

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
February 2, 2021

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of the Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Daniel J. Schmitt, Chairman, Brookland District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice-Chairman, Tuckahoe District
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, County Attorney
Tanya Brackett Harding, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Cari Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff

Mr. Schmitt called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Because the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss COVID-19 vaccination efforts, Mr. Schmitt began by summarizing some of the County's activities to confront COVID-19. On March 9, 2020, it activated the Emergency Operations Center and on March 13, the County declared a state of emergency. The County began a series of emergency measures, including a halt to the suspension of water service for customers who were having trouble paying their bills, a suspension of penalties for late tax payments, a program to support local restaurants by purchasing meals for front-line workers, and delivery of personal protective equipment to local businesses. The County began efforts to assist long-term care facilities, worked to set up COVID-19 testing, and delivered tens of thousands of COVID care kits to neighborhoods in every area of the County.

As vaccine has become available, County employees and volunteers have created and staffed a mass-vaccination clinic at Richmond Raceway in partnership with Westwood Pharmacy to inoculate essential workers and elderly residents. Although many thousands have already been received a first dose of the vaccine, many more still need to do so, and all will need a second dose for maximum protection.

Mr. Vithoukias noted that Henrico was one of the first localities to address COVID-19 in nursing homes, to start mass testing, and to begin mass vaccinations.

Dr. Danny Avula, Vaccine Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Health, reported that approximately 9% of the population has received the first dose of the vaccine. The County now has the capability to vaccinate on a large scale but needs more vaccine to do so. He

expects to see an increase of doses, and he noted that the Virginia Department of Health is giving special attention to providing better information about how to get vaccinated, ensuring equitable distribution of vaccine to vulnerable populations, making sure patients get second doses, and handling citizens with underlying conditions.

Amy Popovich, Nurse Manager with Virginia Department of Health, answered a number of questions and emphasized that anyone who has received a first dose will get individual scheduling information for the second shot. She also stated that VDH has updated the input form to capture information about underlying conditions.

Dr. Avula said most side effects for the vaccinations are mild and of short duration.

Anthony McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, reported on the regional vaccination site that vaccinated nearly all the first responders and teachers from the City of Richmond, Henrico, Hanover, and Goochland who wanted to be vaccinated. The County also vaccinated almost 8,000 citizens 65+ from the region.

Amy Popovich reviewed eligibility for vaccination under Phase 1-B and how residents can apply for vaccination. She noted that VDH has received about 60,000 interest forms it needs to work through and has the information for everyone who submitted a form even though they have not contacted yet.

The following individuals spoke via WebEx:

Mrs. Red asked why vaccines are not being targeted to African Americans because of their higher rates of hospitalization and death. Amy Popovich acknowledged the issue and said VDH is partnering with faith-based communities and working in low-income neighborhoods.

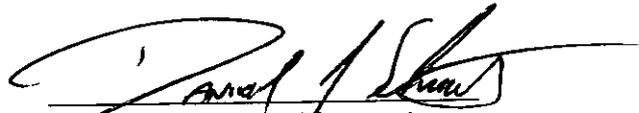
Cynthia Lantz asked about how to sign up for Phase 1-A as a caregiver. Amy Popovich explained they will update the VDH form to let persons indicate they are a caregiver for the person they are signing up for the vaccine.

Viola Hicks stated her daughter has received her first dose but has been unable to reach anyone regarding her second dose. Amy Popovich told her to use the email address or call 804-205-3501 to ensure they have her information.

Jim Bryant asked how to tell if a vaccination notification is from VDH and not a spam call or email. Amy Popovich stated VDH will not ask for money, social security numbers, or your insurance information on a call. If you receive an email it is a no reply email.

Mr. Vithoukias closed by recognizing Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs, for information about County outreach to the most vulnerable communities. Mrs. Smith-Callahan stated the County is allocating CARES funding to make sure they are getting vaccinations through faith-based communities, distribution of more COVID care kits in African American, Spanish, and immigrant communities, and working with radio stations to get the information out.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Smith". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia