

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
October 11, 2016

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 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. Vithoukas, County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk to the Board
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Douglas A. Middleton, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Anthony J. Romanello, Deputy County Manager for Public Administration
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Assistant Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas briefly referred to the items on this special meeting agenda and then introduced Dr. Theophil Gallo, his counterpart in Henrico's German sister city, Saarpalz-Kreis. Dr. Gallo was part of a 14-person delegation that came to Henrico on October 4 for an informational visit. Mr. Vithoukas noted Dr. Gallo and his wife, Marion, had toured the County earlier in the day from the sky. Mr. Nelson welcomed Dr. Gallo to the meeting on behalf of the Board. Dr. Gallo said he was proud to be in Henrico and was looking forward to an interesting meeting. He thanked Mr. Vithoukas and the Board for the opportunity.

Bond Referendum Outreach Efforts

Mr. Vithoukas mentioned an op-ed that appeared earlier in the day in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* supporting the County's November 8, 2016, bond referendum. He recognized Mr.

Hinton, who narrated a slide presentation on the referendum. Mr. Hinton informed the Board that County staff had to date scheduled 108 presentations on the referendum with various citizen and business groups and organizations, including County government departments. After showing the Board a sample ballot, Mr. Hinton elaborated on the County's outreach efforts. These include a brochure that is being mailed to all Henrico households, a Henrico County Public Schools email blast to more than 60,000 email addresses, the use of media outlets and social media, and the distribution of sample ballots. Mr. Hinton concluded his presentation by sharing a bond referendum calendar of scheduled meetings and explaining the composition of the six presentation teams, which are being led by Mr. Vithoukas and the Deputy County Managers. He assured the Board all requests from the community for a presentation are being granted.

Mr. Vithoukas and Mr. Hinton elaborated further on the County's outreach efforts in response to questions and comments from Mr. Nelson and Mrs. O'Bannon. Mr. Coakley advised Mr. Nelson that his office is projecting a 75 to 80 percent voter turnout for Election Day this year because the ballot includes presidential candidates. Mr. Hinton assured Mr. Thornton that the County had reached out to the *Richmond Free Press* and pointed out to Mrs. O'Bannon that staff has also held discussions with the Richmond Strikers. He noted for the Board that a staff member from the Department of Public Relations & Media Services has been coordinating the scheduling of bond referendum presentations. Mr. Nelson cited a need for organizational endorsements of the referendum. Mr. Vithoukas, Mr. Coakley, and Mr. Rapisarda commented on a new state law that requires localities to provide voters with information on each bond referendum question. Mr. Thornton reiterated that he hopes all Henrico citizen groups will be covered by the County's outreach efforts. Mr. Nelson wrapped up the discussion by encouraging staff to keep up the hard work.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:54 p.m. and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas asked staff to play a new ten-minute video on the bond referendum that was produced by the Department of Public Relations & Media Services. It will air on the County's cable television station, HCTV. Mrs. McKinney noted her department has also produced a three-minute video on the bond referendum that is linked to the County's website. Mr. Thornton complimented staff on the quality and content of the video. In response to concerns raised by Mr. Glover, Mr. Coakley explained why the Electoral Board decided to print two-sided rather than two-page sample ballots. Mr. Vithoukas informed the Board that Fairfax County will have a meals tax referendum on the ballot in November. Mr. Coakley clarified for Mr. Glover the timeframe in Virginia for voting by absentee ballot in the upcoming election.

Election Preparedness

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Mr. Coakley, who narrated a slide presentation titled *Election Preparedness and Voting*. During the presentation, Deputy General Registrar Anne Marie Middlesworth distributed a handout containing voter registration and voting turnout statistics and trends for Henrico County. Mr. Coakley began his presentation by showing the Board photographs depicting his office's election preparedness efforts. He then illustrated for the Board the step-by-step process citizens go through when voting at their precincts. This includes checking in with a voter identification card, receiving an authorization-to-vote ticket, voting by

punch card, and scanning the ballot. Mr. Coakley next reviewed the voter registration and absentee ballot deadlines. He concluded his slide presentation by highlighting his office's election mailers, alerting the Board that "ballot selfies" are now legal in Virginia, and providing the contact information for his office. After responding to questions from Mr. Thornton and Mr. Branin regarding voter registration, he highlighted statistics contained in the handout distributed by Mrs. Middlesworth.

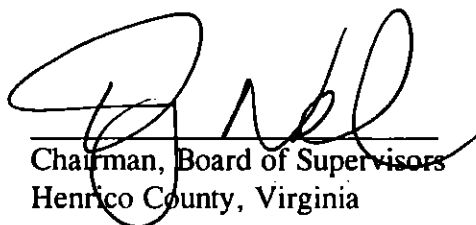
Mr. Coakley elaborated on current voter identification requirements for Mrs. O'Bannon and responded to questions from Mr. Thornton relating to the challenges posed by malfunctioning voting machines and by transient voters who do not update their registrations. Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the upcoming referendum in Fairfax County, which will include three bond questions as well as the meals tax question. In response to questions from Mr. Glover and Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Vithoukas pointed out Henrico is the largest county in Virginia where voters have approved a meals tax referendum. Mr. Coakley responded to questions from Mr. Thornton and Mr. Nelson concerning poll worker recruitment and compensation as well as measures taken by his office to shorten lines at the polls. Mr. Vithoukas expressed disappointment the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* was not covering this special meeting.

Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He advised the Board he would be making two Manager's comments, noted Mr. Nelson would be presenting the one proclamation that was on the agenda, and referred to the three board and commission appointment papers. While reviewing the two rezoning cases and one provisional use permit (PUP) case, Mr. Vithoukas responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon and Mr. Glover pertaining to the number of outdoor dining areas requested by the applicant for the PUP. Mr. Romanello confirmed for Mr. Glover that Henrico's public schools will be closed on Election Day.

Mr. Vithoukas continued his review by pointing out the four non-zoning public hearings on the agenda. He advised the Board that he would be requesting the Board to withdraw the two resolutions authorizing the condemnation of property for the Upham Brook Trunk Sewer Project. Mr. Vithoukas was requesting the withdrawal of these items because they had been brought forward prematurely by staff and needed further research. Mr. Rapisarda responded to questions from Mr. Nelson and Mr. Glover relating to the procedure for withdrawing these items. Mr. Vithoukas confirmed with Mr. Lawrence that no one had signed up in advance to speak during the public comment period. He concluded his review by briefly mentioning the five items listed on the general agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia