

**COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 8, 2016**

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 5:30 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:**

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

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager  
Joseph T. Tokarz, II, Deputy County Attorney  
Tanya B. Harding, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Joseph A. Casey, Ph.D., Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
Douglas A. Middleton, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety/Chief of Police  
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development  
Steven W. Knockemus, Assistant Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukias briefly referred to the items on the agenda and requested the Board to move the High Speed Rail Update to first on the list.

**High Speed Rail Update**

Mr. Vithoukias introduced Todd Eure, Division Director for Transportation Development in the Department of Public Works, to give an update on High Speed Rail Service. He stated the Southeast High Speed Rail Project is a 500-mile corridor designated in 1992 by the federal Department of Transportation for high speed passenger rail. The purposes of the project are to improve reliability and performance, to increase capacity, and to reduce travel times. There is an ongoing environmental study for the project.

Mr. Eure reviewed some alternatives for the northern and central sections of the Washington – Richmond segment. He also stated that 23% of the total ridership for Amtrak in FY2015 came through the Staples Mill Road Amtrak station and that the County has recommended in a January

8, 2016, letter to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation that the Staples Mill Road station be given full consideration as the primary passenger rail station for the Richmond region. Mr. Eure noted there have been three public meetings about the project to date. All have been well attended and the feedback has been positive. Mrs. O'Bannon asked about the project schedule, and Mr. Eure said the tentative completion date of the environmental study is 2017.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:58 p.m. and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

### **FY2016-17 Manager's Proposed Budget Overview**

Mr. Vithoukias stated that he and the budget staff have been working on the FY2016-17 budget for over a year. The proposed budget allocates 80% to education and public safety. It would maintain the real estate tax rate of \$0.87 without service reductions, and it would continue to fund required stormwater improvements without the need for a new stormwater tax.

Mr. Brandon Hinton, Management & Budget Division Director in the Department of Finance, stated the proposed budget includes reductions in the aircraft tax and in water and sewer connection fees to encourage economic development. Mr. Nelson asked how other localities pay for stormwater improvements, and Mr. Hinton replied most have charged higher utilities fees or increased their real estate taxes.

Mr. Hinton also stated the proposed budget adds 50 new teaching positions to reduce class sizes, \$1 million for school bus replacement, and \$10.8 million for school infrastructure renovation projects. The proposed budget also adds 10 police officers, \$3.5 million for the 800MHz radio communications system replacement, 10 positions for the new Short Pump Fire Station #19, new funding for the Varina Area Library and Short Pump Park, and \$11.4 million in cost savings. In addition, the proposed budget includes a 2.4% salary increase for all County and School employees.

Mr. Nelson asked about the final cost of the new radio communications system. Mr. Hinton estimated the cost at \$55 million, but the Manager stated it may come in less.

Mr. Hinton stated that \$1 million has been budgeted for a new revenue stabilization reserve for use if there is a severe downturn in the economy. In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, the Manager noted the County has never been unable to maintain its level of services.

Mr. Nelson asked the amount required to pay all County employees for one month. Mr. Hinton stated he would have the number available during the legislative budget reviews.

Mr. Glover asked about the \$11.4 million in cost savings. Mr. Hinton explained the savings are generated by position vacancies which are not filled immediately or are left vacant.

Mr. Hinton noted the budget proposal would be discussed in more detail during the legislative budget reviews beginning March 14.

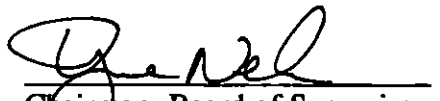
## **Henrico County Tornado Response (February 24 - March 2, 2016)**

Fire Chief Tony McDowell gave the Board an update on his department's assistance in Essex and Appomattox Counties after tornados the prior week. Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Cox stated Henrico sent five members from the Incident Management Team (IMT) as well as a Technical Rescue Team to assist in Essex. In Appomattox, Henrico deployed nine IMT personnel. Mr. Glover asked how long the Fire personnel helped in each county. Chief McDowell stated Fire employees were in Appomattox for five days and in Essex for two days, and he noted the Virginia Department of Emergency Management would reimburse the County for personnel time. Mr. Nelson asked the total number of Fire personnel dispatched to help, and Chief McDowell stated it was 20. The Board thanked the Division of Fire for its outstanding response.

### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. Mr. Nelson asked if the resolution to Mrs. Donna Dean Stevens included the donation she made to the Henrico Christmas Mother; the Manager responded it did not. The Manager indicated her Christmas Mother donation was \$50,000. The Manager advised the Board that five individuals had signed up to speak in opposition to the Three Chopt Elementary School rezoning application.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

  
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Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia