# COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING October 28, 2014

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2014, at 5:15 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. Vithoulkas, 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
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
C. Michael Schnurman, Legislative Liaison
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mrs. O'Bannon called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

Mr. Vithoulkas briefly reviewed the three items listed on this special meeting agenda.

## **Dominion Virginia Power Update**

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Jen Kostyniuk, Manager of Regional, State, & Local Affairs for Dominion Virginia Power. Ms. Kostyniuk introduced Alan Bradshaw, the company's Director of Electric Distribution Underground, who narrated the first portion of a slide presentation on this item titled Strategic Underground Program Update. Mr. Bradshaw began his presentation by offering background information on, and an overview of, this program, which is a Dominion Virginia Power reliability initiative aimed at reducing the duration of storm restorations by reducing repair locations. This will be achieved by undergrounding 4,000 miles of the state's most outage-prone tap lines. Legislation enacted by the 2014 Virginia General Assembly authorizes spending and revenue recovery for this program, which will be reviewed by the State

Corporation Commission. Mr. Bradshaw also identified the four project types that qualify for the program, which will cost approximately \$175 million and require the acquisition of 10,000 to 20,000 property easements annually from current customers and in public rights-of-way. He reviewed partnerships that will be undertaken with telecommunications companies, the planned replacement of existing customer meters, the timeline for fully implementing the project, key messages about the project that will be communicated to customers and landowners, and the program's logo. In responding to questions from the Board during and following his presentation, Mr. Bradshaw commented on future plans for wireless technology, clarified that all easements for this program will have to be donated, and explained boring techniques for underground installation.

Ms. Kostyniuk narrated the second portion of the presentation, during which she updated the Board on the Northwest-Lakeside 230kV transmission line's benefits to the local and regional community, the status of Concept Road 143 and a new building that are under construction at Virginia Dominion Power's local System Operations Center (SOC), trends in the company's residential electric rates, and energy conservation measures available to the company's residential customers. In response to questions from the Board during Ms. Kostyniuk's presentation, she and Mr. Bradshaw clarified that all of Virginia Dominion Power's new transmission lines are being placed underground and that it would be prohibitively expensive for the company to replace the entirety of its existing distribution system with underground lines. She also thanked Mr. Thornton for his assistance with the SOC construction project, which is in the Fairfield District north of the Best Plaza site.

The Board recessed at 5:53 p.m. and reconvened at 5:59 p.m.

## Impact of State and Federal Mandates on Local Government in Virginia

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Brandon Hinton, Management and Budget Division Director for the Department of Finance, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Mr. Hinton began his presentation by defining the term "mandate," providing an overview of 668 mandates placed on localities by the Commonwealth as identified in a 2014 Virginia Commission on Local Government report, and offering examples of "unreviewable" mandates as well as new mandates. He shared a slide illustrating the rising costs to the County of housing inmates, which includes State inmates who are being housed in local facilities. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Hinton noted the large disparity between the cost of housing State inmates and the level of reimbursement received from the Commonwealth. He also noted the rising costs to the County of providing medical services to inmates. Mr. Vithoulkas assured Mrs. O'Bannon this information will be communicated to the County's General Assembly delegation at the Board's joint meeting with the delegation on November 5.

Mr. Hinton resumed his presentation by highlighting the multi-year rise in State and Federal mandates placed on the County and the decrease in State and Federal funding for these mandates. He also illustrated the multi-year decline in the percentage of State lottery funds allocated to localities. In summary, Mr. Hinton pointed out that mandates placed on localities without appropriate funding places significant burdens on local government finances. At least

\$33 million of the County's budget represents costs associated with State-mandated services for which State funding has been reduced and not restored or has been eliminated altogether.

Following his presentation, Mr. Hinton and Mr. Vithoulkas responded to several questions from the Board and cited for Mr. Nelson the County's previously successful efforts to get legislation passed that significantly increased the amount of road maintenance funds the County receives from the Commonwealth. Mrs. O'Bannon asked that the Board receive a copy of Mr. Hinton's presentation.

# Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoulkas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He noted that Dr. Claude Perkins, President of Virginia Union University, had requested a photograph with the entire Board of Supervisors following Mr. Thornton's presentation of a resolution congratulating the University on its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At Mr. Vithoulkas' request, Fire Chief Anthony McDowell reviewed an ordinance that was being introduced to remove two outdated County Code references to a section of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

Following the agenda review, Mr. Vithoulkas announced to the Board that the County has completed the property acquisition phase of the Cobbs Creek Reservoir project at a cost lower than initially estimated. He and Mr. Foster responded to questions from the Board regarding land acquisition procedures for the project and the project's construction schedule. There was discussion by the Board and Mr. Vithoulkas pertaining to the scope of the project. Mr. Thornton characterized the project as visionary and remarked that the County should share with the public the story of how the reservoir will provide water to Henrico citizens for many years to come.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Henrico County, Virginia