

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

MINUTES

Special Meeting
January 14, 2013

Call to Order A special meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Jack R. Cavalier, Chairman, at 4:05 p.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2014, at Riverside Conference Center.

The following Board members were present: Meg Bohmke, Jack R. Cavalier; Paul V. Milde III; Laura A. Sellers; Gary F. Snellings; Cord A. Sterling; and Robert “Bob” Thomas, Jr.

Also in attendance were: Anthony Romanello, County Administrator; Tim Baroody, Deputy County Administrator; Keith Dayton, Deputy County Administrator; Maria Perrotte, Chief Financial Officer; Nancy Collins, Budget Director; Kim Herman, Budget Manager; Charles Shumate, County Attorney; Jeff Harvey, Director of Planning and Zoning; Cathy Vollbrecht, Director of Communications; Shannon Howell, Public Information Officer, Pamela Timmons, Deputy Clerk to the Board, staff, and other interested parties.

Mr. Cavalier welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the meeting would be a time for the Board members to decide what their expectations were for the upcoming year. Mr. Romanello noted that there was addition to the agenda, Item (7d) Legislative Update. He then gave a presentation of the Progress Update/Project Pipeline, noting the Quick Stats regarding population, businesses, and jobs. He also led the Board through the list of Stafford County Strategic Plans for reference.

Ms. Perrotte noted that the General Fund Fiscal Sustainability chart showed expenditures outweighing revenues in the upcoming years due to population growth and an

approximate 1.2% (which equals approximately 300 children) annual growth school enrollment.

She also noted that the FY15 Budget Drivers chart that used an equalized rate, showed an \$8.4 million gap. The chart only demonstrated the pressures, but the County would have a balanced budget.

Ms. Collins presented the 2014 Budget Calendar. Mr. Cavalier asked if the Schools were aware of the schedule. Ms. Collins stated that they were. Mr. Cavalier felt that the budget calendar should not necessarily be set in stone. If the Board could come to budget terms in the time-frame set in the schedule, dates could and should be adjusted as long as citizens were able to have 30 days' notice on their tax bills. Ms. Perrotte said that the Schools liked to have contracts in the hands of the faculty by the first of June. She believed that the deadline for the final numbers was May 1st, or 30 days after the General Assembly's final numbers, whichever was later. Ms. Perrotte stated that the General Assembly had a statutory requirement for providing information regarding the funding for schools. Ms. Collins then briefed the Board on the Inflation Adjusted Tax Rates and said that Scott Mayausky would brief the Board on the reassessments at the January 21st meeting.

Regarding the Stormwater 15-year Cost Estimate, Ms. Bohmke asked staff to elaborate. Mr. Dayton explained that it had occurred over the last five years, and the County must meet nutrient loads as well as lowering them. The state receives 28% of the revenues for stormwater management, maintaining records, and running the program. Mr. Milde asked if the County bought and sold credits. Staff responded that credits were sold and it did help the Utilities Fund, but that not much money was received. Mr. Sterling asked if the Board could add to its Legislative agenda, a budget amendment to fund mandates such as the stormwater management. Mr. Romanello said that some counties, such as Fairfax, had a stormwater management tax. There were different ways to tax, such as a service district or a utility tax. Mr. Cavalier reminded the Board that there was a Legislative Committee meeting on Friday, January 17th and that stormwater should be a focus.

Ms. Collins presented the General Fund Staffing Comparison FY2004-14 and County Employee Compensation Comparison. Ms. Sellers requested the average salary of County employees. Mr. Snellings asked if there had been a recent comparison of salaries with Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg. Mr. Romanello replied that there had not, and agreed that an analysis was due. Staff shared this with the FAB Committee in December. Staff was taking a hard look at benefits that have been triggered by the State with the

changes to VRS. There had not been a Compensation Study done recently but that one is due.

Mr. Snellings asked if it would need Board approval and Mr. Romanello said that he would welcome Board approval. Ms. Bohmke asked by how much public safety staffing increased. Staff stated that numbers would be confirmed and reported back to the Board.

As Ms. Collins presented the Service Inventory, pointing out that Page 7 was an example of the breakdown by internal agencies.

Mr. Romanello asked if there was any direction from the Board. His goal was to present the budget to the Board at its March 4th meeting. Mr. Sterling desired an equalized tax rate. Mr. Cavalier stated that the Board needed room for adjustments and felt that he could not make a call just yet. The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee would meet on January 21st and have the first look. Mr. Milde felt that it was important to hold the line on taxes and to give Mr. Romanello as sense of what the budget should look like. Mr. Thomas agreed with the equalized rate, but also wanted to “pull the thread” on the stormwater management fee. Mr. Milde asked if the County could include in the tax bills a pie chart showing citizens where the money is spent. Staff will investigate.

Recess: At 5:25 the Chairman declared a recess.

Call to order: At 5:55 the Chairman called the meeting back to order.

Ms. Collins presented the FY2015-2024 Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Milde asked staff to provide information on the tax revenue received by the County from the Quantico Corporate Center. The Schools should be looked at as well regarding trailers used to house the students.

Mr. Snellings asked what options were available for a public safety/fire training facility since he believed that Stafford County had the only standalone facility. Mr. Romanello replied that the County was not the only standalone and said that staff had extensive conversations with Quantico, but they were not interested in a joint facility. He also felt Spotsylvania would not fit the County’s needs. For fire training, the County uses Hanover, Loudoun, and Prince William County facilities. The principal issue was that the County needed to be able to train staff (within the County) so they could respond immediately in the case of emergencies. Mr. Snellings was concerned that a standalone facility would not receive state-funding. Mr. Milde asked about using the boat property in the northeastern portion of the County that is currently being used by the Fire and Rescue Department as a training center, and if there was a plan for development. Mr.

Baroody responded that he attended a meeting discussing that very issue. Ms. Sellers asked about a joint venture with the Sheriff's Office and the indoor shooting range with the possibility of using FEMA funding.

Mr. Snellings spoke on the Armed Services Memorial Commission. He would like the Board to make a decision about the next step. There was a \$748,000 price tag and there must also be decisions regarding the sale of bricks for citizens that have served. Hearing no objections, the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee will look at this issue.

Mr. Harvey gave a presentation regarding proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The Board identified the following issues that it desired the Planning Commission to focus on through the process of amending the Comprehensive Plan: (1) Maintain the concept of targeted growth areas as currently represented in the UDAs and Redevelopment Areas; (2) Evaluate the established density restrictions within each UDA to allow for more flexibility; (3) Correlate the defined areas of the UDAs with Redevelopment Areas; (4) Request staff analysis of the compatibility issues related to residential land uses within the area surrounding the Stafford Regional Airport; and (5) Evaluate desirability to retain specific UDAs. Mr. Harvey stated that he would prepare a package to go before the Board at its January 21st meeting.

Mr. Harvey also gave a presentation on the proposed Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. Hearing no objection, that issue will be sent to the Community and Economic Development Committee

The Board discussed the County's Reclassification Projects with Proffers (since 2003). Mr. Sterling asked how many of the projects were executed. Mr. Harvey responded that they were mostly by-right developments and that Forbes Landing should, and will be, removed from the list. The Board also expressed its desire to get that type of information out to County citizens. So many of the citizens believe that the Board approved so much development, and Mr. Snellings wants the public to be educated on what it could and could not control. It was thought that the information could be distributed bi-annually or annual. Mr. Cavalier felt that it needed to be distributed internally on a monthly basis. Staff was directed to get information to the Board on a direct mail-out option and cost. Also considered was including it in the Stafford Magazine or sending it with the tax or utility bills.

Mr. Baroody gave a Legislative Update to the Board. He reported that staff was continuing to work with Williams Mullins and that the TDR initiative had struggled. There was some comfort in that Architectural Standards would be in place. Mr. Milde

said that he would like it to be mandatory. He reported that the timbering issue was dropped. Regarding the issue of group homes, Mr. Barody reported that the smoke detectors, etc., were not palatable and Williams Mullins recommended public notification only. The Board agreed.

Adjournment At 8:10 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM
County Administrator

Jack R. Cavalier
Chairman