

## County Business

### VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors, held on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Revercomb Building at 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George, Virginia:

**PRESENT:** Jeff Bueche, Chairman  
Cathy Binder, Vice-Chairman  
Richard A. Granger, Member  
John E. Jenkins, Jr., Member  
Ruby A. Brabo, Member  
Neiman C. Young, County Administrator  
Eric A. Gregory, County Attorney

**Chairman:** I'd like to call a lot of this regular meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors. Are there any amendments to the agenda?

**Dr. Young:** No changes, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** At this time I'd like to open the floor to public comment. Those wishing to give public comment, I ask you that you state your name and address for the record and limit your comments to three minutes. The floor is open.

**Ms. Hayes:** Good evening. Sandy, do you mind coming up here? My name is Jeron Hayes. My address is 13191, Bradley Lane in King George. I'm the public affairs officer for Naval Support Activity South Potomac, which is the host command for NSF Dahlgren. I'm here on behalf of Captain Michael O'Leary and I have a letter I'd like to read, and I have Sandy up here with me because this is a joint effort. I'm pleased to announce that Naval Support Activity, South Potomac, in partnership with the King George County Tourism Advisory Committee,

will host the King George 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration as part of the county's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Naval Support facility, Dahlgren.

**Ms. Brabo:** Awesome.

**Ms. Hayes:** We take great pride in our relationship with the county and we look forward to hosting a patriotic family friendly event, open to all who want to attend. Our planning committee with the TAC representative will begin meeting regularly in the next few weeks, and we will provide event planning updates to county and navy leadership throughout the planning process. Thank you for this opportunity. We hope to see all of you at Dahlgren on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, respectfully Captain Michael O'Leary, commanding officer, Naval Support Activity, South Potomac.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh, yes.

**Ms. Hayes:** Not only exciting I think for the county, but it's really advantageous for the base. We have the opportunity of working with Sandy who, having become involved with the tourism committee and a sitting member, she's just the most amazing asset to the county. I don't know if people really understand that, but we're very excited. We worked very closely. We've already talked the planning, we've already talked the budget. We're working with Sandy on a tourism event. I also volunteer with Dahlgren Museum, and so we're working with her on a tourism event in July that will involve all the tourist attractions.

We're working with the Northern Neck Tourism Commission as well. So this is, we've built just a really fantastic bond and I'm really excited about this event because I've lived here for 21 years and some of my best memories here are 4<sup>th</sup> of July on the base. I not only had the opportunity to plan them, but also attend them. For those of you who had the opportunity to come before, I'm really glad to say that this is a very rare occasion when everyone can come on base to this event, so

all inclusive. It'll be a fantastic event and it will be especially great because I get to work with Sandy and we'll be a team. Anyway, thank you very much for the opportunity, and we'll be talking to you all soon.

**Ms. Brabo:** Thank you.

**Ms. Pearson:** It's been a pleasure working even though we had to keep it quiet and we couldn't announce anything until she finally got the word and we just got it. And we're delighted. It's been a pleasure working with--we had some relationship already with a hundreds anniversary of the base, but in the last few months, we've been part of this putting together and I've heard so many, many, many things from the community. This will be a centerpiece for the 2020 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for King George County. Thank you much.

**Ms. Hayes:** Thank you very much.

**Ms. Brabo:** Thank you both.

**Ms. Jordon:** Good evening. My name is Claudette Jordon and I'm the president of the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association. I reside at 11773 Big Bear Lane in Lusby, Maryland, but born and raised here in King George County. Mr. Chair, if it's okay with you, we have a number of members from the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association here. As opposed to each of them lining up and speaking for three minutes each, it'd be midnight before we got out, they've asked that I speak on behalf of the association. May I? Thank you. Earlier this week, we tendered two letters to you. The other person, Dr. Cristina Turdean, is in emergency meeting and can't be here from the University of Mary Washington, the historic section of that school. Also from the executive officers, the executive planning committee and the general membership, a letter of no confidence in terms of Marsha Stonehill and the RBAHC which is the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center Inc, for the completion of the Ralph Bunche High School property.

I weave a story for you. December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we were embarking on Echelon to develop the property and we were excited about it because it has been dormant for so long. Mrs. Stonehill stood up and she says, "Oh, we're not tired. \$6 million is nothing." And I'm a person who goes plan A through Z, so I said to myself, "If Echelon doesn't work out, I'll meet up with Ms. Stonehill and see." So we met after the meeting and we talked. A few months went by and Echelon was not a match for the County no matter what we tried. We had a plan, which was the Wiley Wilson plan, and he had his ideas of what it should be, and it didn't work out. In August of that same 2018, Ms. Stonehill came up with a plan and RFP and it was submitted, a plan. I submit that theoretically everything works on paper, but that was not the case and perhaps we should have read the fine print and we did not. I was an original board member as asked by Ms. Stonehill and tried to do and help as much as I could. Some of the suggestions and so forth were viewed as antagonistic and rigid. I have credentials in a lot of organizations, that was like a major in college, so, you know.

We had several other members in our association with credentials in grant writing and so forth. Well, the whole thing was built on the fact that they could do this and they had \$2.5 million and we're going to have developers and architects and I see them sitting here and they're going to do it. We asked, "Okay, can the group meet them?" We never got a chance to meet with them. We wanted to find out what would happen. She said that they could revamp the school for \$4 million, that the County really didn't know what it was talking about. It wouldn't take six million. First class restaurant, outdoor amphitheater that the county had given all 33 acres would be given 33 acres for development. That didn't happen. It was probably going to be 10 and there was this \$2.5 million never materialized and the board wasn't supposed to talk about that. We weren't supposed to know that.

The board, trying to formulate couldn't get officers. Until the date that I resigned from the board, there were no officers. 10 months of wrangling on a logo and a branding name, but not developing money to do the development. So time went on, things kept going that way. It was suggested to go for historic and federal grants. That was poopooed because Ms. Stonehill says there's too many rules and regulations and she didn't want to abide by that. As the story continued, there was nothing getting done. I still maintained that on paper everything works. If you're making a cake, you don't turn on the oven and put the pan in and say, "Oh, we'll deal with ingredients later and throw them in the pan later." If you're building a house, you don't put a frame up and go to the second floor and window dress when you don't have a foundation. So it just appears that Ms. Stonehill parachuted into the Ralph Bunche project with grandiose ideas and very ambitious, but there weren't the resources, the organization and so forth to get it done.

So, someone asked, "Well, what's the hurry?" Well, the hurry is, since that night, December 19, 2017, we've lost at least 10 members and supporters of our Ralph Bunche project and organization. I'm almost two years older since then. We continued to try to work this thing, but I don't think we can-- we can't afford to wait for a neophyte organization to come into their own, to grow and to mature and to do all of these things while it's nothing happening. Sure, it's not just about Ralph Bunche, it's about the County, but we are a major stake holder. I know that there are other organizations out here or developers who are experienced, who have the wherewithal, who have the funds readily available to put shovels in the ground and hammers going. That's what we're looking for. It's okay that she wants to develop that Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Inc. group, but not at the expense of the Ralph Bunche project. Perhaps there's something else that can be developed. I've seen the plan, I've seen the presentation, and they're probably going to do a presentation here tonight. If Julie Chatman is doing the

presentation, it's going to be really nice because Julie has skills and Julie has tried, and I've seen this as a part of that board to try and to bring structure, to try to bring some business acumen to the whole thing. And most of the time it's been to no avail, so have the rest of us who've been on the board.

I'll speak for myself being on the board. It became apparent to me that no input was going to be accepted, and so I just rededicated myself to the Ralph Bunche project as opposed to stay there and try to teach and grow a board. We don't have time for that. There's just too much at stake. And so we all voted no confidence in this group being able to do the project, organizational, direction, no funds, no listening, no anything that's made a movement. If you can't even get a logo and you spend 10 months fighting about a logo when that could have been moving towards funding and something solid, what's going to be next? This thing has been going on long enough. So I say, how long?

**Audience:** Too long.

**Ms. Jordon:** Thank you very much.

**Ms. Cook:** Phyllis Cook; 10563 Eisenhower Drive, King George. This is an open letter to the board members of the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center, Inc.; Marsha Stonehill, Julie Chatman, Anthony Campbell, Neil Richard, Wayne Bushrod, Jayde Forenger. I'm resigning from the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center, Inc. board. I had joined as a lifetime member and I'm an elected officer of the Ralph Bunche alumni association.

In January, I was appointed to RBAHC board as one of two people to represent our association. The first was association president Claudette Jordon who resigned from RBAHC in February in large part to allow her time and talents to be better utilized for our planned museum gallery project in the historic building intended to outline the school's

significant legacy towards school desegregation in King George, the Commonwealth, and the nation. I concur with the recent votes of no confidence by our association's executive officers, executive planning committee, and its general membership regarding Marsha Stonehill and her development company. Like others, I was also distressed to hear of her unauthorized removal of the original plans from the Ralph Bunche building complex in the end of February and was relieved when they were retrieved by Dr. Young five days later.

Marsha has a dream and created a company to implement it. I heard a lot of talk but saw no forward progress during RBAHC meetings. Marsha told us in January we could not expect to see a 2.5 million pledge come through, that was included in her proposal packet to the county. I subsequently express concern over plan to go with a no bid architect and no bid construction contractor who to me seem to be relying on that pledge. At RBAHC meetings, I witnessed the inability from Marsha and her company to follow through, report board decisions accurately, and to distinguish between facts and intentions. She and her company has no president, no CEO, no executive director, or other leadership. It also still has no funding.

Marsha said she will have no trouble raising 2 million in each of the next three years and said she will have 6 million in hand prior to that deadline. When I expressed skepticism to her to easily raise that amount, she stated, and I quote, "Everyone I talked to says it will be no problem." In mid February, she additionally volunteered to raise \$10,000 seed money as a near term goal. That was not mentioned at the next meeting two weeks later, and when I requested in writing a funding update for the April meeting, it was not placed on the agenda and I received no response. I believe approving a letter of intent tonight will only delay the reality of the County's and our association's plans for Ralph Bunche Museum Gallery in the historic school building.

I'm confident that an experienced development company with proven ability can be found by County Administrator, Dr. Neiman Young at the direction of the board of supervisors. I join with others in the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association who very much appreciate your continued support. Phyllis Cook, thank you.

**Chairman:**

Anyone else with public comment? Do we have anyone on line or on the phone? Do any board members have any prepared correspondence from constituents? At this time, I'll move to reports from members of the board. Mr. Jenkins.

**Mr. Jenkins:**

Thank you. Good evening, everyone. I thank you for all the comments. As usual, they are much appreciated and welcomed. Certainly as far as the Ralph Bunche topic, it certainly gives me something to think about if nothing else. It's great to hear about the event at the base. It's excellent news. That's the obvious stuff there. As far as me, there's not a lot to report. I attended both the work sessions/public hearings on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. That's all from me. Thank you.

**Chairman:**

Mr. Granger.

**Mr. Granger:**

Yes, sir. I'd like to thank everyone who came out and presented a comment. I'm excited to hear about the base involvement in our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please share that with Ms. Hayes as well. I like to say thank you to Ms. Jordon and Ms. Cook and all the members of the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association for coming out and sharing your concerns in regards to this project. It's a lot of information.

I'll be honest, I didn't see the email because I did receive correspondence about it, and so that was the first I see it. It's all about your concerns this morning and I had not had the opportunity to reach out to the county staff. I apologize, it's been a busy day for me, to anyone from the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association or Ms. Stonehill. There's a lot of information to digest. I do appreciate your **[0:50:24**

**inaudible]** and I would like the opportunity to speak with multiple parties to get better understanding. Thank you though. I do appreciate it. Other than that, as Mr. Jenkins said, I also attended the April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> board of supervisors work sessions.

**Chairman:** Ms. Binder.

**Ms. Binder:** I want to thank everyone who came out. It's great news to hear about the base. I know my son enjoyed going to fireworks on the base and my daughter who's eight never really got an opportunity to because they had stopped those events. I want to thank you for making that happen. One other thing is, I thank you for coming out and speaking about the Ralph Bunche history and the importance of the school and its legacy. I know one of my many degrees is a history major, and as many people maybe not know, I've made it a mission to scan most of the yearbooks in this county and I have 11 of Ralph Bunche because it's very important to keep our history, but we just have to figure out how to do it correctly and make sure all are involved and everybody gets a voice. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brabo.

**Ms. Brabo:** On the 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Fredericksburg Chamber legislative award ceremony. I was very pleased to see my good friend and colleague from Stafford County, Bob Thomas, recognized as the delegate of the year. Bob and I have worked well together for the six years that he served on the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, often time collaborating and sharing ideas. Now serving at the state level, this relationship has continued as we work together on military and veteran issues at the state level. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, I spoke at the Hopyard farm annual HOA Meeting.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the budget public hearing. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, I attended the electoral board appreciation dinner hosted by the registrar. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, I attended the budget

meeting. May 1<sup>st</sup>, I was honored to be the guest of Mr. Stu Ashton at the Community Foundation Philanthropy Luncheon where I learned about benefit corporations. That evening I attended the Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center's board of directors meeting. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, I met with the publisher of Hopyard magazine and then attended the national day of prayer.

I would like to thank Vic Mason, Steven Hagewood of Mars hills, and the other pastors of our community for organizing this very well attended event. I believe we had almost a hundred in attendance this year. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, I spoke at the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association meeting.

Now onto other things, fantastic news about the base hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Our citizens have had to go to other locations in order to experience fireworks since the base has not been able to continue holding them, so this is fabulous that next year our citizens would be able to enjoy it right here in our own community.

Thank you to the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association for coming out this evening to share your concerns. Thank you for the letters that you have provided to us. Obviously, this is your project. This is your history, so your support in this matter is extremely important.

Mallows Bay issue that the County Attorney brought to our attention, with regards to the article, hopefully you all have had a chance to read it. This is an ongoing issue, and as he stated, we do need to continue to keep it on our radar. We have not submitted anything since we submitted that letter, and nothing else has been submitted from the state or any of our representatives since Secretary Molly Ward sent the letter that I had forwarded to all of you today. I would recommend that we have the County Attorney take the comments from the past letter and submit new letters to Congressman Wittman, Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Governor Northam, Governor Hogan, and Secretary

Strickland to ensure that this is on everyone's radar and how this impacts the Dahlgren Naval Base test range. Okay, I'll send you the list.

I did have some citizen stop me over the weekend with regards to the Upper Machodoc Creek no wake zone ordinance questioning the language in the ordinance. I would like consensus from the board just to have the County Attorney clarify for us. The way it is currently written, unless there is some law designating otherwise, it's the entire Machodoc Creek. So Upper Machodoc Creek is more than just the area located by the Dahlgren Marina. Unless there's something... so I'm just relaying what citizens are concerned with. They're concerned that they would be riding their jet skis or whatever further down, for example, by my house and they could potentially receive a fine

**Dr. Young:**

No, ma'am. The ordinance does lay out and it's titled Upper Machodoc Creek. However, as we've stated before, the no wake zone is approved by DGIF and in the application to DGIF, the boundaries for the no wake zone is discretely... I mean, they're liberally measured and established in the application package, and once the DGIF approves that no wake zone, those boundaries will be by law established by DGIF and it's the surrounded boundaries of the Machodoc Creek marina.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Is there a way to put that as a reference point attached to the actual ordinance?

**Dr. Young:**

We can, but I think that the purpose for having the ordinance be so broad, or correct me if I'm wrong, but that'll allow the flexibility if any other properties along the Machodoc Creek who wanted to pursue a no wake zone, they'd had the ordinance in place, they can put in an application, and if DGIF so approve, then they'd be able to approve it versus us having to redo a whole new ordinance or having the ordinance to broaden it.

**Ms. Brabo:** All right, but currently it only is for that area.

**Dr. Young:** Yes, ma'am. That's by the applications to DGIF--

**Ms. Brabo:** So no citizen has to be concerned that any patrol would--

**Dr. Young:** No, ma'am, the boundaries are discreet.

**Mr. Gregory:** In front of the Marina.

**Ms. Brabo:** Okay. All right. I received correspondence that I'd like to share with the board from KGI communications. Dear Supervisor Brabo, on behalf of KGI communications, thank you for your unwavering support in our mission to provide high speed internet in King George County. I am writing to thank you for speaking with the National Association of counties in Washington DC regarding the long time frame for getting approval for the special non line of sight frequency. We are so glad that King George County through the National Association of counties is able to address county needs such as this approval process. I have good news. KGI has been approved to use this special frequency. This will allow KGI to provide internet in more areas where there is no line of sight to the towers due to foliage interference. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve the community.

We appreciate the Supervisors, County Administrator, Community Development, county employees and the Service Authority. They have all been a part of the successful effort to expand high speed internet, and we want to say thank you. We recognize that there is more to be done. KGI will continue working with the county to address and solve other broadband obstacles. Sincerely, Juan A. Marte, CEO.

And then I have one other order of business for this evening. As you all know, the County Administrator had provided each of us with county coins in order to recognize folks for actually making a difference in the community. These should be coveted as there's a limited number of those, and so I

have been very slow in deciding when and whom to award them to. Tonight I would like to award four of them.

Resolution of distinguished service, whereas the community development office is to work diligently with various agencies, departments, and developers to assist the community with land development, geographic data, home improvement projects, and protecting the safety, health and welfare of the residents of King George County through administering the Virginia uniform statewide building code; and whereas the mission of the community development office is to provide quality customer service, whereas historically, the community development office had a reputation for being difficult to work with and considered an impediment to the development process in the county, causing many not to consider pursuing projects within the county.

And whereas changes have occurred over the past year, resulting in new leadership, better efficiencies and a willing attitude to better serve our customers by investing additional time as necessary to assist with finding solutions to aid residents in seeing their projects come to fruition for the benefit of the entire community. And whereas Heather Hall, Angela Foroughi, Louis Pancotti, and Brad Hudson went above and beyond to ensure due diligence was done regarding the Heilman project and the additional time invested to research a solution paid off in huge dividends for all concerned. And whereas this type of commitment to serving the public is exactly what is needed to fulfill the mission statement of the Community Development Office and to establish a new reputation for King George County's willingness to provide the best service to our customers. Now, therefore, be it resolved that Ruby Brabo, at large supervisor for King George County, Virginia, hereby recognizes Heather Hall, Angela Foroughi, Louis Pancotti, and Brad Hudson for making the difference in reshaping the future reputation of the county in their service to the

community by presentation of this resolution and a county coin. I move for adoption by the board, please.

**Mr. Granger:**

Second.

**Chairman:**

All those in favor?

**All:**

Aye.

**Chairman:**

Any opposed? Chair votes aye.

**Ms. Brabo:**

And if I can get you all to come forward.

**Dr. Young:**

Just to give a little bit more clarity to the public about the Machodoc Marina and the no wake zone, it won't be hard to confuse where the boundaries start and where they stop for the no wake zone. The buoys for the no wake zone boundaries have already been placed in the waters and they're very conspicuous. People that are riding by on boats will be able to see the boundaries and where it begins and ends.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Very good, thank you. That concludes my report. Thank you.

**Chairman:**

Because I did not give a report at our last regular meeting, which I attended remotely, I will at this time provide a report to capture my engagement since my last report of April 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, I participated in the local emergency planning committee meeting which proved to be very educational. I appreciate all the work Monique Dina put into the tier two facility summary report that we covered. The information in this report is used by our fire department for personnel training, Hazmat Planning and local response to spills and releases.

The information collected can help firefighters and Hazmat technicians respond to the facility with the correct personal protective gear and spill response equipment, preventing injury or death. This data also assist in the protection of our local environment through proper prevention, mitigations, and response to hazardous material incidents. It's comforting

to see local partners nurturing open communication with the safety and security of the whole community at the forefront. Chief Lynd and Monique Dina do a great job of facilitating our LEPC. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, it was an amazing morning God had blessed us with here in King George for the torch run and meet in the middle.

I'm so proud of my better half, Ann Bueche, special programs director for King George County schools. Thank you to all who worked to put on this amazing event. My wife Ann, Ms. Dee Strauss, Sheriff Dempsey, and all the staff volunteers in King George Sheriff's office, neighbors, all the runners, and all the amazing people that are just simply too many to list. Also on April 10<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a meeting along with my colleagues, Ms. Brabo and Ms. Binder, with the Tappahannock region local government round table hosted by the local government advisory committee whose purpose is to advise the Chesapeake Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals of the Bay agreement. As our representatives for all things related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the implementation of phase three watershed implementation plan, I was vocal about my concerns of unintended consequences to King George County. I've voiced my belief that there is a very fine line between appropriate and responsible regulation and overregulation.

I am of the mindset that this whip is straddling the line. I have concerns with the cost of implementation that will fall to us locally. The impact on our future economic development, impact to our agricultural community, our farms, and of the overall requirements to reach the goals. There are some times when the Chesapeake Bay needed intervention. I acknowledge the situation was dire. It was and is a major economic driver. However, after years of regulatory oversight and implementations, grasses in the bay are at a level not seen in decades and the blue crab is back for life

again in its waters. This observation I shared was confirmed by Secretary Jennings. The initial phases worked. It's then that I offered up that it is an appropriate time to take pause as current regulations have shown significant improvements to the bay. I do not believe phase three is necessary at this point and has many consequences to rural localities. In truth, I was in the minority in my opinion, but everyone seemed to share the same concerns on cost to localities. More and more financial burdens are being shifted from the federal, the state, and regulatory agencies such as the EPA with no oversight to localities.

This was one of 10 such round tables conducted throughout the state. I believe they are listening and have gained some insight to local concerns and I'm hopeful they will give public consideration. On 16<sup>th</sup> of April, I participated remotely from out of state in the regular meeting of the board of supervisors. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, I participated in the public hearing on the proposed fiscal 2020 county budget. Also on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, I visited the convenience center at 205 to take out my household trash. I know their employees take on a lot of frustration from aggravated customers over no sticker trailers, nonaccepted materials, et cetera.

That day, the young woman working in the center was most pleasant. She greeted me, asked me if she could assist, even asked how my day was going. I didn't identify myself, simply thanked her for the job she does. The property was well maintained and I couldn't have been more impressed. We tend to hear only of the complaints and bad experiences. I thought it would be nice to hear of a positive experience for once, which I feel is not the exception, rather the norm.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, I attended the King George County election workers appreciation dinner. I'm so impressed by a room full of volunteers who give their time to support the integrity of our democratic process. I'm grateful that King George has such a wonderful registrar; Ms. Lorrie Gump. She truly is an amazing asset to our county. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of

April, I participated in the special meeting of the King George County Board of Supervisors to adopt the fiscal year 19/20 budget, which for the second year addresses our increased cost and needs without a tax, there you are Ms. Dodge, they are on this rate increase. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, I attended the national day of prayer event at our courthouse. It was such a wonderful turnout to join in fellowship with our Lord. May we remain ever one nation under God.

To everyone who gave public comment tonight, thank you for coming out. I really appreciate everything. It seems we have two organizations who have a passion for the Ralph Bunche project. I'd like to hear from both parties, and we heard from the alumni association tonight. I was very disappointed when the original project failed to do. I felt we would finally get it done, but things didn't turn out that way. I look forward to the presentation tonight, to hear both sides and gain some insight.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Oh, if I may Mr. Chair, just a point of interest, I had reengaged with Mr. Vakos. I served with him on the board of directors for Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, and he is interested in having a meeting with Dr. Young and myself and Jarrell Properties. We've already scheduled that meeting as they have voiced an interest as well, and Dr. Young and I will be meeting with them on Thursday.

**Ms. Binder:**

What is that concerning?

**Ms. Brabo:**

Ralph Bunche project old middle school, old high school because nothing has been formally decided, and at the time these were entertained, we didn't know this was going to be in the packet tonight. That's why I'm making you aware.

**Chairman:**

Thank you. Do I have a motion on the consent agenda?

**Mr. Granger:**

So moved.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Second.

**Chairman:**

All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye, motion passes. County official's reports. Are there only constitutional officers? All right, seeing none, report from the county attorney?

**Mr. Gregory:** No report at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Okay. And Mr. Gregory, do you know where we currently are with the Fairview Beach Residents Association and the \$50,000, the letter of credit which was set aside for the Army Corps of Engineers study that we wound up not doing? Are we moving forward on that?

**Mr. Gregory:** That letter of credit was provided pursuant to an agreement with those two organizations, the Fairview Beach Residents Association and also Fairview Beach LLC, which holds the ownership interest in the beach itself. That agreement allows amendment to the agreement which would provide for the release of that letter of credit, and we can provide that release if they so choose. All the parties to that agreement would have to endorse the amendment and then we can release the letter of credit

**Chairman:** And that would take place with the board.

**Mr. Gregory:** The Board of Supervisors would have to approve that amendment as well.

**Chairman:** Okay. Do you know if we'll have a draft before us any time soon?

**Mr. Gregory:** I'll do my best to provide a draft released by the next meeting.

**Chairman:** Okay, I appreciate it because I was asked by members of the Fairview Beach Residents Association on that current status because they have a vested interest in those funds. Thank you for that clarity, sir. All right. Boards, commissions, agency reports, presentations and reports. Discussion of King George County's proposed second six year plan by Mr.

Steve McKeever, VDOT, Northern Neck residency administrator.

**Mr. McKeever:** Good evening. It's good to be with you all tonight. First off, I'd like to ask, do you have in your packets draft plan and the list of unpaved roads?

**Ms. Brabo:** Can you speak up, sir? It's very hard to hear you.

**Mr. McKeever:** I said, do you have in your packets the list of unpaved roads?

**Ms. Brabo:** Yes sir, we do, but unfortunately it's sideways and which makes it very difficult for us to read. For some reason we always get these things sideways. On the thumb drive?

**Mr. McKeever:** We've got some copies. Yeah, this is the way it goes. This is how to view.

**Ms. Brabo:** Yeah, that would be great. Thank you.

**Mr. McKeever:** When you come up here to view, you rotate it clockwise.

**Ms. Brabo:** There we go, thank you. So do that take the whole packet that way though? Or just that?

**Mr. McKeever:** Well, yeah.

**Ms. Brabo:** Okay, so then it's going to back. Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. McKeever:** I do not have a PowerPoint on this tonight. I'm going to try to simplify this a little bit if we can. First thing, I'll go over real quickly is if you look at the draft plan, just as a reminder, what the moneys are, you'll see three different formulas on that first page for the draft plan. First you have the CTB formula and you see in fiscal year 2020, you have \$75,236 on that and then it zeros out. That CTB formula is being replaced by the district grant, which is the third money on the front page. Okay? That money's picking up in 2021 and going through 2025. The other money in the middle is the telefee money, and these are funds that are received from utility companies that have facilities in our right of way.

What we did since last year when we met on the six-year plan, we had had one priority moved up from 2017. If I recollect correctly, it was Peerless Lane, and then your first priority for the plan was Chatterton Lane. We're going to be starting Chatterton Lane in approximately two months. We're waiting on some environmental issues to be finalized before we start that project, and Peerless has already been constructed. We had enough money to go ahead and do that one. We've already got it constructed, the only thing that's left to do surface treat it.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Fantastic.

**Steve:**

So it's done and ready to go. Also since last year, when we talked about these and the heading priorities, and at that time I had not visited all of the unpaved roads myself. Since that time, we've visited all of the unpaved roads that are left in the county. That's the map that I've given you that shows all the locations of the unpaved roads. What we did was we actually, early in the spring, we took our construction managers out and videoed all of the unpaved roads and then we went ahead and applied estimated cost per construction to all the roads. So we would have a full list and that's what you have on the spreadsheet.

What you see on your spreadsheets marked in blue were the two projects that were on the plan, and again, Chatterton Lane, that'll be completed this summer. The ones marked in green, and we'll just-- I'm going to jump back to the first page here of the draft plan. Right now, money's allocated for King George total \$1,032,000 is what we have to get programmed to allocate to projects. What we did was we went back through the list that we had, and those listed in green are five projects that we would recommend to go ahead and add to the plan. Again, this is just our recommendation. We need to have this finalized by the next or the first board meeting in June, and we've already advertised for your public hearing. It's already out on the street.

**Ms. Brabo:** Yeah, we have lots of questions.

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah, I have a question on Alden road that's in my district, and that is the one that washes out, correct? Alden road. There's a swampy area. I remember I had mentioned it last year about if there was funds that were put in some kind of bridge where it washes out, where the swamp meets the road, because I've heard from quite a few elderly people that live on the road and that's the only access for them. I know it's a very long road, so with the available funds, we can't really do much paving all of it, but I ask once again to look into is there anything that could bring the road up, put some kind of drainage pipe in so that swampy area, it can be made passable when we have really bad weather.

**Ms. Brabo:** I agree with Ms. Binder in that it's not something we can address now because of the low vehicle count in addition to the length, but that area, when you get a lot of rain in the winter time, school buses are trying to traverse that road as well. That one section becomes extremely dangerous and problematic and it just seems like there ought to be some way to at least put in a temporary fix until we can get to the point of paving that road.

**Mr. McKeever:** We can take a look at that. That's not a bridge added structure, is it?

**Ms. Brabo:** There's no actual bridge on that road.

**Mr. McKeever:** But there's certain pipe diameters actually filed under bridge and index as well. We'll have to take a look at it and I'll see what those pipes are.

**Ms. Brabo:** My question is we as a board, in order to stretch our funds, had taken the road of looking at shorter roads so that we could address more, but you have really changed the order based upon your recommendations to the point that we will have some very angry citizens. I would like to have you explain to me why you would recommend that I would do Chestnut Hill loop, which is way down on the list with only a

count of 50 cars per day versus say Woodland Way, which is up at the top of the list with a hundred cars per day?

**Mr. McKeever:** All right. I'll get back to where I was at. Number one, I haven't changed the order of anything. These are in no particular order.

**Ms. Brabo:** Citizens don't view it that way. I'm just saying.

**Mr. McKeever:** These are listed by traffic count.

**Ms. Brabo:** Exactly.

**Mr. McKeever:** That's all these are. This is just a list.

**Ms. Brabo:** I understand. I'm just sharing with you how the citizens view it.

**Mr. McKeever:** I'm not ranking anything here as a priority. I'm just saying, with the money that you have to allocate and from where we were at last year, we had no other priorities to go ahead and start working on this plan.

**Ms. Brabo:** That's fine, but I'm just asking you to explain why you feel that Chestnut Hill loop is a priority over say Woodland Way. What caused you to recommend that?

**Mr. McKeever:** This is what caused me to recommend all of them. What we looked at was the traffic counts, the number of homes that we were going to service, and what the costs would be to build them. Most of these are actually heavy in the Dahlgren district and the ride off 301. We're pretty much taking care of all of the-- with what I'm recommending, we're pretty much taking care of all of those gravel roads right off 301. What we total up here with the number that we have is 2.2 miles in improvements, service in 53 homes and one church. Basically, what we were trying to do was get the biggest bang for our buck with the money that we had. This works out with the money. Right now we've got a total of \$918,000 with the five that we were recommending. Again, I'm not pushing you on this.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh no, we understand. I'm just trying to understand your rationale, and so I appreciate it because it also helps the citizens understand your rationale. So revenue sharing, sir, is this the year to apply for revenue sharing?

**Dr. Young:** Yes it is, ma'am, and we're currently looking into that.

**Ms. Brabo:** Okay. Because then that would give us more funding to be able to address more roads.

**Mr. McKeever:** If it's approved.

**Ms. Brabo:** If it's approved, correct.

**Mr. McKeever:** Also some of these too, I'll put this in, what we were looking at also were jobs that, for the lack of a better word, easier to bill because some of these roads do have a wetland issues. You get tied up in a lot of environmental with those. Some have more drainage problems than others. What we were trying to do was build you as many projects as we can without getting into a big expenditure on some of those issues. Now, like you were speaking to Alden road, I've still got some money left in here that we can program. We could look at a section of that possibly. I'll have to check those structures, but we could look at programming maybe a section in there to take care of that. But some of the other ones are getting into so high dollar, I mean we're limited. \$600,000 is what we can spend, so some of these longer roads will take all of your money at one time, actually serve less houses, and we'll have to split them into two projects.

**Ms. Brabo:** Right, no, that's why we had decided to do the shorter roads a couple of years ago and knock them off so we can knock off more roads. Obviously if we get the revenue sharing, we'll be able to then address others. I personally have no heartburn. I've not heard from any citizens, but it's probably not on their radar until we advertise the public hearing. My only thing would be to Ms. Binder. I know how vocal the folks are on Alden road. They may take exception to Chestnut Hill loop being done before them, but we don't have the funding

to do all of Alden road at this time. So I will just follow your lead on that if we're going to... like you said, we don't have to decide tonight. We won't decide until after the public hearing.

**Chairman:**

I've got some wrenches to throw at you, but if you could dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball, so we're good to go. I love that movie. All right. Looking at Dixon Lane. There are 60 vehicles per day on that, but Chestnut Hill Loop has 50 but Dixon Lane is coming in at a less than \$89,000, with Chestnut Hill coming in at 118. If we did Dixon Lane which has more vehicles per day, that money that we would save with the lesser estimate, could that money then be applied to addressing the issue at Alden road for that specific area where they have the washout and the flooding? And then the second part, sorry, Woodland Way has 100 vehicles per day with an estimated cost of 169,000, yet Rokeby Lane, which is what was recommended, only has 80 vehicles per day, becomes in at an estimate of 258,000.

**Ms. Brabo:**

You're right, but he stated it's because he's looking at the Dahlgren district and trying to address all the roads off of 301.

**Mr. Granger:**

I've driven all of these roads a couple of years ago, so I should go out and drive them again, but on a couple of those for instance, I know Ivy Hill loop, Rixey road and Chestnut Hill loop at least two years ago. Again I need to verify currently, those all have school buses that go on those loops. Rokeby Lane, when I drove it, again it's a couple of years ago, the notes I took down said it starts off okay, it's two cars wide, it narrows around 0.4 miles. There's no shoulder, poor turnaround at the end, whereas Woodland Way, the way the notes had said, it was good and there was a turnaround at the end. I appreciate that you're saying bang for buck, but if it's going out, yeah, look at some of the--

**Chairman:**

The transportation department for the schools has had some input in this as well.

**Mr. Granger:** No, I'm just looking at-- let us agree this is two years ago, so I need to go and verify because obviously people-- kids graduate and they're no longer on those roads. At the time, two years ago, there were bus routes on those roads. I was just identifying it for knowledge that there could be families on those and it'd probably be good to update my list to know if those have changed or if any have added because that could play a role, especially if you have a dead end that you need to turn around in, and it's a really terrible--

**Ms. Brabo:** But Chatterton got bumped up because the school buses were unable to actually make that turn around.

**Mr. Granger:** That was a terrible road.

**Ms. Binder:** Well, I will tell you, Ivy Hill loop because that is my daughter's bus route. The bus this year does not go down Ivy Hill loop. It goes right past it. This year; that doesn't say next year there won't be children on it.

**Chairman:** It's going to change every year with children.

**Mr. Granger:** For Ivy Hill, the notes I had, it's in poor shape, it had poor drainage, and it was narrow. I'm assuming, as you said, you guys drove all the roads, and so I'm assuming you took into account probably vehicles per day along with the quality of the roads. You might have some that have higher vehicles per day, but you're like, well, this road is just in a lot worse shape even though it's a little bit less vehicles and it'd probably be of more benefit to the citizens to have it paved as opposed to maybe Woodland Way. But that's just, like you said, your recommendation.

**Mr. McKeever:** To address comment between like Chestnut Hill loop and Dixon Lane, Chestnut Hill loop is rated at 10 vehicles less a day, but there's 13 homes on that road and there's four homes on the Dixon Lane.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh, okay, that makes a difference too.

**Mr. McKeever:** To be honest with you, I contemplated at going ahead and adding Dixon lane as a sixth one, but I also need to keep some money in reserve to put into the countywide charges. Most of this money right now is distributed across your county wide charges because we don't have a plan in effect to program the money on these routes. I know I need to add some money and hold in reserve in at least the countywide charge for right of way because I'm pretty much down at a balance of zero on that. Like I said, for 89,000 it would be possible to add Dixon Lane.

**Ms. Brabo:** Especially if we get revenue sharing.

**Mr. McKeever:** Woodland Way. I can hardly fit that in with the money that I've got right here. You can drop something else and put that up if you want. Woodland Way has 16 homes on it.

**Ms. Brabo:** We don't have to make a decision tonight, so we just have to approve the advertisement for the public hearing. I think we'll just wait to see what the citizens tell us.

**Chairman:** Does anybody have anything else for Mr. McKeever?

**Ms. Brabo:** Do you need an actual motion to advertise for the public hearing?

**Dr. Young:** We don't have to advertise for the public hearing, ma'am. The state did it.

**Mr. McKeever:** We've got to get it in because we actually got some of this a little light, so we're running a little late. I'd appreciate it between your next meeting, before we get to the public hearing, if you all could really talk about this and give me what you're thinking.

**Ms. Brabo:** I think at this point we're okay with it unless we hear otherwise from the citizens.

**Mr. McKeever:** Okay, they will be shutting the portal down at some point in time, and after that I won't be able to add them until later on. I'd like to get them as quick as we could.

**Dr. Young:** I'll be in contact with you, Steve, and we'll make sure that you're updated on any concerns.

**Mr. McKeever:** Okay. It'll take a little bit of mixing and mingling to get all this spread across the six years too, but I'd be glad to work with you on any other ideals. We'll just have to drop something and add something and whatever, but we tried to take a legitimate look at it and do what we felt was fair.

**Ms. Brabo:** We appreciate it.

**Chairman:** Well, thank for your time, sir, and it's good to see you back here.

**Ms. Brabo:** Good to see you.

**Mr. McKeever:** Thank you. It's good to be here.

**Chairman:** All right. Next will be the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center letter of intent presentation by Ms. Marsha Stonehill.

**Dr. Young:** Mr. Chairman, if I may, just for clarity, because I know this is a sensitive subject, I have not had any conversation with Mr. Vakos or Mr. Jarrell or anything as far as the meeting being set up. That meeting was set up this afternoon.

**Chairman:** And none of that is applicable to what is at hand. Thank you.

**Ms. Chatman:** Good evening, members of the board and the chairman, Mr. Beuche. My name is Mrs. Julie Chatman and I'm the acting secretary for the Ralph Bunche Arts and Humanities Center Incorporated Board of Directors. I'd like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak about our organization and the project tonight. Just a few words about the organization. RBAHC Incorporated is a 501C3 nonprofit, and at the center of all of our activities, at the core is our mission which is to foster community growth and development through the arts with a special focus on the appreciation of African American heritage. Our board members are Wayne Bushrod, Anthony Campbell, me, Jayde Forenger, Neil Richard, and Marsha Stonehill. Our project is to build an arts

and humanities center right here in King George County, Virginia with an estimated timeline of approximately three years.

We have numerous supporters for the project. On the architecture and construction side are Abel and Associates and Garner Construction, and the owners of both of these companies are here this evening to provide additional information if necessary. Our supporters for collaboration, information, and sustainment are the Americans for the Arts, the Arts Council of the Rappahannock, several King George community residents, Green Coal Solutions, model programs, the National Parks Service, and the Virginia Arts Commission.

This is the interesting part; the economic benefits for King George County. To set the stage for this, I have to share a few numbers. The first set of numbers relate to just how profitable arts and culture events really are. The arts and culture industry generated \$166.3 billion of economic activity nationwide, and that was in 2015. 102.5 billion of those dollars were from the audience, just what they spent attending the events. That activity supported 4.6 million jobs and provided local, state, and federal governments with 27 and a half billion dollars in revenue. This relates directly to the potential for tax revenue for our county.

Just one more set of numbers, and this set of numbers relates to audience and event attendance. The data says, if we were to select a random arts and cultural event and we were to look at the audience, 34% of the attendees would not reside in the locale that the event is being held in. Please keep that in mind and then envision King George County and the surrounding areas and the 608,000 residents. The implication for that dataset is the potential increase in tourism and the associated increased customer base for King George County businesses. The thing about the center that's planned is it's unique. There isn't another service like it in the local area. Next, it's self sustaining. It's in an excellent

location and it's aligned with community planning. The estimated requirement for completing the project is \$6 million. The potential sources for those dollars are donations, foundations, grants, and private funding.

Marsha Stonehill is going to share some information about the planned use and the features of the facility and grounds. Please keep in mind that all the images we share this evening will be notional depictions, including this image from the Wiley Wilson architecture firm, which did some work with the county in past years. Marsha?

**Mrs. Stonehill:**

Good evening. Now allow me to take you on a tour and introduce you to the vision for the arts and humanities center. Here we're looking at the Ralph Bunche high school, which we know is on the national historic registry. Important to note that our professionals that are involved with us are specialists in working with the national historic registry.

Here we're looking at the floor plan of the structure. Just for orientation purposes, here is route 301 north to south and the east end of the building. Now travel with me inside the building. First and foremost, the most important aspect of this project is the development of the space for the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association to be able to move forward with their dreams and their vision. This space here is what would be allocated for them. Moving forward where what is now currently the gymnasium, we would create this into a beautiful space for community events, corporate events, private events, theater, films, lectures, documentaries, all in which ticket sales release opportunities to earn income. Traveling on, we have restaurant space in mind here. This is perfectly convenient for catering into the events that can be held in the current gymnasium space.

We could also envision having outdoor seating with a covered patio. Going to the back of the building, it is in this space where we see having a multitude of art classes and then having an art gallery. On the downstairs of this space,

we would see having office space and storage and probably a board room space, perhaps more art classes. Back here on the outside of the building on the property, in what is currently the soccer field, we envision an outdoor amphitheater for outdoor concerts in the spring, summer and fall where people can bring their lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the music.

We do hope that you will give us this opportunity to bring this vision into fruition, and now we open it up for questions. We do have Larry Abel and Brent Garner available for the nuts and bolts questions.

**Ms. Binder:**

I have a couple of questions. One of them was, and it was presented earlier, something about stuff that was taken out of the building. Could you clarify what that was?

**Mrs. Stonehill:**

Yes. On the day that we went into the building to get a program estimate, we encountered historical documents that were in a non climate controlled environment. I saw that as an opportunity to get copies of the documents so we could move forward with our planning and get them into a more appropriate environment. Everything was transparent and the County was immediately notified of the actions and steps that were taken.

**Chairman:**

So money, I think a lot about \$6 million and \$2.5 million and all this stuff. Are there benchmarks that if the County was to support this, that by this time you will have X dollars, by this time you will have X dollars, et cetera. Is that established anywhere?

**Ms. Chatman:**

Yes sir. It is established in the draft LOI, which is under consideration for signature. The timeline is three years. The LOI has a timeline of \$2 million raised each year from the time of ratification.

**Chairman:**

Okay. If we were able to ratify this, once that date's set, we can come back and if \$2 million was not achieved, then that

benchmark would not have been met and the agreement would be null and void. How does that...?

**Ms. Chatman:**

That is correct.

**Chairman:**

Anyone else have any questions? Ms. Brabo.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Recognizing the current situation, but recognizing the importance of arts and humanities center in the community, is it possible for this plan to be considered for a different building. if that's what it comes to be?

**Mrs. Stonehill:**

Not from me and not from this proposal. This proposal was inspired because of the importance of honoring the African American heritage. That was my motivation and my drive and that I believe is why this program will get funded, not just because it's an arts and humanities center but because it is honoring of the African American heritage. Now that we are public and once we receive, if we receive endorsement from the county, then aggressive action can be taken to work with donors, philanthropists who are very interested in this type of a process.

**Ms. Binder:**

I have one more question.

**Ms. Chatman:**

I'd like to add something to that. I would just like to share that it is difficult to secure funding without an official endorsement from the county, which is why we are requesting that the LOI be ratified.

**Ms. Binder:**

My question is, and this is not meant to put you on the spot, but how can you do it better than a big corporation or a big developer with a public private partnership? How can you do better than them?

**Ms. Chatman:**

Well, what I can share is that we can do it better because we live in this county and we care about this county, and so our approach would be from that perspective. This facility will also be something that feeds into the county. Whereas other developers who may put apartment buildings, et cetera, they don't have that concern. That's a different sort of

establishment than an arts and humanities center, which is fully available to people in the county surrounding areas and provides tax revenue for our county. Can you add anything, Marsha?

**Ms. Stonehill:**

I would say that there's potential that a developer will donate the money to this project. These are the types of things that happen, so rather than seeing it as a competitiveness or who can do it better, it's about relationship. It's about collaboration, it's about networking and working together, and that is the community aspect of an arts and humanities center and a project like this. I do want to speak to that I kept hearing, that Marsha Stonehill will. No, we will. This is an effort of many people, and it has to be endorsed by the community. There are people that are excited about it, but there has been a lot of apprehension, a lot of what I have received as well, let's see how far you get with the county. Again, with that endorsement, I believe that people will be less apprehensive to step forward.

**Mr. Granger:**

Just I want to speak to some of the comments made tonight. I would like to investigate more. What kind of impact would it be if we were to table this to you guys or to your organization to try to move forward with the plan if we were to wait two weeks until our next board meeting to make a definitive decision either way?

**Ms. Chatman:**

We don't foresee an impact. I will be transparent as you are by saying we are prepared to address everything that you heard at the beginning of this meeting.

**Mr. Granger:**

I appreciate that. I would like the opportunity to speak with you and your organization as well as the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association and staff. Personally I would like to table our decision until I have the opportunity to investigate more.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Is that a motion?

**Mr. Granger:**

It's not a motion. It's just, we're just tabling. That's my personal-- I'm not going to make a motion right now tonight,

but I do appreciate your presentation. It's exciting sounding and I look forward to better understanding everyone's point of view in order to make an informed and wise decision for all those in this county.

**Ms. Binder:** I agree with Mr. Granger. I would like to see the-- one of the big things I heard was about the funding and the lack of funding. I would like to see that on paper too.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I concur with-- I mean it's too important, too impactful to just make a decision just because I'd like to investigate a little bit further before we make a decision on that. That being said, I certainly don't want to kick it down the road for several meetings. I think next meeting we need to-- it needs--

**Mr. Granger:** I agree, just one day wasn't enough time for me understand--

**Mr. Jenkins:** I'd like to clarify that for the public and for everyone here, this isn't something we're going to keep talking about.

**Ms. Binder:** Just to clarify, most of us only heard about it yesterday. That is not enough time to make an informed decision that impacts the county in such a way. I will tell you, my daughter plays soccer on those fields out there. I'd been in the backside, and there's windows broken and there's a door that's propped open with a cement brick and the mold that's in there is pretty bad. If you want to save the building, it has to be done sooner rather than later because it's just not going to be much longer. We got to stop fooling around and figure it out.

**Ms. Chatman:** Ms. Binder, I have a question about something you just said. When you say you just found out about it, were you referring to the opposition or the project itself?

**Ms. Binder:** Well, I've never read-- until you gave this presentation, I knew it existed, but I've never seen it. I can tell you why I want to study it more because that's the kind of person I am to make sure I have all my facts in line before I make a decision.

**Ms. Brabo:** In all fairness, Ms. Binder and Mr. Bueche are new to the board, so they don't have the historical knowledge that--

**Chairman:** I do have a little historical knowledge.

**Ms. Binder:** I have a lot of history knowledge I have a lot of those yearbooks.

**Ms. Brabo:** I meant in reference to the project, Ms. Binder, and to your defense, that's why you-- yes.

**Chairman:** I'm speaking for myself, I'm not speaking for my colleagues. I like the concept. What I don't like is two nonprofit organizations who have a vision for the preservation of Ralph Bunche that can't seem to get along. I think it's a power struggle over a building that belongs to the citizens of King George County, not to one of the association or the other. That's the bottom-line. What I want to see is something happening with this building. We've heard lots of proposals, lots of dreams, of delusions of grandeur, if you want to call them in the past that nothing has come to fruition and here we are yet again talking about projects, but the building is still standing there decaying. I want to see something done. What's unfortunate is we have three different organizations in this county that I'm aware of, Museums, the Dahlgren Heritage Museum, the King George County Museum, we have the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association. Why can't there be a collaborative effort to do something with this building that could house everything that is King George?

I think that would be to the benefit of all the citizens of King George because, back to my initial point, I'm speaking for myself, as for me, I will not commit any county money towards doing anything with the building that is Ralph Bunche as long as I have other needs in the county. We had a proposal to fully fund King George County schools this year. We couldn't do it. There wasn't enough money. We have other projects coming. I'm not going to make empty

promise that we are going to do something with Ralph Bunche; we don't have the money. The only way it's going to happen is if people can get along and work together. That's the only way I see anything happening with this building or the mold's going to continue, things are going to rot, and it's just going to fade away. So that's my input. I heard mentioning of tabling.

- Ms. Brabo:** I move to table this until May 21<sup>st</sup> to our next board meeting.
- Mr. Granger:** Second.
- Chairman:** All those in favor?
- All:** Aye.
- Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Ms. Stonehill, you can give a closing comment, ma'am.
- Mrs. Stonehill:** I just wanted to remind you that the professionals that are here are the builder and the architect. It might be a good opportunity to ask them questions about the building because of the condition of the building.
- Ms. Binder:** Well, I do have a question because I heard one of the architects has done a project like this Maryland and in old schools. Is he here too?
- Mrs. Stonehill:** Yes.
- Ms. Binder:** And he is veteran.
- Chairman:** You have a direct question for him?
- Ms. Binder:** Mm-hmm.
- Mr. Abel:** My name is Larry Abel. I'm an architect. I'm also the president of the Maryland Veterans Museum. Somehow rather it almost seems like deja vu to me to be here listening to the discussions that have occurred because we actually had a building that almost the same age. It was a middle school and elementary school, and basically for want funds

for roof, the building had been left to deteriorate. The county was going to actually demolish it, and we came to the county to save the building. It had a good solid structure, and this building was in much worse condition than Ralph Bunche was. I was very surprised when we went through, even with mold and the problems that we have in some unusual condition.

Let me just say also I'm disappointed that there is the conflict because to me, one of the reasons why I got involved was because I thought this was a great opportunity to do something great for the African American community and a great individual. I didn't go seeking the project. I think I was sought out because of my experience. But to give you a short story, in roughly eight years, we took a building that was in that kind of condition, deteriorated mold, mildew, lead paint, asbestos, every condition you can imagine. We've now turned it into 20,000 square foot of exhibit space, and we cover everything from the revolutionary war to the current gulf war. We started off thinking of this museum as a county museum.

What happened, we were then encouraged too for this to become a state museum, so we suddenly went from Charles County Veterans Museum to Maryland Veterans Museum. Basically, we now have a national following, and the national following we hosted just this past week, the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary War route, nine states from the 13 original colonies, which Washington Lafayette, Rochambeau travel and also travel right through your county en route to Yorktown.

I can say it can happen. Most of what we did was with volunteer funds and volunteer labor. Fortunately, being an architect, the county also let me be the contractor, so I did a lot of things that-- I'm not proposing I be the contractor on this, but I'm just saying that it is possible and that kind of a dream is possible. It's a community project. We have now all kinds of organizations, veterans organizations, everybody

imaginable. We've had weddings, we've had funerals. It's become a place for the community and whatever use that they wish to see. I would welcome you, if you want to see a building that has been going through this process, to come and have a meeting there. You're welcome to it anytime. The thing that I would say, you have to take the first step, you have to believe enough in each other to take the first step. Okay. Set some criteria as to what's going to happen. That's the way the County work with us.

We not only ended up with county funding, but we had federal funding and some state funding along the way. Interesting part is that, of the governmental funding, it probably was only about 30%. And it's not that you have to have governmental funding, it's just the way that it worked out for our project. We had about 30%, and the rest of it has been totally private funds from donations and corporate entities and things like that.

I probably spoke too long, but I just want to let you know that it can work and I think there's an answer for the folks over here to participate in this as well. There's no reason that-- there's plenty of room for everybody to be able to participate on a building of that size. Basically, I know the group that I'm working with, Marsha set up with the local African American community, but it's really to accomplish the same things that this group wants to accomplish as far as I can say.

Anyway, thank you for the time, and if I can be of help in letting you know, I also would like to talk to you someday about the Washington Revolutionary war route because I just got a grant to work on a Route through Charles County right down to the water's edge, which comes right on across here. I was in contact with the folks in Williamsburg, and they would love to talk to you about developing the Route right through King George County. That's aside from this, but if I can facilitate that, please let me know.

**Chairman:**

Yup. Go ahead and send an email to Dr. Young who'll put you in contact with our economic development and tourism director. Thank you. Dr. Young, you said you wanted to provide some clarity.

**Dr. Young:**

Yes, sir, there are two significant subjects that I think were left quite ambiguous, and I want to make sure that there's clarity for not only the board of supervisors but for the public as well. The first thing being some of the board not fully aware of the proposal itself. I think that the reference that they weren't aware or they just learned of some issues was due to the fact or that that was a reference to the opposition to the project, and I stated and I also gave Ms. Stonehill a professional heads up that, "Hey, we received correspondence yesterday stating no confidence and concerns about the project and I will share with the board, and I was learning yesterday." But as, as far as the project, do you have a copy of the proposal Ms. Stonehill?

**Mrs. Stonehill:**

We do.

**Dr. Young:**

Can you hold it up? That's the proposal, and every time we receive a proposal that comes to the county, that's the size that it comes in, over 80 pages. I don't give the proposal to the whole board of supervisors, rather that's staffed by RSP committee and they review all those proposals. What I do is share correspondence with the board sometimes weekly, sometimes biweekly stating, hey, I received proposals for this, I received proposals for that. I'd give them a brief summary, and the board is informed that those proposals remain in my office if they want to peruse it in greater detail. But like any proposal that comes into to the county, and it's not unique to your proposal to Stonehill, I ask that the developer or the proposer provide a brief summary to the board because we simply don't have the time to read 80-page, 90-page documents while we have a large staff that is dedicated to that. That's not a blind side to your project or anything. That's the way that every project is taken care of in the county.

Regarding the concerns about documents that are left the building, so what happened was Ms. Stonehill asked if a construction team could do a site visit to the Ralph Bunche high school so they could take a look for themselves about the mold in the building and the condition of the building.

Normally, when I have non-county employees visit county buildings, I personally escort them around the building, but in that case, I had something come up but I was aware of that there were county employees in the building because not only were the Ralph Bunche documents stored there but there's also county documents stored there. Because of that non-climate or not climate-controlled environment, that's why I've been pushing for the documents scanning project, getting the county records out of that building and digitized and put into the cloud. That's not just specific to the Ralph Bunche records. But there were county employees in the building, so I felt comfortable with letting the team walk through the building and review the site.

During this site visit to assess the damage of deterioration to the building, there was actually floor plans for the Ralph Bunche high school that were taken, and interesting enough, Mr. Abel wanted to take a look at it. Him being an engineer, he wanted to take it to the plans, make copies of the plans, and they can help to refine the proposal. Ms. Stonehill was on her way to vacation. She shot me an email, stating, "Oh, and by the way, we picked some plans there in Mr. Abel's possession. I just wanted to give you a heads up." I told her, "Hey, that's county documents, and with you being out of town, I'm personally going to go see Mr. Abel, who's in Maryland, picked up the plans and return them back to county's possession."

That's the full story on the documents. I think that it was just an innocent mistake, not realizing that was official records or historical records, but they were returned to the county and safe keeping with no damage to the records.

**Chairman:** I have two questions. You said county staff reviewed the proposal, the staff offer a recommendation on that review?

**Dr. Young:** Yes, sir.

**Chairman:** Was there a recommendation?

**Dr. Young:** Yes, sir, there was a recommendation. The staff does review the proposals, and once the RFP committee deems the proposal valid and viable, they bring it to myself. Then as you see in the board report, I make recommendations saying the board should authorize the county administrator to execute LOI, or I put a recommendation, the board should not authorize the County Administrator to execute LOI.

If you see in the board packet that was published on Friday, I did recommend that the board authorizes the county administrator to execute a LOI. Again, that was prior to any concerns being raised by the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association. Definitely, that's another data point that has to be considered. Again, just like you all stated, I think that it's good advice that we look into the situation further, talk to both parties, and the board would be more informed to make a detailed decision.

**Chairman:** Thank you.

**Ms. Brabo:** Previously they had letters of endorsement from the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association and Mary Washington, and obviously that has now changed.

**Chairman:** With those letters, I now have a second question, but this is for the representative from the Ralph Bunche Alumni Association, Ms. Jordon. My question is, things changed officially and you're all meeting on Saturday, it was, right? Where are you all decided to remove your support for this project?

**Ms. Jordon:** Actually, the executive officers and the executive planning committee, at least there are nine, consisting of people from various committees within the organization that already met

confirmed in deciding a vote of no confidence. And so therefore, that same vote is put to general membership--

**Chairman:** Gotcha. I'm trying to establish a timeline though. When did you guys decide to no longer support? The vote you mentioned, the previous one for executive board. When did that take place?

**Ms. Jordon:** I don't have that date in my head because we meet once a month, **[2:01:35 inaudible]** to oversee the Ralph Bunche project. It took a while for all the members to get on board, to be conferring so forth.

**Chairman:** This, on paper, as was attested earlier, it seems like a very viable, great project on paper. If this would not transpire, what would be Ralph Bunche Alumni Association's Plan B for the building?

**Ms. Jordon:** **[2:02:14 inaudible]** County spent \$65,000 the Wiley Wilson project. It was to be a type of educational communication so forth and then the next development echelon changed that and kept the museum aspect, but he wanted to develop apartments and condos and that didn't work out. Hence Ms. StoneHill, her plan was to certainly have county museum, but she wanted a first class restaurant and she wanted an amphitheater. It morphs every time a developer decides that they want to put their hat in the ring. But it hasn't ever changed for Ralph Bunche, and we've worked with each developer. If one of the members would say, just don't tear it down. That's what it's about. State and his door, a national historic sites. So there's really nothing wrong with the original plan that we spent all that money on through Wiley Wilson. Everybody who comes on board to do any type of looking at proposals, we recommend that they take a look at that. We have distance and the whole layout for them because it's a solid plan. So if Ms. Stonehill went away, and echelon went way, that Wiley Wilson plan is still very viable.

**Chairman:** It's a viable plan but it hasn't come to fruition. My concern--

**Ms. Jordon:** Only because the people who have come before, the first who had the funds [2:03:47 inaudible] not match up. Whoever comes next, you need to be able to have the funding and hit the ground running, [2:04:04 inaudible] two and three years. Not only is the building going down and getting older, it's so weak. Initially there is no real conflict between the groups. We have tried, we've met, Ms. Stonehill and I travelled to Charlottesville to look at other designs and so forth, but it fell apart when the organization structure wasn't there, the funds weren't there, and all the things that were purported to be there for half choice completion, no time phase specific or marketable manageable timelines. When you can't see that, you have to speak to that , and we have the Ralph Bunche Alumni board and they reported what wasn't happening. I was a founding member of that board, and it wasn't happening. It's pretty hard. I don't doubt her dedication. I don't doubt whatever she's saying, but sometimes that just isn't enough. A series of small things can become an avalanche of big problem.

**Ms. Binder:** How can we be promised that new developer that you mentioned in your letter that they would be able to offer anything? That's a lot of what ifs. The important part is to keep the story, to keep the memories alive from the people that are still around. I think that should be something we're focusing on to keep--

**Ms. Jordon:** But that's never going to change, I'm just simply saying--

**Ms. Binder:** But we're just arguing about--

**Chairman:** We're going to move.

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah, we probably should move on.

**Ms. Jordon:** May I just finish?

**Chairman:** Yes, ma'am.

**Ms. Jordon:** I'm just simply saying that a neophyte group trying to find their own and working and growing and so forth, is it really

solving the problem when there is an established group that has the funds, the money, all of that and they don't have to worry about the beginnings and sticking around for two years and three years to get it done? As simple as that.

**Chairman:** Back to my concern is I think things may have changed when it came to light that a developer may be interested in doing a public private partnership and that it would then just be one organization project instead of a joint organization project. That's just what I think.

**Ms. Brabo:** Mr. Bueche, let's clarify that. So I disclosed that to you in full disclosure.

**Mr. Bueche:** It was brought out tonight.

**Ms. Brabo:** I didn't recollect anyone saying that until I mentioned it, but that conversation--

**Ms. Binder:** You did, you said Vakos and Jarrell properties.

**Ms. Brabo:** I brought up, exactly. Yeah.

**Ms. Binder:** Well, that's what I was saying.

**Ms. Brabo:** They had already done their votes and everything, so it had no influence or--

**Ms. Binder:** But I don't think all the members of the Ralph Bunche alumni Association knew about the vote because--

**Ms. Brabo:** That's on-- I'm just commenting. Again, there was no a disclosure to any of them. I just had a conversation with Mr. Vakos on Wednesday. I just spoke to Gerald Properties this morning. There was no awareness. They had already had their executive committee meeting months ago, their planning committee meeting months ago, and they held their vote Saturday morning.

**Mr. Granger:** As Dr. Young said, that there's some things that have come to light recently. I think we need to investigate and make a

decision. I think it's against protocol for us to have a discussion like this. I would recommend that--

**Chairman:** We're going to move to avoid this.

**Ms. Brabo:** We're continuing to a public private partnership for the courthouse, for the old middle school, for the...

**Mr. Granger:** I get that, but I meant the discussion where we have  
**[2:07:38 crosstalk]**

**Ms. Brabo:** I understand, but I am just commenting here, you guys seem to think that I was out looking specifically for Ralph Bunche high school, which was not the case.

**Mr. Granger:** No, I haven't said anything. I'm just saying I think we should move on and do an investigation. I didn't say anything along those lines. I think at this point we need to move on.

**Chairman:** We go to table **[2:07:55 inaudible]**. Thank you very much for the presentation. Next up, data center tax rate presentation by Ryan Gandy, director of economic development.

**Mr. Gandy:** Good evening, Mr. Chairman, board--

**Ms. Brabo:** We already had the vote.

**Mr. Gandy:** We already have.

**Ms. Brabo:** We had a motion, second and vote.

**Ms. Binder:** But then they continued all of this.

**Mr. Gandy:** So just a point of clarity on this. This isn't about the tax rate necessarily, this is about the zoning. You have the board report in of you. What I'm asking for, and I'll just give you a summary of the information, sometime last year we responded to an RFI that was issued by the Fredericksburg regional alliance regarding a project that was sent down from the VDP. That project was named Project Holiday and it's a data center project. In subsequent meetings with both the

prospect and the partners of the FRA, we came to a decision that each locality would adopt a tax rate that was the same and it would be competitive with northern Virginia in order to attract data centers.

However, nothing in our zoning ordinance says anything about data centers, so we can't adopt a tax rate until we amend the zoning ordinance to include data centers. What I'm asking for tonight essentially is for you to authorize the county administrator to advertise for a public hearing. I have June 18<sup>th</sup> of this year for the purposes of amending the zoning ordinance to allow for data centers. The Planning Commission meets next Tuesday, and this is on the agenda for them to review and to send their recommendation to the board. I stand ready to answer any question.

**Ms. Brabo:**

I move to direct the planning commission to hold a public hearing or rather to have the County Administrator to advertise a public hearing for June 18<sup>th</sup> for the planning commission for the purposes of amending the King George Zoning Ordinance to allow for data center.

**Mr. Granger:**

Second.

**Chairman:**

All those in favor?

**All:**

Aye.

**Chairman:**

Any opposed? Chair votes aye, motion passes. Next up. Department of Economic Development, civil war trails applications for tourism funding.

**Mr. Gandy:**

Okay, so you also have this in front of you. I'll give you a little summary of this information. King George County was contacted by the civil war trails organization some months ago. Essentially, we are the only county on the civil war trails map within this region that doesn't have representation. We also don't have signage or any literature on the maps that they distribute throughout the state. We took it upon ourselves to coordinate with the civil war trails organization,

Tourism Committee. What was developed was were-- the sites were identified throughout the county. You can see on your report you have the Quesenberry Cottage, Cleydael, the Dahlgren Heritage Foundation, and James Madison's Belgrove all as applicants for this program. Essentially this is not a grant, it's that's asking for straight funding to pay for five years of membership and signs and then also inclusion in the literature that is distributed throughout the state.

**Ms. Brabo:** So moved.

**Ms. Binder:** I'll second.

**Chairman:** All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion passes.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I just wanted to say one thing.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh, I apologize.

**Chairman:** I'm sorry, that's my fault. Nope, I didn't.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I don't even know what happened.

**Chairman:** I know you've been working on it for a while drawing the signs.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I just want to reiterate or not reiterate because there was no original discussion, but I just want to say how excited I am for this to finally happen. It is something that I've looked into for a little while. The civil war industry is obviously huge, and I don't want this to be something that is an afterthought. This could really potentially lead to a lot of tourism presence. I mean, the civil war industry, like I said, is huge. Like Mr. Gandy said, I have no involvement, which always just baffled me. Finally to be involved in it, I knew Ms. Cupka was a big part of that. She really drove that and helped the organizations with the applications along with it in

conjunction with the tourism committee. I thank you all for that and Ms. Cupka as well, so thank you.

**Ms. Binder:** Along with that, Elizabeth Louis is writing her book that she's going to publish soon, giving her new theory a little bit about how John Wilkes Boothe came through the county, so that all ties into the 300th anniversary.

**Mr. Jenkins:** I don't think he jumped over King George County, but that's possible, I guess.

**Ms. Binder:** I know, well, you know what I mean **[2:13:33 inaudible]**.

**Ms. Brabo:** To make this whole legal, I was advised, I also need to motion to appropriate the funding from the tourism funds as designated here.

**Mr. Granger:** Second.

**Chairman:** Is there any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion passes. Thank you. Department of economic development, King George Fall Festival applications for tourism funding.

**Mr. Gandy:** All right, so this one might not be as easy.

**Ms. Brabo:** Nope, it never is.

**Mr. Gandy:** The fall festival submitted a funding application to the tourism committee at the last meeting, and Mr. **[2:14:15 inaudible]** was there as was Ms. Pearson and Ms. Jordon. the fall festival requested a \$10,500 in their application. The tourism committee did hear her and gave them gave her their feedback. Essentially the after action report from last year's festival hadn't been submitted at that point. They asked that she send that information along after the meeting, and they decided to table it. The Department of Economic Development is in receipt of all of the materials from the fall

festival, which is why my recommendation is reflected here to fully fund it.

**Ms. Brabo:**

If I can interrupt you and state, we do this every year, every year, inflatables, petting zoo, carnival prizes, things like that, always get taken out for six years now, and yet they continue to resubmit with the explanation that it doesn't comply with the intent of the tourism funding. We specifically asked last year that as part of your response to them that in your letter you explain that to them. Since we could not find documentation of that, I'm asking for consensus from the board, but I also, just like last year, we gave them more than what was necessary for the signs and banners. My recommendation would be to give them the same amount as last year, and as we continue to explain to members of the fall festival committee, if they have other avenues for marketing or things of that nature--

**Ms. Pearson:**

Thank you.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Okay. I'm just saying six years in a row they submit for these things.

**Ms. Pearson:**

There's been some confusion here. We tabled this for that very reason and another reason, we did not have the action after action. We wanted to meet with Ms. Strauss and her committee. We talked about and we talked to her about the demographics of capturing that. So what we did was table it. We had the after action that she submitted right after we, that afternoon. We got that, it's on the agenda, and we talked about the inflatables. We talked about all of that. It's on the agenda, our agenda, the TAC agenda next month. I mean this my, excuse me, the 21<sup>st</sup>. We have an excellent after action. We are meeting with her and the committee because we have some ideas for--

**Ms. Brabo:**

Okay. That's great, but my point is it's not the intent of the funding. The funding is for marketing and things of that nature, and so just like six years in a row now, we as the

supervisors have removed the inflatables and things of that nature. Again, I would state, I would just because we want to support, I would recommend the \$6,000, same as we gave last year, which is still more than the actual funding that they list here for their marketing. I spoke to Ms. Dee the last two years and explained if there's other things that fit within the intent of the funding, we are happy to provide the funding for that, but these items do not necessarily fit within that.

**Ms. Pearson:**

That has been relayed to them and that's why we did table it and we didn't make a recommendation to you tonight. We also tabled the back porch vineyards. I know it's not on the agenda, but I did not know that this was going to be advanced for a vote tonight. I wasn't recommending it anything, but I think it got on here just so that we could clarify the timeline.

**Ms. Binder:**

I've a question. Dr. Young, can I have a copy from the tourism occupancy law from Virginia? I just tried to scan it today where it's saying that the specifics of exactly what we can use tourism dollars because I hear the inflatable thing bounced around every year and I haven't been on the supervisors for six years, so I would like to see that. And another question is, I have that meeting's minutes here, transcription of it. There's a lot of obsession about the attendance and being able to have an accurate count of this attendance. My question is, I know from that it's really hard to get attendance. There's all these people that come to the parade. There's a lot of people that just go to the parade. I don't see how you could get accurate attendance. I mean, it's a great, it's been in this community for a very long time for every citizen of King George, and it really is a good thing that we promote it and help them succeed especially in our 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Ms. Pearson:**

Yes, Ms. Brabo had suggested we talk about demographics and how to capture in maybe even a fun way attendance, we capture something by giving gifts or that was part of the

conversation because we want to keep improving and getting the numbers for the attendance.

That's part of what drives the tourism funding, and we actually read out loud to people what the criteria is that is directed as our community is directed and how we use it and whether it's signage, whether it's advertising marketing. We're very clear about that. This time we really wanted to work with the committee and go and sit down at one of their meetings, and we invited our entire committee and Claudette has been with us from the beginning, three and a half years. We do go through the same and we talk about the criteria, and that's why there's one that's not on here tonight because they wanted us to give them the advice, the new company, the back porch vineyards. We are going to work with these people so that it fits the criteria. I just wanted to make clear that we're trying to do the job.

**Ms. Brabo:** Do you want this tabled, Ms. Binder?

**Ms. Binder:** We can vote for it?

**Ms. Brabo:** Mm-hmm.

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah, because I would love to see that because I've never seen the full law and I was looking for-- I couldn't find that.

**Ms. Brabo:** Move to the table until May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at our next meeting.

**Mr. Granger:** Second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion?

**Mr. Gregory:** Ms. Binder I can provide that for you right now if you like.

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah, I would like.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the table right now. All those in favor?

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh no, he can be part of discussion because he may want to rescind the motion.

**Chairman:** Okay.

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah, I would like to hear.

**Mr. Gregory:** I'm not part of the discussion.

**Chairman:** Mr. Gregory, Interject.

**Ms. Binder:** I would like to hear from him.

**Mr. Gregory:** Well, if the question is what does the law allow, it comes under Virginia Code Section 58.13819, which is the transient occupancy tax, and that's where these monies come from. That code section authorizes King George County and many, many other counties in the Commonwealth to levy a transient occupancy tax. It states as follows, "Levy a transient occupancy tax not to exceed 5%, and any excess over 2% shall be designated and spent solely for tourism and travel marketing of tourism or initiatives that as determined after consultation with the local tourism industry organizations, including representatives of lodging properties located in the county, attract travelers to the locality, increase occupancy at lodging properties and generate tourism revenues in the locality." That's the purpose of those funds and that's the limitation on what you can spend them on and what you have to do in order to comply with the--

**Ms. Brabo:** Would you read that one more time?

**Ms. Binder:** Yeah because it sounds a lot different.

**Chairman:** It sounded like there is no limitation on it, whatever promotes tourism.

**Mr. Gregory:** That's right, and as long as you consult with those organizations and you and the board makes the determination after the consultation that those expenditures will satisfy those requirements, then you can spend those monies for those purposes. That's why we built these requirements into the transportation, I mean the transient-- sorry, the Tourism Advisory Committee's charter is that's what they're supposed to do, work within those guidelines, and they're supposed to confer with those industry

organizations and representatives. That's what their purpose is and that's why they exist, to do that work and then make recommendations to the board so the board has necessary data and input to make sure it's making its funding decisions in compliance with the code provision.

**Ms. Binder:** So, but there's nothing about inflatables in there.

**Ms. Binder:** I was just saying, well no, I'm just saying, I mean that was in the application.

**Chairman:** I have no problem moving forward with the recommendation that staff made for \$10,500.

**Ms. Binder:** They recommended, if I'm correct, not funding the inflatable part and just to \$6,000 correct?

**Ms. Jordon:** We did not.

**Ms. Brabo:** No, they didn't make any recommendations.

**Ms. Binder:** Okay, I was just asking for clarification.

**Mr. Jenkins:** You wanted to table it, correct?

**Chairman:** TAC's advisory though, we still can move forward with it. **[2:23:57 crosstalk]**.

**Mr. Jenkins:** You just said it was their responsibility to have that discussion with them, correct?

**Chairman:** With the tourism industry.

**Ms. Binder:** Wait a minute, hold on, the beginning of their charter states that the tourism committee is at the pleasure of the Board of supervisors.

**Ms. Brabo:** But the law does state you have to have input from the lodging industry and they must agree with the expenditure of the money, which is why we've created **[2:24:20 crosstalk]** but that's not what you said.

**Mr. Gregory:** It doesn't say that yet. They have to agree. It doesn't say that.

**Ms. Brabo:** It says they must have input.

**Mr. Gregory:** It just says you have to confer with them. I'll read it again.

**Ms. Brabo:** Yeah, confer, right? That's why we created the tourism committee and we have lodging industry represented on there, so be careful otherwise you're going to go right back to the old ways where they, as a board, were simply making the decision which was not in compliance--

**Ms. Binder:** Oh, I understand, but I also understand that for parents to bring your children, there have to be a lot of activities there.

**Ms. Brabo:** I'm not disagreeing with that.

**Mr. Granger:** I think the point is saying we need to wait for the TAC to make a recommendation before we officially make a decision based off what the law is saying. We need to confer. We haven't conferred yet because they haven't made a recommendation.

**Ms. Brabo:** Correct.

**Mr. Granger:** Would that be an accurate assessment, Mr. Gregory?

**Ms. Brabo:** Yes.

**Ms. Binder:** I would like to move forward but--

**Chairman:** Currently we still have a motion on the table properly seconded to be table. That concludes the discussion. All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye, motion is tabled.

**Ms. Binder:** Nay.

**Ms. Brabo:** If I may ask, this has been very enlightening today. Obviously starting six years ago there was misguidance

amongst-- not from you, but I mean it started with marketing only, marketing only, and so for six years that's what we have done. My point is this, to ensure that there's clarity going forward, does the TAC have a copy of what you just read?

**Mr. Gregory:** Yes, that is built into the charter.

**Ms. Binder:** I would like a copy of that please.

**Mr. Gregory:** We have provided guidance on this for six years or more about what the statute requires year in and year out.

**Ms. Brabo:** We have this conversation every year.

**Mr. Gregory:** And I've provided this input almost every year, and just quoting the statute. It's very clear. **[2:26:16 inaudible]**

**Chairman:** Mr. Gandy.

**Mr. Gandy:** The only thing I have to add to this is yes, each jurisdiction does it differently, right? So Caroline county funds a position from their tourism money. Spotsylvania helps fund their economic development tourism through that money. Everybody does it differently. It's up to I would say the county attorney to read that and tell you what he thinks it means and then the board to decide where that money is best used for tourism.

**Mr. Gregory** Mr. Gandy is correct. Every, lots of counties do it different ways. They fund, they make these determinations based upon conferrals with staff and members of these industry organizations, and then they decide to spend the money on any number of different things, all of which can be compliant with the statute. You don't need to do it this way. This is not the only way to do it, and yet it could be spent on staff, it could be spent on ball fields, it could be spent on other infrastructure. As long as you make that determination based upon these conferrals and there's a rational basis there, then you can do that.

**Ms. Brabo:** With the intent being to increase lodging.

**Mr. Gregory:** Not to increase lodging, to attract travelers to the locality, increase occupancy at lodging properties, and generate tourism revenues in the locality.

**Ms. Brabo:** Right. So you need to make sure, right? My point is simply this, we need to make sure we're in compliance with the law because that was the issue when I first got elected in 2012.

**Chairman:** Sounds to me like we would be.

**Ms. Binder:** Can I still have a copy of that, Mr. Gregory? Thank you.

**Mr. Gandy:** May I just ask the county attorney one question? Eric, from that code, the three things that are required, is that you have to do this, this and this, or is it this or this or this?

**Mr. Gregory:** Let me read it again just so it's clear. "Any excess over 2% of the monies generated shall be designated and spent solely for tourism and travel marketing of tourism or initiatives that as determined after consultation with the local tourism industry organizations including representatives of lodging properties located in the county, attract travelers to the locality, increase occupancy at lodging properties, and generate tourism revenues in the locality"

**Mr. Gandy:** So your interpretation is all three or is that just...?

**Ms. Brabo:** It didn't say "or" it said "and"

**Mr. Gandy:** Right, so that's what I'm asking, I guess.

**Ms. Brabo:** Which, the fall festival does attract travelers from other areas.

**Mr. Gandy:** I am asking the county attorney's interpretation on the code. I'm sorry, it is a matter of interpretation because this is a discussion that the tourism committee has had over and over again when we look at these applications and it's ambiguous as whether they have to meet all three or they have to meet one of the three.

**Chairman:** I think this is a conversation that can take place at a TAC meeting, so the motion is tabled. We're going to move on. Thank you very much. The department of parks and recreation, recreation advisory committee bylaws update.

**Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure everyone on the board received the email and saw the update from 4:30 this afternoon.

**Chairman:** Yes, thank you.

**Mr. Clarke:** Because this afternoon Mr. Gregory pointed out a typo we had in the document. The bylaws of parks and recreation advisory committee have not been updated since 2006. Working with the committee, we have worked to update the bylaws, and they are in front of you for consideration. The committee had voted at our last meeting to pass them on to you with their recommendations. Yeah, there may be some questions.

**Ms. Brabo:** I actually have concerns with this that I emailed to you earlier and cc Dr. Young and the county attorney on. I personally have concerns that you have designated your own staff to be responsible for the putting up and taking down of the signage based upon how this is currently drafted.

**Mr. Clarke:** Ma'am, we're now looking at the bylaws for the parks and recreation advisory committee.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh, I've skipped over. I apologize.

**Mr. Clarke:** That's my next item [2:30:49 inaudible] policy.

**Ms. Brabo:** That's okay. I was trying to ask, like what's she talking about?

**Ms. Binder:** I'm appreciative of it because I was on that committee before I became elected. It's nice to see some more organization in it. Thank you.

**Mr. Clarke:** To summarize the changes we're making, the student member was not really covered correctly with their interest on how they were appointed. We had to add the Dahlgren railroad heritage trail member to our minutes. Then I know that there were some questions, moving myself to be as the director to sit as the committee secretary so that the information and the minutes were kept in house so that we don't have them outside and they're controlled by the county. The date of our meeting was incorrect. They'd been, bylaw said the second Wednesday and they've been meeting on the third Wednesday for a long time. We were having trouble with quorum because there were things where we needed five members. We have corrected that since I arrived in the last three months. Mr. Granger and Ms. Brabo were both appointed new members to the board, so we now do you have five members on the board and so that has been the last few meetings, we had a full quorum. We were able to actually take action on these.

**Ms. Brabo:** I apologize, I was ahead on item.

**Mr. Granger:** I move to approve the changes of the park and recreation advisory committee bylaws as presented in the email from Mr. Clark that we received today.

**Ms. Binder:** I'll second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye, motion passes.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Why do you keep looking at me? Why is it always me? There's other people who want to have discussion.

**Chairman:** Department of Parks and Recreation, creation of a sign and banner policy for parks and recreation facilities.

**Mr. Clarke:** Currently parks or recreation and our partner organizations display sponsor banners at our parks and facilities. There's

no written policy on the constructions or size of these banners nor on what messages can be displayed. Parks and recreation has looked to our neighbors in Stafford County for assistance in developing a policy that will allow banners and signs to be displayed with guidelines in place to prevent certain undesirable messages. We ask that you would take action to approve a new sign and banner policy.

**Chairman:**

Ms. Brabo, you had some comments?

**Ms. Brabo:**

Yeah. As it is currently written, your own staff are responsible for placing all this signage and removal of all this signage, which is concerning to me because it seems like you guys have enough responsibilities to do to be worried about taking care of someone else's signage. Since you've already determined in there that you will designate the location, why have you elected for your staff to be responsible for the placement and removal of the signage?

**Mr. Clarke:**

In section 3, number 2, banners or signages may be placed in locations approved by the director. Currently we have Little league has signs at Barnesfield Park, and they placed them on the ball field, outfield fences. The next sentence that is, "Installation of the sign will be completed either by the parks and Recreation Department or by the affiliated organization." In the case of Little League, Little League would apply their signs up and Little League takes their signs down. At this moment actually parks and recreation is not selling signs for advertising. It's something that I would like to look forward into the future, but at this point, really right now it's Little League that is doing the affiliate signs, KGYAA football does signs, but they do those at the high school, which is under the authority of the school board.

**Ms. Brabo:**

Okay, but the way you have that stated, what you just read, installation of the sign will either be completed by the parks and rec department, which would be your staff. Why do you even have that in there? Why wouldn't you just have

installation be done by the affiliate organization responsible for the sign or banner?

**Mr. Clarke:** Because if I come back to you in coming months and we get authority to put our own signs up, then they would be sold and managed by the parks and recreation department. Therefore, we would have either our staff or general property staff put those signs up that we were getting the revenue from.

**Ms. Brabo:** I think just for clarification purposes, you are talking about you would in-house be able to print the signage for these affiliate organizations?

**Mr. Clarke:** No ma'am. I'm saying I could go out to Food Lion as an example and get a sponsorship where they would be a sponsor over the Parks and Recreation department and in exchange we would display a sign in the quonset hut for gymnastics.

**Ms. Brabo:** Don't you already currently place signage on your park property?

**Mr. Clarke:** At this point, we are not selling signs.

**Ms. Brabo:** No, don't you currently place signage for your activities?

**Mr. Clarke:** Temporary signage? Yes. This would be season long signs that we don't have a policy for. Like Little League puts up signs at the beginning of the season. If you go down to Barnesfield right now there's a dozen signs probably on the one field. We also don't cover anything last-- over the winter when I started, there were signs out on the field flapping in the wind because the zip ties had broken and they hadn't taken them down. It gives me the authority also to follow up with them and say, "Hey, these signs need to come down, and they're your responsibility"

**Ms. Brabo:** So the verbiage is, the intent is not that you as staff would be putting up everyone else's.

**Mr. Clarke:** Yeah. Those affiliate organizations and going forward, as looking to the future, we're looking to also establish an official affiliate organization plan. There are other jurisdictions that have such a plan where we can officially authorize-- work with these volunteer organizations and have relationships with them, something that we don't have right now that we really need to have going forward so that the rules are the same for each organization that we work with.

**Ms. Brabo:** As the attorney, does that language need to be clarified so that there's not confusion or am I just the only one that's confused?

**Mr. Gregory:** I think it's clear enough to be--

**Chairman:** It sounds like you're basically doing what we suggested to the school board or the previous board suggested to the school board on their fields about getting sponsorships and stuff like that. This is basically what you're attesting to. Season long signs from a sponsor or the organization that's putting it together for these types of signs.

**Mr. Clarke:** Yeah, Little League approached us with some questions about certain sponsors, and we're trying to make sure that we're covering the basis that they have some guidelines to go to that cover them and then also it gives them bringing out signs to be able to say, "This is what we're looking to put up," so that we're aware of the sponsors they're going to advertise for before they just end up on the field.

**Dr. Young:** Let me just speak on that. That's the impetus for this whole sign policy. We actually had a request to the Little League for a political candidate to place a sign on the field advertising during the Little League games. We talked to county attorney and that would be a conflict of interest. We realized that we really didn't have the coverage in place to say, "Hey, Yay or Nay, we have a policy in place to make sure that we're legally protected." I definitely understand that this language reads as if we're placing extra burden on the

county staff to remove signs, but the reality is it's more important that we have this policy in place and we get that policy in place today to ensure that the county has some type of guidelines for the type of signs that we can hang in our fields, not just for political candidates, for hate speech, or just across the board.

**Ms. Brabo:** I move to approve the new sign and banner policy for parks and recreation facilities.

**Mr. Jenkins:** Second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion passes. Discussion item, Department of Parks and Recreation, Complete Census Court Count Committee.

**Mr. Clarke:** On April 16, 2019, the board of supervisors approved the formation of the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. Attached is a proposed membership made up of members from various walks of life in order to assist the Complete Count Committee in reaching all citizens of King George County. The Complete Count Committee will receive training and guidance from the US Census Bureau and the George Washington Regional Commission as we strive to count every person so as to capture an accurate count for King George County. Tonight we recommend that you vote to approve the slate of members for the committee, that you appoint a member of your board to serve as a member of the committee. And then also, as I expressed in email, really to either appoint tonight or hopefully by your next meeting a member from each voting district as a citizen member of the committee.

**Ms. Brabo:** A question. I assume your meetings will be during the day.

**Dr. Young:** We haven't established those meetings yet, ma'am. The George Washington Regional Commission has not

established a regional census complete count committee yet. We're waiting for that to be approved and for that to be established and then basically we're going to mirror the same thing down to King George County. We really can't determine if it's going to be monthly meetings or biweekly meetings, but once we can get that guidance from the regional commission, then we can make sure that that's pushed out to the membership.

**Ms. Brabo:** But my question was, is the meeting going to be during business hours?

**Mr. Clarke:** At this point we're not clear exactly--

**Ms. Brabo:** Because obviously that's going to make a difference as to who could possibly serve on that.

**Mr. Clarke:** Absolutely, and at this time, there are actually are certain members on the list that are already in citizen roles, so they may or not be able to attend.

**Dr. Young:** It's best to assume that it's going to be evening though, ma'am, considering that the majority of people are working. More than likely it's going to be during the evening.

**Ms. Brabo:** Anybody interested? I got a full plate.

**Mr. Granger:** I'll take it on if no one else would want to.

**Ms. Brabo:** All right. I move to appoint Mr. Richard Granger--

**Chairman:** Hold on, do you want it or-- because you took one for me last time, so I'm also available.

**Mr. Granger:** I'm amenable either way.

**Chairman:** I'll take it.

**Ms. Brabo:** All right. I move to appoint Mr. Jeff Bueche to the King George County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.

**Ms. Binder:** Second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye.

**Ms. Brabo:** I move to approve the slate of members that is currently listed to the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.

**Mr. Granger:** Second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye. Motion passes.

**Ms. Brabo:** I did post on Facebook today that by May 21<sup>st</sup>, citizens should let each of you know whether or not they are interested in serving. Unless you already have someone you can appoint tonight, I guess we will all be appointing on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. Granger:** Thank you, Mr. Bueche.

**Chairman:** Thank you, sir. Thank you for willing to do another one though, Richard. All right. I believe we have a closed session, Ms. Binder.

**Ms. Brabo:** Oh, County Administrator's report.

**Chairman:** Oh, I'm sorry. County Administrator's report, Dr. Young.

**Dr. Young:** Thank you, sir. I'd like to advise the board of the fact that all of the air conditioner units in the courthouse have now been replaced. This combined with the completed mold mitigation project should address the moisture and allergy issues and the facility. I would like to thank Mike Muncie, our director of general properties department, for spending over 30 hours of his time on the weekends to ensure that the project was successful.

**Chairman:** Wow.

**Dr. Young:**

In addition, the Virginia Department of Taxation's debt set off collection program is used by state agencies to intercept proceeds to offset debts owed by taxpayers to local agencies that participate in the program. In this program, participating locality submit a file to the system identifying unpaid balances on tax accounts. The Commonwealth in turn matches a tax refund or a lottery prize with the set of files submitted by participating localities. If there's a match, the Commonwealth sends owed payments to the participating localities.

Camyell Pratt, our deputy treasurer learned of debt set off program, completed the training and registered King George County in September, 2016. The program has proven invaluable. The debt set off collection program has allowed the King George County Treasurer's office to collect on accounts that had been delinquent since 2013. Because of Ms. Pratt's efforts, the King George County has been able to realize \$300,811.39 to date. I just wanted to advise the board to thank Camyell Pratt and Mr. Muncie for their dedication to services to the county.

**Ms. Brabo:**

That's fantastic.

**Dr. Young:**

That concludes my report.

**Mr. Granger:**

Thank you.

**Ms. Binder:**

I move that the King George County board of supervisors convene in close meeting pursuant to state code section 2.23711A3 for discussion, consideration and consultation with legal counsel concerning the potential acquisition of real property for public purposes and disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting with advisory effect to bargaining position or negotiating strategy at the board and State Code Section 2.23711A1 for discussion of personnel matters relating to the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific King George County

public officers, appointees, or employees. Invited to attend the close meeting as necessary are the county administrator and the county attorney because they are deemed necessary and their presence will reasonably aid the board in its consideration of the topics to be discussed pursuant to Virginia FOIA section 2.23712F.

**Mr. Granger:**

Second.

**Chairman:**

Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:**

Aye.

**Chairman:**

Any opposed? The chair votes Aye. We're in closed session.

**Ms. Binder:**

We at the King George County Board of Supervisors return to public meetings and certified by vote that only public business matters lawfully exempted from opiod meeting requirements by Virginia Law and any such public business matters as we identified in the motion convened in the closed meeting discussed or considered during the closed meeting.

**Mr. Granger:**

Second.

**Chairman:**

All those in favor? Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Jenkins.

**Mr. Jenkins:**

So certify.

**Chairman:**

Mr. Granger.

**Mr. Granger:**

So certify.

**Chairman:**

Ms. Binder.

**Ms. Binder:**

So certify.

**Chairman:**

Ms. Brabo?

**Ms. Brabo:**

So certify.

**Chairman:**

I so certify. We're back in open session.

**Ms. Binder:** Mr. Chairman, I have a motion. I move to remove Ms. Sandra Pearson as a member of the TAC; King George Tourism Advisory Committee.

**Mr. Granger:** Second.

**Chairman:** All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed?

**Ms. Brabo:** One abstention.

**Chairman:** Chair votes aye. Motion passes. Is there any other business to come before the Board?

**Mr. Granger:** I move to adjourn until May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the board room.

**Ms. Brabo:** I'll second.

**Chairman:** Any discussion? All those in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Chairman:** Any opposed? Chair votes aye, we're adjourned.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**