

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF NEW KENT  
VIRGINIA**

**R-24-18**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of New Kent, in the Boardroom of the Administration Building in New Kent, Virginia, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018:

Present:

Vote:

C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.  
Patricia A. Paige  
Ron Stiers  
W. R. Davis, Jr.  
Thomas W. Evelyn

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Motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, which carried \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_, to adopt the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF  
THE SERVICE OF  
JOHN LAWRENCE GALLAHER  
TO NEW KENT COUNTY**

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher was first employed by New Kent County in July of 1980 and served the citizens of New Kent County for almost twenty-six years until his retirement in May of 2006 during which time he moved up through the ranks wearing many hats along the way; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher began his career with New Kent County as the County Inspector/Building Official where he not only filled the customary duties and responsibilities of the Building Official but was also responsible for inspecting and maintaining the County's water systems including system construction, meter installation, removal and reading, water sampling, pump house maintenance and billing and was responsible for the enforcement of the County's Soil and Erosion Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher completed the course of Fire Inspector/Fire Marshal in early 1981 and by September 10<sup>th</sup> of that same year had received Fire Inspector II certification; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher became the New Kent County Director of Public Works and Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator in 1983 while continuing to fill the role of Building Official; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher was conferred the title of Certified Professional Code Administrator by the National Academy of Code Administrators in November 1983, an accomplishment only 61% of those applying at the time were able to master; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher was appointed to the Emergency Services Coordinator position in 1985, overseeing the County's volunteer rescue squad and fire companies. This title was changed to Director of Public Safety in 1987 and was then again renamed Chief of Emergency Services/Fire Chief in 2003; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher was conferred the title of Certified Emergency Manager by the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management in 1994; and

WHEREAS, as Emergency Services Coordinator, John Lawrence Gallaher was tasked with the responsibility of developing emergency response plans which were mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government for New Kent County; and

WHEREAS, after attending a Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Services course entitled "Emergency Preparedness Community Outreach" in April 1995, John Lawrence Gallaher began writing a series of articles on family disaster preparedness which were published in a local newspaper. The Department of Emergency Services Public Information Coordinator, Janet L. Clements wrote, "Mr. Gallaher's series of preparedness articles will serve as a model at our upcoming courses in Norfolk, Culpeper and Lynchburg and at other such courses in the future. Our department appreciates Mr. Gallaher's commitment to emergency preparedness"; and

WHEREAS, the emergency response plans developed by John Lawrence Gallaher for New Kent County were put to the test after the ice storm of 1998, Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher was commended by County Administrator Gary Christie for the County's response to Hurricane Isabel. Christi noted his appreciation for Mr. Gallaher's leadership and stated, "Your willingness to work through the severe stresses of the storm and limited resources to provide the very best response possible is strongly to be commended"; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher served two terms as President of the Virginia Emergency Management Association, attended numerous training sessions and received numerous recognitions from a variety of agencies including but not limited to the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Services/Management, the Commonwealth of Virginia State Board of Housing and Community Development, the State Fire Chiefs Association of Virginia, the Central Virginia Fire and Arson Association, the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health, the National Sheriff's Association, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, the International Code Council, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the American Concrete Institute, the Commonwealth of Virginia

Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the College of William and Mary and the Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, John Lawrence Gallaher officially retired from his service to New Kent County on May 31, 2006 and upon his retirement reflected upon his career and noted among the highlights, the County's move to hire full-time paid fire fighters and rescue personnel and seeing the various local government departments being created as the County grew; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to posthumously acknowledge and express its appreciation for the service and dedication of John Lawrence Gallaher; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, the New Kent County Board of Supervisors does hereby convey its deepest gratitude and appreciation for the service of John Lawrence Gallaher to the citizens of New Kent County and honors his memory with this resolution.

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Rodney A. Hathaway  
County Administrator

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Thomas W. Evelyn  
Chairman