

At the Regular Meeting of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, held on the 14th day of December 2023, at the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company located at 5052 Deep Hole Road Chincoteague, VA 23336.

1. Opening of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

Board of Supervisors Present:

William J. “Billy” Tarr

Robert D. Crockett, Chair

Ron S. Wolff

Donald L. Hart, Jr.

Vanessa Kay Johnson

H. Jackie Phillips (J. Phillips)

Paul E. J. Muhly

Harrison W. Phillips, III (H. Phillips), Vice-Chair

C. Reneta Major

Board of Supervisors Absent:

None

Others Present:

Mr. Michael T. Mason, County Administrator

Ms. Jan Proctor, County Attorney

Mrs. Jessica Taylor Hargis, Executive Assistant

Chairman Crockett requested a moment of silence to honor the late Supervisor Laura Belle Gordy who had passed away on December 7, 2023. Ms. Gordy was a longtime District 7 representative having served seven four-year terms, on the Accomack Board of Supervisors, retiring in 2019.

1.1 The Invocation was given by Mr. Wolff

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Wolff, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the agenda as it was presented.

1.4 Consider Allowing Remote Participation of Board Member(s) (if warranted)

There was no request for Remote Participation.

2. Public Comment

2.1 Public Comment Rules

Ms. Proctor read the Public Comment rules into the record. The following person signed up to speak:

1. Daniel Hagan – Chincoteague, VA – Hagan Industries dba Quantum Real Estate Reviewed his proposed housing project for veteran housing, the Never Leave a Veteran Behind project proposed in the Town of Parksley. Mr. Hagan requested that the Board approve the letter of support on its Consent Agenda.

3. Consideration of Minutes

3.1 November 15, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Wolff, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the November 14, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

4. Recognitions

The following resolutions were presented by Chairman Crockett:

- 4.1 Presentation of Resolution to Samuel Cooper, Clerk of the Circuit Court, recognizing 40 years of service to the County.

Mr. Cooper was unable to attend; the staff agreed to deliver his resolution.



Board of Supervisors Resolution Commending The Honorable Samuel H. Cooper, Jr.

WHEREAS, the Honorable Samuel 'Sammy' H. Cooper, Jr., who has faithfully served Accomack County since 1984, following his election in 1983, has announced his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper broke barriers for Accomack County as he was the first-ever African American candidate to win and serve as a Constitutional Officer on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the further, first-ever African American to serve in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper has dedicated 40 years to providing his expertise and guidance to the citizens and Accomack County Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the position of the Clerk of Circuit Court is an officer of the Court, the work contributed to the County is immeasurable as the office is the recordkeeper for all of the County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, for 40 years, Mr. Cooper has ensured that his office has fulfilled the mission of the court to provide an effective, efficient, fair, and open forum for adjudication, under the law, of every sort of civil and criminal controversy that can be decided in the courts of the county; and

WHEREAS, having served five eight-year terms with such pride and distinction, not only within Accomack County but throughout Virginia, Mr. Cooper's presence within the County government will be sorely missed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as an expression of the Board's admiration and profound respect for his contributions to Accomack County, this resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and presented to the Honorable Samuel H. Cooper, Jr. on this fourteenth day of December 2023.

A blue ink signature of Robert D. Crockett.

**Robert D. Crockett, Chair
District 6 Supervisor**

A blue ink signature of Harrison W. Phillips, III.

**Harrison W. Phillips, III, Vice Chair
District 5 Supervisor**

- 4.2 Presentation of Resolution to Debbie Midgett, Commissioner of Revenue, recognizing 42 years of service to the County
Ms. Midgett expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Board.



**Board of Supervisors Resolution Commending
The Honorable Deborah T. Midgett**

WHEREAS, the Honorable Deborah T. Midgett has diligently served the citizens of Accomack County for 41 years, being hired in May 1982 and working her way to Commissioner of the Revenue; and

WHEREAS, through her years of experience in the office of the Commissioner of Revenue, Ms. Midgett was able to guide her coworkers diligently; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, having worked in the office for 25 years, Ms. Midgett completed the Commissioners of the Revenue's Career Development Program to attain recognition of Master Chief Deputy; and

WHEREAS, recognition of Master Chief Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue is a high honor, only achieved by those about to demonstrate the advanced knowledge, competency, and professional accomplishment of Commissioners and Deputies; and

WHEREAS, following the death of former Commissioner of the Revenue Ms. Leslie Savage, voters through a special election, elected Ms. Deborah T. Midgett to continue her service and leadership as Commissioner of the Revenue; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ms. Midgett provided the County with her expertise and guidance through the implementation of its Fire and Emergency Services Volunteer Tax Relief Program, a great achievement for the County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its gratitude to Ms. Deborah T. Midgett, Commissioner of the Revenue for her service and express its sincere well wishes on the occasion of her retirement.

*Adopted and presented on this fourteenth day of December 2023,
by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Crockett", written over a horizontal line.

**Robert D. Crockett, Chair
District 6 Supervisor**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harrison W. Phillips, III", written over a horizontal line.

**Harrison W. Phillips, III, Vice Chair
District 5 Supervisor**

- 4.3 Presentation of Resolution to Ron Wolff, Supervisor Election District 2
Mr. Wolff thanked the Chairman and fellow supervisors for their support over the years.



**Board of Supervisors Resolution
Commending Ron S. Wolff**

WHEREAS, Ron S. Wolff, began his service in Accomack County as a public-school teacher, athletics referee, and restaurant owner, later becoming a community leader when elected as District 2 Supervisor in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Ron S. Wolff continued on to serve five four-year terms and served as Chair and Vice-chair five times, leading the Board to serve its constituents and overseeing many improvements within the County; and

WHEREAS, Ron Wolff served as an advocate for the progressive development at Wallops Research Parks and Wallops Flight Facility, working alongside Aerospace industry officials such as NAVY, NASA, VA Space, and Rocket Lab; and

WHEREAS, he worked diligently to ensure taxes remained low for citizens, increase pay for employees, and addressed the need for housing to support the growing workforce; and

WHEREAS, Ron Wolff worked to better services offered to the citizens of Accomack County such as the expansion of internet services, litter collection and recycling, emergency service providers, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, also serving on many committees including the Wallops Research Park Council, Accomack County Solid Waste Committee, Eastern Shore 9-1-1 Commission, and Eastern Shore Rail Train Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors expresses its appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Ron S. Wolff as a member of the Board and wishes him the best in his future endeavors, continuing to serve the citizens of Accomack County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as an expression of the Board's humble admiration and profound respect for his contributions to Accomack County, this resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and presented to Mr. Ron S. Wolff on this fifteenth day of December 2023.



**Robert D. Crockett, Chair
District 6 Supervisor**



**Harrison W. Phillips, III, Vice Chair
District 5 Supervisor**

- 4.4 Presentation of Resolution to Paul Muhly, Supervisor Election District 4

Mr. Muhly thanked the Board for their civility and respect over his two terms.



**Board of Supervisors Resolution Commending
Paul E. J. Muhly – Supervisor, Election District 4**

WHEREAS, Paul E. J. Muhly, a Rochester, New York native and United States Army Veteran found himself drawn to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 2004, immediately beginning his contributions to the County through community involvement; and

WHEREAS, unseating his incumbent in the November 3, 2015 election, Mr. Muhly represented District 4 for two four-year terms as constituents reelected him to represent the district in the 2019 election; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Muhly epitomized what it means to be an elected official as he brought forward and represented the expressed interests of his District 4 constituents to the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, his devotion to good government has benefited both the citizens and employees of Accomack County through his work to keep tax rates low while providing services and advocating for better employee pay; and


WHEREAS, Mr. Muhly shared his dedication to preserving the groundwater in Accomack County through his service on the Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee; and

WHEREAS, admiring both history and the growth of small communities, Mr. Muhly often participated in conversation to preserve the history and uniqueness of the Eastern Shore, while also advocating for improved public services and economic development as he served as liaison to the Accomack County Economic Development Authority; and


WHEREAS, his devotion and commitment to the Eastern Shore included maintaining the beauty of the Eastern Shore, Mr. Muhly volunteered his time to little pick-up and Waste Watchers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors bids a fond farewell to its respected colleague, acknowledging his contributions to Accomack County.

**Adopted by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and
presented to Mr. Paul E. J. Muhly on this fourteenth day of December 2023.**



Robert D. Crockett, Chair
District 6 Supervisor



Harrison W. Phillips, III, Vice Chair
District 5 Supervisor

4.5 Presentation of Resolution to Harrison W. Phillips, III, Supervisor Election District 5

Mr. Phillips thanked Chairman Crockett, fellow Board members, and citizens for allowing him to serve them over the last eight years.



**Board of Supervisors Resolution Commending
Harrison Warren Phillips, III – Supervisor, Election District 5**

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison Phillips, elected in November 2015, is the second youngest person to be elected as a Board Supervisor in Accomack County history at 33 years old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips is an Eastern Shore native who has spent a lifetime contributing to the Eastern Shore as he supports his family’s small business, Jaxon’s Hardware, to continue to meet the needs of residents, being recognized in 2023, as Small Business Person of the Year by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, his desire to further contribute led him to serve two successful terms on the Accomack County Board of Supervisors representing the desires of his constituents to better the roadways, address housing needs and community improvements; and


WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips played a vital role in bringing many dreams to fruition alongside his constituents as he advocated for grants and funding to support community development such as the Eastern Shore Regional Library, Makemie Park, and his endless efforts to Mary Nottingham Smith Cultural Enrichment Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips has shown his dedication to the betterment of the community as he fought to save the Parksley Nursing Home, served as Chairman of the Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission, Metompink Community Development Block Grant Rehabilitation Board, and as liaison to the Accomack County Sheriff and Economic Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, he has contributed endless hours supporting the Central Accomack Little League teams in their recent achievements with multi-level championships, ensuring their recognition by the Board of Supervisors and community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors will miss the pride and dignity with which he served, the Board bids a fond farewell to its respected colleague, wishing him the best as he departs with knowledge shared and gained.

**Adopted by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and presented to
Mr. Harrison Warren Phillips, III, on this fourteenth day of December 2023.**



**Robert D. Crockett, Chair
District 6 Supervisor**

4.6 Presentation of Plaque to 2023 Chair Robert R. Crockett by Vice-Chairman Harrison W. Phillips, III.

5. Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Mr. H. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wolff, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- 5.1 Consider accepting a grant award from Virginia 9-1-1 Services Board allowing for staff recognition bonuses to Sheriff's Office communication operator staff
- 5.2 Consider Approving Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) 2024 Letter of Support and Financial Commitment
- 5.3 Consider accepting revised County FY25 Annual Fiscal Plan (Budget) Deliberations Calendar
- 5.4 Consider Approving a Letter of Support for the "Never Leave a Veteran Behind" Housing Project proposed for the Town of Parksley

6. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

7. Report of Public Officials

7.1 Accomack County Sherriff Todd Wessells - Budget Amendment for Jail Camera System

Sheriff Wessells thanked the departing Supervisors H. Phillips, Muhly, and Wolff for their work and support of the Sheriff's Office employees during their tenures.

Sheriff Wessells reviewed his request for a new camera system outside of the regular budget cycle noting that the system was failing, placing inmates and employees in danger.

The Sheriff requested funding for \$104,000, from any funds available to support the jail's security. Chairman Crockett confirmed that funding was available.

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. H. Phillips, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a budget amendment to use capital/public safety funds for \$104,000 in additional funding for the proposed replacement of the Accomack County Sheriff's Office jail security camera system.

8. Old Business

8.1 Receive an update on draft MOU discussions with the Greenbackville, Parksley, Painter, and Oak Hall, AND consider approving the final language for each company MOU, and authorizing the County Administrator to pursue execution

Director Pruitt thanked departing Supervisors Muhly, H. Phillips, and Wolff for their support. Director Pruitt reported that he was able to successfully work through to create Memorandums of Understandings with:

- **Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department** - Barry Outten, Fire Chief & Heath Bodley, Deputy Chief
- **Oak Hall Rescue** - Mike Rudder, President & Dean Orsino, Rescue Captain
- **Painter Volunteer Fire Company** - Company's Board of Directors
- **Parksley Volunteer Fire Company** - Daryn Fussell, President

He further reported that he had been in contact with Tangier and they will work towards an agreement in early 2024.

On a motion made by Mr. Wolff and seconded by Mr. J. Phillips, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to accept and approve the four (4) presented Memorandums of Understanding with:

- **Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department**
- **Oak Hall Rescue**
- **Painter Volunteer Fire Company**
- **Parksley Volunteer Fire Company**

8.2 Receive a status update on the Onancock Volunteer Fire Department MOU approved by the Board of Supervisors on 11/15/23 and its 12/15/23 deadline for execution. Mr. Mason reported that the signed agreement had been received from Onancock Volunteer Fire Company on December 14, 2023.

9. Appointments

9.1 Appointments

On a motion made by Mr. J. Phillip and seconded by Mr. Wolff, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to reappoint the following to the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission:

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission				
Robert Crockett	- Reappointment	Charter Agreement – Elected Term	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Vanessa Johnson	- Reappointment	Charter Agreement – Elected Term	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Donald Hart	- Reappointment	Charter Agreement – Elected Term	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Reneta Major	- Reappointment	Charter Agreement – Elected Term	1/1/2024	12/30/2027

On a motion made by Ms. Major and seconded by Mr. H. Phillips, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to reappoint Ms. Peggy Shaeffer to the Eastern Shore Community College Board.

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Ms. Major, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to reappoint Ms. Sue Mastyl, in her position as a BOS designee, to the Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee for a term to begin on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 30, 2027.

On a motion made by Mr. Wolff and seconded by Mr. H. Phillips, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to reappoint Mr. Tom Wall to serve an additional four-year term to begin on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 30, 2027.

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Ms. Major, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to reappoint the following to the Harborton Public Facilities Committee:

Harborton Public Facilities Committee				
Loredo Nasario	- Reappointment	County Ordinance - 102-207.	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Robert Mickiewicz	- Reappointment	County Ordinance - 102-207.	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Lori Ridington	- Reappointment	County Ordinance - 102-207.	1/1/2024	12/30/2027
Rodney Smith	- Reappointment	County Ordinance - 102-207.	1/1/2024	12/30/2027

9.2 Attendance Reports were included in the Board's agenda packet.

10. New Business

- 10.1 Receive Status on the Issuance of the County's FY23 Audited Financial Statements (delayed) as required by Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2511
Mr. Mason reported that as of December 14th, the County's report was still pending.

11. County Administrator's Report

- 11.1 Memorialized previous dissemination of Code of Virginia Section 2.2 Chapter 37 Virginia Freedom of Information Act to satisfy COV 2.2-3702 requirement of BOS members
- 11.2 Memorialized previous dissemination of Code of Virginia Section 2.2 Chapter 31 State and Local Conflict of Interests Act to satisfy COV 2.2-3100.1 requirement to BOS Members
- 11.3 Other: Reported on the ANEC Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Accomack County.

Mr. Muhly inquired about the cost; Mr. Mason was unaware but committed to finding out the cost. A brief discussion ensued.

12. County Attorney's Report

Ms. Proctor had no report.

13. Board of Supervisors Comment Period

- ❖ **Tarr** – Good well to those departing
- ❖ **Major** – Holiday wishes – Wished those supervisors departing
- ❖ **Muhly** – Earlier in the week, the Parksley Town Council had a holiday event for its employees and officials. Following dinner, awards were presented, including – the award of Brotherhood of Born-here, so he is no longer a come-here. Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah
- ❖ **Hart** – Happy Holidays – Will miss departing supervisors
- ❖ **H. Phillips** - thanked fellow BOS members for teaching him the ropes – an honor – Merry Christmas, Kwanza, Hannukah –
- ❖ **Wolff** – Thanked Chairman, BOS, and citizens – “A long strange trip” – Grateful dead. – involved in the community for nearly 60 years.
Announced that he would be serving as the Director at Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Foundation.
- ❖ **Crockett** – Pleasure working with three departing members. The current Board has addressed many issues, with the support of tremendous staff. When together as often as the Board is, it becomes a family. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and thanked the staff for their work.

14. Budget and Appropriation Items

14.1 Consider Approving Resolution to Amend the FY24 Budget

On a motion made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. H. Phillips, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the following amendments to the FY24 Budget:

December 14, 2023 BOS Meeting

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACCOMACK COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Accomack County Board of Supervisors to approve and maintain the budget for Accomack County; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2023, the Board of Supervisors finalized the Accomack County Fiscal Year 2024 Budget; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the fiscal year certain unanticipated events occur that compel amendments to the budget be made; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the following requested budget amendments and recommends that it be approved; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Accomack County, Virginia, that the Fiscal Year 2024 County budget be amended by the amounts listed below and the amounts appropriated for the purpose indicated.

Fiscal Year	Requesting Department	Fund/Function	Purpose	Funding Source	Total
FY24	Sheriff	General Fund/Public Safety	To record award of FY24 Virginia 9-1-1 Services Board staffing recognition grant award.	State Funds	\$ 12,500
FY24	Public Safety	General Fund/Public Safety	To record award of 2023 State Homeland Security Program grant award.	Federal funds	\$ 52,500
FY24	Sheriff	Capital Projects Fund/Public Safety	To repurpose additional funding for replacement of the failing Jail camera system.	Jail budget	\$ 104,000
Total					\$ 169,000

Robert D. Crockett
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Michael T. Mason, CPA
County Administrator

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Accomack County, Virginia, this 14th day of December 2023.

15. Payables

15.1 Consider Payables

Mr. Mason certified the December Payables.

On a motion made by Mr. J. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Tarr, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the December Payables.

16. Mandatory Training

16.1 The Board received a group COIA training webinar offered by the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council, to satisfy Virginia Code Mandate 2.2-3132 (b)

17. Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Session.

18. Adjournment

18.1 Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Wolff and seconded by Mr. Muhly, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.

19. Informational Items

19.1 Eastern Shore Public Library: Executive Director's Report

19.2 VDOT Speed Study Results: Saxis Road

19.3 VDOT Speed Study Results: Fleming Road