

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
October 13, 2020

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of the 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. Vithoukas, County Manager
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, County Attorney
Tanya Brackett Harding, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Monica L. Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Cari M. Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff
Steven W. Knockemus, Assistant Director of Public Relations
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations

Mr. Branin called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Election Activity Update

Mark Coakley, General Registrar, reported that a total of 30,777 Henrico voters had voted in-person as of October 12. In addition, the Registrar has mailed 46,000 absentee ballots which voters can mail in or drop-off at one of the boxes located outside of the General Government and Eastern Government Centers. Mr. Coakley informed the Board that an item on the evening agenda would change four polling places due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Coakley stated there will be signs at the old polling locations directing voters to the new voting locations.

Mr. Nelson voiced concerns about voter intimidation on election day. Jackson Baynard, Chief of Emergency Management and Workplace Safety stated the County's Emergency Operations Center has prepared for several different scenarios. County Attorney Tom Tokarz informed the Board that the Attorney General recently issued an opinion making it clear that voter intimidation is a criminal offense. Mr. Nelson stated some voters had concerns about the spacing inside the voting area itself was a little close, and Mr. Coakley stated some of the voting booths had been removed to provide more spacing. Mr. Coakley also stated that if necessary, they could set up a tent outside in the parking lot for additional spacing.

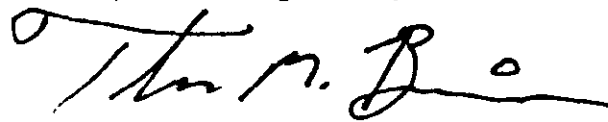
COVID-19 Update

Dr. Danny Avula, Director of Richmond and Henrico Health Departments indicated that for the week ending on October 10, the status of COVID-19 is high burden and fluctuating. The Health Department has been studying school reopening and monitoring how private schools have been handling reopening. He noted there is particular concern about COVID-19 in minority communities because of high impacts on those communities. The Health Department will be offering free flu vaccination clinics. Dr. Avula also stated that with flu season approaching, he recommends getting the flu vaccine, continued washing of hands, and taking other necessary precautions.

Update on Indoor Sports and Convocation Center at Virginia Center Commons

Neil Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks, reviewed a brief timeline for the proposed indoor sports and convocation center at Virginia Center Commons because the evening's board agenda included approval of a second interim agreement for design and demolition services. The project schedule calls for final building and site plans with a final guaranteed maximum construction price in June 2021. In response to questions from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Luther stated that if funding is available, the County can add outdoor enhancements to the plans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia