

**Goochland County
Finance and Audit Committee
Regular Meeting Action Minutes**

Full transcript can be found at: <https://va-goochlandcounty.civicplus.com/1154/County-Meetings>

**January 3, 2023 @ 12:30 PM
Administration Building
1800 Sandy Hook Road, Goochland VA 23063
Room 270**

View meeting archive at: <https://va-goochlandcounty.civicplus.com/1154/County-Meetings>

The Goochland County Finance and Audit Committee (FAAC) meeting was held on January 3, 2023, at 12:30 PM in the Room 270. Voting members present:

District 5 Supervisor, Ken Peterson, Chairman
District 4 Supervisor, Charlie Vaughters
District 2 Supervisor, Neil Spoonhower
County Administrator, Victor Carpenter
Director of Financial Services, Carla Cave

- I. Mr. Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM, confirmed a voting quorum, and reviewed the agenda.
- II. Mr. Peterson announced the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the new Goochland Elementary School and the funding. The goal of the meeting is to arrive at a consensus on a couple of questions:
 - Should we move forward, and if so when.
 - How much should we spend, and if so how much.
 - How will we pay for it without compromising the other County activities; like Public Safety.

Discussion on moving forward between the voting members continued considering is this the right time facing a recession and inflation. Agreement in moving forward, but there were different ideas on when due to the economic factors. Waiting could provide cost savings with contractors needing work, but there are risks around that as well. Funding is skeptical looking at close to historic residential revenues going down, personal property tax going down and potentially spending a lot more on one segment. There is a significant potential for the County to be in a really bad revenue situation. The argument that delays could cost multimillions of dollars was met with disagreement.

How much should we afford was discussed, without compromising the other areas of the County. Can the school still be built without the \$15,700,000 additional. If we do fund the full amount other projects will be sacrificed. Full funding will put upward pressure on taxes.

The school is currently projected to open August 2024. Using all \$9,000,000 bond premium for schools would only leave \$965,000 for public safety. The courthouse is on the list and is even older than the school, quite a bit older. The Judge has said if we don't build the courthouse, he has the authority to mandate we build a courthouse. The County Attorney confirmed the Judge can mandate we build a new courthouse. Currently if something happens they do not have enough room to protect themselves. Agreement this needs to be considered. The first bond issue was not for the courthouse. The second bond issue is intended to fund the courthouse. Although the first round could be used towards the courthouse. There is tremendous pressure on public safety with the County's growth. Over the last years there has been a drift higher in the number of students, but public safety demands have skyrocketed.

The County and schools will be working together to monitor the project. If other sources of revenues are found, like private sector funding, the County funds would be turned back.

- III. Other Business: None
- IV. Public Comment: Citizen spoke appreciating how hard everyone is working. The question was asked can you build a school for \$40,000,000 that would house 600 students? Then proceeded to say not looking for an answer, but thinks the answer is yes. If it is perceived as a slight of hand they do not think it bodes well for the future.
- V. Mr. Peterson adjourned to February 7, 2023, at 12:30 PM.