

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
May 11, 2021

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Daniel J. Schmitt, Chairman, Brookland District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice-Chairman, Tuckahoe District
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina 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
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Anthony McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Steve J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Cari Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff

Mr. Schmitt called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

Tax Relief Update

Leo Marsh, Revenue Division Director with the Department of Finance gave the Board an update on the Real Estate Advantage Program (REAP); he gave a brief overview noting the Virginia State Code provides the governing body of any county, city, or town may, by ordinance, provide for the exemption of real estate taxes on property owned by the elderly or permanently disabled. He County adopted the REAP program in 1973, currently we anticipate over 6,300 households to apply for the REAP program with \$9 million being awarded in tax relief. Mr. Marsh reviewed how a resident qualify for the program they must be sixty-five or age or older or permanently disabled; he noted how they alert residents to the program by advertising in the Richmond Times Dispatch; coordinating with the County's Advocate for the Aging, informercial on the County's cable channel and information on the County's website; information is posted in our Libraries.

Mr. Vithoukias clarified for Mr. Thornton the reason for the decline in the numbers even though our population is growing is because homeownership has declined for our elderly a lot of them have either moved into Assisted Living Facilities or move in with family. Mr. Marsh reviewed the qualifications noting the combined income of the owner as well as the spouse or any relatives living in the dwelling currently can not exceed \$75,000. He briefly reviewed the other Henrico Tax Relief programs the County offers. Mr. Thornton noted the REAP program is a fantastic

program and feels the more we get the word the better, so our residents are aware of the program and the others programs we offer for tax relief.

Advanced Traffic Management System and Trail Connectivity

Terrell Hughes, Director of Public Works gave the Board an update on information presented at the January Retreat; he reviewed the Advanced Traffic Management System and gave the Board an update on the program giving them an update on Phase I noting they have upgraded from TS-1 to TS-2 controllers, replaced the previous closed loop system, and other upgrades costing \$8 million in Federal CMAQ funding. He shared a short video of how the traffic signals works and how they are able to communicate with the signals at different intersections. He reviewed the proposal for Phase II noting they currently have \$9.8 million in CMAQ funding and shared a table with the Board noting the detailed improvements and a quick overview of the project approach they will be taking for Phase II.

Mr. Hughes continued with his presentation moving onto the Traffic Calming Update; he noted they have been effective with their speed reduction efforts throughout the County by reducing the speed limit in several areas from 35 mph to 25 mph and in other areas reducing the speed from 45 mph to 35 and 55 mph to 45 mph. He highlighted the speed reduction on Church Road in 2018 there were a total of 14 crashes in 2019 that amount decreased to 5 crashes and for 2020 there were no crashes. Mr. Hughes noted they are also looking into curb extensions in new developments it reduces speeds at intersections, reduces pedestrian crossing distances, provide landscaping opportunities. He concluded with the curve extension and noted they started with a pilot program with temporary treatments and are looking for more communities to do these pilot programs in.

At this point he turned it over to Todd Eure, Assistant Director of Public Works who gave the Board an update on Trail Connectivity. He briefed the Board on the Fall Line Trail that totals 43.5 miles with 7.4 miles of the line located in Henrico; the trail passes through 7 jurisdictions with the trail being a much more urban setting. Mr. Eure gave a more detailed timeline of the Fall Line noting it will be completed in eight phases with three phases under design with the Chickahominy River Crossing being the only one not under design but are hoping to partner with the state on funding and proposal of the trail. Mr. Vithoukas noted this is a project Mr. Thornton has put forward with the CVTA group and the trail itself is getting more and more support with significant resources and funding being allocated to the project. Mr. Eure shared visual diagrams of each line connectivity to give the Board a better overview of the Fall Line and how far it travels. Mr. Thornton noted his enthusiasm about the CVTA and the role it will play in the future needs for traffic and infrastructure for the near future.

Vaccination Efforts Timeline

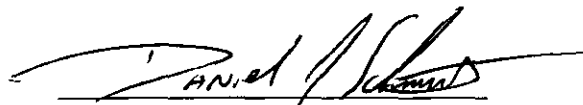
Anthony McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety gave the Board its bi-weekly COVID-19 update he noted the 7-day average has been a steady decline in over infections and our positivity rate is currently 4.5% in the County. He noted 49.6% of the Commonwealth of Virginia have received at least one dose with 37.2% totally vaccinated; he confirmed the State of Virginia is doing better as a whole than the United States and noted Henrico is still leading in the jurisdiction for the residents currently fully vaccinated at 37.4%. At this point in the presentation Jackson Baynard, Chief of Emergency Management & Workplace Safety gave the Board an update on vaccination efforts at the Richmond Raceway. Mr. Baynard sated the entire team at the Raceway which includes about 726 County employees; he gifted the Board members

with vaccination team shirts and a challenge coin which symbolizes the partnership with the National Guard. Mr. Baynard stated the last day of vaccinations will be May 27 at the Richmond Raceway; he shared the dates of the walk-up clinics and how the team will be assisting everyone with where to go to get their second doses and in some cases, they are scheduling the appointments. Moving forward the clinics will be held at the infield of the Raceway because the Raceway will be hosting several other events; he shared contact information for the Health Department for citizens who are still interested in getting a vaccination or have questions or concerns about the vaccinations process. Mr. Baynard covered briefly 12-15 years old getting vaccinated noting the CDC has approved the vaccines for them and they will vaccinate them, and the Health Department is work with Schools and Health Services to develop a plan and of course the Henrico Incident Management Team will be available to provide support.

Mr. Baynard concluded his presentation stating with the expectations the Governor will adjust the Executive Order on June 15 with the Virginia State of Emergency set to expire on June 30, Henrico will continue to transition forward with expected completion between June 1 and July 1; the County's EOC logistics team will be demobilizing and on May 28 the Henrico County/Richmond Health District call center will transition back to Richmond Henrico Health District. May Baynard gave a breakdown of numbers from January 20 to May 5 noting a total of 96,278.75 work hours; over 3,000 unique individuals supported these events, 726 County employees, 153,343 vaccinations have been administered; the Call Center received 62,936 people called in with an average of 2,500 calls per day. He thanked all the partners who have been involved in the process the Regional Cooperation with Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover and Richmond City; State Partners; the many volunteer organizations our contract organization with our nurses and of partnership with the Public-Private Partnerships such as the Richmond Raceway, VCU, JSRCC, Dominion Payroll, McKesson to name a few and he thanked the Board and the Manager for all their support and efforts through this process.

Mr. Vithoulkas reminded the Board Mr. Baynard is a firefighter and will be transitioning back to his role has a firefighter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia