

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
June 14, 2022

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 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:

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

Member of the Board Absent:

Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager
Andrew R. Newby, County Attorney
Tanya N. Brackett, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Monica 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
Cari M. Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff
Steven J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Ben A. Sheppard, Director of Media Relations

CHIRP Program and Recovery Residences

Anthony McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, briefed the Board on the Community-Based Housing for Individuals in the Recovery Process (CHIRP) program and recovery residences efforts. He recognized members of the Recovery Roundtable who were present: Mike Feinmel, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney; Courtney Hostetler, Diversion Coordinator with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office; Henry Rosenbaum, Chief Fire Marshal; Laura Totty, Director of Mental Health & Developmental Services; and Shelby Johnson, Director of Community Corrections. He gave a brief background noting prior to 2019 there was no governmental regulation over alcohol-free and illicit-drug free group housing in Virginia. As opioid-related issues increased, it increased the number of bond motions from criminal defendants seeking to go to various programs. Mr. McDowell stated this is the reason why the Recovery Roundtable recommended staff explore the creation of relationships between the County and recovery residences. In 2019 the General Assembly passed House Bill 2045 that defined "Certified Recovery Residences" and required the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to promulgate regulations for the certification of recovery residences.

To participate in the CHIRP program, the County must review each of the residence on a variety of factors. Then, the County provides the list of approved homes to the courts. Since the beginning of the program, 38 recovery residences have been CHIRP approved. Mr. McDowell explained that the Board approved the additional position in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for the Diversion Coordinator, and the hiring of Ms. Hostetler in that position has been essential to keeping track of the individuals who are going through the program and how the program is performing. Mr. McDowell stated to date 51 individuals have been approved for funding, 40 have completed their stay, and two are in their funded stay, with the remainder (only 18%) failing to complete their stay.

There were several questions from the Board regarding keeping track of the effect this program has on the recovery process and whether it is successful. Mike Feinmel, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney, thanked the Board for approving funding for Courtney Hostetler's position because her she will be tracking this information and within a few months they will be able to have more data to report back on the success of the program.

Housing Assistance Update

Eric Leabough, Director of Community Revitalization, gave the Board an update on Housing Assistance. He reviewed the rent relief program and the number of households currently served throughout the County. He reviewed the resources that are currently available for households facing evictions. He shared the County's web page set-up to assist our residents with information about renter's rights and how to avoid eviction.

Mr. Leabough pivoted to a discussion of the hotel/motel improvement initiatives and the current challenges they are facing. They are trying to navigate people toward more healthy and stable housing options and services, pursue targeted code enforcement, and pursue redevelopment of substandard properties. Mr. Leabough explained they have several resources for families who are using hotels as their primary housing. In April Henrico issued a request for proposals for firms to help households transition to permanent housing by conducting individualized assessments. The selected firm will provide resources to address barriers to transition. Mr. Leabough stated the next steps will be an item on tonight's agenda within the general fund budget amendment request for consideration of \$300,000. There will also be a request to amend the FY 2019-20 Annual Consolidated Action Plan for CDBG Activities presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration, and in July we will award a contract. The Manager thanked Mr. Leabough for the update.

Verizon Cable Television Franchise Renewal

Andrew Newby, County Attorney, updated the Board on the Verizon cable television franchise renewal. He provided an overview of legal regulations of cable television, and the County's role in that regulation. Currently, the County has two cable providers under franchise agreements: Comcast 2013 – 2028, and Verizon, which is due for renewal. If approved, the renewed agreement will be for five years and accomplish the key objectives to: update the agreement to conform to changes in law and technology; add new HD PEG channels for HCTV and HCPS programming; and retain the same service area. There was discussion from the Board on when cable will be expanded to the other areas of the County particularly the more rural area like further out in Varina. Mr. Newby stated they have been working with Comcast and other broadband providers on extending services, but Verizon had not made the same offer.

General Meeting Agenda Overview

The County Manager briefly reviewed the agenda items for the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia S. O'Bannon".

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia