

Minutes  
Board of Supervisors  
Special Meeting  
October 30, 2023

Members Present: Keith Weakley, Chairman At-Large  
D. Keith Guzy, Jr., District 1  
Allen Louderback, District 2  
Mark Stroupe, District 3  
Larry Foltz, District 4  
Jeff Vaughan, District 5

Staff Present: Amity Moler, County Administrator  
Regina Harner, Assistant County Administrator  
Tracy Clatterbuck, Zoning Administrator  
Becky Smith, Commissioner of the Revenue  
Kimberly Donohoe, Executive Assistant  
Michael Helm, County Attorney

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Keith Weakley called to order the special meeting of the Page County Board of Supervisors on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 6:07 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Page County Government Center, 103 South Court Street, Luray, VA 22835. The call to order was followed by a Moment of Silence and the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

**Special Use Permit – Jeffery Dinges (Banquet/Event Facility):**

Ms. Tracy Clatterbuck, Zoning Administrator, noted that she had no new information to provide to the Board on the special use permit (SUP) application submitted by Mr. Jeffery S. Dinges. She recommends that if the Board votes to approve the SUP, the Board reviews the conditions stated in the application.

Supervisor Stroupe noted that the proposed banquet and event facility is compatible with the county's economic plan. He acknowledged the neighbor's concerns but also recognized the county has existing noise ordinances. Mr. Stroupe observed that the facility would bring jobs and tax revenue to Page County. He appreciated the issues concerning Maple Road but understood that the road would only be used for maintenance access.

**Motion:** Supervisor Stroupe moved that the Board approve the proposed special use permit application submitted by Mr. Jeffery S. Dinges with the stipulations stated in the application, as presented. Supervisor Foltz seconded and the motion was defeated by a vote of 1-3 with 2 abstentions. Aye: Stroupe. Nay: Weakley, Guzy, Vaughan. Abstain: Louderback, Foltz.

**Tax Relief for the Elderly:**

Ms. Becky Smith, Commissioner of the Revenue, asked the Board if they had any questions. Supervisor Guzy recommended that discussion on amending §105-22 (Requirements.) and §105-24 (Affidavit required; certification.) of the Page County Code be held for a public hearing.

Supervisor Weakley clarified that if the Board amends the ordinance so the requirements are indexed to the median income provided by the Census Bureau or to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), then the program's conditions would be updated without the Board periodically amending the ordinance. Ms. Smith agreed and noted that the Board would also need to amend the ordinance to grant the Commissioner of the Revenue the authority to change the requirements.

Supervisor Guzy asked that information illustrating the impact on citizens be provided to the Board before the public hearing.

Supervisor Louderback asked that information showing the impact on taxes be provided to the Board. Ms. Smith noted that she has several scenarios she will provide to the Board.

**Motion:** Supervisor Guzy moved that the Page County Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing on amending the tax relief for the elderly ordinance of the Page County Code at the December 4, 2023, meeting and direct staff to provide adequate notice of such hearing. Supervisor Vaughan seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Guzy, Louderback, Stroupe, Foltz, Vaughan, Weakley. Nay: None.

**Disposable Plastic Bag Tax:**

Mrs. Amity Moler, County Administrator, reminded the Board that the tax is five cents per bag, with four cents going to the county and one cent to the retailer. The funds collected must be used for environmental cleanup. The exceptions to the tax include plastic bags that are solely used to wrap, contain, or package ice cream, meat, fish, poultry, produce, unwrapped bulk food items, or perishable food items in order to avoid damage or contamination. It was projected that \$350,000 from this tax was planned for in the budget, but Mrs. Moler noted that projected real estate numbers will cover this amount if this tax does not move forward.

Supervisor Guzy asked how can we keep bags out of the trees. He said it makes more sense to ban bags than tax people. He noted that whatever is decided, not everyone will be happy.

Supervisor Louderback observed the amount of return from the tax versus the amount of work on our retailers is more of a problem. He also noted that this tax will not eliminate the use of plastic bags. Mr. Louderback suggested that this is more of an education issue and that communities all over the country are wrestling with this matter. He remarked that maybe we will eventually get rid of plastic bags entirely.

Supervisor Stroupe noted that he knows of other localities that implemented a bag tax and had success in lowering the use of plastic bags. It is a problem, and we have done absolutely nothing about it. He said that other than putting a tax on the bags, he does not know what the answer is, but we need to do something.

Supervisor Foltz inquired about the percentage of trash generated from outside of the county and disposed of in the Battle Creek Landfill. He asked how can we tax the people in this county for a problem we created by bringing trash into the county.

Supervisor Weakley explained that if the tax works as it is supposed to, it is a diminishing revenue. If the tax dissuades people from using plastic bags, it is a diminishing revenue, so in five years it will be zero.

Supervisor Guzy noted that the problem of trash alongside the road is caused by individuals rather than the trucks bringing in trash from outside of the county, and that is the issue that needs to be addressed.

**Motion:** Supervisor Stroupe moved that the Board deny the proposed disposable plastic bag tax. Supervisor Foltz seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 5-1. Aye: Louderback, Stroupe, Foltz, Weakley, Guzy. Nay: Vaughan.

**Adjourn:** 6:28 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Weakley adjourned the meeting.

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Larry Foltz, Vice Chairman

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Amity Moler, County Administrator