

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
February 10, 2015

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 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:**

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

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager  
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney  
J. Thomas Tokarz, Deputy 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  
Joseph A. Casey, Ph.D., Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Jane D. Crawley, Deputy County Manager for Community Services  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development  
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Thornton called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

Mr. Rapisarda introduced the newest member of his staff, Karen Dottore-Jones, who was hired to replace former Assistant County Attorney Ellen Fulmer. Mrs. Jones is a graduate of The Catholic University of America and the University of Virginia School of Law. She interned with the County Attorney's Office during the summer of 2011 and previously held the positions of Assistant County Attorney for Prince William County and Law Clerk for the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Mrs. Jones remarked that she is excited to be back working with the County and is looking forward to a bright future here. Mr. Thornton welcomed her on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

**Greater Richmond Partnership Update**

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Greg Wingfield, Founding President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc. (GRP), a public-private regional economic

development organization serving Henrico, Chesterfield, and Hanover Counties as well as the City of Richmond. Mr. Vithoukias pointed out that Mr. Wingfield will be retiring from GRP later this year after serving for 21 years as the organization's President and CEO. He thanked Mr. Wingfield for GRP's many special efforts to assist the County during the economic downturn. Mr. Wingfield noted this was a bittersweet moment for him since this was the last GRP update he would be providing to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Wingfield began his slide presentation by providing statistics on how GRP has added value to the Richmond region and Henrico County over the past 21 years. He next explained the organization's mission and vision and its updated focus for the 2009-14 and 2014-17 time periods. Mr. Wingfield noted GRP separated from the Greater Richmond Chamber in 2013 and at that time transitioned to a 501(c)(3) organization with tax-exempt status. He also noted Mrs. O'Bannon is currently serving as GRP's Chair. Mrs. O'Bannon commented on GRP's innovative website.

Mr. Wingfield continued his presentation by enumerating GRP's rising costs since Fiscal Year (FY) 1995 and explaining a request for a \$15,000 increase in each member jurisdiction's contribution that would take effect on July 1. He advised that the increase would be used to expand business recruitment activities, support local small business development, and partially fund GRP's Investor Relations Program. Mr. Wingfield then mentioned GRP's leadership transition and announced that Senior Vice President for Business Development Barry Matherly will become the organization's new CEO on July 1 upon Mr. Wingfield's retirement. Mrs. O'Bannon elaborated on the recruitment process to fill Mr. Wingfield's position and characterized it as a great exercise in regional cooperation, especially among the member jurisdictions' Human Resources departments. Mr. Wingfield confirmed that GRP's recruitment costs were limited to the cost of advertising the position. Mr. Vithoukias informed the Board that the chief administrative officers of GRP's member jurisdictions have discussed increasing their localities' contribution levels by \$15,000 in FY16 and an additional \$15,000 in FY17 in light of the savings achieved during the recruitment process by not engaging an outside headhunter. Mr. Wingfield clarified for Mr. Kaechele the level of cash and in-kind investment in GRP that is currently being provided by the private sector.

Mr. Wingfield concluded his presentation by expressing appreciation to the County for its investment and support during the past two decades, which has included representation on the GRP Board by past and current County Managers and members of the Board of Supervisors. He acknowledged that Mr. Kaechele is the only official who has served twice as GRP's Chair. Mr. Kaechele congratulated Mr. Wingfield on his retirement. Mr. Thornton complimented Mr. Wingfield on his service to the region and on the dignity and panache he has brought to GRP while overseeing the organization's growth.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:43 p.m. and reconvened at 5:49 p.m.

### **Real Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Soldiers Killed in Action**

Mr. Vithoukias noted Mrs. McKinney's department will be putting out information to the public regarding this matter. He then recognized Tom Little, Real Estate Assessment Division Director

for the Department of Finance, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Mr. Little began his presentation by reviewing the legislative history of the state constitutional amendment authorizing this exemption, which was approved by Virginia's voters in November 2014. The amendment allows the Virginia General Assembly "to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried." He also elaborated on the exemption guidelines, noting the exemption covers real estate taxes assessed on or after January 1, 2015. The exemption ceases if the surviving spouse remarries and only includes dwellings with an assessed value for the preceding year less than or equal to the average assessed value of dwellings on properties zoned for single-family residential in that year. As of January 1, the average assessed value for single family residences in Henrico County was \$227,000. In response to questions from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Little explained that surviving spouses who own property above the assessed value threshold do not qualify for any tax exemption but those whose assessment is below the threshold would continue to qualify if they move to a new principal place of residence. In response to questions from Mr. Glover, Mr. Little acknowledged that the General Assembly may further refine the average assessment qualification during the 2015 Session.

Mr. Little continued his presentation by reviewing how this program will be publicized to the County's taxpayers. Although his office has reached out to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs in an effort to determine the number of Henrico residents who would potentially qualify for this exemption, it has not yet received a response. Mr. Little concluded his presentation by noting the following: the qualifying primary residence of spouses of armed forces members killed in action will be exempt from real estate taxes beginning in 2015; although the County does not currently know how many spouses will qualify, staff believes the total will be small; and additional legislation (H.B. 1721) is being considered in the current session to remove the average assessment qualification.

At Mr. Vithoukas' request, Mr. Little explained the differences and disparities between the Commonwealth's real estate tax exemption program for disabled veterans and this new program for the spouses of armed forces members killed in action. Mr. Vithoukas also asked Mr. Little to elaborate on the County's real estate assessment appeals process. In response to questions from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Little advised the Board that the average real estate tax paid by Henrico homeowners is \$1,975 and that real estate assessment notices are being mailed to Henrico property owners in three batches over the course of three weeks.

### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**


Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He advised the Board that he had no comments to share at the meeting. Mr. Vithoukas noted two of the land use cases on the agenda were companion items that would be heard together and further noted the applicant for the third case had requested a deferral to the March 10 meeting. He pointed out that Agenda Item No. 45-15 was being brought to the Board in response to numerous calls from residents of White Oak Road complaining of large trucks traveling on the road trying to get to Lumber Liquidators. Because there are several County roads in close proximity to one another with "White Oak" in the name, truckers have been misdirected to White Oak Road by their global.

positioning system (GPS). Directional signs installed by the Department of Public Works had helped but not alleviated the problem. Consequently, Mr. Vithoukas would also be asking the Board to add an emergency ordinance numbered 47-15 and paralleling the ordinance that would be introduced by Agenda Item No. 45-15. Mr. Rapisarda clarified that the emergency ordinance would allow the Police Division to begin ticketing errant truckers immediately upon the ordinance's passage whereas at the March 10 meeting the Board could formally adopt the ordinance into the County Code since an emergency ordinance is effective for only 60 days. Mr. Vithoukas and Police Chief Doug Middleton responded to questions from Mr. Nelson pertaining to how these two agenda items would be presented at the meeting and how the new ordinance would resolve the problem of cut through truck traffic on White Oak Road. Mr. Vithoukas noted for the Board that he and Randy Silber have met with Lumber Liquidators to explain the new ordinance. Mr. Foster advised that the temporary signage placed on White Oak Road would be removed upon adoption of the emergency ordinance.

Mr. Vithoukas informed the Board that Bill Mawyer, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, would be presenting the four items on the general agenda relating to the Cobbs Creek Reservoir project. Mr. Vithoukas, Real Property Director Jon Tracy, Mr. Rapisarda, and Mr. Foster responded to questions from Mr. Kaechele concerning the County's property acquisitions for this project and the proposed relocation agreement with Colonial Pipeline Company.

Mr. Vithoukas announced that the Planning Commission will examine the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at its February 15 meeting to ensure the plan's compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia