

**VIRGINIA:** At the Work Session of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, held on the 7th day of July 2021, in the Cafetorium at Metompink Elementary School, located at 24501 Parksley Road, Parksley, Virginia 23421 at 5:00PM.

**Members Present:**

Ron S. Wolff, Chair  
William J. "Billy" Tarr, Vice-Chair  
Donald L. Hart, Jr.  
C. Reneta Major  
Robert D. Crockett  
Vanessa Kay Johnson  
H. Jackie Phillips (J. Phillips)  
Paul E. J. Muhly  
Harrison W. Phillips, III (H. Phillips)

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Present:**

Mr. Michael T. Mason, County Administrator  
Mrs. Jan Proctor, County Attorney  
Ms. Chicnika Weatherley, Administrative Assistant II

**Call to order:**

There being a quorum, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors Work Session was called to order by Chairman Ron Wolff at 5:00PM.

**1.1 Invocation:** The invocation was given by Mr. Hart.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance:** All in attendance

**1.3 Adoption of the Agenda:**

Motion to adopt the agenda as distributed was made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Ms. Major. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Old Business:

Accomack County Administrator, Mike Mason briefed the Board on the purpose of the work session, with a recap of speaker comments from June 2, 2021 Town Hall Meeting on ARPA uses and suggestions:



ACCOMACK COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WORK SESSION

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OF 2021 FUNDING

JULY 7, 2021

## Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- ❖ The purpose of tonight's meeting is for the Board to discuss parameters for ARPA spending based on community needs and public suggestions.
- ❖ Tonight's meeting is a work session and, as is customary with work sessions, there will be no public comment opportunities.
- ❖ No formal action is expected to be taken tonight rather specific actions regarding ARPA will be considered at future Board regular monthly meetings which occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

## Public Comment Summary from Town Hall Meeting

❖ The Board previously conducted a town hall meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for the purpose of receiving public comment on suggested County uses of ARPA funds.

- ❖ 24 members of the public spoke at this meeting.
- ❖ A summary of public comments offered by major subject is below:
  - ❖ Broadband - 10
  - ❖ New Library Construction - 1
  - ❖ Groundwater - 1
  - ❖ Child Care - 2
  - ❖ Return to Work Bonuses - 1
  - ❖ General comments - 1
  - ❖ Volunteer Fire and Rescue Support for lost revenue - 2
  - ❖ Food Insecurity - 1
  - ❖ MNS Cultural Center/Child Care - 2
  - ❖ "In Touch Academy" - 1
  - ❖ Domestic Violence - 1
  - ❖ Tourism/Chincoteague Chamber - 1

## Staff's Perspective

- ❖ From a staff perspective, it would be helpful if the Board established its priority areas, general support parameters and perhaps set a tentative budget for each priority area.
  - ❖ Staff can bring back specific recommendations at future Board meetings designed to achieve the Board's priorities.
- ❖ Potential external recipients of funds will be subject to the same compliance requirements as the County for spending these federal ARPA.

## Suggested Practices to Observe for Making Decisions

- ❖ Encourage public input before setting priorities
- ❖ Avoid using ARPA funds for recurring expenditures
- ❖ Think in terms of competitive programs vs. individual assistance packages
- ❖ Consider coordination with Towns if there are overlapping needs
- ❖ Consider current needs but, ideally, invest in projects that will build for the future
- ❖ Resist the need to make immediate decisions if not absolutely critical
  - ❖ You have until 12/31/24 to obligate & 12/31/26 to spend

## Suggested Practices to Observe for Making Decisions

- ❖ Follow recommendations from the Commonwealth Office of Broadband regarding broadband plans:
  - ❖ Defer starting specific broadband projects until the General Assembly Special Session (8/18 start) is completed.
    - ❖ State Fiscal Recovery Fund has \$4.3B to be appropriated by GA
    - ❖ Governor Northam - "Fully deploy broadband across Virginia. The pandemic highlighted a fundamental economic reality: People without broadband get left behind. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Let's accelerate a 10-year plan over the next 18 months—and bring broadband to all of Virginia's cities and rural areas
    - ❖ Expected significant expansion of VATI grant program/Local fiscal recovery funds will provide match

## 2.2 Discuss Uses of ARPA Funds

The Board held discussion on the following uses of ARPA funds:

### Broadband:

- Mr. Wolff addressed the Board concerning prior citizen suggestions from the town hall meeting and stated that Broadband was a top priority. He asked the Board to defer starting any broadband projects until plans for state grant funds were announced so that the County could maintain its ARPA Funds as match funding for state grants.
- Mr. Hart concurred with Mr. Wolff that Broadband was a top priority, and suggested that a meeting with A&N Electric Company and the Broadband Authority be held to discuss the possibility of establishing a co-op expenditure. *(During the discussion the Board did not agree to form a committee to meet with ANEC to discuss a co-op for the expenditure.)*
- Mr. Crockett concurred that Broadband was a must and suggested the Board request the Eastern Shore Virginia Broadband Authority (ESVA) to draft a plan for the County, disclosing what various County investments, would buy such as \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 in County funds or provide an estimate for the cost of the expenditure with a project completion date.
- Mr. J. Phillips concurred that Broadband was a top priority, he also added that the ESVA has an agreement with ANEC and they were working on a 5 year agreement, He added project overhead cost was not an issue, the major issues were labor cost and funding.

- Mr. Muhly concurred that Broadband was a top priority, he also supported Mr. Hart's idea of A&N Electric Company and Broadband Authority establishing a co-op, to expand services.
- Ms. Major concurred with Mr. Hart on Broadband being a top priority, she also encourage the community to attend ANEC meetings and express the need for the expenditure.

(Consensus was obtained among the Board that the County Administration draft a letter of intent declaring the County would apply for a VATI grant in partnership with the Eastern Shore Virginia Broadband Authority.)

#### **Volunteer Fire Departments:**

- Mr. Crockett suggested funding be provided to the Volunteer Fire Departments, due to their inability to hold company fundraiser during the pandemic.
- Mr. J. Phillips concurred that the fire departments receive funding for operational cost.

#### **Childcare:**

- Ms. Major suggested funding be given to childcare providers and center to accommodate the need for services in community. She also added that childcare services was no longer under Social Services, it is currently a part of the Department of Education.
- Mr. H Phillips concurred with Ms. Major that a portion of the funding be set aside for childcare services. He also suggested funding be available to the library. *The discussion ensued concerning additional funding for the library.*

### **3. New Business**

#### **3.1 Obtain Board Consensus for Staff to pursue an Enterprise Zone Amendment or Expansion to include property owned by the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority along Wallops Island Road.**

Deputy County Administrator of Building, Planning & Economic Development, Rich Morrison briefed the Board regarding a request for the Board to amend Enterprise Zone to include the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (VCSFA) property (Tax Map# 56-2-4-A) to support economic development efforts. The Board provided consensus that changes to existing Enterprise Zone be pursued with a formal vote on these changes scheduled for a later date.

**4. Informational Items:**

The following informational items were distributed to Board:

**4.1 June 2, 2021 Staff Overview of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) Established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.**

**4.2 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Fact Sheet**

**4.3 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule Issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury.**

**4.4 Frequently Asked Questions-Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.**

**4.5 Commonwealth Connect PPT on Broadband and CSLFRF.**

**5. Adjournment:**

Motion for adjournment was made at 6:25pm by Mr. Crockett and seconded by Mr. J. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Signature of Chairman**

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**Date**