

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 9, 2014

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at 4:30 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:**

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District  
Frank J. Thornton, Vice Chairman, Fairfield District  
Richard W. Glover, Brookland District  
David A. Kaechele, Three Chopt District  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukas, 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  
Joseph A. Casey, Ph.D., Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Jane D. Crawley, Deputy County Manager for Community Services  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
C. Michael Schnurman, Legislative Liaison  
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mrs. O'Bannon called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas announced that GRTC Transit System has been awarded a \$24.9 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the United States Department of Transportation to support its Bus Rapid Transit project, which will run along Broad Street from Willow Lawn to Rocketts Landing. This was the only TIGER grant awarded within Virginia. The County will contribute \$400,000 to the project during the next three fiscal years for the portion of the system that is in Henrico. The system will be in operation by the summer of 2018. Mr. Vithoukas responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon and Mr. Glover regarding the grant. He advised that this matter may be a future work session topic for the Board.

Mr. Vithoukas briefly reviewed the three presentation items listed on this agenda.

## **Tuckahoe Creek Park Master Plan – Phase I**

Mr. Vithoukaskas recognized Planning Director Joe Emerson, who in turn recognized Kevin Wilhite, County Planner. Mr. Wilhite narrated a slide presentation on this item. He noted that the County owns 240 acres of land along Tuckahoe Creek. Mr. Wilhite reviewed aerial maps depicting the location of the property, noting Phase I of Tuckahoe Creek Park includes a 33.7-acre portion of the site that is situated in the Tuckahoe Creek Swamp from the western terminus of Ridgefield Parkway to south of the western terminus of Old Coach Lane. The Phase I portion of the property is zoned C-1, Conservation District, and is located exclusively within the Tuckahoe District. Mr. Wilhite also reviewed the timeline for Tuckahoe Creek Park. He noted three public input meetings were held on the plan at Carver Elementary School in May to November 2013 and the Planning Commission approved a resolution in August 2014 finding the park substantially in accord (SIA) with the County's 2026 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Wilhite responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning Goochland County's close proximity to the park. In response to another question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Recreation and Parks Director Neil Luther updated the Board on the status of a federal grant that has been approved for the park.

Mr. Wilhite continued his presentation by reviewing the concept plan for Phase I of the park as drafted by the County's consultants, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. He identified proposed site features, including an entrance structure, elevated boardwalks, observation points, and trails for passive recreational uses. Mr. Wilhite pointed out that the site is primarily wooded and in a flood plain. In response to further questions from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Wilhite clarified that the site is intended to serve as a neighborhood park so the plan does not include parking. He then showed the Board conceptual renderings of proposed trailheads and summarized the next steps in developing the park. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to act on the both the SIA resolution and the Phase I master plan at its September 23 meeting. Phase I construction is anticipated to take six months and to occur during the summer and fall of 2015.

Mr. Luther advised Mrs. O'Bannon that the park is not intended for boat access. In response to a further question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Public Utilities Director Art Petrini elaborated on the location and purpose of a sewer line expansion project in the vicinity of the park. Mrs. O'Bannon advised the Board that a final public meeting on the Phase I master plan of development will be held on September 17 at Carver Elementary School.

## **Economic Update and Local Fiscal Comparisons**

After pointing out that this update was similar to ones the Board received in September 2012 and 2013 work session presentations, Mr. Vithoukaskas recognized Budget and Management Division Director Brandon Hinton, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Mr. Hinton began his presentation by referring to the magnitude of the state budget revenue shortfall that has occurred under the current Virginia governor and shortfalls of similar magnitude that have occurred under the past three Virginia governors. He then reviewed several graphs depicting annual trends in Henrico County pertaining to employment and unemployment, local residential foreclosures, residential new construction, and commercial office vacancy rates. Mr. Hinton explained a table depicting Henrico County's number two ranking among all Virginia localities for total taxable sales in 2013. He also reviewed the current status of the

County's sales tax collections, new vehicle sales, and hotel/motel tax receipts. Mr. Hinton noted the County's hotel/motel tax receipts for the month of July were the highest ever recorded. Mr. Vithoukaskas attributed this to the successful sports tourism efforts of the Division of Recreation and Parks, which resulted in more than 20 athletic tournaments being held in the County between mid-July and early August.

Mr. Hinton concluded that the local economy continues to improve at a slow pace, which should yield positive revenue growth. Also, the Commonwealth's budgetary issues remain the "wild card" as the County approaches FY 2016 budget discussions given that approximately one-third of the County's general fund revenues reflect aid from the Commonwealth. The primary concern is whether local revenue growth will be offset by reductions in state aid. Mr. Hinton then shared a FY 2015 general fund revenue pie chart and a table identifying estimated state aid in various functional areas of the County's FY 2015 general fund budget. Mr. Walter, Mr. Vithoukaskas, Mr. Schnurman, and Mr. Hinton responded to questions from the Board relating to these areas of state aid. Mr. Hinton completed the first portion of his presentation by reviewing the County's FY 2016 budget calendar. In response to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon, Police Chief Doug Middleton explained how communications sales and use tax revenues are shared with localities by the Commonwealth. He also elaborated on the status of text-to-911 technology and deployment. Chief Middleton also commented on a current study of text-to-911 by a committee of the Virginia Wireless E-911 Service Board that he currently chairs. There was discussion by Mrs. O'Bannon and Chief Middleton of the challenges posed by text-to-911 technology. Chief Middleton clarified for Mr. Glover why and how this technology will be used.

Mr. Hinton narrated the second component of his presentation, which focused on local fiscal comparisons. He reviewed graphs documenting that the County has the lowest monthly residential tax burden, real estate taxes paid on a typical home, real estate tax rates, and personal property tax rates among the Commonwealth's ten localities with triple-A bond ratings. Mr. Kaechele and Mr. Vithoukaskas discussed the County's meals tax collections, which so far have exceeded the County's projected revenues. Mr. Hinton responded to questions from Mr. Glover and Mr. Kaechele pertaining to the real estate tax comparisons. Mr. Hinton summarized this part of his presentation by pointing out that Henrico has historically been the lowest tax locality as compared to other similarly-sized localities in Virginia and across the nation and that the County continues to strive to provide the highest quality services at the lowest possible costs. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Walter clarified that the County's real estate tax rate was last lowered in 2007, from \$0.90 to \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed value.

The Board recessed at 5:35 p.m. and reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukaskas recognized Cari Tretina, who is serving as a Management Analyst in the Manager's Office after working as a student intern and a Budget Analyst in the Department of Finance. He advised the Board that Ms. Tretina will be working with Management Analyst Cristol Klevinsky on special projects and stated that her quick professional advancement within the organization was a testament to the success of the County's internship program.

## **Procedural Justice Initiative – Fair and Impartial Police Training**

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Doug Middleton, Chief of Police, who noted that many members of his staff were seated in the audience. Chief Middleton narrated a slide presentation on this item. He began by offering background information on the Division of Police's fair and impartial policing initiative, which began in the fall of 2013 and involves a collaborative training effort with the City of Richmond's Police Department. During his presentation, Chief Middleton explained the importance of fair and impartial policing, the goals of fair and impartial police training, the fundamental concepts of human bias, how fairness and impartiality benefit police agencies and officers, how the County is implementing fair and impartial policing, the County's training process, the role of body cameras in procedural justice, research findings for the use of body cameras and the need for such cameras, the Division of Police's proposal and timeline for purchasing and outfitting officers with body cameras, and how the Division's Professional Standards Section will measure the effectiveness of body cameras. Chief Middleton remarked that body camera technology is here to stay and expectations are increasing for its use. He concluded his presentation by stating that this technology will supplement the Division's procedural justice initiative, including its fair and impartial training efforts, by improving the professional image of the agency through transparency, improving behaviors, increasing effectiveness and efficiency, and decreasing liability concerns. Chief Middleton then showed a video depicting the capabilities of body cameras.

Chief Middleton recognized Maj. Clarence Hunter, Deputy Chief of Police for Investigations, as the point man for the Division's fair and impartial training initiative and for the launch of the body cameras; Capt. Mike Palkovics, Commanding Officer of the Professional Standards Section, who will oversee evaluation of the initiative and the equipment; and Lt. Dennis O'Keefe, who will handle the less lethal training and take the lead in deploying the cameras. He then recognized Cpl. Tim Snyder, who demonstrated the features of a TASER body camera and its mounting options.

Chief Middleton wrapped up the presentation of this item by emphasizing that this training initiative will add to the Division's stature in the community as an internationally accredited agency. Mr. Thornton remarked that he is excited and enthralled by this new technology. He complemented Chief Middleton and Mr. Vithoukias for having the creativity and wherewithal to bring this initiative forward and implement new procedures. Mr. Thornton further commented that he thinks the County is on the right path and that he is in full support of this wonderful effort. Mrs. O'Bannon expressed her appreciation to Chief Middleton and Mr. Vithoukias and noted this technology should enhance the safety of police officers. Chief Middleton responded to questions from Mr. Kaechele and Mr. Nelson regarding the implementation schedule for the cameras. Chief Middleton informed the Board that all of the County sworn police officers will ultimately be equipped with the cameras, which will be partially funded with money confiscated from drug dealers. Mr. Vithoukias clarified that the only costs to the County will be for the storage of data from the cameras. He thanked Chief Middleton and his staff for their work on this project.

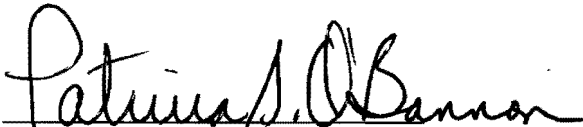
## All Henrico Reads Update

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Jerry McKenna, Director of Libraries, who distributed copies of a book titled *Silver Sparrow* to the Board, County Manager, Deputy County Managers, and County Attorney. Christine Campbell, Assistant Director of Libraries, announced that this book and its author, Tayari Jones, will be the feature of the *All Henrico Reads* 2015 community event. She informed the Board that Mrs. Jones is African American and a winner of the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction. Mrs. Jones was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Master of Fine Arts program at the Newark campus of Rutgers University. Mrs. Campbell explained that this book tells the story of two young women who meet and form a friendship only to learn they are really sisters. The *All Henrico Reads* 2015 event will be held on April 1, 2016, at Glen Allen High School.

## Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting, including one presentation item, a resolution accepting the resignation of a Finance Board member, two rezoning cases, and a number of general agenda items. He reviewed the highlights of the proposed September 2014 budget amendments and noted the County is near the end of the property acquisition phase for the Cobbs Creek Reservoir project in Cumberland County. Mrs. O'Bannon complimented the efforts of County staff, especially Real Property Director Jon Tracy and Assistant Public Utilities Director Bill Mawyer, for the County's successful negotiations with Cumberland property owners. Mr. Kaechele and Mrs. O'Bannon pointed out an error in the title of the resolution authorizing a construction change order for Water Treatment Facility upgrades and improvements. The paper incorrectly identified this facility as being located in the Three Chopt District rather than the Tuckahoe District. In response to questions from Mr. Glover, Mr. Foster commented on the County's cost sharing agreements with the Virginia Department of Transportation for sidewalk construction projects. There was discussion by Mr. Vithoukas, Mr. Foster, and the Board concerning County policies for the construction and improvement of sidewalks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia