

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
November 8, 2017

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico County, Virginia.

**Members of the Board Present:**

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District  
Frank J. Thornton, Vice Chairman, Fairfield District  
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District Supervisor (*arrived at 5:25 p.m.*)  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District Supervisor (*departed at 6:00 p.m.*)

**Member-Elect of the Board Present:**

Courtney D. Lynch, Brookland District

**Members of the General Assembly Present:**

Jennifer L. McClellan, Senate of Virginia, 9<sup>th</sup> District  
Siobhan S. Dunnivant, Senate of Virginia, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Delores C. McQuinn, House of Delegates, 70<sup>th</sup> District  
Jeffrey M. Bourne, House of Delegates, 71<sup>st</sup> District  
Lamont Bagby, House of Delegates, 74<sup>th</sup> District

**Members-Elect of the General Assembly Present:**

Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, Delegate-Elect, 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
Debra H. Rodman, Delegate-Elect, 73<sup>rd</sup> District

**Members of the General Assembly Absent:**

Peter F. Farrell, House of Delegates, 56<sup>th</sup> District  
Riley E. Ingram, House of Delegates, 62<sup>nd</sup> District  
G. Manoli Loupassi, House of Delegates, 68<sup>th</sup> District  
James P. (Jimmie) Massie, III, House of Delegates, 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
John M. O'Bannon, III, House of Delegates, 73<sup>rd</sup> District

**Members-Elect of the General Assembly Absent:**

John J. McGuire, III, Delegate-Elect, 56<sup>th</sup> District  
Dawn M. Adams, Delegate-Elect, 68<sup>th</sup> District

**Other Officials Present:**

Heidi S. Barshinger, Circuit Court Clerk

Shannon L. Taylor, Commonwealth's Attorney  
Michael L. Wade, Sheriff  
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, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
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  
C. Michael Schnurman, Jr., Legislative Liaison  
Holly L. Zinn, Management Specialist  
Victoria P. Davis, Management Specialist  
Hannah Osborne, International City Management Association (ICMA) Fellow  
Gregory H. Revels, Building Official  
Edward (Ned) N. Smither, Jr., Director of Finance  
Leo M. Marsh, Revenue Division Director  
Justin D. Crawford, Management and Budget Division Director  
Anthony E. McDowell, Chief, Division of Fire  
Paula G. Reid, Director of Human Resources  
Laura S. Totty, Director of Mental Health & Developmental Services  
Ralph J. (Joe) Emerson, Jr., Director of Planning  
Humberto I. Cardounel, Chief, Police Division  
Charles (Chip) B. England, Director of Public Utilities  
Steven J. Yob, Director of Public Works  
Keith Westbrook, Legislative Assistant to Delegate McQuinn

Mrs. O'Bannon called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. She welcomed everyone who was present. Mr. Vithoukias welcomed the member-elect of the Board of Supervisors and members-elect of the House of Delegates into the Henrico family. The other members of the Board and the County staff who were in attendance introduced themselves.

Mr. Vithoukias introduced Hill Carter, Culinary Arts Instructor for the Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage High School. The following culinary arts students who were preparing and serving dinner under Chef Carter's supervision introduced themselves, identified their home schools, and announced the menu: Caitlin McGowan (Deep Run), Wynne Begley (Glen Allen), Sarah Ingersoll (Godwin), Safaria Kenney (Henrico), and Nathaniel Taylor (Highland Springs).

Mr. Nelson delivered the invocation.

#### **Legislative Briefing with General Assembly Delegation**

Mr. Vithoukias recognized Mr. Schnurman, who narrated the first portion of a slide presentation. Mr. Schnurman thanked the legislators for their partnership and assistance on various issues. He invited the legislators-elect to tour White Oak Technology Park after the 2018 General Assembly Session and noted he would be coordinating the tour with their legislative assistants. Mr. Schnurman provided a brief overview of the several topics of discussion during this briefing.

Mr. Schnurman explained the first topic, the depreciation schedule for data centers, noting the Board's recent \$3.10 reduction in the County's personal property tax rate on data center equipment was a key factor in attracting Facebook to Henrico. Mr. Vithoukas elaborated on this reduction and thanked Senator Dunnivant and Delegate Bagley for agreeing to sponsor legislation that would create a separate classification of tangible personal property, for valuation purposes, for computer equipment and peripherals used in a data center.

Mr. Schnurman continued the presentation by highlighting the second topic, Line of Duty Act increased costs, pointing out that Henrico's costs associated with this state mandate are estimated to increase 50 percent from Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to FY 2018. Mr. Vithoukas clarified that the County's request is for its legislative delegation to be mindful of the impact this mandate has on localities.

Mr. Yob covered the third topic of the presentation, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintenance, by reviewing VDOT's right-of-way maintenance program and the County's concerns that litter and tall grass along interstate and primary roads in urban areas are not being adequately addressed by VDOT. Mr. Yob asked for the legislative delegation's assistance in working with VDOT to increase the frequency of mowing. He responded to questions from Senator McClellan concerning tall grass in median strips. Delegate Bagby advised it would be helpful for the delegation to obtain a list of roads where tall grass has been a problem and mowing should occur more frequently. Mr. Vithoukas suggested VDOT should follow the County's example in maintaining rights-of-way. Mr. Yob responded to additional questions from Delegates Bagby and McQuinn regarding VDOT's mowing schedule.

On another matter, Mr. Branin noted the County will be submitting proposal a proposal for VDOT's review to redesign I-64's North Gayton Road interchange to relieve traffic backups. He remarked that the County would welcome the delegation's help in conveying the importance of this project to VDOT.

Mr. Thornton reiterated the County's concerns regarding the appearance of State road corridors and suggested the Commonwealth develop a long-range beautification plan.

Mr. Yob yielded the podium to Ms. Totty, who addressed the fourth topic by updating the delegation on Henrico County's Opioid Task Force and response to the opioid epidemic. She documented the dangers of Fentanyl and Carfentanil; displayed graphs highlighting rises in opioid addiction, overdoses, and deaths; cited recent cases before the Commonwealth's Attorney involving arrests for possession of an opiate; identified the members of the task force; and reviewed the task force's recommendations and actions. She distributed an information packet to the delegation and the Board and responded to questions from Senator Dunnivant. Mr. Vithoukas advised the delegation that the Board has allocated \$200,000 to the task force. He requested the delegation keep the County in mind for any demonstration grants that may be available to localities for addressing the opioid problem. Colonel Middleton and Ms. Totty responded to questions from Delegate-Elect Rodman and Delegate Bourne and comments by Senator Dunnivant concerning this topic, including obstacles to addiction treatment services.

Mr. Schnurman recognized Colonel Middleton, who spoke to the final topic of the presentation by providing an Essex Village update. Colonel Middleton noted he and Mr. Vithoukas attended an event at Essex Village Apartments and were concerned about conditions at the complex, which prompted Mr. Vithoukas to have him and County departmental staff investigate the issues and how they could be addressed. The Essex

Village Quality of Life Task Force was formed in 2016 and comprehensive inspections of the complex followed. The County's concerns were shared in a letter from Mr. Thornton to the Richmond Field Office Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which generated communications among Colonel Middleton, HUD, and task force members as well as media coverage of unsanitary conditions experienced by Essex Village residents. The County's recommendation that HUD distribute vouchers to Essex Village residents, so they could move to a more livable and safe environment, was not favorably received by the agency. There were further communications between the County and HUD, including another letter and a task force meeting with HUD officials. These were followed by a letter to HUD Secretary Ben Carson from the Board of Supervisors and letters to Dr. Carson from the County's Congressional delegation in support of the County's position. Colonel Middleton pointed out the owner of Essex Village has recently sold the property. He highlighted the plight of the residents and their disappointment in HUD's response, reviewed basic improvements that could be made to help the residents, and expressed hope the new owner of the complex will be more conscientious than the previous two owners.

Mr. Vithoukas and Colonel Middleton responded to several questions from Delegate Bagby, who suggested the County may need to look at providing more affordable housing choices for its residents. Mr. Thornton remarked that HUD has been remiss in addressing public housing, HUD officials did not demonstrate sensitivity to the residents' concerns during a meeting with the County, and there needs to be a change in national public housing policies. In response to a question from Senator McClellan, Mr. Vithoukas joined Colonel Middleton in elaborating on sanitary sewer problems at Essex Village, how the Department of Public Utilities is responding to overflows on site, and the County's ongoing discussions with the new owner and HUD regarding the need to replace the system. In response to further questions from Senator McClellan, Colonel Middleton explained the County cannot enter a resident's home for a property inspection unless invited in by the resident. Although the County's Building Official, Greg Revels, has sent written notification to residents offering to have his department conduct inspections, many residents are fearful of retaliation and eviction by the complex's property managers if they grant permission for an inspection. Mr. Revels and Colonel Middleton responded to questions from Delegate Bagby and Senator Dunnavant pertaining to the County's limited inspections authority under current state and federal laws.

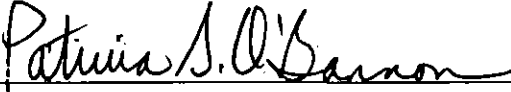
Mrs. O'Bannon pointed out it was Mr. Vithoukas' birthday and led everyone in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Mr. Branin asked the legislators and legislators-elect to assist the County in applying pressure on HUD and the owner of Essex Village. Mr. Vithoukas responded to questions from Delegate McQuinn relating to protective measures the County can take to help ensure the situation at Essex Village does not arise elsewhere.

Mr. Vithoukas extended an opportunity to the legislators-elect to meet with him one-on-one to look at the County's structural and financial picture before the beginning of the General Assembly Session in January. Senator McClellan commented there has never been any doubt as to where the County stands on issues that directly impact it.

The legislators and legislators-elect introduced themselves to the Board and staff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

  
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Chairman, Henrico County Board of Supervisors