

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 13, 2018

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 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, Chairman, Fairfield District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Vice Chairman, Varina District
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District
Courtney D. Lynch, Brookland District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe 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, CMC, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
Timothy A. Foster, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Douglas A. Middleton, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Anthony J. Romanello, Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
C. Michael Schnurman, Jr., Legislative Liaison
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Assistant Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Thornton called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.

Community Smoke Alarm Initiative

Mr. Vithoukas noted this item pertained to a new effort undertaken by the Division of Fire. He recognized Tony McDowell, Fire Chief, who provided introductory information on the division's Community Risk Reduction Smoke Alarm Program. Chief McDowell circulated among the Board and other officials who were present examples of fire alarms used in residential dwellings. He advised the Board that the Division of Fire recommends smoke alarms be placed on each level of a home and tested monthly. He pointed out smoke alarms have a ten-year life cycle.

Mr. McDowell narrated a slide presentation on the Community Risk Reduction Smoke Alarm Program. He began by showing bar graphs that highlighted a reduction in structure fires from 2011 to 2017 and an increase in structure fire fatalities during the same time period. Chief McDowell informed the Board that although structure fires are now occurring less frequently they have become more dangerous. He noted the leading causes of home fire deaths are unattended smoking materials, unattended cooking and kitchen fires, and

auxiliary heating equipment. Chief McDowell showed the Board a photograph of a Henrico home in flames during a fire incident that resulted in a double fatality. There were no working smoke alarms in the home. He pointed out the division is addressing community risk reduction through risk assessment, risk prioritization, resource coordination, and risk minimization. Chief McDowell referred to the division's many community partners that are working together to reduce risks and explained how the division is data mining the known risk factors and identifying at-risk homes based on four tiers. He and Mr. Silber responded to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon regarding Building Code requirements for heat sources in residential dwellings.

Chief McDowell continued his presentation by elaborating on the division's community risk assessment process. He responded to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning condemned properties. He reported the division's initial findings from June 2017 to present are that 81 percent of homes participating in the risk assessment did not have working alarms. The division has installed 1,107 donated alarms in these homes. Chief McDowell concluded his presentation by reviewing the program's community outcomes; challenges and solutions; and plan for 2018, which will include finishing identified home visits, revisiting homes where there were "no answers," and visiting rental properties. He pointed out the program has used firefighters who are on light duty and vehicles from the County fleet, so it has not required additional staffing or expenditures other than the cost of fuel for the vehicles. Mr. Thornton lauded the division for putting together this program and indicated this will be a topic at one of his future town meetings. Ms. Lynch expressed appreciation to the division for developing a tiered system of assessing and prioritizing at-risk homes. Chief McDowell emphasized the program represents a team effort among many County agencies and thanked those agencies for their cooperation and assistance.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:11 p.m. and reconvened at 6:19 p.m.

Update on Mental Health Same Day Access

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Laura Totty, Director of Mental Health & Developmental Services. Ms. Totty in turn introduced Daniel Rigsby, her agency's Assistant Director for Clinical Services. Ms. Totty began a slide presentation on this item by explaining mental health same day access allows her agency to offer assessments on the same day they are requested, without a scheduling delay or waitlist. The person who is in need of services simply walks in and requests to be seen. She pointed out her agency moved to same day access to improve efficiency for the individual seeking services and the staff providing services, to reduce no shows, and to achieve the industry standard. She reviewed the planning process for same day access that her agency undertook with the assistance of a consultant.

Mr. Rigsby continued the presentation by elaborating on the implementation process for same day access. Mr. Rigsby and Ms. Totty responded to questions from Mr. Branin relating to the role of the consultant, status of the implementation process, and availability of same day access at all of the agency's locations. Mr. Rigsby next cited the major challenges of implementing same day access as meeting the needs of the community at multiple locations while maintaining efficiency, predicting the level of demand, and ensuring there is sufficient staffing to meet the demand. He responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon regarding staffing requirements and the referral process.

Mr. Rigsby resumed the presentation by reviewing the results of the 2,355 same day access assessments completed between May 1, 2017, and March 1, 2018. He concluded the presentation by identifying the next steps in implementing same day access, which will include participating in a state committee overseeing implementation throughout the commonwealth and convening an agency work group to analyze results and assess efficiencies at the one-year anniversary date of implementation. He responded to a question from Mr. Thornton concerning the status of same day access implementation in Henrico's sister localities and to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon and Mr. Branin pertaining to same day access services and treatment for persons with substance use disorders.

2018 General Assembly Session Update

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Mr. Schnurman, who narrated a slide presentation on this item. Mr. Schnurman first reviewed the status of legislation of interest to the County that has passed the General Assembly. Mr. Schnurman informed the Board that House Bill (HB) 828/Senate Bill (SB) 268, which create a separate classification of personal property for valuing computer equipment for data centers, will take effect on July 1. SB 353 allows the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to transfer a parcel adjacent to the White Oak Technology Park to Henrico County should the County and DCR come to an agreement on the transfer of an environmental protection easement. The Governor has until April 9 to approve, veto, or amend this bill.

Mr. Schnurman next reviewed HB 1258/SB 405, which have passed the General Assembly and establish parameters regarding applications for zoning approvals by certain wireless support structures. The Governor has until April 9 to approve, veto, or amend this bill. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schnurman confirmed both the County and the Virginia Association of Counties are opposed to this legislation because it is an intrusion on local zoning authority. They have asked the Governor to either veto or amend the legislation. Mr. Schnurman briefly reviewed how the legislation would affect existing Henrico review processes and fee requirements for wireless support structures. Mr. Rapisarda noted his objections to the legislation, which will place restrictions on local discretion and make it much harder for local governments to deny wireless support structures.

Mr. Schnurman concluded his presentation by citing important dates. He advised the Board that the Governor's deadline to act on bills is April 9, the General Assembly will hold a special session beginning April 11 to consider budget legislation, and the General Assembly will hold its reconvened session on April 18 to consider the Governor's vetoes and amendments. Mr. Thornton commented that localities need to develop a game plan and become more assertive in protecting their constitutional authority and their citizens from state legislative intrusion.


Regular Meeting Agenda Items

Mr. Vithoukas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. He advised the Board of one Manager's Comment and a request to add an item by unanimous consent to recognize the Varina High School boys' basketball team for winning the state championship. Mr. Vithoukas noted there was one appointment resolution. He reviewed the five rezoning items, pointing out the first two items were companion cases. Mr. Vithoukas advised the Board that staff had just received a request from the applicant to defer the Three Chopt District case requesting a rezoning on Opaca Lane (Agenda Item No. 66-18, REZ2018-00008). Mr.

Rapisarda elaborated on the applicant's request for a deferral. Mr. Vithoulkas pointed out the Planning Commission previously recommended denial of the case.

Mr. Vithoulkas continued his review by referring to the two other public hearing items on the agenda. He informed the Board that five individuals had signed up to speak during the public comment period, four on the topic of public transit and the other on the issue of student protests and classroom walkouts. Mr. Rapisarda remarked that the person who wished to address the Board on the student protest issue previously sent a letter to both the Board and Henrico County Public Schools expressing his concerns. He clarified that this issue was within the purview of the School Board rather than the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Vithoulkas concluded his review by referring to the two items on the general agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia