

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held in and for the County of Mecklenburg on January 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors meeting room of the Goode Bank Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn Barbour, Chairman; Glanzy Spain, Jr., Vice-Chairman; David Brankley; Andy Hargrove; Jim Jennings; Charles Jones; Tom Tanner

MEMBER ABSENT: Claudia Lundy; Sterling Wilkinson

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion of Mr. Spain, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Board Meeting. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, Tanner voted 'aye'.

Chairman Barbour advised that Item E has been deleted from the Agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Tanner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, Tanner voted 'aye'.

The Chairman announced that the first meeting in January 2022, is designated as the organizational meeting for the Board of Supervisors. The County Attorney, Russell Slayton, as Parliamentarian, presided over this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Slayton stated that the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be elected to serve a one-year term at the onset of the organizational meeting.

The County Attorney announced that the floor was now open for nominations.

Mr. Jennings nominated Mr. Barbour to serve as Chairman.

Mr. Slayton stated that with no further nominations, the nominations would be closed.

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Barbour was elected as Chairman. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

Mr. Hargrove nominated Mr. Spain to serve as Vice-Chairman.

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Spain was elected as Vice-Chairman. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

Upon a motion of Mr. Jones, the Board voted to accept the following schedule of meetings for the Year 2022. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**2022 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

<u>January 10th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>February 14th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>March 14th</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
<u>April 11th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>May 9th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>June 13th</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
<u>July 11th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>August 8th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>September 12th</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
* <u>October 11th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
* <u>November 7th</u>	<u>9:30 AM</u>
<u>December 12th</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>

\* October 10th is a State Holiday

\* VACo Conference - November 13th-15th

All meetings are held at 350 Washington Street in Boydton, Virginia at the Goode Bank Building in the Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room.

Upon a motion of Mr. Tanner, the Board voted to adopt Robert Rules of Order and those rules previously adopted by the Board. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

A public hearing was held on an appealed application by Seven Bridges Solar for Comprehensive Plan review by the Mecklenburg County Planning Commission pursuant to Virginia Code 15.2-2232 of its proposed seven hundred ninety-nine (799) acres out of one thousand eight hundred forty-one (1,841) acres, 105 MW solar energy facility to be located on Mecklenburg County on Tax Parcel Numbers 36574, 6775, 7846, 8177, 7779, 8502, 35328, 7211, 8241, and 35051. These properties are located on the west side of Scotts Crossroads (Route 633), approximately 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile north of its intersection with Highway 47, east and west side of Highway 49, approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile north of its intersection with Highway 682 (Fort Mitchell Road), and on the east side of Highway 682 (Fort Mitchell Road), approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile north of its intersection with Highway 683 (Lenhart Drive), Chase City District.

On September 30, 2021, the Planning Commission determined that the 7 Bridges Solar Project was not “substantially in accord” with the County’s Comprehensive Plan for the following reasons:

1. The solar facility location is within proximity to the South Meherrin River (including the creeks of Finneywood and Horsepen, which flow into the Meherrin River).
2. Construction of the solar facility will remove 799 acres of Agricultural property from production.
3. The solar facility is within two miles (3,012.8 feet) of an existing solar facility (Grasshopper Solar).
4. The solar project is over 500 acres.

Mr. Matt Thornton, Director of Development for Long Road Energy representing the Seven Bridges Project addressed the Board thanking the Board for hearing the appeal and the reason why they feel this project is in accord with the Mecklenburg County Comprehensive Plan. He stated that this project is not near a town, not visible from a main road and will only occupy a small portion of a large site. He stated that Long Road Energy has developed a relationship with the Chase City Community and read a testimony from a locality in Texas that they have previously collaborated with. Mr. Thornton reviewed several aspects of the project that are in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Ann Neal Cosby, Attorney with McGuire Woods addressed the Board going over why Long Road Energy believes that the Planning Commission’s decision on this project should be overruled. She pointed out that the Code of Virginia states that Planning Commission gets to decide if the project is “substantially in accord” with the Comprehensive Plan, highlighting that the language is not completely in accord. Ms. Cosby presented a site map of the proposed project showing its 1841 acres in total, 799 acres within the fence and 209 acres under panels. The site will have buffers of 100 feet. She stated that this project falls within the Comprehensive Plan’s goals for Economic Development and Natural and Cultural Resources and that the Board should allow this project to move forward to the County’s Solar Development Special Exception Permit review process.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment on the matter.

Ms. Jean Clary Bagley, South Hill Resident addressed the Board stating that she has served on the Board of Virginia Dominion Power for many years and that it is evident that solar energy is Americas fastest growing power source, providing clean green energy. She is in support of the Seven Bridges Solar Project and its Economic Development impact as well as the tax benefits to the County. Ms. Bagley stated that she is a real estate agent and new homeowners to the area request solar power or renewable energy.

Ms. Susan Mullin, Charlotte County Resident and one of the property owners, addressed the Board as an Environmentalist. She stated that climate changes are coming quickly and that we need as much solar as we can get. She stated that she believes this project will be a great suit for the County.

Mr. Steve Normand, Manager of the Microtel in South Hill addressed the Board. He stated that he is in support of this project because of the economic impact it will bring to his hotel. He stated that the construction workers are long term extended renters of his hotel and as well as the gas and the restaurant industry. They stay 7 nights a week and help the area's small businesses.

Mr. Brandon Estes spoke against the Seven Bridges Solar Project. He stated that there would be no benefit to the County with a project of this size. He stated that these projects can only compete with government subsidies. He supports as far as renewal energy goes, he supports nuclear or natural gas as it is much more sustainable.

Mr. John Jansen, South Hill Resident addressed the Board stating that the reason this type of project is restricted in the Comprehensive Plan is the County has learned that these types of companies do not do what they say. He stated that this land is in timber currently, because it is highly erodible and environmentally sensitive. He stated that a group he belongs to is called "Friends of the Meherrin". This group was formed when the previous solar project "Grasshopper" failed to comply with erosion and sediment laws.

Ms. Judy Brothers addressed the Board reading a letter to the editor that she recently posted and asked that the Board deny the application of appeal. She is not in favor of solar power as a renewable energy.

Mr. Skyler Zunk of Conservatives for Clean Energy addressed the Board in favor of the Seven Bridges Solar Project. He stated this is a well-sited project and will be great for the Commonwealth. He stated that property rights are important and if you are not adversely affecting your neighbor, you should be allowed to do on your land what you wish. He stated that the tax benefit would be substantial for 30 years to the County.

Mr. Monty Hightower, Chase City Resident addressed the Board stating that he has seen firsthand what the economic benefits these type of projects have on small towns, such as Chase City. He would like to see Chase City continue to blossom with another solar project. He believes that this project will not have the number of problems that previous projects have had.

Mr. Alden Faringer, Mayor of Chase City spoke on behalf of the Seven Bridges Solar Project. He thinks that Long Road Energy has been easy to work with and that they have done everything

that has been asked of them. He would like the Board to overrule the Planning Commission's decision and let them get to the Special Exception Process.

Upon a motion of Mr. Brankley, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, by a 9-0 vote on September 30, 2021, the Mecklenburg County Planning Commission ("Planning Commission") determined that the application of 7 Bridges Solar, LLC ("Applicant") is not substantially in accord with the Mecklenburg County Comprehensive Plan ("Comprehensive Plan");

**WHEREAS**, the Applicant appealed that decision by the Planning Commission, and a duly advertised public hearing was conducted by the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors ("Board") prior to consideration of this resolution.

**IT IS ACCORDINGLY, HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:** After consideration of the unanimous decision made by the Planning Commission, after consideration of the reasons stated by the Planning Commission in support of its decision, and after consideration of the comments and information provided at today's public hearing, the Board declines to exercise the right afforded to it by Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232 to overrule the decision of the Planning Commission, and accordingly, the Planning Commission's decision of September 30, 2021 is not overruled.

ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

A public hearing was held on an application by Alan and Melissa Hartman (Bracey History Project LLC) for a special exception permit to allow for a registered office space for the 501c4 non-profit organization. This property, identified as County Tax Number 181A00-((01))-031, zoned Residential R-2 is located on the north side of Brookstone Drive, approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile west of its intersection with Oak Court, LaCrosse District, Election District 3, County of Mecklenburg. Reference Deed Book LR-11-3005.

Ms. Melissa Hartman addressed the Board of behalf of her application explaining the work of her non-profit organization by preserving and highlighting the history of Bracey.

Upon a motion of Mr. Tanner, the Board voted unanimously to approve an application by Alan and Melissa Hartman (Bracey History Project LLC) for a special exception permit to allow for a registered office space for the 501c4 non-profit organization. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

Under public comment:

Mr. Gene Long addressed the Board with questions about another potential solar project application in the Daniels Road area stating that if so, he is not in favor. He questioned how many locations around the County are being looked at and the Environmental Impact they will have on the County.

Ms. Petrina Carter, President and CEO of Tri-County Community Action Agency addressed the Board with an update on her agency since November. Since then they have received a grant for 2.5 million from the Bezos Foundation to help with homelessness in the 3 counties served. Ms. Carter advised that this grant will be spread over five years and her agency needs to hire an intake worker and counseling specialist that will work directly in Mecklenburg County. She advised that Tri-County also has several other openings throughout their agency. Ms. Carter also advised that Mecklenburg County's weatherization program was out for bid and her agency has placed an application to provide that service.

Mr. Robert Rosenthal, Library Director addressed the Board with an update on the Mecklenburg County Libraries. He advised that Covid-19 has impacted the Library system. Because of this impact, they have added numerous services to residents such as hot spots, chromebooks, expanded e-offerings such as online books and movies. They have added a hybrid meeting/studio room allowing people remote access.

Mr. Spain questioned why the Library does not desire to hand out Covid testing to the community.

Mr. Rosenthal explained that he did not want the community to associate sickness with visiting a library and in order to protect his staff and patrons.

The Budget & Finance Committee met on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Glanzy Spain, Chairman; Charles Jones; David Brankley; Jim Jennings

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Barbour, Andy Hargrove; Tom Tanner, Wayne Carter, County Administrator; Judy Sheffield, Assistant County Administrator, Alex Gottschalk, Deputy County Administrator; Ed Taylor, Commissioner of the Revenue; Paul Nichols, School Superintendent; Brian Dalton, School Maintenance Director

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Mr. Brian Dalton presented the following Capital Improvement requests to the Committee. The total cost of the requested Capital Improvement Projects are \$725,000.00.

- **Employee Parking Lot Construction @ CO/Trailer Demo (\$135,000.00)**
  - We would like to construct an additional parking lot in the fenced in area behind the Central Office. We need more parking spaces when we have training sessions and Board meetings. This would also provide a secure area to park county cars that are not in use. There is also an office trailer that will need to be demoed to make room for the parking lot.
  
- **Transportation Radio Project (\$58,000.00)**
  - Our current VHF radio system has many "dead spots" throughout the county due to only 1 repeater in the Baskerville area. This means we have little to no radio

communication with most of our drivers as they transport students on a daily basis. MCPS has been working with Jon Taylor, Emergency Services Coordinator for Mecklenburg County, and Dan Christie with Mobile Communications America for over a year to help come up with a solution that would allow the school system to use Mecklenburg County's current UHF infrastructure for radio communication on our buses and cars. This should benefit both parties by adding more capacity to Mecklenburg county's existing system. MCPS was able to acquire the bulk of the funding through the School Equipment Grant (\$192,000). We would need the remaining \$58,000 to cover the remaining balance. This is however a time sensitive request as Motorola will have a 30% price increase after January 14th, 2022. We would like to be able to lock in on the current pricing.

- **New School Radio Project (\$69,000.00)**

- The new secondary school complex sits on a huge campus covering over 200 acres and the main building being constructed of CMU block wall. We have worked once again with Mobile Communications America to provide a solution to our radio communications needs. A reliable UHF system is crucial to the daily safety and security of our students, staff, and campus. This too is a time sensitive request as Motorola will have a 30% price increase after January 14th, 2022. We would like to be able to lock in on the current pricing.

- **New School Uniforms (\$326,000.00)**

- MCPS will be combining 4 existing secondary schools with 4 different mascots into a combined facility using 1 common mascot, The Phoenix. This will require the purchase of new uniforms for all sports, cheerleading, and Marching Band. Current MCMS and MCHS principals and new Activities Administrator have worked with BSN to design and outfit our sports teams with Nike uniforms, cheer with Varsity Cheer uniforms, and Band with uniforms from Demoulin. A panel of MCPS employees have participated in the process.

Upon a motion of Mr. Jones, the Committee unanimously recommended all the reports excluding the Turf Equipment for the school complex for a total of \$588,000.00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Upon a motion of Mr. Spain, the Board voted unanimously to approve the all the capital requests for the new school complex from the School Board excluding the Turf Equipment for a total of \$588,000.00. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, and Tanner voted 'aye'.

Under the County Administrator's report:

Mr. Carter advised that the Building Official's report shows a new building for Microsoft and an increase for the month and well as the Zoning Administrator's monthly report. Mr. Carter said that the Animal Control's monthly report and the Sheriff's monthly report were included in the packet for review.

Mr. Kevin Smith, VDOT Assistant Resident Engineer addressed the Board with the monthly update from VDOT. He advised that all litter was picked up on primary routes and some secondary routes in December. The first snow removal last week was successful as well as sending trucks to northern Virginia to assist. A meeting was held with Traffic Engineers on the Highway Fifty-Eight/Highway Fifteen intersection in Clarksville. He advised they are going to study the areas of concern again. The Superintendent position in the Clarksville District has been filled by Mr. Brad Whittington.

Mr. Carter advised the Board that the holiday schedule that the County will follow is included in the packet.

Under the Chairman's report:

Chairman Barbour presented the Committee Assignments for the 2022 year.

Mr. Josh Hatchell has resigned from the Virginia Alcohol and Safety Program Board due to a change in positions.

Upon a motion of Mr. Tanner, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Allen Nash to serve on the Virginia Alcohol and Safety Program Board. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, Tanner voted 'aye'.

Upon a motion of Mr. Spain, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent calendar as it relates to the December bill's list. Supervisors Barbour, Spain, Brankley, Hargrove, Jennings, Jones, Tanner voted 'aye'.

Under Board Member Matters:

Mr. Jones stated that he was glad to hear that the new school is on budget and on schedule. He thanked Ms. Carter with Tri-County Community Action Agency and stated that he was glad the kids were back in school today.

Mr. Tanner advised that with Covid back on the rise, EMS and Hospitals are taxed right now. He stated that the amount of calls is more than ever and reminded everyone that if you call an ambulance to get to the hospital, you will not get seen any quicker. Mr. Tanner stated that yesterday was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked our Law Enforcement especially the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Tanner wanted to recognize Robert and Tammy Furr and Ernie Thompson for collecting supplies for the Kentucky Tornado Victims. They drove three truckloads of supplies to them. Mr. Tanner next reminded the citizens to do research before signing any solar obligations for their property.

Mr. Hargrove wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he was pleased with visiting the new school yesterday, when he attended a prayer there. He thanked Ms. Carter for her presentation to the Board.

Mr. Brankley thanked Mr. Nichols for his efforts in keeping the schools open during these difficult times. He congratulated Mr. Barbour and Mr. Spain for being re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman and thanked staff for doing a great job.

Mr. Jennings wanted to make a correction to something said earlier, it was said that pine trees are not considered an agricultural product when in fact they are.

Mr. Spain thanked the Board for the trust in being re-elected as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Mr. Barbour thanked the Board for the vote of confidence as Chairman, stating that serving on the Board is an honor and a privilege. He also stated that the County is not anti-solar and he believes the projects do need to be looked at closely. He thanked the Planning Commission for their work on the projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until February 14, 2022, unless sooner called to order by the Chairman.