

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
June 13, 2017

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 5:45 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, Vice Chairman, Fairfield District
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District
Harvey L. Hinson, Brookland District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District

Member of the Board Absent:

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, CMC, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
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 Administration
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 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukias introduced Jeff Conley as the new Supplier Relations Manager for the County's Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned (SWaM) Business program. A graduate of Norfolk State University, Mr. Conley previously served as Minority Business Development Coordinator for the City of Richmond and Director of Corporate Development for the Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council. He has held several positions in the private sector as well.

Mr. Vithoukias also introduced Victoria Davis, the new Management Specialist in the County Manager's Office. A graduate of Varina High School and Johnson C. Smith University, Ms. Davis is currently working on a master's degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness at Virginia Commonwealth University. She previously served as an intern with the Division of Fire.

Mr. Vithoukias announced Mrs. O'Bannon was absent because she was attending a high school commencement. He briefly referred to the items on this special meeting agenda.

Richmond-Henrico Turnpike Projects Update

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Steve Yob, Director of Public Works, who in turn recognized Todd Eure, Transportation Development Division Director. After noting Mr. Eure was instrumental in obtaining funding for these projects, Mr. Yob narrated a slide presentation on this item. He began by providing a project summary. The total budget for the three projects is \$31.5 million, with design work scheduled to continue through 2019 and construction work scheduled to begin in 2019 and end in 2021. Mr. Yob reviewed the first of the three projects, the SMART SCALE project, which will reconstruct a four-lane divided road adjacent to Richmond International Raceway from Laburnum Avenue to the Buckingham Branch Railroad tracks. Turn lanes, curb-and-gutter, drainage improvements, pedestrian paths, and sidewalk will also be constructed as part of the project. At Mr. Vithoukias' request, Mr. Yob explained the additional state funding the County secured for the project. Mr. Vithoukias pointed out the budget amendment resolution on the Board's 7:00 p.m. regular meeting included a \$1.5 million appropriation for the initial planning and design for the project in order to match state SMART SCALE funds. Mr. Yob responded to questions from Mr. Branin and Mr. Thornton regarding the project schedule.

Mr. Yob continued his presentation by highlighting the second project, which will construct 1,500 feet of sidewalk as well as crosswalks and two new traffic signals on Azalea Avenue where it intersects with Wilkinson Road and Richmond-Henrico Turnpike. He responded to a question from Mr. Thornton pertaining to the funding history for this project. Mr. Yob concluded his presentation by reviewing the third project, which will construct 900 feet of sidewalk on the west side of the Richmond-Henrico Turnpike. Mr. Thornton expressed hope the Department of Public Works will hold the sidewalk contractors accountable for the quality of their work in light of problems with other sidewalk projects. In response to a question from Mr. Hinton, Mr. Yob elaborated on how his department will plan and coordinate the contracting work for all three projects to minimize traffic disruptions. Mr. Thornton remarked that these projects attest to the fact the County is changing its direction and meeting a need by building sidewalks in existing road corridors.

Laburnum Gateway - Highland Springs Revitalization Area Update

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Mark Strickler, Director of Community Revitalization. After recognizing Building Official Greg Revels and Community Development Manager David Sacks, Mr. Strickler narrated a slide presentation on this item. He began by providing background information on the revitalization area initiative. The Board of Supervisors previously identified these areas as ones in need of additional attention and resources because they were characterized by a high incidence of code violations and vacant houses, low homeownership rates, and declining commercial development. Increased code enforcement was phased into both areas in 2015. Mr. Strickler provided statistics on and pictorial examples of the Laburnum Gateway enterprise zone, housing, code compliance, and building inspections accomplishments. He responded to questions from Mr. Nelson and Mr. Branin concerning the construction materials of older homes in this area. At Mr. Vithoukias' request, Mr. Revels commented on building inspections and code enforcement ongoing in Essex Village. He explained for Mr. Nelson the difference between building code violations and community maintenance code violations. Col. Middleton elaborated on the Fire Marshal's role on a County task force that has been working with the management company in Essex Village to address building code violations. Mr. Hinson commented on the history and value of the County's community revitalization program, which was spearheaded by former Brookland District Supervisor Dick

Glover in the mid-1990s. Mr. Thornton suggested the need for a future work session presentation on the County's current actions and future options for addressing building code and community maintenance issues in Essex Village. Mr. Strickler and Mr. Revels responded to further questions from Mr. Branin relating to building inspections and code enforcement efforts in revitalization areas.

Mr. Strickler resumed his presentation by providing statistics for and pictorial examples of the Laburnum Gateway volunteer and assistance projects and corridor improvements. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Vithoukas informed him that Human Resources Director Paula Reid will be communicating with the Board in regard to new opportunities for County employees to volunteer for community revitalization projects. Mr. Vithoukas and Mr. Yob explained to Mr. Branin how mulch is obtained and used for median landscaping.

Mr. Strickler next offered statistics on and pictorial examples of the Highland Springs enterprise zone, housing, code compliance, and building inspections accomplishments. Mr. Sacks responded to a question from Mr. Nelson pertaining to staff's business visitations in the Highland Springs area to explain the County's revitalization program. Mr. Strickler continued his presentation by reviewing Highland Springs statistics on and pictorials of volunteer and assistance projects and corridor improvements. He also offered background information on the Highland Springs national register district, explained its benefits, and offered pictorial examples of historic properties in the district. Mr. Sacks responded to a question from Mr. Hinson relating to the historical significance of Highland Springs High School.

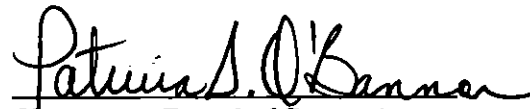
Mr. Strickler concluded his presentation by citing statistics regarding accomplishments in the rest of Henrico in terms of enterprise zone grants, down payment assistance, homeowner rehabilitation, emergency/minor repairs, community revitalization violations, building inspections cases opened and closed, and Operation Paintbrush projects undertaken. Mr. Thornton asked that staff provide the Board with additional information, including program guidelines, on the Operation Paintbrush program.

Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. He noted Mrs. O'Bannon was attending the Douglas S. Freeman high school commencement and Mr. Thornton would be serving as chairman. Mr. Vithoukas referred to the two rezoning cases and suggested Agenda Item No. 155-17 pertaining to transfers within Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) be moved up on the agenda and considered immediately following the public hearing on Agenda Item No. 152-17, a resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Vithoukas explained Agenda Item No. 155-17 would address a \$5.2 revenue shortfall for HCPS through the transfer of school salary savings and supplemental lottery funding revenue. The shortfall occurred because HCPS overestimated pupil enrollment for FY 17. He advised the Board that several representatives of J. R. Tucker High School advised him they would be speaking during the public hearing on Agenda Item No. 152-17 in regard to appropriations for projects at the school.

After Mr. Vithoukas concluded his review of the general agenda items, Mr. Hinson expressed concerns pertaining to the cumulative effect of HCPS overestimating the number of students in its school enrollment projections. He remarked that the HCPS appears to be basing its projections on too much guesswork and suggested the Board and County administration need to dig deeper into this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia