fisher voting “aye” today’s agenda is now amended.

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3. COMMENT PERIOD

A. Chairman and Board Member Comments

Mr. McCormack thanked the Sheriff's Office for hosting the National Night Out this past week.

The Chairman stated that most of the board members were able to attend and enjoyed the evening, which was the biggest it has ever been. He noted that it was a shining example that people can come together, enjoy fellowship with one another, and receive appreciation both ways.

Sheriff Balderson came to the podium and said it was a great event. He mentioned they enjoy hosting it each year as a way to bring the community together, fostering camaraderie and mutual support. He emphasized that without teamwork between the Sheriff's office and the community their efforts would be wasted. Sheriff Balderson expressed gratitude to everyone who participated and specifically thanked First Sergeant Smith for his hard work coordinating vendors, the location, setup, cleanup, and more. He shared that they cooked 1,380 hotdogs and noted it was a successful event where everyone seemed to have a good time. He discussed with Mr. Ingram the possibility of extra parking to accommodate more vendors for next year's event. He also invited everyone to visit the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, where a video of National Night Out, recorded by an individual, will be posted soon after Sheriff Balderson reviewed and approved it. He concluded by thanking the Board and the community for their support and said they plan to continue hosting the event annually.

Mr. Ingram thanked Sheriff Balderson and First Sergeant Smith for their hard work and dedication to the community. He noted that these events are helpful because most people see officers at their worst times, but it is always important to show them respect because they are just doing their jobs. Mr. Ingram mentioned that the fellowship and conversations at the event will have a lasting positive impact on the county.

Mr. Trivett felt that First Sargent Smith should be commended for his hard work and dedication to the Back to School Book bag Bash in the Town of Colonial Beach. He noted that they gave away hundreds of book bags filled with supplies. Mr. Trivett stated that First Sargent Smith always puts 100% into anything he does.

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B. County Administrators' Comments

Mr. Taylor congratulated the Sheriff's Department on a great National Night Out and expressed that he was very impressed with the event. Mr. Taylor then gave an update on the Gardy's Mill Dam and stated that Crews have begun work on the Gardy's Mill Dam for the stabilization project, with materials and equipment on-site. The contractor has removed trees, guardrails, and portions of the roadway where the interim stabilization is to be located. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that it will be a long process, and DWR plans to hold a community meeting in the fall. The team is finalizing a database and working with the Planning District Commission to submit the information and determine next steps regarding the planning grant the county received for a housing assessment. Since the July 22, 2025, meeting, Mr. Taylor has reached out to other counties in the region to plan a regional summit or caucus and they are coordinating dates and logistics. More information will follow this week. They are aiming to hold a town hall meeting for each district on the 15th of each month, starting with District 1 in September. He noted that he would contact the Board to confirm dates and locations to share with the community. Today is the first day of school in Westmoreland and Richmond County and Mr. Taylor urged everyone to pay close attention to students and school buses. He thanked Cathy Rice, Superintendent, for her attendance, congratulated her on a successful first day of school, and noted that she will be attending the September meeting to provide an update on the schools. Mr. Taylor stated that Supervisor Hynson is recovering well and plans to attend the September meeting. He said they wish him well and look forward to seeing him soon.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Request for Approval of Minutes, Board of Supervisors Meetings – July 14, 2025, and July 22, 2025

Chairman Fisher stated that everyone should have had an opportunity to review the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on July 14, 2025, and the Special Meeting on July 22, 2025. The Chairman asked if any changes needed to be made to the minutes; if not, he asked for a motion to approve.

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With no further discussion, upon a motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the minutes from the July 14, 2025, and July 22, 2025, meetings, as presented.

5. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS

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

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

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. VDOT Monthly Report, David Beale, Resident Engineer

Mr. Beale was present and went over the monthly report below. He noted that they took over 17 tons of debris from New Monrovia Road. After Mr. Beale read the report, he asked if the Board had any questions.

Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Beale if they are able to get the streets swept before the Fall Festival on October 4, 2025.

Mr. Beale stated that they are planning to do the street sweeping in September before the fall festival.

Mr. Trivett asked whether Mr. Beale had a chance to look at the tree they discussed.

Mr. Beale stated that he sent his supervisor there and spoke to someone who worked at McDonald's, and he will follow up on the next steps.

Mr. Taylor thanked VDOT for their work removing all the debris from New Monrovia Road. Chairman Fisher asked about the requirements for removing trees that are in the right-of-way of traffic.

Mr. Beale stated that if a tree is in the right-of-way, they could decide what to do with it. If it is on private property, they will work with the landowner. They have an arborist who

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makes these decisions on a case-by-case basis. They also have designated locations for tree trimming or hire a contractor to cut everything along the route. He noted that they only get 10-20 miles of this work per year within the Northern Neck. Mr. Beale stated that if there are any trees that concern someone, they could be reported at the customer service center or by calling 1-800-FOR-ROAD.

Larry Hinson stated that when VDOT did the brush cutting by Food Lion, they did not pick up the litter. Mr. Beale stated that he would look into it.

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

Natasha Tucker, Town Manager, was present to discuss the events of the town.

- There are 3 events on Saturday August 16th, 2025 at Town Hill. Rod Run at the Beach at 7:00 a.m. and last all day. She noted that they would have awards for best in show, top 30, etc. World Photography Day and Water fest on Town Hill as well.
- On August 30, 2025, they will host the arts and crafts festival and music jam on Town Hill.
- They unveiled their main street sign and will have many opportunities in the future as the county has hired an Economic Development Director. Ms. Tucker looks forward to working with him and bringing many things in the Northern Neck.

Mr. Ingram stated that he was looking forward to going to the Rod Run and hasn't missed one since he was 16 years old.

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

Mr. Ingram stated that Ms. Taylor could not attend the meeting, but sent an email about the events in the town.

- Had a great First Friday last week despite the bad weather, and the last First Friday is September 5th, 2025

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- Getting ready for the Fall Festival on October 4, 2025, Mr. Ingram recognized the members of the committee who were present. He noted that they are looking for volunteers to help with many things for the fall festival.

D. Westmoreland State Park, Dave Myers, Park Manager

Dave Myers, Park Manager, was present and gave a presentation on the updates that have been done to Westmoreland State Park. He stated that he and his wife have been in 3 states and managed parks from California to Colorado. The community has welcomed him with open arms and love the area. He then showed the issues that are currently at the park. All cabins are currently closed for renovations and will reopen in October 2026. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the cabins in 1934-1935, the park opened in 1936, and the history is embedded in the cabins. They are maintaining the cabins' historical integrity while making them more exciting and updated. They have removed the floors to rebuild the floor joists but saved the original floors to reinstall and the bathrooms and kitchens have been updated. Mr. Myers stated that the July storms hit the park hard and had a microburst hit the park on July 1st doing extensive damage, including knocking down trees, crushing playground equipment, damage to cabins, and crushing a van. VDOT helped them that night with road clearing and getting visitors to safety. They are planning to rebuild the playground but it will take time. Mr. Myers stated that he is passionate about the community and what they do. They had a booth at National Night Out and spoke to many people what the park has to offer.

Mr. Ingram welcomed him to the county and mentioned that many residents have generational ties to the park. Mr. Ingram's grandfather was in the Civilian Conservation Corps, helped build the park, and loved seeing the cabins where his grandfather cut the logs. He noted that his father and brother worked at the park before joining the military. Mr. Ingram expressed his passion for the park and said he is fully committed to supporting anything needed for its well-being.

Mr. McCormack stated he also has ties to the state park, working as a maintenance ranger in several cabins. He mentioned that Rosemary Mahan does an excellent job at the

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Westmoreland County Museum and is hosting an event from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Westmoreland State Park.

Mr. Myers stated that they have several job openings at the park and if anyone is looking for a part time job to be a part of all of the history as well.

Chairman Fisher also welcomed him to the county, noting that he had learned how to swim at the state park. The Chairman then shared a story about when he was younger; he used to race his motorcycle down those harsh turns through the park. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the park preserving the history due to this county being so rich in history.

Mr. Taylor stated that the park is a great asset to the county and he thanked Mr. Myers for his attendance.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Boys and Girls Club, Supervisor Ingram

Mr. Ingram stated that the program started this summer in the county and was very well received by the residents. Mr. Ingram felt that the residents see the need to mold and mentor young minds to get them on the right path and give them opportunities that they would not have otherwise. He noted that the school does a great job but cannot do everything. Mr. Ingram thanked Ms. Rice for letting the Boys and Girls Club use the old high school building and thanked the county and citizens for their support of the club.

Philip Mumford, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club, stepped up to the podium to recognize Jackie Emmons, Marketing and Development Director, and Giles Scott, Operations Director. Mr. Mumford mentioned that Giles has previously worked in the county, served as a Richmond County Unit Board Member, and has been involved with the organization for several years.

Jackie Emmons came to the podium, gave a presentation, and showed pictures of the summer camp and activities that were done. She noted that summer camp began on June 9, 2025, and lasted 7 weeks. They had a great summer despite some challenges. She then thanked Mr. Ingram for his hard work and dedication to the organization. She stated that they hosted a very successful summer camp with 100 children weekly from Westmoreland County, and they brought in 80 additional kids from neighboring communities. She noted

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that they had more kids in this county than in Lancaster County, totaling 300 children in the Northern Neck. In this county, their camp provided a safe, educational environment where children could learn, grow, and build lasting relationships; the feedback from kids and parents was very positive. Ms. Emmons mentioned that they piloted bringing in 5-year-olds to the summer camp, which was very successful, and they will now implement it across all sites. Mr. Emmons then shared a story about the difficulties 5-year-olds face being away from their parents. There was a little boy named Mael who was having a hard time being away from his family and did not want to eat, drink, or play with the other kids. Ms. Emmons took extra time with him, eventually giving him the courage to go play and be happy. When the open house started for school, Mael walked in with the biggest smile, and Ms. Emmons hoped that with the organization, they would make the teachers' lives easier for the kindergarteners. They faced issues this summer, including transportation challenges. With these issues, they were unable to participate in the planned field trips and but still managed to make the time enjoyable for the children. They took the kids to Funland in Fredericksburg, fossil digging at Stratford Hall, bowling, and more. At the end of summer, they had many water activities, such as a water slide and a mechanical bull. She noted that Kathy Gould was a tremendous help to them, assisting with the pool at Glebe Harbor and Cabin Point Club, and providing 60 kids with swimming lessons. Ms. Emmons stated that they have a lot of room for growth and faced several challenges such as dealing with the new parents, BGCNN policies and procedures, and dealing with many new members. She noted that on September 18, 2025, is their corporate gala for fundraising, and she invited the Board to attend.

Philip Mumford came to the podium and stated that following the successful summer camp, members of the Westmoreland Steering Committee including, Cathy Rice, Board member Mathew Ingram, Former school board member Iris Lane and Kathy Gould met with the corporate board of director's. With the intent of trying, it be persuasive in getting the organization to commit to keeping a program in the county beyond the summer He noted that when they came before the board in the spring, they were only planning to have the summer camp and did not have a pathway financially to make it work. The team seemed to be persuasive and believed in the commitment in the people that was assembled in the

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county and have granted them the ability to continue the organization in Westmoreland County. He noted that they anticipate that with the success in the next 3-4 months they will be able to grow and build into several years to come. Mr. Mumford stated that they are eager to launch the fall program, which they aim to sustain momentum, and enthusiasm that was generated in the summer. The fall curriculum is designed to offer a wide range of activities including academic support, arts and craft, sports and stem related activities. This expanded program comes with several conditions around long term funding to ensure the financial success moving forward. The Steering Committee is committed to raising \$50,000 in community funding to come from individuals and businesses and willing to put on special events throughout the fall. August 14th the Lions Club is hosting a reception at the Glebe Harbor/Cabin Point Club House. August 20-21, 2025 they have worked put a partnership with Fishers Roadhouse and will be providing 10% of sales as a donation to the organization. October 11, 2025 they will be having an oyster roast at the Woodland Gym, with Ferron Hamblin providing music. November 1, 2025 the Mid Atlantic Wrestling will be hosting a Halloween competition held in the gym. More information will be provided later. Due to federal realignment of funding opportunities, their ability to seek state and federal grants is limited for the rest of this year. He noted that they have applied for private and state grants, such as the Department of Criminal Justice Prevention Funding, which helps kids stay out of trouble. If approved, they will start receiving funds in January. To ensure the success of the fall program with their limited resources, they are requesting that the Board consider increasing their 2025-2026 funding by \$24,000.00, bringing the total request to \$60,000 for the year. With the increased funds and the work of the Steering Committee, they will be able to expand outreach and continue providing quality programs in the county. The funds will be used to hire and train staff to maintain a low child-to-staff ratio, with plans for five team members to be stationed here throughout the year. Their goal is always to maintain a 1-15 and 1-20 maximum adult-to-child ratio. He also mentioned that they are seeking volunteers to work alongside staff. The club will be open after school starting today, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and some weekends for special events. When schools are closed, they will remain open for members from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weather permitting. The programs, supplies, and materials funded by these funds will be used to

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offer educational, recreational, and sports activities. They will ensure a safe and functional environment for participants with daily cleaning, necessary repairs, and maintenance within their organization's capacity, without always relying on the school board. During the fall, their nutritional food program will provide each child with a healthy dinner and snack each day. The support from the Board is crucial in helping them inspire young people across the area to realize their full potential. With additional funding, they will continue to offer programs that empower youth and contribute positively to the community. Mr. Mumford stated that the fall programs will not only complement the success of the summer camp but will set the stage for a brighter future for the kids. They asked for the Boards consideration of this request and hope to discuss the proposal further with the Board.

After the presentation, Mr. Mumford asked the Board if they had any questions.

Mr. Ingram asked the Boys and Girls Club to show the last picture from their slide show with all of the children that attended in front of the old high school. He asked everyone to look at the kids and if they are not doing it for them, whom are they doing it for? He noted that it was amazing hearing the building come back to life when you heard all of the kids playing, having fun, engaged and in a safe environment. Mr. Ingram thanked the boys and girls club for all they do for the kids and the county welcomes them warmly. He also thanked the school board for letting the organization use the building.

Mr. McCormack stated that many people that move here have issues for funding with schools if they do not have any. Mr. McCormack felt that it would cost the taxpayers even more if they do not have an organization such as the Boys and Girls Club in the county when the children do not have anything to do and get into trouble. Mr. McCormack stated that he was not the best kids growing up and there may be some restitution he had to pay. He noted that some kids do not have a meal when they go home and do not eat anything until they get to school the next day and the Boys and Girls Club helps fill the gap and help the parents with transportation from the school to the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. McCormack is a huge advocate for the Boys and Girls Club and has his full support moving forward.

Mr. Trivett asked Mr. Taylor if he reviewed the request and if the funding is available.

Mr. Taylor confirmed that he was aware of the requested amount and that the funding is available. He noted that it would be a budget amendment and have identified a potential

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funding source for it, if it is the Boards pleasure. They can provided a recommendation of where the fund will be transferred.

Mr. Trivett thanked the Boys and Girls Club and that he has heard nothing but praises for the program. He noted that it is a great thing to see the building being used and that Mr. Ingram did a great job with all the work he has done. Mr. Trivett agreed with Mr. Ingram if you can repurpose something it is a great thing due to others in the county that was not repurposed and fell or actively falling. Mr. Trivett is looking forward to seeing the building grow and the possibilities that will come from it. Mr. Trivett agreed with the other Board members that anything they could do to keep the kids off the street and give them something that is positive is a big deal. Mr. Trivett noted that he is in full support if the funding is available.

Chairman Fisher believed they can find the funding, but the reality is he and the other Board members have not taken the time to understand how important it is to provide positive opportunities for children at this stage. Chairman Fisher stated that at Northern Neck Regional Jail, in the juvenile detention facility, he can see when children fall through the cracks when investments in programs and opportunities are lacking, and he considers the future outcomes. His concern is the buy-in and commitment from the kids and parents, the willingness to participate, and felt that they are on the right track currently. He noted that if they need to cut funds elsewhere to support this program, it would be money well spent, and they should always strive to do as many positive things as possible for the children. Chairman Fisher mentioned that it seems to be the consensus of the Board to consider this now, contingent upon the county administrator providing reassurance that the funds are available. He noted that if they cannot find the necessary funds, they could utilize the contingency fund. Chairman Fisher was impressed by the feedback he had heard from the community about the program. If the kids are excited to attend, it is a good sign, and it is important to have a structure that sticks with them forever.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Ingram, and seconded by Mr. Trivett. Before the vote, the Chairman asked if they had to identify where funds would be taken from in the motion. Mr. Taylor recommends that the funds be taken from the General Fund.

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With no further discussion, the vote was carried unanimously with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and Chairman Fisher voting “aye.” The Board approved the motion to allocate \$24,000 from the General Fund to the Boys and Girls Club so they can meet their goals and serve the community in the fall.

Chairman Fisher stated that after the vote he could hear the people online cheering and heard people say, “Yes, they did a good thing for the children.”

B. PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of Modification of County Dog Tag and Fees Ordinance §3.2-6524, Interim Treasurer, Bonnie Self

Chairman Fisher stated that he spoke with Mr. Stuart regarding this item.

Mr. Stuart stated they do not have the exact language which he felt was okay. Mr. Stuart thought that Ms. Self would propose to amend the existing dog tag ordinance to make a very simple \$20 dog tag fee, regardless of sex or other factors. He noted that if the Board agrees, they can proceed with the public hearing and he will bring the amended language to the next meeting for the Board to approve.

Ms. Self stated she has brought before the Board the modification of the dog tags. What is currently in place is a yearly dog tag fee; if the dogs are spayed or neutered the fee is \$5.00, if not, it is \$10.00. She noted that they are trying to take the burden off the taxpayers and make it a one-time fee of \$20.00 across the board, whether the dogs are spayed or neutered or not. They have to keep the rabies vaccine up to date; they are allowed to let it lapse for only one month. If it goes past that, the vaccine is invalid. Ms. Self felt that it would be a burden off her office and be cost-efficient in the end. It may cost more initially, but it will save the county money later. Ms. Self then asked the Board if they had any questions.

There were no questions from the Board, and the Chairman opened the public hearing for Consideration of the Modification of the County Dog Tag and Fees Ordinance §3.2-6524.

Richard Wilkins- he asked if it would still be an option do the every year tag if you have an older dog.

Ms. Self stated that it would not be an option due to them wanting to switch it entirely and it would be more cost effective to the taxpayers and the county.

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Larry Hinson- he stated that being a past member of the Northern Neck Humane Society and a member of the King George Rescue league, he felt that it was a great idea and thanked Ms. Self for it.

Let the record show that no one else came to the podium to speak and the Chairman closed the public hearing for Consideration of the Modification of the County Dog Tag and Fees Ordinance §3.2-6524.

Mr. Stuart asked if the Board would consider tabling the motion until the next meeting so they are able to get the proper language that amends the ordinance for the Board review and approval and they will not have to do the public hearing again.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and Chairman Fisher voting “aye.” The Board approved the motion to table the Consideration of the Modification of the County Dog Tag and Fees Ordinance §3.2-6524 until the next meeting.

C. Personal Property Tax Relief Resolution 2025 (PPTR), Commissioner of the Revenue – Will Hoover

Mr. Hoover was present to discuss the Personal Property Tax Relief Resolution and gave a presentation. He read the presentation slide by slide and explained that the Personal Property Act is a statewide program. The actual relief depends on the localities' allocated state funds and the vehicle's value. It only offsets the personal property tax on the first \$20,000 of the assessed value. Qualifying vehicles valued at \$1,000 or less will receive 100% tax relief, vehicles valued between \$1,001 and \$20,000 will have the relief percentage applied, and vehicles valued over \$20,000 will receive the recommended tax relief percentage on the first \$20,000 of assessed value. He then reviewed the qualifying and disqualifying conditions. The vehicle must be owned or leased and used primarily for non-business purposes, such as a passenger vehicle, motorcycle, pickup, or panel truck, and must weigh 10,000 pounds or less. His next slide showed a history of personal property tax relief over the years, noting that in 2024 the percentage was 20.5%. He then presented a graph projecting the 2025 personal property relief at 20.5%, 21.5%, and 22%. He pointed out that at 22%, the county would face a shortfall of \$23,000, and at 21.5%, a

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shortfall of \$3,000, with some flexibility through supplements. Mr. Hoover's recommendation was 21.5%, and the tax rate for qualifying vehicles valued at \$20,000 would remain unchanged. The tax relief in 2024 at 20.5% was \$153.75, and at 21.5%, it would be \$161.25. However, the total savings from last year to this year would be \$7.50. After the presentation, Chairman Fisher asked if the Board members had any questions. Mr. McCormack asked, even though the percentage is higher than last year, will it lower overall for the taxpayers? Mr. Hoover stated that they would get more relief. The Chairman asked what the pleasure of the Board was.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. Ingram, and carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and Chairman Fisher voting "aye." The Board approved the motion to adopt a Personal Property Tax Relief Resolution of 21.5% for 2025, as presented.

D. Board of Zoning Appeals Member – District 5

The Chairman asked Mr. Trivett if there was a representative to be nominated from District 5.

Mr. Trivett thanked Peggy Campbell for her 15 years of service on the Board of Zoning Appeals and is stepping down due to health reasons.

Mr. Trivett stated that his nomination for the Board of Zoning Appeals for District 5 is Thomas Andrews. He resides in Colonial Beach and is a retired Chief in the Virginia Coast Guard, and worked in D.C. for many years for the Senate. Mr. Trivett felt that he would be a good candidate to replace her.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. Trivett, seconded by Mr. McCormack, and carried unanimously, Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and the Chairman voted "aye". The Board approved the nomination of Thomas Andrews to the Board of Zoning Appeals for District 5.

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E. Resolution declaring an official intent to reimburse expenditures from the proceeds of bonds

Mr. Taylor stated that Davenport recommended the resolution, which would give the county options regarding funds that were recently spent on the HVAC system at the Judicial Center. Davenport has been working on a plan, and part of that plan may include adding the project to the capital plan. If so, this resolution will allow them the option to borrow the money through a bond rather than paying cash. He noted that it does not bind the county to anything but provide the option to borrow if the Board decides to do so later.

The Chairman stated that they have been informed the purpose of potentially adopting the resolution as they are reviewing how to proceed with capital projects in the best way possible, working with financial advisors. He then asked what the Board's pleasure was. With no further discussion, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Ingram, carried unanimously, with Mr. Trivett, Mr. Ingram, Mr. McCormack, and Chairman Fisher voting "aye." The Board approved the motion to adopt the Resolution declaring an official intent to reimburse expenditures from the proceeds of bonds as presented.

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.

Ben Prescott - an army veteran, lives in Coles Point. He reviewed the last meetings and had several questions following them. He could relate to Mr. Taylor regarding how hard it is to get feedback from residents in a survey. Mr. Prescott asked why the replacement of the public works tractor not discussed in the budgetary process. He noted that he could not imagine that the tractor stopped working out of nowhere and asked why there was not any vehicle maintenance schedules or why it was not in the capital improvement plan. He was concerned about taking money from the contingency fund of the sewer side to cover the tractor, which

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could have been paid for in a different way. He then asked questions regarding the upgrades to the radio that was approved from the general funds in the amount of \$600,000. He noted that the current radio system has been around for more than 18 months. Mr. Prescott understood that there was an emergency, and had to do extra work to get the communications back and had to make the swap. He then quoted Mr. McCormack from the last meeting when he said, “You can talk about us, but you can’t talk without us”. Mr. Prescott felt that \$400,000 for 40 radios is expensive and that you can buy the same quality radio for less than half the cost. He asked why they were buying 40 radios without any backups, because if one breaks, you will not have a replacement. He asked if there is a cheaper alternative to where you can buy backups just in case if one breaks. He noted that the microwave systems in the county are going to have to be replaced for \$2-3 million. He inquired about alternative processes or ideas and questioned why they had rushed into the purchase without a thorough thought process. Mr. Prescott stated that at the last Special Meeting, Mr. Ingram spoke about the regionalization of fire departments and wastewater treatment plants. Mr. Prescott was surprised that communications were not on the list. He noted that there are regional communication systems all over the state and was surprised that it was not investigated those options before jumping into the purchase. He stated that Chief Byrd gave a great presentation but he wondered if the Board jumped the gun due to what happened with the lighting strike. Mr. Prescott spoke with Chairman Fisher prior to the meeting and discussed the county seal. He felt that the county seal is fine the way it is and it would be expensive to replace every county seal on all vehicles, buildings, etc. Mr. Prescott didn’t think the county seal was a priority if the county doesn’t have the funds, as they claim. Mr. Prescott stated that he was familiar with AT&T First Net, a cellular system that is ideal for those seeking a high-end mobile phone. However, if lightning strikes the tower again, the cellular system will also drop and is limited value. Mr. Prescott felt that it was not the best use of taxpayers’ dollars.

Larry Hinson - He asked what the age group was for the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Ingram answered that the age group is 5-18. Mr. Hinson stated that many people are interested in establishing a YMCA for adults in the county, and the neighboring counties have a YMCA and are very successful.

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Mr. Hinson stated that he sent a picture to Board members of a county sign that the paint is chipped off and needs to be replaced. It is east bound on the King George and Westmoreland County line. Mr. Hinson agreed with Mr. Prescott on leaving the county seal alone other than adding The Birthplace of George Washington and James Monroe. He also sent a picture to the Board members of a sign that is bent when VDOT was cutting grass. Mr. Hinson stated that he used to get bids for grass cutting for the transfer station and have not gotten one in a few years. He noted that the bids are normally in the paper but has not been in some time.

Chairman Fisher stated they will look into it and will follow up with Mr. Hinson.

Mr. Hinson stated that when he worked for the county last year he suggested the county rent a bush hog for \$350 a day and get it done cheaper than hiring a contractor.

Richard Wilkins - Mr. Wilkins read a quote that said, "Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don't." He stated that years ago the county announced the bids for the transfer station and accepted the lowest bid at the time. He noted that the county approved to purchase a tractor and several lawnmowers for cutting grass. He inquired whether the county had followed the bid process to purchase them or had given them to whomever they chose; if not, he asked why. Mr. Wilkins believed that advertising purchases of that nature would help them determine the best price. Mr. Wilkins requested that someone follow up with him with answers. He then read another quote that said, "We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing, actions always generate inspiration, and inspiration seldom generates action."

Rosemary Mahan - She is the Director of the Westmoreland County Museum and stated that they are trying to schedule a lecture at least once a month and have partnered up with the A.T Johnson Building. On August 22, 2025, they are having Westmoreland State Park come and talk about the Civilian Conservation Corps. On August 28, 2025, Ms. Daisy Howard-Douglas is coming to do a story telling of Kathy Williams. She noted that she comes as a buffalo soldier who pretended to be a man when she served as a buffalo soldier to get \$13 a month. Ms. Mahan invited the Board to the event and stated that they will be doing a lecture on Black Beard the Pirate. She stated that they are organizing numerous lectures and events to prepare for the celebration of the county's 250th anniversary. She noted that she does not get on the agendas like the towns or departments for updates and wanted to give her update during public comment. She then thanked the Board for their support for the museum and everything that

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has been done so far, and has many people interested in seeing the other building. In addition, noted that she is in search of volunteers for many different capacities. Ms. Mahan felt that they have had a great turn out of people coming in to the museum and will really take off next year. Chairman Fisher told Ms. Mahan if she every wants to give an update regarding the museum to let them know and they will make sure she is on the agenda.

Mr. Ingram stated that he visited the museum and had a 2-hour tour. He encouraged all residents of the county to visit the museum and see all of the history that is just right down the street. He thanked Ms. Mahan for giving him the tour and taking the time with him.

Mr. Trivett thanked Ms. Mahan as well and stated that he brought his grandchildren there and they still talk about all of the exhibits that are in the museum. He noted that she did a great job of teaching them something that they knew nothing about.

Cathy Rice - Superintendent of Westmoreland County Schools thanked the Board for their support of the Boys and Girls Club. She noted that it was an exciting thing to watch the Board take the vote and thanked them for the financial support.

Chairman Fisher thanked Ms. Rice for the school's participation in the endeavor as well.

Iris Lane – She is retired from the Department of Education and thanked the Board for their commitment to the Boys and Girls Club and they are an evidence based program and is shown to be effective. She noted that it was something that she wanted to get going when she was on the school board that never happened and stated that you have to be on the Board to get things done. She noted that the Virginia Twin River Waterman's Annual Crab Feast is on September 6, 2025 and she invited everyone to come. She stated that it is their annual fundraiser and part of the money raised goes towards scholarships for students.

Larry Hinson - He asked if the TV monitor that is behind them could be replaced due to it being grainy during presentations. Chairman Fisher stated that they will consider it and stated that there are 2 different types of projections systems, one is higher definition and the other is a projector so you will get different views.

Chairman Fisher stated that with his many vocations, if you are not careful, it could lead you into a dark place. Over the years, he has been able to keep conversations light. He noted that he is also a mortician and funeral director, and every call is someone he knew. He has the ability, through the light side of his personality, to handle conflicts and controversies, whether in a

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public meeting or elsewhere. He apologized if some might think he is not serious because of that. He mentioned that he would say certain things that make people laugh, only for them to go home later and realize he had cut them to the bone. He urged people to be careful about laughing at what he says, as there is often a lot of seriousness behind it. Chairman Fisher said that he always tries to keep the conversation light, even though the topics they discuss are serious. The Chairman then shared a story about passing through the county in the past, noting that there was always a baseball diamond in someone's yard and a basketball net nailed to a tree or a post. Interaction, children, gathering, supervised by having adults in the house looking outside. He noted that kids learned how to communicate with each other, have socialization skills, and have structure. He stated that one kid may have the ball and the other may have the goal, and all kids played together. The Chairman felt that the Boys and Girls Club have and will instill those same things and will make the world a better place. He stated that when he was younger, there was a boy who had a basketball, and they made a basketball court at another house. Therefore, he brought the ball, and all of the kids played together, but he got mad and went home, and that was the end of the game. Chairman Fisher stated that it made them learn a lesson to get along with people and it sticks with you forever.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher asked if there was any further business to bring before the Board, and then he asked for a motion to adjourn. With no further business, upon motion by Mr. McCormack, seconded by Mr. Trivett, and carried unanimously, the Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the George D. English, Sr. Memorial Building.

Chairman, _____