

A complete audio file of this meeting will be posted under the agenda portion of the County website once available.

VIRGINIA: A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. USING THE 'GOTOMEETING' PLATFORM:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/447043917>

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH HOLMES
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. DANIELLE POWELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. CAROL SWINDELL, FINANCE
MR. RAY PHELPS, EMERGENCY SERVICES
MR. WILLIAMS SAUNDERS, BUILDING AND PLANNING
MS. LINDA GHOLSTON, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
MS. LAJEUNE STONE, YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCES
MR. DELON BROWN, NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
MR. HERMIONE SLADE, PUBLIC WORKS
MS. SHARNA WHITE, REGISTRAR

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ AGENDA ADOPTION

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elliott who then led those present in a moment of silence followed by this evening's invocation given by Dr. Daniel L. Baltimore, Pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. Following the invocation, Chairperson Elliott asked Supervisor Calhoun to lead those present in the pledge of allegiance. Due to technical difficulties, Chairperson Elliott finished leading the pledge. The working agenda was adopted by roll call vote.

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

A complete audio file of this meeting will be posted under the agenda portion of the County website once available.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. *Approval of April 16, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes*

Supervisor Holmes made a motion to adopt the Consent Items as presented. Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved during roll call vote. **(Approved)**

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

PUBLIC HEARING

1. *Proposed FY20-21 Consolidated Budget and CIP*

I. Call to Order - 7:00 p.m. Statement: A public hearing is being conducted tonight to receive public comments regarding the Surry County FY 2020-21 Proposed Consolidated Budget & CIP.

II. Staff Presentation

III. Open Floor to Public

IV. Close Floor to Public

V. Summary by Staff

VI. Comments by Board of Supervisors

VII. Recommended Action: Consider scheduling action regarding the FY 21 Proposed Consolidated Budget & CIP for Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00pm.

(Public Hearing Comments provided are included in an attachment as an integral component of these minutes)

A complete audio file of this meeting will be posted under the agenda portion of the County website once available.

2. Advertisement Requests for Public Hearing - June 4, 2020

1. Continuity of Government - ordinance needed, Emergency Ordinance adopted April 23, 2020 expires June 23, 2020
2. Meals Tax - ordinance needed
3. Planning Fees Increase - ordinance needed
4. Medical Transportation (EMS) Fee Increase - ordinance needed

Supervisor Calhoun made a motion to approve the request to schedule a Public Hearing regarding action on the FY 21 Proposed Consolidated Budget & CIP for Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote. **(Approved)**

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

REPORT

Mr. Ray Phelps, Emergency Services Director, advised on the COVID-19 Pandemic and the continued process for Surry County citizens to stay informed and receive updated information. This includes testing of COVID-19 suspected cases in Surry County to be done May 28, 2020 between the hours of 10am-12pm. *(PRESS RELEASE ATTACHED)* Mr. Phelps reminded citizens to utilize the email address provided to address COVID-19 Pandemic specific questions and concerns (covid19@surrycountyva.gov).

(Press release regarding COVID-19 Testing in Surry County is attached as an integral component of these minutes)

A complete audio file of this meeting will be posted under the agenda portion of the County website once available.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Supervisor Elliott advised all public comments received are being forwarded and reviewed by all Board of Supervisors and the Acting County Administrator.

(Citizen Comments mailed into comments@surrycountyva.gov are attached as an integral component of these minutes.)

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Members expressed thanks to staff for continued efforts during the COVID-19 Pandemic and for efforts towards budget preparations and presentations.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

(Ms. Melissa Rollins, Acting County Administrator, provided a detailed report that is attached as an integral component of these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Elliott entertained a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Holmes made a motion that the Board continues their meeting to Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Calhoun and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

The next BOS meeting will be held Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM and will include a public hearing.

Public Comments received before the 5-14-2020 BOSM + Public Hearing

(Additional comments received after the original document was sent earlier today are highlighted in yellow)

From: Mplantsup <mplantsup@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 6:44 PM

To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>

Subject: No tax increase,cut spending where you have to. We do not need any new positions.

Why are we spending 90 some thousand at SurrySeafood if they are not open? We have a spending problem in this county. Money does not grow on trees. We need To pay down industrial park bond if we sell property to solar outfit. Previous boards were putting bond payments in general fund instead of paying down bond. This has to stop as this is called misappropriation of funds which is crooked. Get your financial house in order.
Mike Eggleston

From: Deborah H. Dawson <dehdawson@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 6:38 PM

To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>

Subject: budget comments - public hearing

May 14, 2020

Deborah Dawson

Surry District

Good Evening Board Members, County Officials, and Citizens,

I am offering my support for the budget request from the Blackwater Regional Library System which serves our county. It is my understanding that if the request is not fully funded, we could experience a reduction in staff and hours and the possible closure of the Claremont branch. We are living in difficult times that have made the Library more important than before. Surry County **students**, both secondary and college, have been able to keep up with coursework and move forward because of services offered through our local branch libraries. Wifi access has really been an important service. **Job searching, general research** through scholarly resources (not Google), and **access to e-books** and other services have all been important for our students and citizens.

As a career Librarian, I know how important the Library is to a well-rounded community. Our citizens deserve the services that the Library has to offer. The Blackwater Regional Staff and the Library Board have worked hard to appoint a dedicated and stable staff. We cannot go backward, we must move forward. I would urge you to meet the budget request from the Blackwater Regional Library System.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Deborah H. Dawson

"Lingering in Gratitude"

From: Julie Hanks <jrhanks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>
Subject: Re: Budget

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Without repeating unnecessarily, I second the opinions and concerns that Jan Schaale has outlined so well in her email below.

Sincerely,

Julie Hanks
PO Box 156
Claremont, VA 23899
804-502-1509

On Thu, May 7, 2020 at 4:28 PM Jan Schaale <janschaale@hotmail.com> wrote:
Mr. Elliott,

I implore you, and ask that you encourage the other BOS members, to reconsider funding for Blackwater Libraries. The Surry Branch and the Claremont Branch are gems for the county, and are shining examples of how effective and successful rural libraries can be.

However, the last budget for the Surry County libraries resulted in Blackwater severely downsizing the operating hours of the Claremont Branch...one can only assume that the lack of funding in this budget will result in their possibly proposing to close the Claremont Branch in order to keep the Surry Branch afloat.

That move would be **disastrous**.

Despite the economic trend, the town of Claremont is being revitalized. There is a resident who is buying historic homes and renewing them, and they are selling before he even finishes them! There are families with small children moving into the community, which is opposite to the current trend in the county.

One detriment to the town, just like so much of the county, has been lack of high-speed internet. The Verizon tower was connected on Tuesday and those of us utilizing Verizon are getting download speeds of 166 mbps. This factor is, indeed, a major incentive for people to move to Claremont! Now that the town is seeing a revitalization, diminishing or closing of our library would be a serious impediment to encouraging growth to the entire area which the library serves, since a readily accessible library contributes to the health and well-being of any community.

The town of Claremont has had a library for 60 years. It has historically provided the residents of this end of the county a multitude of services. Libraries are the great equalizer...without the services of a *regional* library, many opportunities are lost, and the entire community suffers. The proximity of having resources readily available has made the Claremont Branch a major difference for area residents, many of whom have limited access to transportation. Materials, programs, and resources, all provided free-of-charge, are nothing short of miraculous for everyone, but especially for the economically depressed.

Despite some families being able to utilize the new tower, not everyone has, or can afford, Verizon service, so the wi-fi provided by the library is often a life-line, especially for kids who need internet/computer access for their school work and people who work from home....and most especially during extenuating times like this pandemic.

I was branch manager of the Claremont Library for 12 years. I have seen first-hand the difference libraries make in the lives of citizens, and how well library services are utilized when they are available. You cannot put a price tag on educational opportunities, personal resources, access to THE WORLD, and a place of solace and comfort to our citizenry who are faced with the lack of amenities most communities offer.

A rural county that can boast **two successful** libraries is a rarity, and is an encouragement to aspiring businesses and potential residents when it's apparent that the government shows concern for its citizens' welfare and well-being. Again, I sincerely encourage you to approve an amount in the budget that will ensure **both** county libraries remain fully functional.

Janet Moyer Schaale
PO Box 235
Claremont, VA 23899
(757 784 4373)

From: Jan Schaale <janschaale@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>
Subject: Library budget

I implore you to reconsider funding for Blackwater Libraries. The Surry Branch and the Claremont Branch are gems for the county, and are shining examples of how effective and successful rural libraries can be.

However, the last budget for the Surry County libraries resulted in Blackwater severely downsizing the operating hours of the Claremont Branch...one can only assume that the lack of

funding in this budget will result in their possibly proposing to close the Claremont Branch in order to keep the Surry Branch afloat.

That move would be disastrous.

Despite the economic trend, the town of Claremont is being revitalized. There is a resident who is buying historic homes and renewing them, and they are selling before he even finishes them! There are families with small children moving into the community, which is opposite to the current trend in the county.

One detriment to the town, just like so much of the county, has been lack of high-speed internet. The Verizon tower was connected on Tuesday and those of us utilizing Verizon are getting download speeds of 166 mbps. This factor is, indeed, a major incentive for people to move to Claremont! Now that the town is seeing a revitalization, diminishing or closing of our library would be a serious impediment to encouraging growth to the entire area which the library serves, since a readily accessible library contributes to the health and well-being of any community.

The town of Claremont has had a library for 60 years. It has historically provided the residents of this end of the county a multitude of services. Libraries are the great equalizer...without the services of a regional library, many opportunities are lost, and the entire community suffers. The proximity of having resources readily available has made the Claremont Branch a major difference for area residents, many of whom have limited access to transportation. Materials, programs, and resources, all provided free-of-charge, are nothing short of miraculous for everyone, but especially for the economically depressed.

Despite some families being able to utilize the new tower, not everyone has, or can afford, Verizon service, so the wi-fi provided by the library is often a life-line, especially for kids who need internet/computer access for their school work and people who work from home....and most especially during extenuating times like this pandemic.

I was branch manager of the Claremont Library for 12 years. I have seen first-hand the difference libraries make in the lives of citizens, and how well library services are utilized when they are available. You cannot put a price tag on educational opportunities, personal resources, access to THE WORLD, and a place of solace and comfort to our citizenry who are faced with the lack of amenities most communities offer.

A rural county that can boast two successful libraries is a rarity, and is an encouragement to aspiring businesses and potential residents when it's apparent that the government shows concern for its citizens' welfare and well-being. Again, I sincerely encourage you to approve an amount in the budget that will ensure both county libraries remain fully functional.

Janet Moyer Schaale
PO Box 235
Claremont, VA 23899
(757 784 4373)

From: Dianne Cheek <diannelcheek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>
Subject: Comments for May 14, 2020 Budget Public Hearing

Hello,

I would like to speak at tonight's meeting.

Dianne Cheek
Surry District

Comments are on the positions for Assistant County Administrator and the County Administrator within the FY21 Budget. (See Attached for full comments).

Dianne Cheek
Surry District

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the proposed Surry County Budget for FY21. I have reviewed the published budget documents, attended the work sessions, and received answers on questions from members of the Board and the Acting County Administrator. I believe it is important for the record to clarify that the FY21 Budget is not funding the Assistant County Administrator position and to state what the plan is for filling the County Administrator position.

The Proposed Budget – Revised April 30 indicates that the Assistant County Administrator position is being downgraded to an Assistant to the County Administrator. This is achieved by removing the funding for the Assistant County Administrator position and replacing with a Special Assistant to the County Administrator.

Tonight's Presentation indicates there is a limit on position changes to only 1 – mission critical in Planning & Community Development. Additionally the supporting documents provide a table in Section E, pg 191 of authorized positions which shows the Assistant County Administrator as 0 for FY21.

Feedback I received on questions I submitted to the Board, indicates that the Assistant County Administrator position is not funded in FY21 so that the budget can be balanced, but the position is not going away.

Several questions remain on this budget strategy. If the Assistant County Administrator is not funded, how will this affect the search for a New County Administrator? Does this Budget fund a search for a New Administrator? Is the plan to have an Acting County Administrator until the funding shortages are resolved? Once the New County Administrator is selected, will there be positions for an Assistant County Administrator or a Special Assistant to the County Administrator?

As the Budget process moves forward, documenting strategies, such as not funding key management positions that are currently active and searching for a new Administrator, is an important step to ensure we have clearly laid out what the budget is funding.

To achieve "Unity in the Community", we must have transparency in our government activities.

From: Susan Corvello <scorvello2400@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Comments <comments@surrycountyva.gov>
Cc: Robert Elliott <relliott@surrycountyva.gov>; Timothy Calhoun <tcalhoun@surrycountyva.gov>; Michael Drewry <mdrewry@surrycountyva.gov>; Judy Lyttle <jslyttle@surrycountyva.gov>; Kenneth Holmes <krholmes@surrycountyva.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Marina/Seafood Restaurant

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Susan Corvello <scorvello2400@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 7, 2020 at 12:46 PM
Subject: Marina/Seafood Restaurant
To: Robert Elliott <relliott@surrycountyva.gov>
Cc: <mdrewry@surrycountyva.gov>, Timothy Calhoun <tcalhoun@surrycountyva.gov>, Judy Lyttle <jslyttle@surrycountyva.gov>, Kenneth R. Holmes <krholmes@surrycountyva.gov>

Hello all,

There has been a lot of controversy over the Marina/Restaurant in the past years. Could someone please explain to me if they are both one identity or two. I do not understand why the repairs to the Restaurant fall under Maintenance department when they are not the ones doing the work. Shouldn't the restaurant and Marina have their own identity so you can follow their expenses individually? Or make everything associated with it as Marina if they were purchased together as one.....

Thanks again for all the work that you are doing for this new budget. One of my concerns was the transparency on what we are spending at the Marina and the Seafood Restaurant. While looking over the Revenue Detail Proposed and Expenditure Detail Proposed I have some questions. I have attached what I could find in both and attached the specific Detail reports.

- 1- Is the Marina and Restaurant 2 separate identities as far as Revenue and Expenses? I am only seeing Revenue from Marina.
- 2- In the Revenue projections the Marina Revenue appears to be the Lease payment for the Restaurant. Shouldn't this be labeled Restaurant not Marina?
- 3- I cannot find anything stating Seafood Restaurant except for under Maintenance Department Building Repairs/Seafood Restaurant. Should not there have been expenses for the Restaurant from 2019 with all the repairs that had been done and I do not see where the restaurant had any expenses. Or are you putting all the expenses under Marina codes?

This is very confusing when you are trying to see what exactly is being spent at the Restaurant and what is being spent at the Marina. It would be greatly appreciated if some clarification could be given to the citizens since it is involving our Tax Dollars.

There are no 2021 department request or revised recommendations for the Restaurant for repairs.... How do you not put money towards repairs...I have seen in the past many expenses for all types of items at the restaurant.

Susan
Spring Grove District

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: May 19, 2020 at 12:59 pm

**Surry County Department of Emergency Management
Contact: Ray Phelps, Chief of Emergency
Management, rphelps@surrycountyva.gov (757)294-5205
LaSonya White, Surry County Public Information Officer**

COVID19 TESTING

Surry County Emergency Management has partnered with the Virginia Department of Health, Crater Health District and the Virginia Army National Guard to offer COVID19 testing. Please see the information below that has been provided by the Crater Health District.

Petersburg, VA – The Crater Health District is continuing COVID-19 community testing throughout the district during the week of May 23-30. Seven testing events are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon at the following locations:

- Saturday, May 23 PETERSBURG- Petersburg Sports Complex 100 Ballpark Road, Petersburg
- Sunday, May 24, PRINCE GEORGE - JEJ Moore School 11455 Prince George Drive, Disputanta
- Tuesday, May 26, DINWIDDIE – Sports Complex - 5850 R. B. Pamplin Drive, Sutherland
- Wednesday, May 27, SUSSEX - Sussex Middle School 21356 Sussex Drive, Stony Creek
- Thursday, May 28, SURRY - Recreation Center 205 Enos Farm Drive, Surry
- Friday, May 29, EMPORIA /GREENSVILLE - Washington Park, 750 Dry Bread Road, Emporia
- Saturday, May 30, HOPEWELL - Hopewell High School, 400 South Mesa Drive, Hopewell

Testing will be conducted by appointment to facilitate safety and social distancing. To register, call the Crater Health District hotline starting four days prior to each test event date at **804.863.1652 option 1.**

Testing is for persons age 5 and older who have COVID-19 symptoms, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, who are pregnant, have underlying medical conditions that put them at risk, are age 65 and older or work in a congregate setting.

In order to be prescreened for testing, you must call 804.863.1652 option 1 in advance for a screening interview. Those that meet prescreening requirements for testing will receive an appointment time. To avoid lengthy wait times, please come to the site at your appointed time.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms, muscle pain, and new loss of taste or smell.

County Administration Report: May 14, 2020

As you are aware, Congress passed and the President signed the Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, providing funding for a number of different programs to address the COVID 19 pandemic. A primary component of the act is the assistance to state and local governments for the direct impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic through the establishment of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). CRF for the state of Virginia is \$3.1 billion, \$1.3 billion in aid goes to localities. Surry County's share is \$560,000. Want to re-iterated that the funds cannot be used for "revenue replacement" but only to cover expenses due to the COVID-19 response.

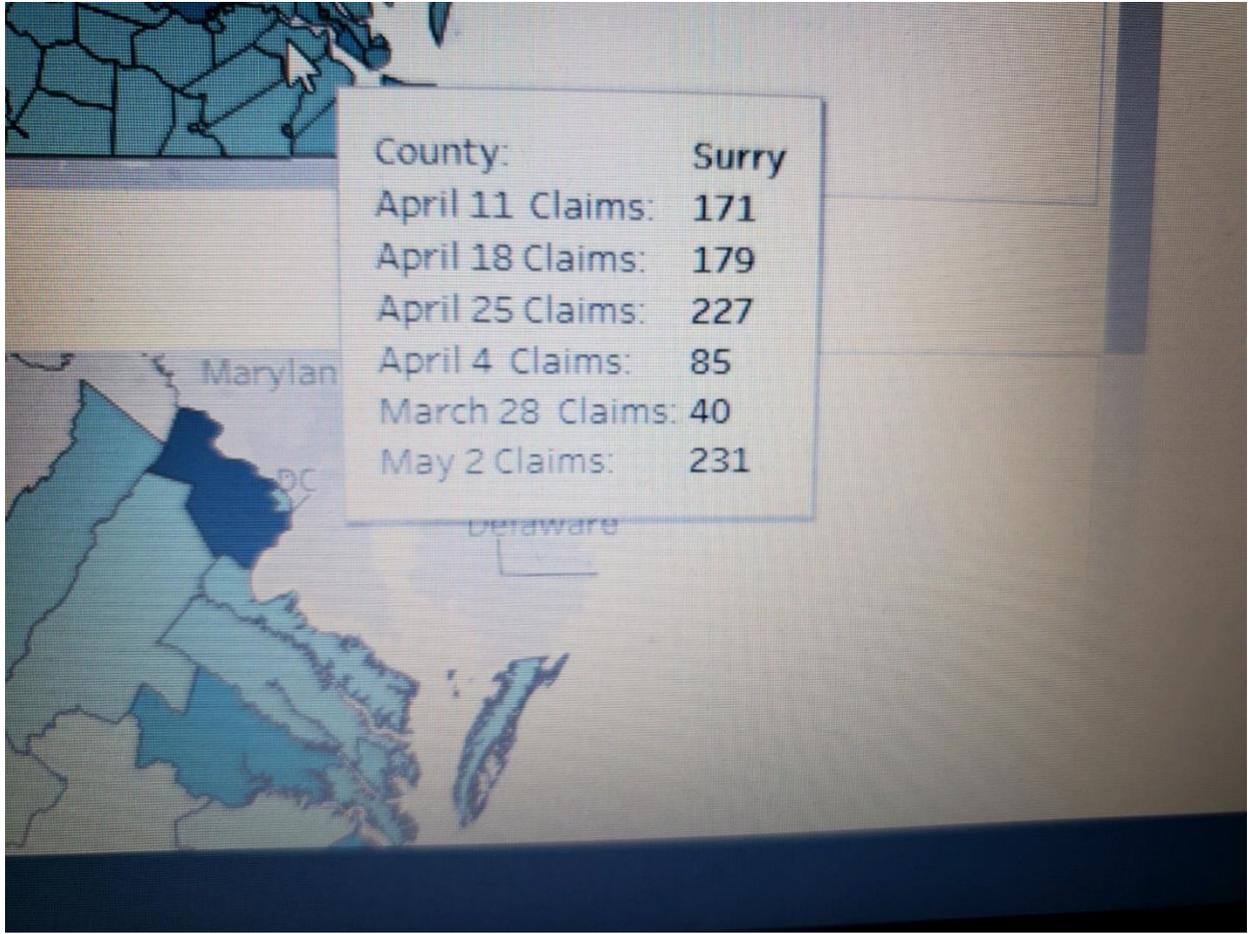
The Governor executive order 61 – safer at home – provides details guidelines for all business as they begin to reopen on Friday. Please adhere to the guidelines posted in the order.

Unemployment Rate Report- see below.

More traffic at the government Center: Mr. Davis, Ms. Jackson, Sheriff, EMS and Ms. Clayton have court dates over the next two weeks; we will be doing what's necessary to keep jurors, employees and other entering safe.

We are solidifying our plans for re-entry to the workplace – following the guidance of the Governor unless something changes; the day after Memorial Day for a phased in approach for employees, giving us time for acclimation back before opening facilities to the public.

Other Comments: Budget: Been conversation with a lot of city managers and county administrators over the last few weeks; the budget is fluid, coming FY 20-21, we could be making adjustments to the approved; will have the necessary hearings if needed to do so.



County:	Surry
April 11 Claims:	171
April 18 Claims:	179
April 25 Claims:	227
April 4 Claims:	85
March 28 Claims:	40
May 2 Claims:	231