

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2020

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 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:

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

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukaskas, County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz II, Deputy 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
Monica L. Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
C. Michael Schnurman, Jr., Assistant to the County Manager for Intergovernmental Relations
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations

Mr. Branin called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukaskas briefly referred to the items on this special meeting agenda.

Public Health Update and COVID-19 Efforts

Mr. Vithoukaskas recognized Dr. Danny Avula, Director of the Henrico and Richmond Health Districts; Battalion Chief Jackson Baynard, the County's new Emergency Manager with the Office of Emergency Management; and Mr. David Calkins, Emergency Coordinator for the Henrico and Richmond Health Districts. Dr. Avula and Chief Baynard narrated a slide presentation titled *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing*. Dr. Avula began the presentation by distinguishing COVID-19 from other previous respiratory viruses such as SARS 2003 and MERS CoV 2012. He cited global statistics and locations of COVID-19 cases and deaths and shared a COVID-19 dashboard developed by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Dr. Avula noted commercial testing for COVID-19 has just become available so the number of reported cases is expected to skyrocket. Dr. Avula continued his presentation by explaining

the COVID-19 risk for the general public in Virginia is low at this time but the situation is evolving. He also reviewed how the United States and Virginia are responding to the virus. Dr. Avula responded to further questions from Mr. Nelson as well as Mr. Thornton regarding testing availability, logistics, and costs. Dr. Avula concluded his portion of this presentation by providing a COVID-19 situation summary and reviewing how the Virginia Department of Health is monitoring the outbreak and providing guidance to local healthcare professionals evaluating patients.

Chief Baynard narrated the second part of the presentation. He advised the Board how the central Virginia region is responding to COVID-19 and elaborated on the various components of a regional COVID-19 dashboard that has been developed to offer real time data and up-to-date information. Chief Baynard referred to the regional team that has been established and pointed to the prominent roles of Mr. Sheppard and Information Technology Director Travis Sparrow and their staffs in keeping County employees and the public informed. He clarified for Mrs. O'Bannon that there is a public facia dashboard available on the County's website and a separate internal emergency management dashboard for County agencies. In response to concerns conveyed by Mrs. O'Bannon pertaining to student free lunch access while Henrico's public schools are closed, Chief Baynard advised that the County has been having internal meetings with the Superintendent of Schools, her chief of staff, and the Department of Social Services in addressing this issue. Mr. Vithoulkas commented on how the County and the region have taken a unified approach in responding to COVID-19 as a result of the direct involvement of Chief Baynard, Mr. McDowell, and Dr. Avula. He assured the Board that the regional incident team will help coordinate the County's response through Chief Baynard. Dr. Avula confirmed for Mr. Schmitt that all of the positive cases so far in Virginia have been travel related. He and Mr. Branin thanked Dr. Avula and Chief Baynard for navigating a difficult process and following a regional unification response model during these unprecedented times. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Vithoulkas asked Chief Baynard and Mr. Sheppard to inform the Board how it will be kept in the loop in terms of social media messaging and updates. Dr. Avula closed this presentation by reviewing the next steps government, schools, healthcare providers, employers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities will be taking in the collective effort to address COVID-19. In response to a question from Mr. Branin, Dr. Avula pointed out the most difficult part of trying to contain this virus is that most of the symptoms are mild and similar to the common cold although they can progress into pneumonia. He said it is important for the public to change its cultural norm. Anyone who feels sick should stay at home, and anyone who has traveled or been in contact with someone who has traveled should self-quarantine.

The Board concurred with a suggestion by Mr. Vithoulkas that the second portion of this item, a public health update on maternal child health, be deferred until after presentation of the second scheduled item on the agenda, a 2020 General Assembly Session update.

2020 General Assembly Session Update

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Mr. Schnurman, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Prior to Mr. Schnurman's presentation, Ms. Harding distributed a copy of the presentation to the Board in addition to a status report of items that were included in the County's December 9 legislation breakfast presentation to its General Assembly delegation. Mr. Schnurman thanked the Board, Mr. Vithoulkas, and County staff for assisting him during the Session. He pointed out the December 9 presentation marked the first time that the County's legislative priorities and concerns were presented at a breakfast meeting rather

than a dinner meeting. Mr. Schnurman advised the Board that the General Assembly will reconvene on March 12 to vote on the Commonwealth's biennial budget and several other finance-related bills. He noted legislation passed by the General Assembly must be signed by the Governor before becoming law.

Mr. Schnurman began his presentation by explaining that House Bill (HB) 554 has passed the General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This legislation allows Henrico to disapprove an application for wireless infrastructure if the applicant has not given written notice to adjacent landowners at least 15 days before it applies to locate a new structure in the area. Mr. Schnurman confirmed for Mrs. O'Bannon that the legislation applies only to underground utilities. He next reported that HB 1688 has passed the General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This legislation allows the County to cut high grass, weeds, or other foreign growth in cemeteries that are not owned by an individual, family, property owners' association, or church and also allows the County to recoup its cost of doing so from the property owner. Mr. Schnurman advised the Board that HB 1541 has passed the General Assembly and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This legislation creates the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) that will be composed of the counties and cities in Planning District 15. CVTA will administer transportation funding generated through the imposition of an additional regional 0.7 percent sales and use tax and a 7.6 cents per gallon gasoline tax.

Mr. Schnurman informed the Board that the House and Senate budgets include amendments that direct the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to review and identify more efficient and cost-effective measures than those identified in the Commonwealth's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay. The review would consider technical data on the performance of prior Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) grant recipients and consider if there is a technical basis to update the WIP and decrease WQIF appropriations through 2025. The General Assembly will consider these amendments when it reconvenes on March 12. Mr. Schnurman informed the Board that Senate Bill (SB) 971 and HB 881 passed the General Assembly and are awaiting the Governor's signature. This legislation exempts a "family entertainment center" from the prohibition against playing or offering any skill game, provided the prize won or distributed to a player is a noncash, merchandise prize, or a voucher, billet, ticket, token, or electronic credit redeemable only for a noncash, merchandise prize that also meets certain other criteria. Humberto Cardounel, Police Chief, responded to questions from Mr. Nelson concerning how the legislation will be enforced and how the County will educate businesses about the legislation prior to enforcement in an effort to achieve voluntary compliance. He clarified for Mr. Branin what constitutes a skill game.

Mr. Schnurman continued his presentation by reporting that the House and Senate compromised on HB 582 that mandated collective bargaining and SB 939 that made collective bargaining an option. He reviewed the essentials of the compromise legislation, which made collective bargaining a local option. If the governing body has not adopted an ordinance or resolution providing for collective bargaining, then it must take a vote to adopt or not adopt a resolution within 120 days of receiving certification from a majority of public employees in a collective bargaining unit. Local school boards and their employees are covered by the legislation, constitutional officers and their employees are not covered by the legislation, and the prohibition on collective bargaining by state employees is not changed by the legislation. Mr. Rapisarda commented on the legislation and clarified for Mr. Branin that there is some ambiguity in the legislation that will require the County to consult with labor law attorneys.

Mr. Nelson questioned why the General Assembly excluded state employees from the legislation. In response to further questions from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schnurman clarified that the compromise legislation removed a provision that would have allowed public employees to go on strike but does allow school boards to vote on collective bargaining for school employees. Mr. Branin asked for a future standalone work session presentation on this legislation whereby the Board will have more time to discuss the implications of the legislation with staff. Mr. Vithoukaskas assured the Board that staff will accommodate this request.

Mr. Schnurman resumed his presentation by updating the Board on minimum wage legislation, HB 395 and SB 7. The legislation agreed to by the House and Senate, if signed by the Governor, will increase the minimum wage in increments in 2021, 2022, and 2023 and provide for additional increases in 2025 and 2026 if the legislation is reenacted by the General Assembly prior to July 1, 2024. Mr. Schnurman concluded his presentation by identifying key dates, including the General Assembly's budget conference scheduled for March 12 and reconvened session scheduled for April 22. Mr. Branin pointed out that members of the Board spent time at the General Assembly during this years' session and it was evident to them how much Mr. Schnurman is respected by legislators. He thanked Mr. Schnurman for his successful advocacy on behalf of the County.

Public Health Update and COVID-19 Efforts (continued)

Mr. Vithoukaskas recognized Dr. Avula, who returned to the podium to narrate the first portion of a presentation titled *Future Directions for MCH Interventions at HCHD*. Dr. Avula prefaced his presentation by remarking that communities need to use a different tool in achieving lower infant mortality rates. He began his presentation by reviewing graphs showing trends in Henrico's infant mortality rates from 1995 to 2018. Dr. Avula cited statistics documenting the disparities in Henrico's infant mortality rates from 2014 to 2018 between African Americans and other races and noted Henrico's African American population continues to experience abnormally infant mortality rates. He reviewed the causes of infant mortality and for the period 2014 to 2018 shared graphs illustrating disparities among race in pre-term births, the proportion of births to smokers by race, and the proportion of births with late prenatal care by race. Dr. Avula informed the Board that in 2018 the Richmond City Health District undertook the transition of direct maternity care to a model focused on linkage, navigation, and support of prenatal care by safety net providers. He identified the solutions to addressing infant mortality as developing presence in high-risk neighborhoods, maintaining case management for teen moms, and using maternity navigation. In response to a question from Mr. Branin, Dr. Avula commented on the logistics of deploying community health workers to high-risk neighborhoods as opposed to providing services at the Health Department's central facilities.

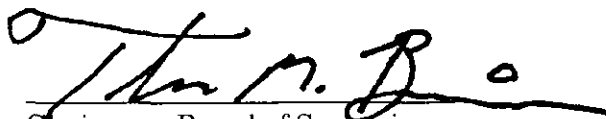
Dr. Avula recognized Margo Webb, a social worker and the Reproductive Health & Community Care Coordination Supervisor for the Richmond Health Department, who narrated the second portion of this presentation. Ms. Webb explained that maternity navigation uses social workers to act as care managers in providing education, support, and direct linkages to prenatal care for City of Richmond maternity patients. She reviewed maternity navigation programs that have been implemented in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Durham County, North Carolina; reviewed the process and model followed by the Richmond's Health Department in transitioning to maternity navigation; and cited data for navigation clients served by the City from September 2018 through January 2020, including birth outcomes. In the interest of time, Mr. Vithoukaskas asked Ms. Webb to conclude

her presentation prior to discussing insurance and financial assistance data for clients and the results of a client satisfaction survey. Mrs. O'Bannon requested a printed copy of the presentation, which included the additional information Ms. Webb did not have time to present. Mr. Vithoukaskas thanked Dr. Avula and Ms. Webb for thinking outside the box and looking at maternal and child health (MCH) in another way in response to concerns initially raised by Mr. Thornton. He noted the maternity navigation approach will not impact the County's budget but as Dr. Avula pointed out will be accomplished by reallocating and refocusing resources. Mr. Nelson stated that he hopes the Health Department's maternity navigation services complement rather than overlap MCH services being provided by the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health System at a couple of locations in the community. Dr. Avula assured Mr. Nelson that he and his staff will coordinate services with VCU Health System and other MCH providers.

Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukaskas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He advised the Board that he had three items to report under Manager's Comments and noted there was one presentation item on the agenda, a resolution expressing appreciation to Mr. Foster, who will be retiring later this month. Mr. Vithoukaskas referred to the two land use cases and one non-land use public hearing item on the agenda, the latter of which was approval of a Plan of Development for Firehouse 20. He informed the Board that two individuals had signed up to speak during the public comment period regarding pay disparities affecting Henrico's veteran public school teachers. Mr. Vithoukaskas pointed out he had already spoken with Board members about including \$255,000 in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget to fund a step increase for 170 veteran teachers. He confirmed for Mr. Nelson that these funds were not requested by the School Board but were included in the Manager's proposed budget. Mr. Vithoukaskas also informed the Board that an additional individual had requested to address the Board during the public comment period to request an ordinance establishing each Wednesday as a day of kindness in Henrico. He noted the first item on the general agenda was receipt by the Board of the FY 21 operating and capital budget, which would include a brief overview of the proposed budget by Management and Budget Division Director Justin Crawford. Mr. Vithoukaskas alerted the Board he would be asking that two items be added to the general agenda by unanimous consent to take advantage of favorable bond refunding and refinancing opportunities in a changing market where interest rates have fallen. Mr. Branin pointed out that these opportunities would result in the County saving \$30 to \$40 million in interest payments. Mr. Vithoukaskas concluded his review by briefly referring to the other three items listed on the general agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia