

THE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WITH SENIOR STAFF WAS HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN OF OUR LORD AT FIRE STATION ONE IN PROVIDENCE FORGE, VIRGINIA, AT 12:00 NOON.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Evelyn called the meeting to order and advised that Mr. Burrell would be arriving late.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Present
David M. Sparks	Present
James H. Burrell	Absent (arrived at 12:27 p.m.)
Stran L. Trout	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

All members were present. After Mr. Burrell's arrival, he gave the blessing and lunch was served.

IN RE: COMMENTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Evelyn indicated that he would work with Administration and Human Resources on future agendas for these semi-annual meetings. He thanked staff for their hard work and efforts, noting that it was evident that a lot of effort had been spent to keep level funding in the budget requests.

Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation and how he hoped that there could be a raise or bonus for employees in the upcoming "bare bones" budget.

Mr. Sparks commented that he felt that the upcoming budget would be subject to a lot of scrutiny in the community and he complimented staff for the detail in the budget requests which would help the Board be prepared to respond "to the questions that would be asked". He thanked staff for their hard work and for "hanging in there" and indicated that he hoped that the budget would allow for some "fair compensation".

Mr. Trout provided details on several upcoming community and historic events, as well as an update on work on some of the railroad crossings in the County. He expressed his appreciation for the work by the staff and commended Mr. Hathaway for his efforts to market New Kent.

Mr. Burrell suggested that New Kent again revisit a regional economic development with one or more of its adjacent localities in order to be more competitive for some of the grant funding that was available. He spoke about recycling and that he would try to obtain some statistics from Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) on how much revenue would be received if recycling were increased. He also spoke about conversations about New Kent at recent meetings of the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

IN RE: REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY SENIOR STAFF

Assistant County Administrator Bill Whitley provided an update on redistricting, reporting that the meeting with leaders of the African-American community went well. He related suggestions made at that meeting, which included developing plans based on seven election districts and no protection of incumbencies, and he explained the problems with both of those options. He reviewed the schedule for upcoming community informational meetings and reported that he would also be meeting with the School Board. He confirmed that the School Superintendent and School Board members were aware that a proposed shifting of the district lines would move one School Board member into a different district and that it was no surprise and not upsetting to them, despite the headlines in a recent local newspaper article. Mr. Evelyn and Ms. Gowdy both reported that they had heard a lot of support for Plan 3 and the County needed to be prepared to explain why that plan would not pass pre-clearance with the Department of Justice.

Public Utilities Director Larry Dame gave an update on utility projects, reporting that he anticipated substantial completion of the Parham expansion project by the end of March. He advised that with the upgrade, the County should have no problem meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus and was getting "closer" to meeting the limits for nitrogen, and that turbidity (water clearness) was lower than what was required. He indicated that the reclaimed water lines were being tested the following week to make sure they were bacteria-free, and that work at the Chickahominy holding facility was complete and the system would be sending reclaimed water to customers in April. He advised that the groundwater withdrawal permit for Route 33 should be issued within 30 days, after a three-year process, and that there were some concerns with the draft permit for Colonial Downs about which he would be meeting with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to "iron out". He reported that the permit for Woods Edge had been submitted and he did not expect any problems with that permit.

He reported that DEQ had modified its standards regarding private wells in utility service areas, to allow those wells if the property owners signed an agreement to connect to the system and abandon the well when the lines are extended, which should open up some opportunities and not impede business development.

He indicated that he had been appointed to a new State committee working on reclaimed water regulations, whose work would be fast-tracked to be completed in the Fall of 2011.

Environmental Planning Manager Amy Walker, appearing for Community Development, reported that both residential and commercial activity was picking up. It was reported that building permits had also increased in comparison with previous years.

General Services Director Jim Tacosa updated the Board on the Historic School renovation project, reporting that more than 50 packages had been requested, with 43 individuals attending the pre-proposal meeting. He projected that six proposals would be received, based on the number of follow-up requests to revisit the buildings. He explained that the deadline for proposals had been extended to April 1 because an asbestos report was late being provided to the prospective bidders. He indicated that very little asbestos abatement would be needed but there was an obligation to provide the report that had been in the possession of School Board staff.

He also reported that his department was in the process of refining a new work order system that could be tied to the maintenance budget. He indicated that he had attended a

CVWMA meeting earlier in the day, where there was discussion about New Kent's high recycling numbers, which he had attributed to "a well-informed public". He spoke about efficiencies, including the use of used oil-fired furnaces in some of the County buildings.

Social Services Director Michelle Cowling commented about the increased litter along the roadways in New Kent. It was explained that the prisoner inmate trash collection had been suspended for the winter but was in the process of starting up again.

She reported that there had been a 40% increase in Social Services case loads, with a 100% increase in adult protective/hoarding cases. She indicated that a mobile unit from the Veterans Administration (VA) was visiting every month to help residents apply for VA benefits. She thanked the County Attorney for her assistance with a significant number of child abuse cases, adding that she had requested a second Child Protective Services case worker because the heavy case load was too much for one worker. She gave an update on recent hires, retirements, and vacancies, adding that seven more workers with 30+ years experience would be eligible for retirement over the next two years. She confirmed that she was working with Curtis Contracting on some job referrals, and reported that her department would not be able to hold the annual Senior Fair because of the staff shortage.

Parks & Recreation Manager Kim Turner likewise thanked the County Attorney for her assistance. She reported on two Capital Improvement Projects - the gymnasium renovation and Historic School field improvements - and advised that they would wait for direction from the Board regarding development of the 100-acre park. She indicated that they were on target with operations but were behind on strategic planning due to a turnover in office staff. She advised that some of the co-sponsored groups would be coming to the Board about some capital improvements, and she asked that everyone take the Annual Survey that was underway.

Mr. Sparks asked about a recent problem with vandalism at Quinton Park. Ms. Turner explained that some users of the basketball courts had been using vehicle headlights to play on the courts after dark, and that the Sheriff's Office had increased surveillance and she had responded to the complaints from the nearby residents. She also spoke about a problem with residents bringing their dogs to Quinton Park and reported that she had ordered a new sign that more clearly posted that no dogs were allowed. She explained that the park was too small and had too many children to allow dogs and she had referred dog owners to Wahrani where dogs were permitted on leashes. One of the Board members asked about prohibiting smoking on the ball fields at the Historic School. She indicated that she could not enforce any rules on those fields until they were deemed to be an official park, and that smoking was not addressed anywhere in the ordinance. She advised that the most popular adult programs were the fitness classes and sports leagues.

Financial Services Director Mary Altemus reported that her department would be submitting the FY11 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the Government Financial Officers' Association for an award, and planned to submit the budget for an award for the first time for FY13. She indicated that performance measures were a part of the budget award submission and she would be contacting departments and reviewing and updating financial and internal policies where needed.

Economic Development Director Rodney Hathaway reported an increase in requests for property information from commercial realtors, site selection firms and brokers, and that future meetings were scheduled with some good prospects. He talked about small business activity and announced the details on some new businesses opening in New Kent. He indicated that he was working with Virginia Natural Gas, Smurfit Stone, King William and

West Point on bringing natural gas lines down Route 33 and expressed optimism that the project would take place. He reported on activity relating to a Wendy's Restaurant, a Fast Mart, and a Rite Aid. He indicated that the County should be receiving an application for a new 7/Seven store on Route 33 next to the Exxon station near the interstate interchange, and that the 7/Seven store in Eltham was working on a plan for a new facility.

County Administrator Cabell Lawton thanked Fire Chief Hicks for hosting the lunch meeting and recognized Ms. Kim Turner for coordinating a recent employee lunch on St. Patrick's Day. He spoke about the timeline for the budget process, reminding that Mr. Trout would be away in April and it was hoped to have that process finalized before he left. He confirmed that he would be meeting with the Board members individually prior to his initial presentation of the budget at the March 30 work session, after which time the proposed budget would be released to the departments and the public. He noted that general activity in the County seemed to be picking up compared to 2010 and that once the redistricting and budget processes were completed, focus would shift to goal setting.

Fire Chief Tommy Hicks spoke about some significant federal mandates for emergency management that were expected between 2013 and 2016 and how he was trying to position the County for those mandates with grant projects "across all disciplines". He reported an increase in calls handled by Fire-Rescue, with a significant increase in calls requiring medical transports resulting in revenue through the Cost Recovery Program. He indicated that program was becoming more productive since billing had been brought in-house and that he would be giving a more detailed report to the Board at a future meeting. He reported on staffing of Company 4 in Lanexa and that work was underway on the ISO rating to help reduce homeowners insurance premiums for residents in that area.

Commissioner of Revenue Laura Ecimovic reported that there had been a significant decrease in the number of home sales and sales prices, particularly in some of the newer developments. She indicated that the 2011 reassessment process was going well and they were seeing indicators that market prices were down and that people were paying more per square foot for smaller homes.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Davis moved to go into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A.1 of the Code of Virginia. The members were polled:

David M. Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried. The Board went into closed session, with the exception of Mr. Evelyn, who remained out of Closed Session because of a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Davis moved to return to open session. The members were polled:

James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
David M. Sparks	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Abstain

The motion carried.

Mr. Davis made the following certification:

Whereas, the New Kent County Board of Supervisors has convened in a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now there be it resolved that the Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in closed session to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

The Vice Chairman inquired whether there was any member who believed that there was a departure from the motion. Hearing none, the members were polled on the certification:

Stran L. Trout	Aye
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
David M. Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Abstain

The motion carried.

Mr. Evelyn rejoined the Board.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sparks moved to adjourn the meeting. The members were polled:

W. R. Davis, Jr.	Aye
David M. Sparks	Aye
James H. Burrell	Aye
Stran L. Trout	Aye
Thomas W. Evelyn	Aye

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.