

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
December 13, 2011

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 3:00 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, Jr. 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/Administrative Assistant
George T. Drumwright Jr., Deputy County Manager for Community Services
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. Vithoulkas, 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 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett briefly referred to the three items listed on the special meeting agenda. He noted that the second item could be potentially moved to January 10, 2012 depending on how long the first item took for presentation and discussion.

Freeman High School Practice Fields

Mr. Thornton welcomed two members of the Henrico County School Board who were present for this item -- Diana Winston, Vice Chair and Three Chopt District representative, and Lisa Marshall, Tuckahoe District representative. He also welcomed the following Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) administrators were in attendance: Pat Russo, Superintendent of Schools; Kevin Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Finance; Ed Buzzelli, Assistant Superintendent of

Operations; Al Ciarochi; Director of Construction and Maintenance; and Mychael Dickerson, Director of Media Relations & Safety. Ann Slough, President of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) for Douglas S. Freeman High School, and Karen Doggett, President of the Douglas Freeman Athletic Booster Club, were in the audience and introduced themselves to the Board.

Mr. Hazelett offered brief background information on this item by noting that the School Board had asked the Board of Supervisors to consider a matter not currently included in the County's capital budget or capital improvements program (CIP). This matter involved the acquisition of property adjacent to Freeman High School for the purpose of expanding the school's practice facilities. After noting that he had met with Dr. Russo on this matter the previous week, Mr. Hazelett recognized Mr. Smith, who advised the Board of Supervisors that HCPS staff would be discussing the purchase and development of a 3.65-acre lot adjacent to Freeman High School. Mr. Smith recognized Mr. Buzzelli, who informed the Board of Supervisors that HCPS had been looking to acquire property near Freeman High School since April 2009 and that the School Board had authorized HCPS staff to move forward with the purchase of the Liberto property on Three Chopt Road upon the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Buzzelli began a slide presentation on this item by reviewing the Freeman High School site layout; the reason for expansion, which was limited practice space at Freeman; a comparison of Freeman's practice fields with those at Godwin and Hermitage High Schools; and a summary of the available practice fields and practice field acreage at each of the County's high schools. He recognized Mr. Ciarochi, who explained the options considered by the School Board for the expansion of practice field space at Freeman. These included conversion of the driver's education lot, purchasing and developing property, converting part of the parking lot, and expanding the existing practice field. Mr. Buzzelli continued the presentation by addressing the athletic field concept, the cost estimate for the purchase of the Liberto property and demolition of existing structures on that site (\$801,550), and the cost estimate for development of the practice field (\$770,000).

Following this presentation, Mr. Ciarocchi and Mr. Buzzelli responded to a number of questions from the Board and Mr. Hazelett. Mr. Smith also responded to several questions. The Board and Mr. Hazelett expressed concerns regarding the proposed acquisition, including the absence of bathroom and storage facilities, environmental considerations such as wetlands and drainage, safety considerations such as the proximity of Dominion Virginia Power lines to spectators and facilities, field elevations, future maintenance standards and costs, its impact on the neighboring residential community, and other school system needs and priorities. Mr. Hazelett stated and reiterated that he could not recommend proceeding with this project at the proposed location given these concerns and the timing of the request and suggested that the School Board look at other alternatives, including the more efficient use of existing off-site fields. He responded to questions from the Board of Supervisors regarding his position in this matter and Mr. Ciarocchi and Mr. Buzzelli responded to further questions from the Board pertaining to Freeman's need for additional practice field space. Mr. Hazelett noted that Mrs. O'Bannon had asked County general government staff to evaluate the School Board's request and look at alternatives. Mr. Thornton thanked Mr. Buzzelli, Mr. Ciarocchi, and Mr. Smith for their presentation.

With the Board's concurrence, Mr. Hazelett recognized Steve Yob, Assistant Director of Public Works, who narrated a slide presentation that addressed the estimated costs of three options for improving the Liberto property to expand athletic fields at Freeman High School (\$5.1 million, \$4.2 million, and \$2.4 million). Mr. Yob recognized Tim Foster, Director of Public Works, and Neil Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks, who had assisted him in preparing this evaluation. During his presentation, Mr. Yob described the property; discussed project unknowns; identified significant cost items; and reviewed issues relating to wetlands, Dominion Virginia Power lines and guy wires, runoff and neighbor concerns, and transmission towers. He, Mr. Luther, Mr. Hazelett, and Mr. Pinkerton responded to questions from the Board regarding anticipated site work costs associated with the project and other financial considerations as well as the feasibility of using existing alternate field locations rather than an expanded on-site facility. The consensus of the Board of Supervisors was to support Mr. Hazelett's recommendation that the School Board use existing off-site fields to serve Freeman High School rather than purchasing the Liberto property for this purpose.

The Board recessed at 4:59 p.m. and reconvened at 5:08 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett advised that because of time constraints the second item listed on the agenda, Analysis of the Virginia State Budget, would be rescheduled as a special meeting item on January 10, 2011

2011 Commemoration Advisory Commission Update

Mr. Hazelett recognized Mrs. Harper, who referred to two documents that staff had distributed to the Board regarding this item, i.e., a copy of her slide presentation that represented the Commission's final report and the Commission's legacy recommendations to the Board. Mrs. Harper noted that a majority of the Commission's members and core staff were present. During her slide presentation, Mrs. Harper reviewed the Commission's objectives, notable Henricoans program and other history and educational activities, promotions, 2011 events, partnerships, legacy recommendations, tourism initiatives, printed materials, proposed ongoing events, historic markers/plaques, a County Museum/Research Center proposal, exhibits, oral history and web site history projects, funding recommendations for future events and projects, and 2011 expenditures. She expressed hope that the Board will move forward with the Commission's legacy recommendations as funding becomes available.


Mr. Glover complimented Mrs. Harper, the Commission, and its staff for all they accomplished and the tremendous job they did. Mrs. O'Bannon added her thanks and pointed to how the Commission's preparation, planning, and organizing and the hard work of everyone involved paid off. Mr. Kaechele commented that the work of the Commission and the volunteers speak for themselves and that their efforts came together in a great year for the County. Mr. Thornton referred to the critical importance of the Commission and staff members who participated in the stellar events of the past year and remarked that they should be honored for the time and effort they put into the commemoration. He thanked everyone for the tremendous partnership that the commemoration represented.

With Mrs. Harding's assistance, Mr. Thornton presented certificates of appreciation to the following members of the Commission who were in attendance: Wayne B. Adkins, Samuel G. Banks, John F. Berry, William F. LaVecchia, Louis H. Manarin, Jeanne E. McNeil, Patricia S. O'Bannon (Commission Chairman), Sarah W. Pace, Linda G. Robinson, Diana D. Winston (Commission Vice Chairman), and Carol E. Zanders. Mrs. Harper announced that additional recognition will be provided to the Commission, staff, and volunteers at a future County-hosted appreciation event.

The Board recessed to Café 1611 for dinner at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened there at 6:38 p.m.

Mr. Hazelett informed the Board that this would be Dr. Johnson's and Mr. Donati's last meals with the Board since they would be retiring at the end of the month. He thanked both of them for their many years of service and dedication to the County and noted that they will be sorely missed. He also thanked the Board for its guidance during the past year. Mr. Thornton thanked Mr. Hazelett and the staff for their efforts. He presented gift certificates to Sharlene Ladd, Food Services Manager, and her assistant, Michelle Chambers, for preparing the Board's meals at work sessions during the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia