

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
December 2 - 3, 2022

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Friday, December 2, 2022, at 8:00 a.m., at the Henrico Theater, 305 E. Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075.

Members of the Board Present:

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

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoulkas, County Manager
Andrew R. Newby, County Attorney
Tanya N. Brackett, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Michael Y. Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Ty Parr, Director of Social Services/Assistant to the County Manager for Community Services
Cari M. Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff
Steven J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations

Mrs. O'Bannon opened the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

Mrs. O'Bannon and Mr. Vithoulkas made opening remarks.

Hotel/Motel Challenges

Mike Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, gave the Board an update on the Henrico Hotel-Motel Task Force. He explained the issue is that hotels the County have become de facto rental housing for the vulnerable populations, with decaying buildings, lack of maintenance, zoning violations, and public safety concerns. He shared a graph showing the challenges associated with these hotels and the burden that has been placed on the Police Division, such as loitering, prostitution, drug use and distribution, and domestic abuse/violence. He explained that crisis stabilization programs are Medicaid funded services that are not intended to pay for housing or lodging. Nevertheless, during the COVID-19 pandemic, localities saw a huge increase in hotel placements. He stated there was a huge gap in oversight by the state of providers who place clients in hotels without providing the necessary support on a required daily check-in.

There was discussion with the Board and Mr. Feinmel to understand the role hotel management is playing in the process with homelessness and the current issues we are having with certain hotels.

Chief Eric English for the Police Division shared several graphs showing the trends of calls for service at hotels on Broad Street and Williamsburg Road.

Mr. Feinmel explained the Task Force will work with IT to expand its data sharing platform, coordinate County efforts to provide services for long-term residents, coordinate with non-government entities, connect hotel management with Task Force leadership, continue to engage with hospitality associations, and engage with colleges and universities.

He then recognized Anthony Romanello, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority, to discuss some of the ideas they have been working for reinvestment in the Williamsburg Road corridor. Mr. Romanello stated they have been looking at market analysis to determine the highest and best future use of parcels in the study area, particularly around the Airport. Mr. Romanello stated the area is within the Enterprise Zone, as well as Henrico Investment Program (HIP) Zones the Board launched in January of 2022.

Joe Emerson, Director of Planning, gave the Board an update on the Williamsburg Road corridor. At the request of Mr. Thornton, Eric Leabough, Director of Community Revitalization, gave a brief description of HIP. Mr. Emerson continued with his portion of the presentation noting the potential investment in the Williamsburg Road corridor would be pedestrian enhancements, sidewalks, streetlights, enhanced right-of-way, paving, curb and gutter, landscaping, and streetscape enhancements with bus stop improvements.

Perry Miller, President and CEO of Richmond International Airport, gave a brief overview of the Capital Region Airport Commission which is a multi-jurisdiction commission created by the General Assembly. The Chief Operating Officer for the Commission gave the Board an update on a concept design of road improvements for Williamsburg Road and Airport Drive.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:07 a.m.

Housing Affordability and Partnership

Sheila Minor, Director of Finance, presented on workforce housing within the County. She explained the change in the senior population in the County and the challenges they face finding housing. She also explained the housing affordability issues are generally within the County.

Greg Revels, Building Official, gave the Board an update on the Glenwood Farms Apartments. He noted it is a 26-acre community with 294 apartments currently owned by Apex Glenwood VA, LLC. After numerous inspections on the property from 2018 to November of 2022, they found over 1,100 building code violations. In October of 2021, the Board adopted the Rental Inspection District and the County petitioned for an injunction with the Circuit Court on May 6, 2022. Mr. Nelson requested the difference with what we are trying to do with Glenwood Farms and what we did with St. Luke's Apartments. Mr. Vithoulkas explained with St. Luke's they were able to be renovated, whereas with Glenwood Farms the dwellings need to be entirely rebuilt.

Mr. Leabough discussed offering incentives to create or preserve housing options for seniors and exploring ways to help lower-income individuals access the capital needed to maintain their homes. He is also exploring providing additional funding to support homeowner

rehabilitation and repair for lower-income seniors. Mr. Leabough discussed a potential program for Henrico County employees to purchase a home through an assistance program funded by the County to the tune of \$2 million. He suggested a non-profit would need to be responsible for all aspects of administering the proposed program and the assistance could be structured as a forgivable loan that may be used to purchase a single-family attached or detached home or condominium in the County.

Mr. Leabough then reviewed the possibility of creating a policy that allows developers to proffer conditions to create workforce housing within their developments.

The Board recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 11:32 a.m.

Mrs. O'Bannon recognized Jackson Baynard with the Division of Fire to give the Board an update on the funeral service arrangements for Senator Donald McEachin. Mr. Baynard announced the funeral will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church on Creighton Road.

Comprehensive Plan

Joe Emerson, Director of Planning, gave the Board an update on the new 2045 Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed the current timeline and the five phases towards adoption of the new Plan. Mr. Emerson discussed community engagement efforts, including a resident survey that was issued from September 13, 2021 – January 11, 2022, and sent to 5,000 residents. They received a 25.8% response rate to the survey, and he reviewed many of the results. Mr. Nelson asked if there was a comment link provided with the questions because he was concerned with the numbers he was seeing. Mr. Emerson stated staff is further engaging with the community to try and understand what the residents are asking for specifically. Mr. Emerson noted the key themes from the survey were: strong support for more bicycle and pedestrian facilities; strong support for protection of environmentally sensitive lands, open spaces, and rural area; an emphasis on the value of providing a safe environment for residents; an emphasis on management of the location of future growth; and a preference for redevelopment and affordable housing. He stated the input will be used to establish goals for the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Next, Anthony Romanello, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority, provided an update on "Growing Henrico's Economy for All."

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Public Works Project Prioritization

Sharon Smidler, Transportation Development Division Director with the Department of Public Works, gave the Board an update on pedestrian improvement projects within the County. Mrs. Smidler shared several maps showing the traffic volumes and transit activities throughout the County. She explained the highest traffic volumes are on state roads.

Paul Smith, with the Department of Public Works, spoke about alleyways and noted the Board does not maintain alleyways. He explained the Department does not have an estimated count of alleyways in the County. If the alleyways are not maintained properly,

they can become a hazard because of conflicts with utilities and fences. Mr. Smith noted some residents maintain the alleyways, but others do not.

Curtis Anthony, Director of Real Property, explained that determining who owns alleyways can become expensive.

Mr. Smith stated staff would come back to the Board with an update later in 2023 and a plan based on the needs and the impact on the residents.

Rick Schwartz, Chief Design Engineer with the Department of Public Works, gave the Board an update on drainage issues.

Kristin Owen, Flood Plain Safety Manager for the Department of Public Works, gave the Board an update on the County's recent FEMA audit. She shared several photos and information from the audit and what the audit team was looking for throughout each community within the County. In November, staff received a letter from FEMA indicating the County has successfully passed the audit in good standing. Ms. Owen stated this is the fastest audit she has ever participated in and, because of the good standing, our homeowners may recognize savings on their flood insurance.

Robin Wilder with the Department of Public Works gave the Board an update on Best Management Practices (BMP). She noted we are the only locality of our size that does not have a stormwater tax. Mrs. Wilder proposed \$1 million a year to help address the backlog of BMP compliance issues and to help facilitate a better stewardship between HOA-owned BMP's and residents. Mr. Branin asked how we can get credits from maintenance of BMP's. He also thanked Mrs. Wilder for inspecting the BMP's throughout the County and staff's efforts in working with DEQ.

The Board recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:19 p.m.

HCPS Update & Initiatives

Dr. Amy Cashwell, Superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools, acknowledged the School Board members who were present and the members of her leadership team. Dr. Cashwell explained that 90% of students are on-time to graduate with more than 60% of the class of 2022 earning an advanced studies or International Baccalaureate diploma.

Dr. Cashwell discussed school safety and security noting she is grateful for the partnership with the Police Division. Mr. Nelson discussed the use of metal detectors. The Board made it clear the use of metal detectors should be Countywide and not in select schools.

Marcia Shea, School Board Chair and Tuckahoe District Representative, spoke on behalf of her colleagues by explaining the School Board shared the concerns of the Board of Supervisors with the urgency of school safety and making sure each and every school in the County is secure and safe. She shared the results of the town hall they had this past week and what was heard from teachers and from residents. She also thanked the Board of Supervisors for sharing its concerns and allowing the School Board to be part of the Retreat.

Mr. Vithoulkas noted the partnership he shares with Dr. Cashwell, who then thanked the Board and the Manager for their leadership.

Before the next official presentation, the County Manager invited Yvette George, Director of Human Resources, to discuss an exciting new program to allow retirees to return to serve in certain positions in the County. Mrs. George stated staff was working with the Chief of Police and Sheriff to see how we can make this happen and hoped to bring a proposal to the Board soon.

The Board recessed at 3:22 p.m. and reconvened at 3:41 p.m.

Water and Sewer Expansion

Bentley Chan, Director of Public Utilities, updated the Board on issues discussed in early October about well water testing. Mr. Chan explained they do ongoing testing of the water and that residents can call in and have their water tested.

Mr. Chan then provided an update on the water and sewer ARPA Infill Program where the County will extend water and sewer to residents who are not currently in the public water and sewer system. He reviewed each district and when the projects will begin.

Mr. Chan then presented a proposal to set aside \$0.01 per \$100 of the existing real estate tax rate as part of the Manager's FY2024 recommended budget and use the funds to expand water and sewer infrastructure for economic development. Mr. Branin thanked Mr. Chan and his staff for the upgrades to the Innsbrook area.

Mr. Vithoukas thanked the staff for the all the presentations today and gave a preview of tomorrow's presentations.

The Board recessed for the day at 4:11 p.m.

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors reconvened a special meeting on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 8:42 a.m., at the Henrico Theater, 305 E. Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075.

Members of the Board Present:

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District
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Steven J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Cari Tretina, Chief of Staff, who reviewed all the recommendations from yesterday that were approved for follow up.

Environmental & Sustainability Initiatives

Cari Tretina, Chief of Staff, gave the Board an update on environmental efforts and reviewed energy savings throughout County government. With so many initiatives, staff has created an environmental committee that includes 29 employees.

Steve Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations, explained the individuals who were selected for the committee were not department heads but were already actively involved in environmental issues.

Ms. Tretina continued the presentation to review recommendations made by the committee, including more enhancements in the natural resources chapter of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan, the addition of external stakeholders to the committee (including a youth council), the rebranding of the Go Green initiative, the development of robust public dashboards, and a new relationship with a reforestation partner.

The Board recessed at 9:49 a.m. and reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

Opiate Abatement Authority Funds: Goals and Projects

Mike Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, gave the Board an update on the use of Opiate Abatement Authority funds. He reminded the Board that the Manager requested a working group on how to distribute the funds and be good stewards of the funds. Mr. Feinmel stated he went back and looked at the recommendations of the Recovery Roundtable and updated many ideas to address current issues.

Next, Laura Totty, Executive Director of Mental Health & Developmental Services, reviewed the jail diversion program and the success of the program prior to the individual being released from the program. She noted there are stages they go through to ensure they are ready to be back in their home and their community.

Andrew Newby, County Attorney, reviewed the expected distribution of settlement funds to the County through 2039. He noted the County can reasonably expect additional funds through additional settlements.


Ms. Totty then recognized William, a standout football player from Varina who struggled with substance abuse for most of his childhood and through his adulthood. William shared that incarceration saved his life. William stated that, while he was incarcerated, he had the opportunity to participate in the RISE program and now he offers peer support for the community overcoming substance abuse.

Mr. Feinmel discussed the benefits of the ORBIT program. Then, the County Manager recognized Sheriff Alisa Gregory. Sheriff Gregory noted that ~70% of the Henrico Jail population has a mental health issue. Ms. Totty shared that a real problem is the lack of available hospital beds when it comes to mental health issues.

Adjournment

Mrs. O'Bannon thanked everyone for being present over the past couple of days and noted each department has so much they are working on. She noted the Retreat gives the Board an opportunity to catch up on and understand how the entire system works together. Mr. Schmitt thanked the Manager and members of staff. He feels this is a necessary process we do annually to give the Board thoughts on upcoming opportunities and hopes we continue to improve our processes. Mr. Branin noted the County staff is the reason why the County runs the way it does and applauds everything that is coming forward. He thanked the Manager and all the Deputy County Managers and the staff. Mr. Thornton thanked the staff and noted we have one of the most outstanding County Managers. He shared that the annual retreat is always a refreshing time because we take the time to look at our most critical areas and ways to improve them and find new tools. Mr. Nelson thanked the Manager and the staff for all their hard work and those who make Henrico who we are, and he thanked the community who watched the Retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia