

**LUNENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM
LUNENBURG COURTS BUILDING
LUNENBURG, VIRGINIA**

Minutes of June 27, 2019 Meeting

The continued meeting of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:00pm in the General District Courtroom, Lunenburg Courts Building, Lunenburg, Virginia. The following members were present: Supervisors Frank Bacon, Charles R. Slayton, Mike Hankins, T. Wayne Hoover, Alvester Edmonds, Robert Zava, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee, Deputy County Administrator Nicole Clark, and County Attorney Frank Rennie. Supervisor Edward Pennington was absent.

Chairman Slayton called the meeting to order.

Administrator Gee stated that the purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions regarding the Virginia General Assembly's new legislation creating an assistant Commonwealth Attorney's position. The reason for the requirement is the extra work load created by reviewing body worn camera footage. At the June 13, 2019 meeting, Commonwealth Attorney Robert Clement proposed an agreement for the fiscal year 2019-2020 to fund a part-time salaried position funded by the locality to address the workload. He currently employs a part-time Assistant Attorney for three days a week funded by the Compensation Board. Attorney Clement is requesting to make the Assistant Attorney into a full time position partially funded by the county and partially by the Compensation Board. He introduced Mr. Baxter Stegall who is currently serving in the part-time Assistant Commonwealth Attorney position. Mr. Stegall advised that he was formerly a police officer and worked on a drug task force prior to obtaining his law degree. He has been working with Attorney Clement for 1 ½ years after passing the bar exam.

Supervisor Zava spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. They recommend transferring funds from the school capital improvement fund to the Commonwealth Attorney fund. The additional amount needed to fund the full time Assistant Commonwealth Attorney position is \$28,338. Supervisor Zava advised that school funding is ultimately the county's responsibility and if a capital improvement arises that requires additional funds, a determination will be made at that point in the fiscal year. He added that this recommendation will prevent the Board from having to find additional funding for an unfunded state mandate. Administrator Gee noted that funds were not taken from the county's capital improvements because those funds are already earmarked for specific projects. The school capital improvement fund was set up in case funds are needed for an unexpected improvement or repair. Administrator Gee added that there is a strong possibility that the full-time Assistant Attorney position will be fully-funded in fiscal year 2020-2021.

County Attorney Rennie stated that in his research, he found that some counties are no longer using body cameras due to this mandate, therefore, eliminating the requirement to have the attorneys review the footage. He shared a letter from Amherst County to the Virginia Compensation Board regarding their displeasure with unfunded state mandate. Supervisor Hankins stated that he was in support of Lunenburg sending a letter as well. County Attorney Rennie recommended funding the full time position. He added that most counties similar in size to Lunenburg already have an assistant attorney.

Supervisor Bacon made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to transfer funds in the amount of \$28,338 from the school capital improvement fund to the Commonwealth Attorney fund in order to support the full time Assistant Commonwealth Attorney position.

Supervisor Hoover made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Hankins and unanimously approved, to compose and forward a letter to the Virginia Compensation Board regarding the Board's displeasure with the unfunded state mandate.

Supervisor Bacon made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to adjourn.

Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
County Administrator

Charles R. Slayton, Chairman
Board of Supervisors