

June 2, 2021

At the special joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the PEFYA Gymnasium, thereof, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of June, 2021; at 12:05 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Odessa H. Pride

Jerry R. Townsend

James R. Wilck

Absent: Beverly M. Booth, Robert M. Jones

Also present: Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Trey Pyle, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; David Whitus, Mayor, Town of Farmville; A. D. Chuckie Reid, Vice Mayor, Town of Farmville; Sallie Amos, Town Council; Daniel Dwyer, Town Council; Donald Hunter, Town Council; Thomas Pairet, Town Council; Scott Davis, Town Manager; Steven Wood, Clerk of Council; Sulola Adekoya, MD, MPH, Community Health Services Medical Director; and Patsy Watson, Farmville Cares.

Chairman Emert called the special meeting to order.

Mayor David Whitus, Mayor of Farmville, reconvened the Town Council meeting.

Supervisor Townsend presented the invocation.

In Re: Update on Vaccination Efforts in the Piedmont Health District

Dr. Sulola Adekoya, MD, MPH, Community Health Services Medical Director, presented an overview of the efforts to vaccinate the citizens of Prince Edward County and the Town of Farmville. She provided information indicating that a total of 14,532 vaccine doses had been provided in Prince Edward County with 8,182 (35.7%) people receiving at least one shot and 6,676 persons (29.3%) being fully vaccinated. She noted that due to the presence of so many college students who may report their home address instead of the college address as a factor in skewing the data for Prince Edward County as they count into the County's population but are not showing up in the vaccine count. She noted that approximately 400 Hampden-Sydney College students and 600 Longwood University students had been fully vaccinated. She applauded the Town and County leadership for their support in efforts to vaccinate the public.

Mayor Whitus questioned the need for a booster shot in six months or so, and asked how effective is this vaccine on the variants. Dr. Adekoya said to date, there has been discussion by the CDC regarding boosters, but there has been no direction from the CDC. She said that according to the CDC, the vaccine is effective on the variants and so far, the vaccines have been effective in reducing hospitalizations and deaths.

Mr. Stanley thanked Dr. Adekoya for all that she has done to assist the County. Mr. Stanley then thanked the Town of Farmville and Mr. Scott Davis for providing anything needed to hold the vaccination clinics.

In Re: Volunteer Challenge & Farmville Cares Gift Certificate Raffles

Mr. Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator, introduced Patsy Watson from Farmville Cares. He thanked her for her work to provide the Facebook Live events, getting information to the community about COVID-19, and since the vaccines have been available, helping get the word out about the clinics being held and to make sure they were fully staffed and supported by the Health Department and National Guard. He said Mrs. Watson is working on a new initiative.

Mrs. Watson spoke about the efforts of the Farmville Cares 141 volunteers in supporting the efforts to educate and vaccinate area residents, in addition to referrals to several other agencies for services provided to area residents in need. She provided an overview of the Gift Certificate program that has been put together to raffle off certificates for area businesses as an incentive for getting vaccinated. She said these clinics will be held on June 16, June 23, and June 30; she said they will continue the gift certificates if they are able to procure more [from local businesses].

Mrs. Watson provided cards with contact information for Board and Council members to help recruit volunteers for upcoming clinics. She said Mayor Whitus has challenged the Board of Supervisors Chairman Emert to try to recruit more volunteers than the other organization to help Farmville Cares for one three-hour shift. She said the volunteer can register online as a volunteer at <https://farmvillecares.org/> She said they can register and choose the position they would like to have. She said a volunteer appreciation event will be held June 30.

The Board and Council thanked Mrs. Watson for the efforts put forth by Farmville Cares over the past 15 months in dealing with COVID-19.

In Re: #VaccinatePrinceEdward Scholarship Initiative

Mr. Stanley said during discussion on how to encourage students to get vaccinated, the idea was hatched to offer a scholarship opportunity. He said the idea is that students that are fully vaccinated would be entered into a drawing and could be chosen to receive a scholarship. He requested the Board to commit up to \$5,000 for this scholarship. He said they are working with potential community partners to match the County's commitment. He said they are attempting to focus this on the future, once outside of the pandemic; the children are the future. He said the concept is to be able to have multiple \$1,000 scholarships that can be used at trade schools, community colleges, or a four-year college. He said the feedback has been positive.

Supervisor Wilck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, to approve the appropriation of \$5,000 for the establishment of a #VaccinatePrinceEdward Scholarship Initiative; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones J. David Emert Llew W. Gilliam, Jr. Odessa H. Pride Jerry R. Townsend James R. Wilck	Nay: None
Absent:	Beverly M. Booth Robert M. Jones	

Supervisor Wilck discussed the decline in SOL scoring and the ranking for Prince Edward County schools over the past four years. He said he learned that none of Prince Edward County schools are accredited currently. He said Prince Edward County is now ranked 314 of 327 schools in the state. Supervisor Wilck said the lack of accreditation stifles economic development and attracting businesses to the area. He said NASA is offering free educational opportunities to schools to help; during normal years, there would be bus trips to Langley, Virginia, to allow students to work on robotics and that sort of thing. He said he and Supervisor Booth will present this information to the School Board.

Chairman Emert adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.