

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 9, 2024

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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:**

Tyrone E. Nelson, Chairman, Varina District  
Daniel J. Schmitt, Vice-Chairman, Brookland District  
Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Fairfield District  
Misty D. Whitehead, Three Chopt District  
Jody K. Rogish, Tuckahoe District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager  
Andrew R. Newby, 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  
Ben A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations

Mr. Nelson announced that Mr. Schmitt had requested to participate in the meeting remotely from his home because he was ill. He noted the Board had arranged for Mr. Schmitt to be heard by all persons in the room and that a quorum was present in the room.

On motion of Mr. Cooper, and seconded by Ms. Whitehead, the Board approved Mr. Schmitt's electronic participation from his home, in accordance with the Board's electronic participation policy.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Yes: Nelson, Cooper, Whitehead, Rogish

No: None

**Nine Mile Road Closed Landfill Solar Lease Agreement**

Steve Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations, shared several aerial maps of the closed landfill on Nine Mile Road where the solar project from Dominion Energy Virginia is anticipated to be installed. He shared that approval of the lease of the facility to Dominion Energy Virginia was on the Board's regular meeting agenda that evening. He recognized the following persons from Dominion Energy Virginia: James Beasley, Regional Director, Policy

Central & Western Central; Brittany Edwards, External Affairs Representative-State and Local Affairs; Austin Jones, Manager of Business Development; and William Barton, Jr., Business Development Manager, who were present for the meeting. Mr. Jones gave a brief overview of the Landfill Solar project, noting it was a two-megawatt project on property consisting of 56 acres with 17 buildable acres. The project will have development in phases.

Mr. Jones explained, once constructed, the facility will complement other Dominion Energy Solutions sites at Highland Springs High School, J. R. Tucker High School, Holladay Elementary School, and the Public Safety Building. Mr. Nelson asked if the financial commitment was on the County side. Steve explained the County will be leasing the property to Dominion for a fee. Mr. Nelson asked how long the landfill had been closed. Mr. Yob stated since 1980. Ms. Whitehead applauded the benefit to the area. Mr. Cooper inquired about the lease fee, which is \$30,000 per year.

Ms. Edwards concluded the presentation by highlighting the remaining projects, such as Highland Springs High School, J. R. Tucker High School, Holladay Elementary School, the Public Safety Building, and the utility-solar project located off Gill Dale Road.

### **Pollinator Habitat Project**

Wes Robertson, Medical Entomologist with the Department of Public Works, explained they are a staff of three that specialize in turf management, integrated pest management, insect biology, water quality management, and environmental practices. The goals of the project are to reengage insect habitats and allow previously mowed plots to return to a more natural state, while limiting non-recreational mowing on select County parcels, promoting ecological sustainability, and saving the County money. Mr. Robertson explained the benefits of the program include reducing erosion and drainage impacts, among others.

Mr. Robertson shared proposed locations along public roads in each district for new pollinator habitat sites. Mr. Vithoukas explained they were looking for feedback to see if the Board likes the idea of pollinator habitats. Ms. Whitehead asked if the concern was that it would look overgrown. Mr. Robertson stated, yes, in the beginning it will look overgrown but then the sites will be in bloom for the majority of the year. Mr. Cooper asked the average height of the plants. Mr. Robertson stated they try to keep most of the plant species under 2 ½ feet of growth. Ms. Whitehead asked if these are closed off areas, so residents are not interacting in the area. Mr. Robertson stated, no, they want residents to interact. Mr. Nelson asked then why not put them in parks. Mr. Robertson stated parks prefer having butterfly pollinator gardens, which John Zannino, Director of Recreation and Parks, confirmed.

Mr. Vithoukas explained this idea was brought forward by the HEART committee, and they will bring more ideas forward from the committee. Mr. Nelson asked what type of mammals they are referring to in the habitats. Mr. Robertson stated small field mice and bats depending on what type of insects are available in the area for that time. Mr. Schmitt asked if snakes would be attracted to this high grass. Mr. Robertson said, no, because they plan to cut once a year. Mr. Schmitt stated he is in favor of the pollinator gardens but thinks the proposed Brookland location is not a great spot. He said the County enjoyed the reputation of taking good care of the grass along roadsides and did not want the residents to get the impression that the County was neglecting these roadside areas. He proposed other green spaces, such as around libraries. Terrell Hughes, Director of Public Works, stated they will definitely look for other areas, particularly if the Board members are concerned about the location they picked in their district.

Ms. Whitehead stated she would like to explore other areas in Three Chopt as well. Mr. Nelson applauded the initiative but feels better locations can be chosen and suggested pollinator gardens at Varina Library, for instance.

### **Drainage Project Prioritization**

Mike Aust, with the Department of Public Works, provided an overview of drainage and flooding problems in the County. Mr. Aust stated in March of 2023 they received 163 residential drainage complaints, and that the County has experienced record rains this winter. Mr. Cooper asked where the concentration of complaints was coming from. Mr. Aust explained they have a heat map and can share it with the Board.

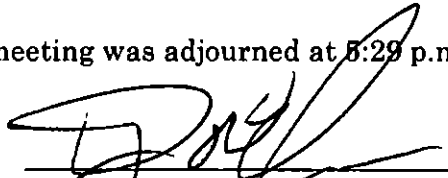
Mr. Aust explained how they would like to plan and prioritize drainage projects using funds from the approved bond referendum. He stated DPW would like to use technology to help identify projects with the greatest impact-to-cost ratio, with flexibility for the Board to direct these projects. Ms. Whitehead thanked Mr. Aust for helping the Phelps family in the Three Chopt District and wanted to make sure we are looking at this from all perspectives. The Manager stated staff will bring this conversation back during the Board Retreat.

Sheila Minor, Director of Finance, announced the County sold Economic Development Authority (EDA) Revenue Bonds that day, at a 3.36% rate, with the winning bidder being Truist Banks.

### **Review of the Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vitoulkas briefly reviewed the agenda items for the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.



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Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia