

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 22, 2019

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 6:00 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. Vithoulikas, County Manager  
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, Deputy County Attorney  
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  
C. Michael Schnurman, Assistant to the County Manager for Intergovernmental Relations  
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Vithoulikas briefly referred to the item listed on the special meeting agenda and advised the Board that he would be asking for its approval to add an item titled "Scooters for Hire" to be presented by the County Attorney's Office.

**Facebook and QTS Richmond Network Access Point Updates**

Mr. Vithoulikas recognized Anthony Romanello, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority (EDA), who distributed flyers with information pertaining to Facebook's Henrico Data Center and the EDA's Fiscal Year 2019 in review. Mr. Romanello introduced Twyla Powell, the EDA's Business Attraction Manager; Amber Tillman, Community Development Manager at Facebook; and Brian Houston, Site Manager at Facebook. Mr. Romanello narrated the first portion of a slide presentation on this item. He began by providing a timeline for Facebook's Henrico Data Center, which began construction in October 2017 and will consist of two phases. Mr. Romanello informed the Board that Phase I of the project represents a \$1 billion investment, including \$750,000 for the data center and \$250,000 for solar power facilities throughout Virginia. It will contain 970,000 square feet.

Phase II represents a \$750 million investment and will contain 1.5 million square feet. The data center sits on a 330-acre site in eastern Henrico's White Oak Technology Park and will generate 200 full-time jobs and 1,200 construction jobs. Mr. Romanello pointed out that this project is the fifth-largest private investment in Virginia during the past 10 years. He showed an aerial video of the site taken on October 1 highlighting the construction that has occurred there in the last two years.

Mr. Romanello recognized Ms. Tillman, who continued the presentation by offering further details about the data center facilities and a brief construction status report. She noted the data center will be supported by 100 percent renewable energy. Ms. Tillman advised the Board that Facebook has developed partnerships with Henrico County Public Schools, rvatech, ChamberRVA, and other community organizations. She mentioned several upcoming events and programs Facebook will be sponsoring in the local community. Mr. Nelson thanked Ms. Tillman and her team for minimizing truck traffic and debris, being responsive to citizen complaints, and serving as a great neighbor. Mr. Thornton asked Ms. Tillman whether Facebook has put any indices in place to monitor and ensure inclusion in filling the site's construction jobs and the data center's full-time positions. Ms. Tillman responded that she would be happy to share pertinent statistics with Mr. Thornton highlighting the diversity of the data center's construction crews and workforce.

Ms. Powell continued the presentation by providing more specific information on Facebook and QTS Richmond network access points. She discussed a site map illustrating the adjoining sites of QTS and Facebook within White Oak Technology Park. Mr. Romanello passed out samples of subsea and terrestrial cables that are being laid to obtain faster, low-latency, and direct internet connectivity worldwide. Ms. Powell explained a map depicting existing and announced cable locations connecting North America, South America, Europe, and Africa. She concluded the presentation by sharing subsea cable trivia, noting how the subsea cable was intentionally targeted for the mid-Atlantic landing at Virginia Beach by Microsoft, Facebook, and Telxius as the fastest way to connect to Ashburn, Virginia, which is regarded as the "internet capital of the world." Henrico's unique location, 100 miles from Virginia Beach and 100 miles south of Ashburn, offers the least risky and fastest possible connection point to Ashburn. Mr. Romanello distributed a fact sheet titled *QTS Richmond Network Access Point (NAP) at White Oak Technology Park*, which explains what the QTS NAP means for Henrico and the world in terms of internet connectivity, traffic and download speeds, and reduced risks of outages in power, water, and fiber.

## **Scooters for Hire**

The Board unanimously consented to adding this item to the agenda at Mr. Vithoulkas' request. Mr. Vithoulkas explained that staff was bringing this matter forward to inform the Board of regulatory options for addressing a new form of transportation, namely electric scooters and skateboards. He recognized Ms. Anderson, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Ms. Anderson began her presentation by describing motorized scooters and identifying areas of Virginia where they have been typically deployed. Ms. Anderson noted the City of Richmond impounded a whole fleet of motorized scooters in 2018. She next reviewed legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2019 session that gives localities the express power to regulate the use of motorized skateboards or scooters, bicycles, or electric power-assisted bicycles for hire. Ms. Anderson noted the new state law does not provide much guidance to localities but establishes a January 1, 2020, deadline for local action. She identified three regulatory paths localities can take – legislative (ordinance),

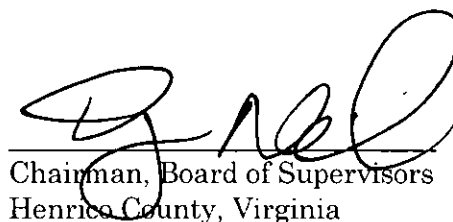
administrative (demonstration project or pilot program), or hybrid (Board action to authorize an agency-implemented demonstration project or pilot program). Ms. Anderson concluded her presentation by highlighting the advantages of the hybrid path. These include allowing the County to test the waters by determining interest, developing parameters for safe operation, gathering data, and assessing impact. Based on experience, the County can then craft an ordinance that works for Henrico. Mr. Vithoulkas reiterated the advantages of the hybrid path.

Following the slide presentation, Ms. Anderson responded to questions from the Board regarding the scope of the regulations allowed by statute, the logistics of a pilot program, how other localities are addressing scooters for hire, and the types of localities where there is a market for these vehicles. Mrs. O'Bannon stated that she would like the pilot program to require persons or companies offering scooter services to have insurance. Ms. Anderson confirmed for Mr. Schmitt that the state legislation does not allow localities to ban scooters for hire. Mike Palkovics, Deputy Chief of Police, noted these vehicles are also commonly referred to as personal mobility devices. He commented on traffic safety issues Washington, D.C. has experienced as a result of the proliferation of these vehicles. Mr. Foster commented that some of the companies that offer scooters for hire can limit where the vehicles are driven. Mr. Vithoulkas advised the Board that staff will report back to the Board after further review of the matter by the County Attorney's Office.

### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vithoulkas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. He advised the Board that representatives of Virginia Union University were expected to attend the meeting for presentation of a resolution by Mr. Thornton to Coach Joe Taylor in recognition of Coach Taylor's election to the College Football Hall of Fame. Mr. Vithoulkas noted the resignation and appointment papers for the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (RMTA) Board of Directors and referred to the two public hearing items. He mentioned that one citizen had signed up in advance to speak during the public comment period, for the purpose of making the Board aware of a new community organization she founded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia