

Board Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 20, 2025, 4th floor, FCPS Gatehouse Admin Bldg

Attendees – Quorum met with 14 attendees (see Attachment 1)

Call to Order – Open 7:07 PM by President

Old Business –

Approve prior Board minutes – January 16, 2025 and February 20, 2025. Both approved.

Treasurer Report – Jeff, (see Attachment 2). Jeff requested committees submit to him all feasible costs so he can formulate the 2025-2026 Fed budget he will present in the April Board meeting then to the Membership meeting.

New Business –

- Budget - Federation budget request – Sue and Jeff –
- COY – Bill – Brief status report: venue date and time set; discussed to include Penny Gross and John Foust as SGAs and to notify their former Chiefs of Staff. Bill updated his COY working spreadsheet to show to about 70 attendees and 2 more SGA trophies. Bill received \$500 COY sponsorship from Luann. Bill emphasized the COY needs Board members to find sponsors.
- By-Laws status – Bill. No action and Tim requested set a next committee meeting date in order to approach final draft.

- Budget Resolution discussion, amendments, and approval – David E. Presented the draft proposed Fairfax Budget Resolution. Discussion on some word editing then addressed the pertinent issues and some budget line items.

- Nomination Committee – Tim announced that Past President Tanya Hossain is Chair of Committee and is soliciting names for the 6 elected positions.
- Membership – Morgan (see Treasurers report)
- Discussion on the correct Fed process of sending emails directly to members vs thru the President then Corresponding Secretary for official release (ref: email sent advocating for CERT).
- Brief discussion on emails regarding the Meals Tax; (see Attachment 7).

Committee Reports:

- Budget -
- Environment – No report.
- Education – The Education Committee met to discuss our contribution to the budget resolution. We will be meeting next week to discuss AI in FCPS.
- Land Use -
- Legislative -
- Public Safety – Report in Attachment 3.
- Transportation – (see Attachment 5)

District Council Reports –

Braddock – Mike Perel
Franconia – no rep
Hunter Mill – (no District Council established)
Mason - Mark Crawford
Mount Vernon - Marty Sanchez-Lowery
Providence – no rep
Springfield - Jim Kirkpatrick
Sully – Lewis Grimm –

Next Meetings –

Next Membership meeting: March 27, 2025, Jim Scott Community Center
Next Board Meeting: April 17, 2025, room 4050, FCPS Gatehouse Admin Bldg
Board Meeting: 3rd Thursday every month
Membership meeting: 4th Thursday every month

Adjourn: 8:40 PM

Recorded by: Bill Barfield, Recording Secretary

Attachments:

1. List of Board Members, as of Mar 2025
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Public Safety report
4. Link to FCFCA 2025 Budget Resolution on the advertised Fairfax County 2026 Budget.
5. Transportation report from Jeff with a web site.
6. Education Committee report
7. Proposed 2025 Budget Items from Federation Member Communications team
8. Email discussion regarding the potential Fairfax County Meals Tax

Attachment 1 - Board Members, as of March 18, 2025

Board Member	Attend	District Council Rep.	Standing or Support Committee Position	Elected Position
(vacant)			Citizen Association Services	
(vacant)			Audit	
(vacant)				
Annmarie Swope			Education, SBAAP Adv Cmty	
Anna Dixon			Citizen Assoc Services	
Bill Barfield	X		Legislation, COY, By-Laws	Recording Sec, Past President, Past 2 nd VP
Cary Campbell			Transportation	
Charlotte Hannagan	X		WebServices	
Dave Fitzgerald	X		Environmental	
David Edelman	X		Budget	
Dennis Hays			Library	
Doug Birnie	X		Human Services	
Gabe Goldberg			Public Safety	
Jeff Parnes	X		Transportation, Resolutions, Finance, WebArchives	Treasurer
Jim Kirkpatrick		Springfield	PENDING	
John Jennison			Representative to SCC	Past President
Kathy Kaplan			Library (PENDING)	
Lewis Grimm	X	Sully		
Luann Whittenburg	X			Corresponding Sec.
Mark Crawford	X	Mason		
Marty Sanchez-Lowery		Mt. Vernon		
Matt Bell			Land Use	
Mike Perel		Braddock	Human Services	
Morgan Jameson	X		Membership	1 st Vice President
Nancy Trainer	X		Education	
Patrick Smaldore	X		Public Safety	
Sridhar Ganesan				Past President
Sue Kovach Shuman	X		Mantua CA	2 nd Vice President
Tim Thompson	X		Budget, Legislation	President, Past Pres.

Attachment 2 - Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer report for March is available from
<http://fcfca.org/treasurer/TreasurerReports.htm>

In summary our current balance is \$6,585.15

More detailed information is available from the March report

We received dues payment from four organizations:

Greenway Downs Association
Hayfield Citizens Association
Falls Hill Civic Association
Potomac Hills Citizens Association

The last page of the March report lists paid member organizations alphabetically.

In order to prepare a budget for FY 2025-2026 all officers and committee chairs are requested to submit a list of projected expenses to the treasurer by 10 April. If they are time sensitive, please provide the expected time period for the expense. The treasurer will prepare a budget to be discussed at the April Board meeting. Any modification offered will be incorporated so that the board may approve a draft budget in May for the Membership's approval later that month.

Expenses to consider:

- Web site
- Online meeting tool
- Postage
- Copying
- Stationery
- COY
- Picnic

Jeffrey M. Parnes
Treasurer

Attachment 3 - Public Safety report

- Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Public Safety Program is scheduled for April 24, 2025, in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
 - o April will now be the Month for Future Federation Public Safety Programs

- Attended the March 8th Federation Budget Committee Meeting to Provide and Co-Develop Public Safety Resolutions on the Fairfax County FY 2026 Advertised Budget to ensure a prosperous long term Public Safety future for all Fairfax County residents.
 Patrick Smaldore FCFCA Public Safety Committee Chair

Attachment 4 Link to FCFCA 2025 Resolution on the advertised Fairfax County 2026 Budget.

Draft 5 presented, some discussion then approved for presentation to membership vote next week.

https://www.fairfaxfederation.org/files/ugd/8bf868_62088af0ef5041a38d2e5181153a38bb.pdf

(This link is to the final approved Resolution.)

Attachment 5 Transportation report from Jeff with a web site.
 (Info not received as of 4/10)

Attachment 6 Education report

The Education Committee met to discuss our contribution to the 2025 Federation Budget Resolution on the proposed Fairfax County 2026 Budget.

Attachment 7 Proposed 2025 Budget Items from Federation Member Communications team (submitted from Charlotte and Luann to Tim, Sue, & Morgan, 3/17/2025)

Federation Membership & Correspondance Committees Budget ITEMS	Expense	Planned For
DNS Registration	\$ 18.00	2025
Internet Hosting (WIX)	\$ 432.00	2024-2027
Microsoft License: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, TEAMS	\$ 125.00	FUTURE
Data Storage: Microsoft license includes Cloud data storage on OneDrive	Included in Microsoft License	FUTURE
Stamps [18 stamps available as of 3/17/25] for paper FCFCA legislative correspondance to General Assembly	\$ 14.60	FUTURE
Gray=Paid		
Orange=Current Budget Year		
Blue=Future Budget Year		

Attachment 8 Email discussion regarding the potential Fairfax County Meals Tax

* * * * * BEGIN * * * * *

(8) **From:** Jeff@parnes.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:51 PM
To: Federation
Cc: Federation
Subject: Re: Advertised Tax Rate

Board Members,

Here's the adopted Federation resolution on the Meals Tax approved by the membership on 27 October 2016.

<http://fcfca.org/resolutions/ResolutionMealsTaxApproved20161027.pdf>

I hope that we'll be able to find these sorts of past Federation actions when the old site goes dark.

I also remember trying to introduce a measure reaffirming our position before I was ruled out of order by the president for advancing a political position. If that ruling still stands than any future discussion on this topic would also be out of order.

Regards,
Jeffrey M. Parnes

Treasurer

Fairfax Federation

Treasurer@FairfaxFederation.org

703.424.2956 (P)

484.307.2552 (F)

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org>

@FairfaxFed

All recycled, handcrafted, or organically grown electrons used in this message were humanely treated

(7) On 18 Mar 2025, at 18:20 , Tim Thompson <tctthompson@msn.com> wrote:

Dave F, Nancy & David E (Budget Cmtte co-chair) are make good points & in my opinion are correct in their statements & reasoning mentioned in their respective mails

However, as the Meals Tax has not been voted upon nor passed by the BOS, and there isn't anything about it in the Cty Exec's Proposed County Budget about which the Budget Resolution solely addresses, the comments and discussion on the Budget Resolution will stick only to this specific resolution at the Bd Mtg Thursday evening

I will propose a 2nd resolution specific only to the Meals Tax when & if the BOS voted to have it

There will be more than enough to talk thru on the Bdgt Res Thurs and still try to finish by 9pm

As Bud Cmtte co-chair w/David E, I've experienced almost 2 decades of Fed bgt resolutions; and have been at Board Mtg til after 1AM finalizing said resolutions for

presentation to Membership's vote of approval. Personally don't think anyone wants to be that late Thursday night

Please let's just wait to see what the BOS does, and we can then address the Meals Tax, how it's divided up, what rate the Fed should support, % raked off top for payback to businesses for admin fees, etc.

Lots to talk about re: Meals Tax which I don't believe we'd have the time to do Thurs nite w/o knowing any specifics - wait til we do instead of speculating on it

The Bdgt Cmtte can take the lead on the Meals Tax Tesolution at the proper time

Meanwhile plz be thinking of any changes/concerns one may have in the Draft Budget Resolution as recently mailed to the Board

Thx

Tim

Sent from my iPhone

(6) On Mar 18, 2025, at 2:59 PM, David Edelman <davidedelman100@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree with Nancy we should stay away from telling the BOS exactly what to do. However, we should still use our voices in a meaningful way. I believe the Federation has long supported the diversification of the tax base away from real estate to other sources. This all has to be hashed out on Thursday.

(5) On Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 2:03 PM Nancy Trainer <ntrainer@cox.net> wrote:
Dave et. al.,

You raise a good point for discussion on Thursday. I'll surely reiterate this point at Thursday's meeting, but let me also state in advance: The Federation has not normally suggested a particular property tax rate. We don't pretend to know the "ideal" tax rate just as we don't necessarily know the "ideal" budget for, say, libraries or parks. IMO it's good to have some humility as an organization and not assert that we know all the ins and outs of the budget in areas where we just don't. On the other hand, we like to highlight areas where we support and/or oppose particular spending, and we give our reasoning for that.

There are, of course, ways to state our preference for utilizing a meals tax to alleviate lower residential property tax rates, minimizing cuts to existing programs, etc. We might, for example, stress in our introductory section our opinion that the level of residential property taxes overall cannot and should not continue to rise (given the affordability crisis, yada, yada, yada), and that therefore "to the extent practicable" we advocate for any available tax relief to be applied to residential property tax rates. Personally I worry that we're putting the cart before the horse, here, and we should not take for granted that the BOS *will* enact a meals tax, and/or that they will enact it at 4%. But perhaps it is worth our time to spell out how the enactment of a meals tax would enable the Board to engage in their work more flexibly and nimbly.

Best,

Nancy

Nancy Trainer

6135 Farver Road

McLean, VA 22101

(703) 356-7889

ntrainer@cox.net

(4) On Mar 18, 2025, at 1:46 PM, Dave Fitzgerald <DF@FTnet.us> wrote:

Averaged across the County, assessments are up 6.65% this year. Even if the tax rate were held level, what we pay will go up by that much this year; any increase to the tax rate just adds to that. (I'm keenly aware of this since my neighborhood is one that's pulling the average increase higher.)

Now that the BOS has voted to advertise a meals tax, we should discuss whether our resolution should support using "new" revenue from that tax (if it's enacted) to hold the line on the residential property tax rate, minimize cuts to existing programs, or bolster particular programs (e.g., schools or affordable housing).

The current draft supports diversifying the tax base without endorsing a particular strategy for taking advantage of the diversification. We may end up choosing to keep that approach, and there's nothing inherently wrong with doing so.

That said, I'm guessing our members may have strong opinions on how a meals tax would affect other taxes they pay. Staking out a position in the recommendation we make to the members would provide a point of focus for discussion at the membership meeting next week.

Dave

(3) **From:** David Edelman <davidedelman100@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 12:55 PM

To: charlotte hannagan <xarlot@gmail.com>

Cc: Federation Board <board@fairfaxfederation.org>; Nancy Trainer <ntrainer@cox.net>; Tim Thompson <tctthompson@msn.com>; Bill Barfield <wsbarfield@cox.net>; Patrick Smaldore <patricksmaldore@live.com>

Subject: Re: Advertised Tax Rate

Charlotte,

Excellent questions. The short answer is these funds go into the General Fund and the BOS decides how they want to spend it with no restrictions more than any other General Fund revenue.

That said, I have heard different Supervisors discuss more money for affordable housing (Alcorn), reducing the \$59.5M of reductions, or reducing real estate taxes to give homeowners tax relief.

Some may remember in the 2016 referendum that Sharon Boluva promised if the referendum passed 60% would go to the school. That was a campaign promise of the chairman of the board that has long since retired. In other words, a completely new game.

(2) On Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 11:43 AM charlotte hannagan <xarlot@gmail.com> wrote:

Interesting, thanks. So no reduction in previously advertised real estate tax. From a presentation in February, the 4% tax would generate just over \$65mil. Probably a dumb question (sorry), but where would the \$65mil go in priority?

(the presentation I'm quoting is: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2026-advertised-budget-plan>)

(1) On Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 11:34 AM David Edelman

<davidedelman100@gmail.com> wrote:

In brief this morning the BOS authorized a hearing on April 22nd to implement a Food and Beverage (aka meals tax) at 4%.

The BOS also voted to advertise the real estate tax rate (mill rate) a 1.14 or possible raise of 1.5 pennies.

David Edelman

davidedelman100@gmail.com

* * * * * END * * * * *