## COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING October 9, 2012

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

## Members of the Board Present:

Richard W. Glover, Chairman, Brookland District David A. Kaechele, Vice Chairman, Three Chopt District Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield 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, Deputy Clerk to the Board/Administrative Assistant
Jane D. Crawley, Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
John A. Vithoulkas, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Wilbert J. Childress, Technology Support Specialist, Manager's Office
Steven W. Knockemus, Assistant Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Glover called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett noted the one item listed on the agenda.

## 2012 General Election Briefing

Mr. Hazelett recognized Mark Coakley, the General Registrar, who briefly introduced this item and then narrated a slide presentation titled *Overview of Legislative Changes, Election Day Procedures, and County Information*. Mr. Coakley began his presentation by highlighting CNN and Business Insider news stories pointing to Henrico as a bellwether county in the 2012 presidential election and by sharing recent trends in the County's voter registration statistics. He responded to a question from Mr. Thornton regarding the large difference in confirmation mailings between 2011 and 2012 and to a question from Mr. Kaechele pertaining to the current procedure for removing inactive voters from the registration rolls. In response to a question from

Mr. Kaechele, he agreed to provide the Board with additional statistics showing voter turnout by magisterial district for the 2004, 2008, and 2012 elections.

Mr. Coakley continued his presentation by showing a sample ballot that will be used by Henrico voters in the November 6, 2012, general and special election, reviewing new state legislation pertaining to voter registration cards, summarizing 2012 voter identification changes, and showing an example of the Commonwealth of Virginia's new voter registration card. He responded to questions from Mr. Kaechele concerning the procedure for counting provisional ballots. Mr. Coakley resumed his presentation by identifying the types of voter identification that will permitted for the upcoming election, elaborating on post-election day responsibilities and procedures for general registrars and electoral boards, citing local officer of election training statistics, reviewing training materials for local officers of election, explaining touch screen ballots used at the County's voting precincts, and highlighting staffing at the County's polling places. He responded to questions from the Board relating to how poll workers are assigned to voting precincts to ensure that both major political parties are equally represented.

Mr. Coakley concluded his presentation by reviewing the County's smdent election pages; electronic poll books; new voting machine setup; corrected voting machine placement; Election Day supplies, set up, and office support; and split precincts. After thanking Mr. Coakley for sharing information at Mr. Thornton's most recent town meeting, Mr. Thornton raised concerns regarding poll watching activities by such groups as True to Vote that may intimidate voters or Mr. Coakley explained how Henrico maintains order at the polls and accommodates citizens who are casting provisional ballots. Mrs. O'Bannon thanked Mr. Coakley for making a presentation at her last town meeting and then raised a concern about the delay in local election results being reported in 2011. Mr. Coakley noted how this problem has been addressed through procedural and staffing changes. In response to a question from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Coakley elaborated on absentee voting procedures. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Coakley for sharing information at his previous town meeting and voiced a concern relating to how provisional ballots are secured. Mr. Coakley explained the security procedures followed in Henrico County. He responded to a question from Mr. Glover regarding candidate access to polling precincts and to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning restrictions on political gear that can be wom by voters.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett informed the Board that the North Gayton Road Extension is now open and he would be asking the Board at the 7:00 p.m. meeting to add a resolution by unanimous consent authorizing execution of a second amendment to the comprehensive agreement with W. C. English, Inc. for services related to this project. In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Public Works Director Steve Yob explained that the resolution would allow the company to perform corrective work on the road while it is open to traffic and would provide an extended warranty for certain components of the work. He noted for Mr. Glover that that the company has been subject to liquidated damages since July 3. Mr. Hazlett remarked that Mr. Yob has done a yeoman's job negofiating with W. C. English and that there will be a formal dedication ceremony for the road at a later date. Mr. Yob and Mr. Hazelett responded to additional questions from the Board pertaining to the County's track record with W. C. English, the terms of the first contract

amendment, and the nature of the corrective work. Mr. Hazelett assured the Board that cracked expansion joints on the bridge have been corrected and that long-term maintenance issues concerning the road extension have been resolved. Mr. Foster assured the Board that the bridge is safe to vehicular traffic.

Mr. Hazelett advised the Board that new computers had been installed at their seats in the Board Room that allowed for more legroom but otherwise were not noticeably different. He responded to questions from the Board relating to the energy output of the computers and their replacement schedule.

Mr. Thornton voiced concerns regarding the findings of a national report on school suspensions and expulsions that were profiled in an October 9 Richmond Times-Dispatch article. He questioned whether the Board of Supervisors will be having dialogue with the School Board on the report, which pointed to a disproportionate number of minority students being suspended or expelled from the County's public schools. Mr. Hazelett pointed out that Mr. Nelson previously co-signed a letter with State Senator Donald McEachin requesting an explanation from the County's Superintendent of Schools. There was discussion by members of the Board and Mr. Hazelett and different perspectives were offered as to the appropriate level of involvement of the Board in this matter. Mr. Hazelett and Mr. Nelson elaborated on the contents of Mr. Nelson's letter. Mr. Hazelett noted that Henrico's School administration is conducting a detailed internal analysis of school suspension data that will be presented to the School Board within the next several weeks:

Mr. Hazelett reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting, beginning with two Three Chopt District zoning cases and an additional public hearing item pertaining to extension of the County's lease of 8611 Dixon Powers Drive to the Henrico Federal Credit Union. He responded to a question from Mr. Kaechele and comments from Mrs. O'Bannon relating to a general agenda resolution that would find the Shane and Quioccasin Recycling Facility substantially in accord with the County's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hazelett noted that no citizens had signed up in advance to speak during the public comment period.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 g.m.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Henrico County, Virginia