

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 27, 2020

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 5:45 p.m., in the Board Room of the Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

**Members of the Board Present:**

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

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager  
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, County Attorney  
Tanya Brackett Harding, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board  
Monica L. Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Steven J. Yob, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations

Mr. Branin called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

**2020 Tax Billing Update**

Meghan Coates, Director of Finance, advised the Board that when citizens get their tax bill, they will see a return address in Atlanta, GA. The County has changed contractors to get faster clearing of receipts. The Department of Public Utilities has used the new vendor since August and has not had any issues.

**Richmond Region Tourism Update**

Jack Berry, President and CEO of Richmond Region Tourism, updated the Board on the impact of COVID-19 on regional tourism. Visitor spending in 2019 was \$2.7 billion in the Richmond region, including \$994 million spent in Henrico. Hotel occupancy rates have been hit hard, but all hotels are open and accepting reservations. His agency is assisting hotels with updating listings and meeting with managers to help fill staffing gaps. A recent survey found that 25% fewer Americans will be traveling to celebrate the holidays this year.

Katherine O'Donnell, Executive Vice President for Richmond Region Tourism, stated they have created a new website to help visitors and residents visit the region safely. They have advertising up with 21 billboards and 11 messages throughout the region. Mrs. O'Donnell

highlighted the new JetBlue flights recently announced out of Richmond which has expanded geo-targeting areas to include California, Nevada, and Tampa.

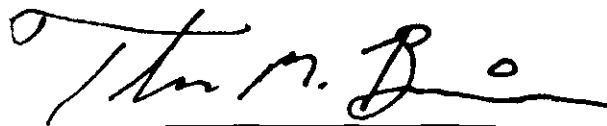
J. C. Poma, Director of Sports Relations for Richmond Region Tourism, shared a brief video highlighting the many events Henrico has hosted in the past. He noted 43 sports events were cancelled or postponed with a \$29 million economic impact, but once Virginia began Phase II restrictions, 30 sports events took place between June 10 and Labor Day. He also highlighted events scheduled for 2021.

**Programming Update – Advocate for the Aging**

Sara Morris, Advocate for the Aging, informed the Board about an Outreach Call Center for Older Residents launched in April. Volunteers make calls to four or five participants during a two-hour shift, and participants may be called up to three days a week. She also discussed the EngAGE at Home program that launched in May with telephone-based activities every Tuesday morning for approximately 60 registrants; a Book Talk on the fourth Tuesday of each month with Henrico Libraries; and an upcoming event at the Eastern Recreation Center with Recreation and Parks. Ms. Morris highlighted upcoming 2021 events: the Love your Heart: Valentine's Day celebration, the Henrico Ambassador Program for Seniors, and the Volunteer and Caregiver Resource Fair which will be an outdoor/drive-through event. Ms. Morris also stated there is a quarterly newsletter that includes upcoming events and information. Mr. Branin noted that the elderly population in the County is large and the Board will help get out information to increase participation in activities and events.

Mr. Vithoukaskas briefly reviewed the items for the evening agenda.

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



Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia