

VIRGINIA: At the Continued Meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Bland County Courthouse, Bland, Virginia, on the fifteenth day of June 2026 at 4:00 p.m. The following duly elected and qualified members were present or absent:

PRESENT: Keith Costello, Stephen Kelley, and Randy Johnson

ABSENT: Patrick Groseclose

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Burton, County Administrator; Paul Cassell, County Attorney; Linda Miller, Board Secretary and Joel Cagle

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

Chair Randy Johnson led the pledge, and Cameron Burton offered the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randy Johnson called the June 15, 2026, Board of Supervisors' continued meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

*****MOTION to approve the meeting agenda was made by Stephen Kelley and seconded by Keith Costello. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2026 TAX LEVY

Chair Randy Johnson opened the public hearing.

*****MOTION to open the public hearing was made by Keith Costello and seconded by Stephen Kelley. Motion carried.

Crockett Sarver, "Good afternoon. Thank you for holding the second meeting. I wasn't able to make the first one. I hate that you scheduled it at four o'clock. It's hard for public that's working to be here at four. Some of us made it, not everybody, but encourage you to have it at a public time. really reasonable for working folk to be able to be here. Four o'clock a little tough. Yeah, it's a little tough. Cost an hour's worth of work, but I wanted to make sure I came. Okay. Just real quick, I know that you guys went from 42 cent down to 40, so appreciate that, but I think you have more work to do. I think there's areas you should look at. Looks like property taxes get you about eight, \$900,000 more. And it's according to the fiscal year of last year and this year's that I pulled offline. I appreciate the two cent, but I really think you need to sharpen pencils a little bit more. Take a look at it. Looks like we can cut a little funding, whatever It's tough. Nobody likes it, but you guys were reluctant to do it. So we need you to look after the public, which you're here to serve and help us. So that's really it."

Arleene Bridges, "Well, I'm kind of repeating what he's saying. The people in this county, they all have to have jobs in order to pay their taxes, and they all have to work. And I propose that the rest of the meetings that you all have and conduct, that you have them at least at seven o'clock at night so people can actually get off from work and come and have a say in what's going on in our county. You know, I think we need people's input, not just your input, but we need the people of Bland County to be able to hear what's going on, to understand what you all are doing. And as far as the levy, I agree. I'm saying 0.35, not 0.4, 0.35. And I think y'all got a pretty, you know, what you've got in there right now is pretty hefty, I believe. And so I think you need to take a look at that, try to bring them down again. And still, you know, I still people are still trying to get an appointment to have. I know they didn't come to the first reassessment. I understand that. But as I say, a lot of these are elderly people and you all should be looking out after them. So that's what I'm asking. Seven o'clock meetings. I don't think it will bother you all to get here at seven o'clock. So that's what I'm proposing and at least 0.35. Thank you."

Debbie Looney, "Well, first of all, I feel like We can't make much of a decision because, number one, we all know what we're talking about. The 32 cents versus 40 cents, we don't know how much money the county really needs. And I guess I was told we needed for insurance and employee expenses. So without being very familiar with the budget, I can't say what you do need. that I think the rate is too much, but I hate to admit it. I've looked at other counties today and we're actually cheaper than they are, but they also have a lot more assets and a lot more property, a lot more stuff going on. But I do think in order for us to know what's going on, we should be able to get in with the budget and see what you all see, see the expenses, the revenue, and know what's really going on in the county and see if there's ways to cut the budget instead of raising the tax rates. I know at home, since we've retired, I've tried to cut out stuff that I hate to

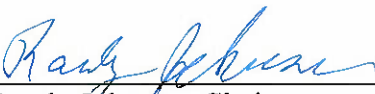
cut out, but we don't really need it so I cut it out and we're not going to have it. So I think the county maybe can do the same thing. And then, let's see here, older people, I'm tickled to see that thing to help the older citizens. But it says you can't have over 85,000 assets. I don't know if that includes your house, your car, whatever. I know it includes 401ks and stuff like that. So I don't know how many people that's really going to help. But it's nice that you made an effort. Let's see here. I do think we need to see the budget and I hope that you all will consider letting some people come in and help with the budget. I don't know who actually prepares it. I've never sit on something like that. But I think some other people ought to be involved in the preparation of the budget, what's going on in the county, the expenses and the assets. So we actually do know, you know, everybody says transparent anymore and nothing's really transparent, but we do need to understand more of what's going on. I don't mean to be a smart-aleck because I don't like smart-aleck's, but I'm coming across this one. But before you raise rates, we should know why we're really having them. I know the insurance went up; everybody else's insurance went up too. So, and like this, I was wondering if you just went with 32 cents, how much revenue would that generate versus the 40 cents? How much money are you in the hole and how much money do you really need? If there's things we can cut out, I really think they need to be cut out, not added to. That Indian village thing just stumping on me. If they're going in the hole, give it back to the historical society. I mean, that's not right. I don't understand that. And I think we should have preparations better in how we hire people, their skill levels. When they hire a person, they ought, he wants me to shut up. But when you get ready to hire somebody, they actually ought to have the skills you actually need them to have and you don't have to pay somebody else to do two jobs or train somebody to do another job. Now, if you're on your own business, then you can train them, but if you don't know that it's taxpayer money, you better be doing it right."

*****MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Stephen Kelley and seconded by Keith Costello. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

*****MOTION to adjourn was made by Stephen Kelley and seconded by Ketih Costello. Motion carried.

Next regular meeting is Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.



Randy Johnson, Chair



Cameron B. Burton, Clerk of the Board