

York County Homeowner Associations Meeting
March 21, 2024, 6:15 p.m.
Yorktown Library

In Attendance:

HOAs –

Arbordale, Banbury Cross, Chischiak Watch, Endview Woods, Grafton Woods, Heron's Walk, Lakeside Forest, Laurel Lakes, Marlbank Cove, Nelsons Grant, Oaks at Fenton Mill, Olde Port Cove, Rainbrook Villas, Running Man, Sommerville, Tabb Lakes, Victory at Tabb, Villas at Yorktown, Victory at Tabb, Vineyard Heights, Waterview, Winders Pond, Winterfield, Woodlake Crossing, York Point, Yorkshire Downs

York County Officials and Staff –

County Administrator - Mark Bellamy; Deputy County Administrator – Brian Fuller; Public Information Officer – Gail Whittaker, Senior Administrative Coordinator – Diane Ingram; Administrative Technician – Michelle Wright

Opening Remarks & Welcome – Mark Bellamy, County Administrator

York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Ron Montgomery

Sheriff Montgomery provided an update on the new Law Enforcement Building. He thanked the citizens for their support and stated the new building should be ready within the next few weeks. He invited everyone to a grand opening scheduled for May 21, where they could see all the advantages the new building would give to the law enforcement agency. He then spoke about the top problems in York County, which are vehicle theft, gun safety, and scams from people coming to your home or calling on the telephone. Sheriff Montgomery informed those in attendance about the availability of resources within the Sheriff's Office, particularly the Crime Prevention Division, and encouraged residents to reach out for assistance or information setting up neighborhood watch programs.

Treasurer's Office – Candice Kelley, Treasurer

Ms. Kelly provided an overview of the Treasurer's office and its responsibilities to the County and the citizens. Her presentation highlighted the office's commitment to efficient service delivery, transparency, and modernization

through the implementation of new software and user-friendly online portals for residents.

The following questions were asked in response to her presentation:

Did Personal Property Tax go away?

- No, in the FY2025 Budget, the County has proposed eliminating the vehicle registration fee, not the entire tax.

Commissioner of the Revenue's Office – Sarah Webb, Commissioner of the Revenue

Ms. Webb gave highlights of the services provided by the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office and emphasized the staff's dedication to assisting taxpayers and ensuring efficient revenue management for the County.

A copy of the combined PowerPoint for the Treasurer's Office and Commissioner of the Revenue's Office may be viewed [here](#).

Commonwealth Attorney's Office – Krystyn Reid, Commonwealth Attorney

Ms. Reid provided an overview of her role as the elected chief prosecutor for York County and Poquoson. Her duties include prosecuting felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases, as well as providing legal advice to law enforcement agencies and training sessions to ensure that law enforcement officers are informed about legal procedures and rights. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office also works closely with victims and witnesses and their advocates throughout the legal process. Ms. Reid stated that overall, her office plays a crucial role in upholding the law, protecting the rights of victims and witnesses, and ensuring that offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Clerk of Circuit Court's Office – Kristen Nelson, Clerk of Circuit Court

Ms. Nelson gave a historical background of the Circuit Court as it dates back to 1619. Her presentation highlighted the vital role of the Clerk of Circuit Court's office in record-keeping, case management, and records preservation within the County. The PowerPoint presentation may be viewed [here](#).

The following questions were asked in response to her presentation:

Have there been recent fraudulent documents submitted to the Clerk's office for recording?

- Ms. Nelson explained that there have been two incidents of fraudulent documents submitted. In one case, the fraudulent document was reported, and the situation was subsequently resolved. In the other case, the Clerk's office caught the fraudulent document and reached out to the attorney who filed it. The attorney investigated further and chose not to submit the document.

What role do you play with DD 214 forms, Military Services Records?

- The Circuit Court Clerk's Office files and maintains these discharge papers on record, which are kept confidential. Individuals or their family members can request certified copies of these papers in the future by completing an affidavit.

How are people selected for Jury Duty?

- Jury questionnaires are sent out annually, and three commissioners review them to determine eligibility for jury service. The jury program selects individuals for each jury, and those selected are notified to appear for jury duty.

What other things should people bring to the Clerk's Office to be recorded?

- Some important documents recorded by the Clerk's Office are DD214 forms and marriage licenses. HOA records, bylaws, or neighborhood covenants can be accessed; while they may not be available online, indexes are accessible online. Wills are not filed with the Clerk's Office during a person's lifetime but may be filed by family members after their passing.

FY2025 Proposed Budget – Mark Bellamy, County Administrator

Mr. Bellamy presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget, which includes a three-cent reduction in the real estate tax rate and the elimination of the vehicle license fee. A copy of the PowerPoint may be viewed [here](#).

The following questions were asked in response to his presentation.

With the National Parks instituting a cost to go onto their land, have you looked at the impact of not having as many people come to Yorktown because you have to pay?

- Deputy County Administrator Brian Fuller stated that the County staff has given that a lot of consideration and the data indicates that since COVID the numbers are still going up. People are traveling and going to national parks, ours included.

Where do you go to find updates to see if a project is still on target or has changed to something else?

- On our website, www.yorkcounty.gov, proceed to the link for Planning and Development Services. The Development Activity Report provides a variety of updated information. Individuals with specific questions can call Planning and Development Services or County Administration, and someone would be happy to answer your question or find an answer for you.

How many new deputies are proposed for the next fiscal year?

- Eight are recommended, with four hired July 1 and the other four hired January 1, 2025.

If the County did not propose the three-cent reduction in the real estate tax rate, would we be able to pay for 11 deputies, the Sheriff's full request?

- Yes, if we did not recommend a reduction of three-cents on the real estate tax rate, we would be able to hire 11 deputies. In the proposed budget, four are recommended on July 1 with another four on January 1, 2025.

“Ask the Expert” – Maria Kattmann, Real Estate Assessor

Ms. Maria Kattmann gave a presentation highlighting the dynamics of the real estate market, including trends in property values, population growth, market dynamics, and affordability considerations for homebuyers.

The slides for this presentation may be found [here](#).

The following comments were made in response to her presentation.

Citizen Comment: Everyone needs to look at the houses around them that have sold, as our house assessed at \$260,700, which we thought was kind of low, a house across the street with less square feet sold for \$425,000.

- Ms. Kattmann highlighted the significant increase in property values and appreciation in recent years, noting that such rapid appreciation has not been seen since the years leading up to 2008. Additionally, she mentioned differences in market practices and interest rates between then and now.
- Mr. Bellamy pointed out that the population of York County has not increased significantly over the past few years, which indicates we have not experienced the growth that some have expected to have occurred.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.