

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
May 25, 2010

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico County, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District
Frank J. Thornton, Vice Chairman, Fairfield District
James B. Donati, Jr., Varina District
Richard W. Glover, Brookland District
David A. Kaechele, Three Chopt District

Other Officials Present:

Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk to the Board
George T. Drumwright, Jr., Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Angela N. Harper, Deputy County Manager for Special Services
Leon T. Johnson, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
John A. Vithoukas, Special Economic Advisor to the County Manager/Director of Finance
C. Michael Schnurman, Jr., Legislative Liaison
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mrs. O'Bannon called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

GRTC Transit System Funding

Mrs. O'Bannon recognized Tim Foster, Director of Public Works, who introduced John Lewis, CEO of GRTC; Larry Hagan, Transportation Director of GRTC; Todd Eure, Transportation Development Engineer for the County's Department of Public Works; and Chris Winstead, Assistant Director of the County's Department of Public Works. Mr. Foster narrated a Power Point presentation on the Henrico County FY 2010-2011 Mass Transit Budget, which included slides addressing the FY mass transit operating budget; the cost of GRTC fixed-route service; GRTC Henrico County routes; GRTC average monthly ridership in the County from Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 through FY 2010; cost reduction recommendations; information on two underperforming routes recommended by staff for elimination, Route 92 - Central Gardens Connector and Route 25 - Glenside/Parham/Gaskins Express Circulator; information on a route

to White Oak Village Shopping Center recommended by staff for rerouting; cost reduction recommendations; proposed GRTC fare increases; and next steps. Mr. Foster noted that the County's \$5,036,000 FY 2011 mass-transit operating budget approved by the Board on April 27, 2010 when it approved the County's overall operating budget did not include funds to cover \$701,549 in projected additional costs for the upcoming fiscal year necessary to maintain the existing level of service. To address the anticipated budget shortfall, staff was recommending the elimination of two underperforming routes (Route 92 and 25), rerouting service to White Oak Village Shopping Center, eliminating a total of eight trips a day on two local routes, and eliminating a total of ten trips per day on three express routes. Staff was further proposing that a public hearing for these service eliminations and reductions be held at the June 22, 2010 Board meeting and that the service changes be implemented beginning August 15, 2010. Meanwhile, GRTC will be continuing system-wide efforts to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

During Mr. Foster's presentation, he and Mr. Eure as well as Mr. Lewis and Mr. Hazelett responded to a number of questions from the Board regarding the marketing of GRTC service within the County, the costs per rider of operating the routes recommended for elimination, taxi service offered by GRTC for express bus riders who because of an emergency need to return to their vehicles during non-peak hours, the proposed rerouting of service to White Oak Village, the cost effectiveness of using private contractors for GRTC's weekdays extended commuter service to Mechanicsville and Fredericksburg, the current status of federal and state financial assistance for existing and trial GRTC service, the status of old GRTC buildings, the cost of operating CARE vans, and the feasibility of offering fare discounts to passengers. Mr. Thornton suggested that public transit is not sufficiently marketed to Henrico citizens and that fares are only one dimension of the public transit picture. Mr. Glover commented that it is difficult for GRTC to compete with automobiles in this region in terms of commute times. Mr. Foster and Mr. Lewis responded to further questions from the Board pertaining to public usage of park and ride lots, ridership numbers and service subsidies for routes in the City of Richmond versus those in the County, and transportation alternatives to mass transit where service is eliminated or reduced. Mr. Hazelett noted that staff had worked hard to minimize service reductions in its proposal to address the budget shortfall.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:06 p.m. and reconvened at 6:13 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Glover, seconded by Mr. Thornton, the Board approved going into a Closed Meeting at 6:14 p.m. for the following purpose:

For Discussion and Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property in the Brookland District for Public Purposes Relating to Administration, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as Amended.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Yes: O'Bannon, Thornton, Donati, Glover, Kaechele

No: None

On motion of Mr. Glover, seconded by Mr. Thornton, the Board approved going out of the Closed Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Yes: O'Bannon, Thornton, Donati, Glover, Kaechele

No: None

On motion of Mr. Kaechele, seconded Mr. Thornton, the Board approved the attached Certificate of Closed Meeting.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

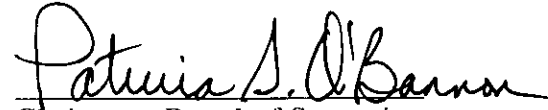
Yes: O'Bannon, Thornton, Donati, Glover, Kaechele

No: None

Mr. Hazelett briefly reviewed the public hearing items listed on the agenda for the evening's regular meeting. He advised that staff would be recommending the withdrawal of two items authorizing condemnation proceedings for the North Gayton Road Extension Project because the County had reached settlement with the property owners. He discussed a request by a citizen, Zandra Sharon, who had signed up to speak during the evening's public comment period in regards to her 20-year-old daughter's recent disappearance. Mr. Hazelett noted that Col. Henry Stanley, Chief of Police, had offered to meet personally with Ms. Sharon at her home. Mr. Hazelett responded to questions from the Board relating to the facts and status of this case. He then briefly reviewed the general agenda items for the evening meeting and advised that Mrs. O'Bannon would be announcing the recent passing of a former member and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, John Waldrop. Mr. Hazelett further advised he would be addressing two matters under Manager's Comments, including a Memorial Day tribute to County personnel who have been called to active military duty since September 11, 2001.

Mrs. O'Bannon mentioned that she had received a request from a constituent who was concerned about Henrico citizens not getting enough airtime from Comcast on the designated public access cable television channel and who wanted the County to request a second public access channel. Mr. Hazelett pointed out that an additional channel would also require another studio. Paul Proto, Director of General Services, clarified that the constituent was not only requesting a separate public access channel for Henrico citizens but also questioning a provision in Comcast's franchise agreement with the City of Richmond that is in apparent conflict with provisions in the company's franchise agreements with adjoining localities. The disputed provision prohibits use of the local Comcast public access studio, which is located in downtown Richmond, by citizens in other localities. Mr. Proto advised that he has requested that Comcast make this studio available to citizens outside the City of Richmond. He and Mr. Hazelett responded to questions and concerns from the Board relating to the condition of the existing Comcast public access studio and the appropriate role of the County in facilitating public access programming on cable television.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia S. O'Bannon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia