

**COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
July 25, 2023**

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 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
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District
Daniel J. Schmitt, Brookland District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager
Lee Ann Anderson, Chief Deputy County Attorney
Tanya N. Brackett, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Michael Y. Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Cari M. Tretina, Deputy County Manager/Chief of Staff
Steven J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Steven W. Knockemus, Assistant Director of Public Relations

Regional River Response Update

Jackson Baynard, Fire Chief for the Division of Fire, recognized Deputy Chief of Operations Jim Courtney to give the Board an update on the Regional River Response. Deputy Chief Courtney began the presentation by sharing a photo of Sara Erway and Lauren Winstead, who lost their lives last year when they went over a dam on the James River while swimming with their friends. He noted bystanders helped pull their friends to safety, but the speed of the water prevented them from saving the two young women. He continued explaining Richmond Fire and Rescue were first on the scene to respond and were in the water all night before calling for the additional back-up to help the next morning, which is when Henrico responded. Deputy Chief Courtney explained that, after this incident, they began working with our regional partners on the three-tiered Regional River Response Enhancement plan involving our Communications team, Chesterfield County, Hanover County, the City of Hopewell, Goochland County, the City of Richmond, and Powhatan County. The first tier is to notify all emergency agencies when a call comes in for a James River rescue response. The second tier of the plan is public education by ensuring signs are posted all the way down the James River to ensure people visiting the river know the danger areas and where to use precautions.

At this point in the presentation, Assistant Chief Mark Cumashot explained the third tier of the plan: "Equipment Improvements and Team Expansion." He shared several slides showing the equipment upgrades and how they help with the river rescues.

In conclusion Deputy Chief Courtney explained the County continues to maintain the Henrico Fire Boat at the landing at Osborne Turnpike and is happy to give any member of the Board a tour on the water. The Manager noted there will be a budget amendment in September he will be bringing forward to the Board to update the River Response Team and some equipment. He noted Chief Baynard came forward with a 10-year plan to continue these public safety efforts.

Prior to the intern recognition, Mr. Vithoukias recognized Ms. Brackett, Clerk to the Board, for 15-years of service to the County and thanked her for all she does and noted he was looking forward to 30 more.

Intern Recognition

Debbie Lumpkin, Intern Coordinator, thanked the Board and the Manager for the opportunity to share the success of the County's internship program. Since the program began in the summer of 2013, the County has hosted 801 students in 29 agencies. This summer there are 76 students interning with the County. To date, the County has hired 66 interns to work full-time, and 10 students have returned this year from last summer. Mrs. Lumpkin recognized Katherine Hale, a rising Junior at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), who participated in the Sheriff's Office Basic Summer Academy designed in collaboration with VCU and Human Resources in 2011 to allow students to earn credit for experiential learning and attain their Basic Jailor Certification. Katherine thanked the Manager and the Board for the opportunity to speak and share her experience this summer. She noted her favorite part of the internship has been the week-long defensive tactics course and learning new terms and techniques. Katherine stated the internship has been extra meaningful because she wants to go into investigations or law enforcement, and the program allowed her to gain important perspective.


Next, Mrs. Lumpkin recognized Jahkya Robinson, an intern working in the Mental Health and Developmental Service Teen Job Training Program that has been in operation for over 20 years. The Program works with youths aged 14-15 years old and prepares them for the workforce by teaching pre-employment and workplace readiness skills during the fall and winter months. The participants work at a childcare facility, library, after school program, retail store, or a community center. Mrs. Lumpkin stated there are 28 youths participating in the Program. Jahkya thanked the Board and the Manager for the opportunity to speak and represent her community. She stated she was 14 years old and the youngest of three siblings and attends Varina High School. She has had the opportunity to work at the Henrico ARMS Connect program for a month. In the program, she has learned to be more outspoken, helping children to learn right from wrong, leading games with the children, and working on being more open with children and adults. Jahkya stated she is gaining the skills of helping others, starting tasks without being told, and solving problems with peers, noting she has learned to never be afraid to speak up for herself.

Finally, Mrs. Lumpkin recognized Sincere Slade-Reading to share a few words on behalf of all the summer interns. Sincere explained she is a rising second year Political Science and Sociology student concentrating in Public and Administration at VCU, and she is a graduate of Varina High School. She is an intern in the County Manager's office and wanted to share why Henrico County has proven to be a great choice and to say thank you on behalf of her fellow interns. Sincere explained before her internship with the County, not many people were willing to put their trust in an 18-year with no experience. She spent months working to build her resume and her confidence. From day one in interning in the Manager's Office,

she was met every day with unlimited encouragement and reassurance. There was always someone there asking her "what do you want" or "what do you need," and exposing her to all Henrico has to offer. Sincere stated she goes back to VCU with a new understanding of what good leadership looks like. She offered her sincere thanks on behalf of all the summer interns to the Board and County Manager for the incredible opportunity.

Regular Meeting Agenda Overview

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Sheila Minor, Director of Finance, to review three items on the agenda for the Board regarding Finance issues and then briefly reviewed the remainder of the agenda. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia