

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
October 8, 2019

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 5:45 p.m., in the Board Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

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

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager
Lee Ann Anderson, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, CMC, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas briefly referred to the items on the special meeting agenda.

Virginia Commonwealth University Update

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Dr. Michael Rao, President of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), who thanked the Board for the County's partnership with VCU. He noted Mr. Nelson is a VCU graduate, former member of the VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors, and current member of the VCU Board of Visitors. Dr. Rao pointed out Mrs. O'Bannon is also a VCU alumnus and her husband served for two terms on the VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors. He also mentioned that Mr. Vithoukas is a star VCU alumnus with whom he communicates frequently. Dr. Rao commented on the County's investment in VCU's Engineering School and advised the Board that VCU's new Center for Pharmaceutical Engineering and Sciences is the only one of its kind in Virginia and one of only a few in the country.

Dr. Rao narrated a slide presentation titled *VCU in Henrico County*, which he began by citing statistics highlighting VCU's large presence in Henrico. He provided photographs and commented on several of VCU Health System's newer facilities, including the Neuroscience,

Orthopaedic, and Wellness Center; Mayland Clinic; and future Children's Hospital of Richmond. Dr. Rao next explained how VCU's School of Education is serving Henrico's public school students through its Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium, Center for School-Community Collaboration, Autism Center for Excellence, and STEM. in Sports partnership. He informed the Board that VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs has served Henrico citizens since 2011 by partnering with the Sheriff's Office on an internship program whereby VCU criminal justice students are deputized and work part-time at the County's jail facilities. Dr. Rao pointed out Henrico Sheriff Mike Wade is a two-time VCU graduate. He concluded his presentation by once again thanking the Board and Mr. Vithoulkas for their relationship and collaboration with VCU and commenting on the County's high return on its investment in VCU.

Following his presentation, Dr. Rao responded to a question from Mr. Thornton regarding the likelihood of VCU placing a health facility in eastern Henrico. Dr. Rao acknowledged the possibility of this occurring in the future but alluded to the Richmond region's competitive health care environment and the university's cautious approach to building new facilities in light of budgetary limits. He advised that VCU is looking to go where it can provide the best health care and facilities for its students, patients, and the community. Mr. Nelson stated that the County is looking forward to further strengthening its relationship with VCU.

Drainage Update

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Steve Yob, Director of Public Works, who was joined in the audience by David Gunn, Floodplain Manager for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Yob narrated a slide presentation titled *Residential Drainage*. He began by defining the County's drainage problem, noting most of the drainage issues are not floodplain related although 1,200 Henrico homes are located in designated floodplain areas. The County has received 7,700 drainage complaints since 2003. Mr. Yob listed the pros and cons of two land use options for addressing serious drainage issues as set forth in a recent study by the City of Norfolk. The options are zoning restrictions/code requirements and property purchase. Mr. Yob next cited data from recent hydrology and creek studies conducted by the Department of Public Works. He pointed out it would cost the County \$54 million to remove 32 homes experiencing serious drainage issues in the following floodplain areas: Copperas Creek, Tuckahoe Creek, White Oak Swamp, and Horsepen Branch. Mr. Yob shared photos of existing drainage conditions on Horsepen and Bandy Roads to illustrate drainage problems some homeowners are encountering. Mr. Vithoulkas advised the Board that \$100,000 has been set aside in the budget to improve driveway piping and ditches throughout Henrico where drainage problems are easy fixes. At Mr. Vithoulkas' request, Mr. Yob elaborated on how these funds are being used.

Mr. Yob continued his presentation by discussing short-term approaches to drainage issues, including stream walks, hydrology studies, and small drainage improvements. He updated the Board on a recent project to clean up the Horsepen Branch creek bed. Mr. Yob responded to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon pertaining to how tree removal in streams can affect water flow. He, Mr. Vithoulkas, and Mr. Foster responded to a question from Mr. Schmitt relating to the condition of the Horsepen Branch creek bed prior to the cleanup.

Mr. Yob continued his presentation by explaining the benefits of stream walks by County consultants and discussing mid-term approaches to drainage issues, including homeowner technical assistance, notification to homeowners, a website tool, and stream walks. Mr. Yob

clarified for Mr. Schmitt that residents can contact Mr. Gunn rather than the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine whether their home is located in a federally designated floodplain. Mr. Vithoulkas informed the Board that staff will be bringing forward recommendations to establish repercussions for developers of new subdivisions where drainage issues are created. Mr. Branin cited a new residential development in his district where basements have been flooding.

Mr. Yob concluded his presentation by discussing long-term approaches to drainage issues, including a buyout program, large drainage projects, and stream walks. Mr. Vithoulkas asked Mr. Yob to explain Charlotte, North Carolina's buyout (acquisition) floodplain program. Mrs. O'Bannon pointed out the County purchased about 20 homes in the Bloomingdale subdivision a few decades ago where there were serious drainage issues. In response to a question from Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Yob returned to the slide on the Norfolk study and clarified that FEMA has a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to help defray the cost of purchasing eligible properties located in a floodplain and damaged by flooding. Mr. Nelson indicated an interest in putting drainage projects on a general obligation bond referendum, but Mr. Vithoulkas cautioned him that the last time the County put a drainage project question on a bond referendum it failed. Mr. Vithoulkas advised the Board that staff will continue to address drainage issues on a short-term basis and will return to the Board with potential long-term solutions and costs. Mr. Foster remarked that the higher rainfalls during the past three years have contributed to an increase in residential drainage problems and complaints.

Sidewalks and Trails Update

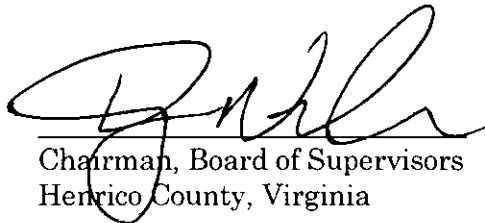
Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Todd Eure, Assistant Director of Public Works, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Mr. Eure began by pointing out the last item on the agenda for the Board's 7:00 p.m. meeting would add three new sidewalk construction projects to a County agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Revenue Sharing Program. The requested Board action would also increase the estimated cost of an existing project. The new projects are as follows: Audubon Drive, from White Oak Village to Wood Thrush Circle; North Parham Road, 150 feet south of Fordson Road to 100 feet east of Fordson Road; and Creighton Road, from Harvest Crest Drive to Carolee Drive. The existing project is sidewalk construction on Creighton Road from North Laburnum Avenue to Sandy Lane. Mr. Eure informed the Board that the County has submitted 23 sidewalk projects to VDOT's Revenue Sharing Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 as authorized by the Board at its September 24 meeting. He showed photographs of two trail projects, Lakeside Community Trail and Nuckols Road Community Trail, that the County has submitted to the Transportation Alternatives Program for matching grants in FY 2021-22. These submissions were also authorized by the Board at its September 24 meeting. Mr. Eure next reviewed upcoming project application funding programs and timelines for the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, and Smart Scale prioritization program. He identified sources of matching funds for the various VDOT grant programs. Mr. Eure concluded his presentation by naming the following pedestrian projects scheduled to be bid for construction in the next three months: Dabbs House Road Improvements, Dorey Park Multiuse Trail – Phase II, Nuckols Road/Pouncey Tract Sidewalk, Quioccasin Road Sidewalk, Ridgefield Parkway Sidewalk, Azalea Avenue Pedestrian and Signal Improvements, Beulah Road Sidewalk – Phase II, Gaskins Road Sidewalk, and Richmond-Henrico Turnpike Sidewalk.

Following Mr. Eure's presentation, Mr. Thornton voiced concerns about the quality of sidewalk construction on Austin Avenue. Mr. Eure noted Mr. Thornton's concerns and stated that the issue exists countywide and is related to the concrete mix. He assured Mr. Thornton the problem will not reoccur. Mrs. O'Bannon suggested the County develop a program to help educate residents about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Mr. Foster acknowledged that the failure of pedestrians to use pedestrian crosswalks is a national problem. Mr. Branin pointed out that Bike Walk RVA provides education and training on bicycle and pedestrian safety. He asked Mr. Yob to give the organization's contact information to Mr. Sheppard.

Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. He advised the Board that he would be making two Manager's Comments and noted there were two presentation items, four rezoning cases, and one provisional use permit request on the agenda. Mr. Vithoukas briefly reviewed the five land use cases and mentioned that the applicant for one of the cases, Staples Mill Investments, was requesting a deferral to the November 12 meeting. Mr. Silber responded to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning the Board's procedure for deferring zoning cases. Mr. Vithoukas noted there was one other item on the public hearing agenda and one citizen had signed up to speak during the public comment period, on school redistricting. Mr. Nelson stated that the Board needed to let the public comment speaker know her issue should be directed to the School Board or School administration rather than the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Vithoukas referred to the 13 items on the general agenda. Mr. Hinton updated the Board on the second item, which would authorize the County to enter into a payment support agreement for acquisition of the "Wilton Farm Property." He responded to a question from Mr. Nelson regarding the interest rates for the financing. Police Chief Humberto Cardounel and Mr. Hinton provided additional background information on a general agenda item whereby the Board would accept an unsolicited proposal for consideration for the design and construction of a classroom addition at the Police Division's firing range.

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



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia