

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 8, 2011

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 5:00 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:

Frank J. Thornton, Chairman, Fairfield District
Richard W. Glover, Vice Chairman, Brookland District
James B. Donati, Varina District
David A. Kaechele, Three Chopt District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District

Other Officials Present:

Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors/Administrative Assistant
Angela N. Harper, FAICP, Deputy County Manager for Special Services
Leon T. Johnson, Ph.D., Deputy County Manager for Administration
Robert K. Pinkerton, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
John A. Vithoukias, Director of Finance/Special Economic Advisor to the County Manager
C. Michael Schnurman, Jr., Legislative Liaison
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Thornton called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett briefly referred to the two items listed on this special meeting agenda and advised that Mr. Rapisarda would be bringing forward a closed meeting item not listed on the agenda for which a waiver had been prepared.

Richmond Flying Squirrels Update

Mr. Hazelett introduced Todd "Parney" Parnell, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Richmond Flying Squirrels. He also recognized Ralph L. "Bill" Axselle, Jr., an attorney with Williams Mullen, who was attending the meeting with Mr. Parnell. Following the introduction, Mr. Parnell provided an oral update to the Board on the Richmond Flying Squirrels, which will open its 2011 season on April 7. Mr. Parnell offered biographical information and then pointed to the \$2 million investment by the team's ownership in improvements to The Diamond during the

past year, which included new seats, a new scoreboard, and revamped picnic area. The Flying Squirrels led their league in home attendance during their inaugural season in 2010, drawing a total of 467,000 fans for an average of 6,500 per game. The ownership's basic philosophy is to have an impact on the community, with a special emphasis on connecting with school children. Mr. Parnell noted his positive relationship with the County's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Pat Russo. Together they visited 30 Henrico public schools this past fall.

Mr. Parnell continued his update by assessing the team's first year success and discussing its activities during the off-season and plans for 2011. The team's logo, which is the face of the franchise, was minor league baseball's top selling logo in 2010. The ownership is doing additional work on The Diamond this year, including construction of a 13-seat "Catfish Section" outside the merchandise store and a new upstairs deck that can be reserved by private businesses during games. Mr. Parnell pointed to the Flying Squirrels' emphasis on making memories and ensuring that The Diamond is a fan-friendly ballpark. He gave examples of ballpark activities aimed at youth and noted that the Flying Squirrels had 13 home game sellouts and 14 games with fireworks shows in 2010. This coming season, the Flying Squirrels will host fireworks shows at 21 of the team's 71 home games and will continue having professional wrestlers attend home games to sign autographs and interact with the fans. In 2011, former television stars will also be featured at home games. Season ticket sales for Flying Squirrels games in 2011 are up more than ten percent over the 2010 season and Mr. Parnell expects that more than 500,000 fans will watch Flying Squirrels home games in 2011. The Flying Squirrels currently have more than 19,000 individual account holders, with 30 percent of these accounts based in Henrico County. The team's mascot, Nutzy, will be in the schools again this year promoting healthy lifestyles and eating habits and will also be interacting with little league and youth baseball teams. Mr. Parnell concluded his presentation by reiterating that the ownership of the Flying Squirrels does not want their franchise to be simply a seasonal business.

In response to questions from Mr. Glover following his presentation, Mr. Parnell identified Flying Squirrels players who are likely major league prospects and explained distinctions between double-A and triple-A baseball. In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, he advised that a fireworks celebration planned for an August 20, 2011 Flying Squirrels home game will be dedicated to Henrico County's 400th anniversary. At Mr. Hazelett's request, Mr. Paruey elaborated on the Flying Squirrels' merchandise sales for the past two years, which exceeded those of two major league teams. Mr. Parnell thanked the County for supporting the franchise and allowing the franchise access to the County's public schools and the Henrico community. Mr. Thornton thanked Mr. Parnell and the Flying Squirrels ownership for energizing the Richmond metropolitan area with a brand new type of minor league baseball chemistry that focuses on families and having fun. Mr. Parnell distributed refrigerator magnets that contain the team's 2011 schedule.

2011 General Assembly Session Recap

Mr. Hazelett recognized Mr. Schurman, who provided an oral overview of the 2011 General Assembly Session that adjourned on February 27. Mr. Schurman reported that 2,692 bills and resolutions were introduced, of which 1,599 passed, 1,366 failed, and 366 were carried over to

next year's session. He reminded the Board that it had included only one legislative request in the County's 2011 Legislative Program. This request was to grant the County local authority to establish defense manufacturing zones that would provide the County with taxing and regulatory flexibility in its efforts to attract defense manufacturing businesses to the County. Mr. Schnurman pointed out that companion bills addressing this request had overwhelmingly passed both houses of the General Assembly and were awaiting the Governor's signature.

Mr. Schnurman explained the provisions of several other bills of interest or concern that were approved by the General Assembly and awaiting the Governor's signature, including Senate Bill 1119 (Department of Environmental Quality permit compliance and civil penalty procedures), Senate Bill 1195 (illegal gambling definitions), and House Resolution 693 (constitutional amendment addressing the taking or damaging of public property and changing the definition of public use). Mr. Rapisarda responded to questions from the Board regarding the objectives of HR 693 and its potential impact on localities. Mr. Hazelett also commented on the local impact of this proposed constitutional amendment.

Mr. Schnurman provided an update on the status of the Governor's budget proposal to require that state employees contribute five percent of their pay towards the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). There was considerable discussion by the Board, Mr. Hazelett, Mr. Schnurman, and Mr. Vithoukas pertaining to the state's underfunding of VRS, the solvency of the VRS trust fund, and efforts within the General Assembly to address the shortfall. Mr. Schnurman also updated the Board on House Bill 2527, which creates the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank as a new source for funding transportation projects. He and Mr. Hazelett responded to questions from Mr. Glover regarding the status of \$4 billion in state bonds for road construction and also regarding state payments to Henrico County for road maintenance.

Mr. Schnurman briefly explained a couple of provisions in the state budget bill approved by the General Assembly that partially restores previous reductions in House Bill 599 funding for localities with police departments and also restores \$12.5 million in Community Services Act (CSA) funding to prevent cost-shifting to localities. Mr. Schnurman concluded his presentation by summarizing House Bill 2364, which addresses joint aid agreements by localities where emergencies have been declared. Mr. Hazelett commented that this legislation will have little or no impact on Henrico County and central Virginia where such agreements are already in place.

Following Mr. Schnurman's presentation, Mr. Glover commented on the large volume of information that Mr. Schnurman sent to the Board during the session and the good job that he did representing the County's interests. Mr. Hazelett responded to questions from Mr. Glover pertaining to the status of the County's education funding from the state and its composite index on which state funding for education is based. He and Mr. Schnurman responded to further questions from the Board concerning state revenue trends, the need for additional state funds for transportation, and the status of state Medicare and Medicaid funding. Mr. Hazelett remarked that the state will be facing a whole different budgetary environment for many years to come and will have to hold the line on expenditures.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

On motion by Mrs. O'Bannon, seconded by Mr. Glover, the Board approved going into a Closed Meeting at 6:20 p.m. for the following purpose:

Consultation with the County Attorney Pertaining to Actual Litigation Styled *De'Ontra Johnson v. Sean M. Broomell*, Pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as Amended.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frank J. Thornton	
Richard W. Glover	
James B. Donati, Jr.	
David A. Kaechele	
Patricia S. O'Bannon	

On motion of Mr. Glover, seconded by Mr. Kaechele, the Board approved going out of the Closed Meeting at 6:57 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frank J. Thornton	
Richard W. Glover	
James B. Donati, Jr.	
David A. Kaechele	
Patricia S. O'Bannon	

On motion of Mrs. O'Bannon, seconded Mr. Kaechele, the Board approved the attached Certificate of Closed Meeting.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Frank J. Thornton	
Richard W. Glover	
James B. Donati, Jr.	
David A. Kaechele	
Patricia S. O'Bannon	

Mr. Hazelett advised that copies of the County's *Proposed Annual Fiscal Plan 2011-12* had been placed at the Board's seats in the Board Room so that they would be available during the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He further advised that he would be presenting a short slide presentation during the Manager's Comments portion of the meeting on the proposed budget. Mr. Hazelett informed the Board that Amy Randolph, a Brookland District resident, had signed up in advance to speak

during the public comments portion of the meeting on the topic of raising chickens in residential areas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Frank J. Thornton
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia