



VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE SURRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CENTER ON THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023, AT 7 PM.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR BRENTON BYRD
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE

ABSENT:

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. DOREATHA PIERCE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MR. DELON BROWN, NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR, IT DIRECTOR
MR. HORACE WADE, PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MR. MATT WESTHEIMER, BUILDING OFFICIAL
MR. RAY PHELPS, CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MS. VALERIE PIERCE, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MS. PAT BERNSHAUSEN, TOURISM
MR. JONATHAN JUDKINS, COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE
SHERIFF CARLOS TURNER, SURRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

INVOCATION

The invocation for tonight's meeting was given by Pastor Daniel L. Baltimore of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church.

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Robert Elliott, Jr., who then asked for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence, he asked those present to stand and recite the pledge of allegiance; thereafter, Chair Elliott asked if there were questions or corrections to the agenda as presented. Mrs. Perkins, County Attorney, advised the Board that a Closed Session would not take place. There being no other corrections or changes to the presented agenda, Supervisor Lyttle motioned to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Byrd seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted by a roll call vote.



SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM “TIM” CALHOUN	AYE
SUPERVISOR BRENTON BYRD	AYE
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE	AYE

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approval of Draft BOS Minutes: April 6, 2023
2. Approval of Accounts Payable for the Month of March 2023 in the Amount of \$784,796.37
3. Resolution Recognizing National Travel & Tourism Week
4. National Day of Prayer Resolution

Chair Elliott read the items listed for consent and asked Board members if any items needed to be pulled for discussion. There being none, Supervisor Pierce made a motion to approve the consent items as enumerated. Supervisor Byrd seconded the motion. All present voted affirmatively. (Approved)

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed FY24 Budget - A public hearing will be held to consider the County Administrator's Proposed Budget presented on April 6th.

- Presentation by Staff
 - Melissa Rollins, County Administrator presented a summary of the County Administrator's proposed budget that was presented on April 6, 2023.
 - Lola Perkins, County Attorney provided a summary of the legalities of the Proposed Budget's public hearing.
- Open the Floor for Public Comments – Chair Robert Elliott, Jr.
 - Nancey Rodriguez, Spring Grove District – Commended staff and board for the clarity of the proposed budget. Stated her concern with the budget is the proposed increase in the county debt structure. Shared thoughts on how the state budget may impact local government. Suggested that a pause is placed on spending.
 - Robert Chandler, Bacon's Castle District – Shared the reassessment would cause a decrease in citizens' income, putting emphasis on seniors and shared the burdens it would put on the population. Asked the board to reconsider the tax increase.



- Brian Agor, Surry District, - Commended the staff on the clarity of the Budget. Opposed of the Tax Increase and believes the County should decrease the current debt, before adding to it.
- Amy Drewry, Dendron District, - Suggests the County should take a break on the tax increase and focus on citizen engagement this year.
- Dianne Cheek, Surry District – Shared her concerns about the major increases within the CIP plan. Asked for a status on the unfinished projects that are listed in the CIP plan. Suggested that the CIP plan be reexamined.
- Susan Corvello, Claremont District – Shared her concerns about the need for an EMS Crew, Opposed salary increase, and suggest Employee Evaluation for pay raises. Opposed to improvements at Parks and Rec Center at this time, Shared concerns about staff who do not live in the county.
- Michael Drewry, Dendron District – Thinks the county should do more for senior citizens. Suggested that present projects should be completed before adding new debt. Shared he loved the idea of improvements to Parks and Rec, but thinks it should be moved again, instead of raising taxes.
- Kathleen Weidner, Dendron District – Shared her concerns about a tax increase's effects on a specific Dendron citizen. Reconsider the increase in the tax rate and where the spending is going.
- Robert Weinder, Dendron District – Asked the County to consider decreasing the tax rate to \$0.68. Suggested the County decreases spending.
- Michael Eggleston, Dendron District - opposed to budget, believes a 5% salary raise for employees is too much,
- Michael Abley, Spring Grove District - Commended on the clarity of the budget, opposed to the proposed renovations to Parks and Recreation,
- Kimberly Baily, Bacon Castle – Opposed to the tax increase and would like the County to take into consideration how the increase would affect senior citizens.
- Sharna White, Carsley District – Thanked Supervisor Pierce for holding community meetings for the citizens of his district and asked that more citizens attend these meetings. Shared her understanding of the Board's position with decision-making as it pertains to addressing the needs of seniors, as well as the younger citizens and the youth of the County. Elaborated on state-mandated tasks, such as employee raises.

III. Close the Public Hearing - Chair Robert Elliott, Jr. closed the public hearing.

IV. Comments from Board Members



- Supervisor Byrd-Thanked all for their comments and concerns. Ensured citizens the Board would do what was best for the citizens in Surry County.
- Supervisor Lyttle – Thanked those citizens who shared their comments and concerns. Shared that the board will revisit some of the items mentioned and if some of those things can be adjusted, they would do so.
- Supervisor Pierce – Thanked the citizens for their comments and ensured them the Board was trying its best to accommodate everyone. Thanked Sharna White for her comments and for acknowledging town meetings for the Carsley District.
- Supervisor Calhoun – Stated that 13 citizens came up and asked for some type of relief on the real estate tax. Acknowledged he received citizen's, (Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Weidner) comments. Recommended the Board have another Work session to revisit the proposed budget. Stated he is taking consideration of senior relief and has been in communication with Jonathan Judkins, Commissioner of the Revenue.
- Supervisor Elliott – Thanked all participants who shared their comments and concerns. Addressed concerns that were mentioned regarding Emergency Medical Services within the County. Elaborated on Sharna White's comment regarding the need to address the needs of the youth in the County and noted the need to do things to retain them as well.

V. Closing Remarks by Staff

- Melissa Rollins – Elaborated on the challenges that the Board has before them. Summarized the details of Davenport's financial analysis regarding the County, to address potential misconceptions. Shared the findings of a study pertaining to the existing fire services' needs to analyze the sustainability of the current funding and review alternative funding. Discussed with the Board a few budget adjustments that would be presented in the upcoming work session. Welcomed citizens to email her with questions concerning the proposed budget.
- The Board collaboratively decided to have a work session on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6 p.m.

NEW BUSINESSs

1. MOU with Prince George County - Opioid Settlement Funds – Lola Perkins

Supervisor Calhoun made a motion to approve the MOU with Prince George County as presented. Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion.: All present voted affirmatively.

(Approved)



PRESENTATIONS

1. Tourism Update: Digital Marketing Campaign & Development of the Cultural Trail

Tourism Coordinator, Pat Bernshausen and Rebecca Meyers with Advance Travel and Tourism provided an update on Surry County's digital marketing campaign and the development of the cultural trail.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

1. Update: Mobile Radio Communication System - Ray Phelps, Chief of Emergency Management provided an update on the Radio Communication System.
2. Melissa Rollins, County Administrator
 - Earth Day Cleanup
 - Regional Recruitment of Public Safety Employees
 - Housing Crisis in Surry County
 - Advancing the Goals and needs of the Commission Membership
 - Senior Programs / 55+ Programs / Senior Advocate Expo
 - Success of Economic Development's Job Fair
 - Success of Employees Health Fair
 - Student Government Day
 - Congress McClellan - Surry County is one of those Selected to Submit to the Appropriation Committee for Funding
 - Farmers Market Season – Fridays and Sundays
3. Building Safety Week - Matt Westheimer, Building Official
4. Valerie Pierce, Director of Social Services
 - Older American Month
 - Success of Feeding Program
5. Sheriff Carlos Turner - Awarded distinguished recertification designation by Dr. Robyn McDougle, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU during the VSI (Virginia Sheriff's Institute) Training Conference in Hot Springs, VA.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. LGIP Investment Letter – March 31, 2023

REPORTS

1. Blackwater Regional Library Director's Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Robert Chandler -Stated Supervisor Elliott's and Mrs. Rollins's comments gave him the impression that the decision has already been made.
2. Susan Corvello – Suggested a sign be placed at the trail. Stated she'd be willing to pay 1% to have another ambulance crew in the County.
3. Sheriff Turner – Shared what was going on in his office as it relates to National Police Week and Animal Control Appreciation Week. Elaborated on the recent resignations of duties in his office.

BOARD COMMENT

1. Supervisor Byrd – Thanked Pastor Baltimore for his fervent prayer. Thanked staff for all they have done for the County. Thanked Tourism for their efforts in the grant work and Mr. Phelps for the Radio Communication update. Thanked Mrs. Pierce for her remarks regarding the senior meals that she organized. Acknowledged Ms. Rollins for recognizing Student Government Day. Thanked the citizens for their participation.
2. Supervisor Lyttle – Thanked citizens for their participation. Recognized staff for all their work and efforts.
3. Supervisor Pierce – Thanked the volunteers who participated in Earth Day. Thanked all those who attended the Town Hall meetings in the Carsley District and encouraged more participation. Acknowledged Social Services for their service in feeding the seniors. Thanked Sheriff Turner for the gift. Encouraged all to attend the Farmers Market.
4. Supervisor Calhoun – Stated ditto to all the thanks that have been given. Thanked citizens for their opinions on the budget.



5. Supervisor Elliott – Thanked all who participated in this meeting. Encouraged the citizens the Board is doing what they feel to be the betterment of the county in its entirety. Asked the citizens for their continued support.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Calhoun made a motion that the Board continues their meeting to Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6 p.m. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Pierce and unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:38 PM.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the Surry County Government YouTube Channel: [Surry County Government - YouTube](#)

MAY AGENDA NOTE

Agenda Item: Approval of May 4, 2023 Payables
(Note: Payables are for the month of March 2023)

	<i>FY 21-22</i>	<i>FY 22-23</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	PAYABLES	PAYABLES	
General Fund		\$ 547,858.31	\$ 547,858.31
Debt Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital	\$ -	\$ 125,793.33	\$ 125,793.33
Water & Sewer	\$ -	\$ 19,641.73	\$ 19,641.73
CSA	\$ -	\$ 91,233.00	\$ 91,233.00
Economic Dev.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Juror Payments	\$ -	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00
Total Payables	\$ -	\$ 784,796.37	\$ 784,796.37

Required Action:

~ **Approve payables for May 2023 in the amount of**
\$ 784,796.37



Surry County Treasurer's Office

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer

Telephone: (757) 294-5206
Fax: (757) 294-5208
Web: www.surrycountyva.gov

45 School Street
Post Office Box 286
Surry, Virginia 23883

April 23, 2023

Surry County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Robert Elliot, Chairman
Post Office Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Lady and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that we last reported a balance in the Local Government Investment Pool totaling \$20,250,389.54.

Since that report, we received our accrued interest for March 2023 in the amount of \$82,320.81 increasing our balance in LGIP to \$20,332,710.35.

Since our last report, we transferred 1,000,000.00 from the Local Government Investment Pool to the General Fund, bringing the LGIP balance to \$19,332,710.35.

We have the following investments:

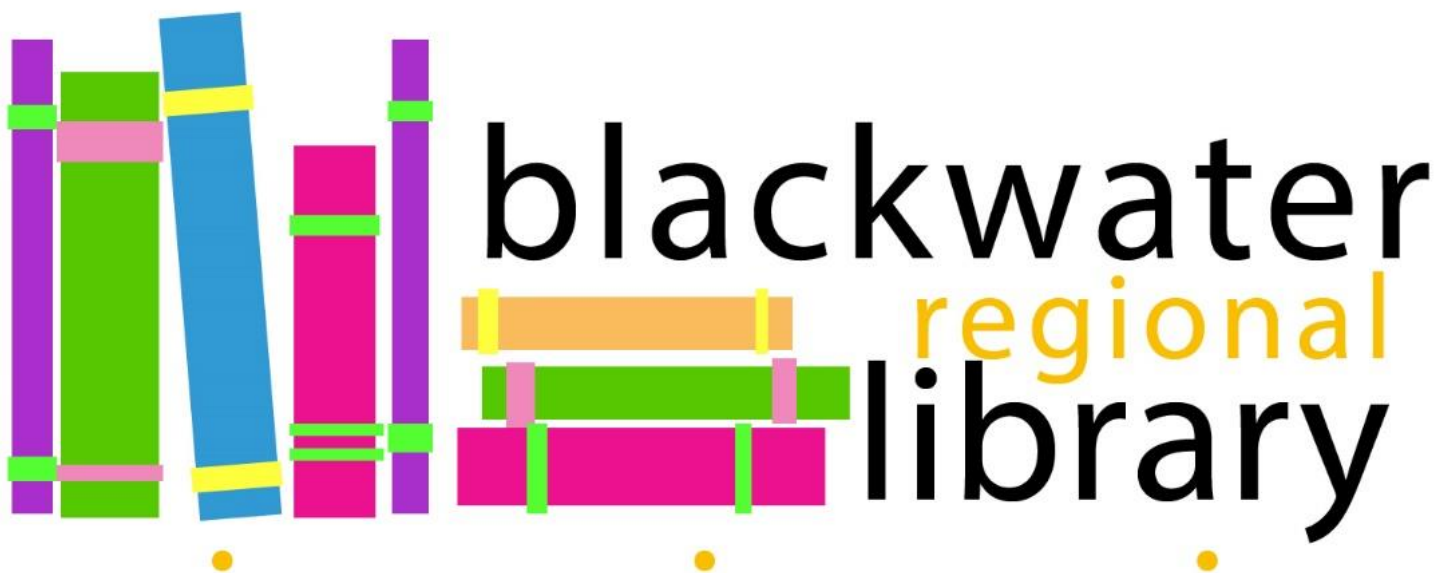
		Rate	Days	Matures
LGIP	\$ 19,332,710.35	Variable rate		
EVB CD Plus accrued Int.	500,000.00	.40%	730	01/28/2024

This gives us a total investment of **\$19,832,710.35.**

Respectfully submitted,

Onike N. Ruffin

Onike N. Ruffin, Treasurer
County of Surry



Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex
www.blackwaterlib.org

Director's Report

March 2023

Central/Systemwide Updates

- One staff vacancy, a Senior Library Assistant position in Claremont due to staff transfers/internal promotions
- 20 trainings completed system-wide in March
- Three staff members attending Virginia Library Association Professional Associates Forum conference later in April
- Nearly 17,000 library visits in March (+11% YOY), highest non-summer visitation since pre-pandemic.



BRL Staff pitched in to help with the Town of Courtland's Great American Clean-Up Day.

Impact in the Community



Kickoff of BRL Threads
knitting/crocheting group
in Ivor was very successful



StoryWalks for local
daycares/pre-schools in Isle
of Wight County reached
nearly 500 children



Little Explorers Story
Time at StoreHouse
Coffee

33 Outreach Programs in the Community in March
reaching over 1100 people

City of Franklin

- Youth programs are being better attended recently, thanks to new Youth Programmer
- Adult programs such as the Light Up Easter Bunny crafts continue to be popular
- New Pop-Up Library at Hayden Village Center has been well received; deposit collections at East Pavilion and continuing pop-up at The Village



Isle of Wight County

- Carrollton Branch and Smithfield branches both hosted An American Girl-themed tea party for Women's History Month
- A lot of great and well-attended adult programs including a presentation on Pregnancy and Postpartum Exercise Routines by a local physical therapist at Smithfield
- Windsor Branch continued its outreach visits to My Pumpkin Patch preschool and successful in-branch programming

Between Outreach and In-House programming, 72 programs reaching over 1700 persons were delivered in IOW County in March



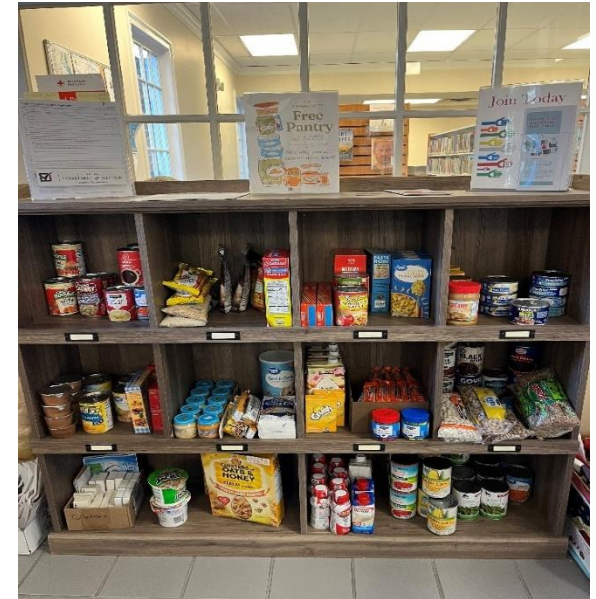
Southampton County

- Author Dale A. Jordan visited with local Pre-K students for a special Story Time!
- Courtland's STEM night was popular, with tweens participating in a miniature golf challenge
- Other family-oriented programs of note including Paws to Read and Family Movie Night; while adults made ceramic tile coasters and attended health/wellness workshops



Surry County

- Surry's Little Free Pantry continues to be a big hit in the community with both those in need, but a broader swath of the community who recognize the need for such initiatives in the community
- Claremont branch Craftsy group made Shamrock Hand Warmers
- Full STEAM Ahead program taught children all about celery and started their own small celery plants!



Sussex County

- BRL Threads has become very popular, especially at the Waverly Branch
- Waverly Craftsy was a big hit with painted Easter Egg door hangers. Seven patrons showed up for this inaugural program
- Wakefield Friends of the Library group had a very successful fundraiser selling meals from Captain Bob's Food Truck. These funds will help support library programs in Wakefield

