

County of Prince Edward
Board of Supervisors
Agenda Summary

Meeting Date: March 9, 2010
Item No.: 16
Department: County Administrator
Staff Contact: W.W. Bartlett
Issue: County Administrator's Report

Summary:

The Board of Supervisors at the November 17, 2009 meeting approved a request be made to the Commonwealth Regional Council requesting an amendment to the CRC's by-laws and charter allowing citizen representatives to serve as members of the Council. The CRC has denied the request. The CRC response is attached.

Attached is an e-mail from the U.S. Census Bureau. In mid-March our citizens will be receiving most 2010 Census questionnaires. In many instances the eligibility and funding available to a locality from various federal programs are tied to population numbers or other demographic information the federal government collects during the Census.

Census data are used to reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and for the subsequent redistricting of state and local governments. Census data help to determine how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments for important social services that affect local communities like ours. Census data can help fund services for people in poverty, establish facilities for people with disabilities, determine locations for hospitals and senior centers, and forecast transportation needs, such as new roads and public transit options.

Because of that fact it is imperative our citizens complete the various questionnaires or surveys.

Attachments:

Letter from the CRC dated Feb 26, 2010
E-mail dated February 2, 2010 from U.S. Census

Recommendation:

Motion _____
Second _____

Campbell _____
Jones _____
Wilck _____

Fore _____
McKay _____
Wiley _____

Gantt _____
Simpson _____

February 26, 2010

Mr. Wade Bartlett
County Administrator
P.O. Box 382
Farmville, Virginia 23901

Dear Mr. Bartlett,

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Regional Council has addressed the November 19, 2009 request from the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors to amend its by-laws and charter to allow citizen representatives to serve as members of the Council.

At its February 4, 2010 Council Meeting, the Council has affirmed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Council does not have the staff or the resources to pursue this request. The following are the excerpts of the minutes of all meetings per the discussion of this request leading up to this decision:

December 3, 2009 Excerpts

Chairman's Report: The Chairman directed those present to the first item of new business. Prince Edward County has requested to amend the CRC Bylaws and Charter to allow citizen representatives to serve as members of the council.

Ms. Hickman read Article XIV of the CRC Bylaws, which states the following:

Article XIV-Amendments

14.1 Amendment to Bylaws. These Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed by a vote of two-thirds of the members at any regular meeting and at any special meeting provided as to the latter that in the notice of said meeting or in the waiver of notice the nature of the proposed amendment shall be stated. At any meeting, either regular or special, at which all of the members are personally present, these Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed without any notice whatsoever.

Due to not all members being present at the meeting to take action, the Chairman opened the floor for comments and discussion on the matter.

Mr. Moore stated that he felt it would be great to pursue this change because this entire membership has worked very well together. He stated that the current members are in accord and would like to see this continued. He noted that the Prince Edward Board of Supervisors passed this request unanimously and was fully behind their request for one Board of Supervisor Member and one Citizen Representative on the CRC Board.

Mr. Bennett stated that he had talked with the County Administrator and each Amelia County Board of Supervisor on this matter. He stated that they all are totally against changing the

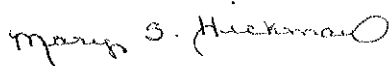
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February 4, 2010 Excerpts

Prince Edward Request to Amend CRC Bylaws and Charter: The Chairman stated the Executive Committee recommended to the Council that a letter be sent to the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors stating the CRC currently does not have the staff or the resources to pursue this request. The Chairman stated Ms. Hickman has been asked to find out if a completely separate organization could be formed from the region to apply to be an Economic Development District (EDD) grant recipient.

As always, if you should have any questions pertaining this, please do not hesitate to contact me at 392-6104. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary S. Hickman".

Mary S. Hickman
Acting President & CEO

C: CRC Board Members

Sarah Puckett

From: Sarah Puckett [spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:19 AM
To: spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us
Subject: FW: An Important Message From U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves

From: U.S. Census Bureau [mailto:2010census@subscriptions.census.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2010 11:38 AM
To: wbartlett@co.prince-edward.va.us
Subject: An Important Message From U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves

Are you up for the "Take 10" challenge?

On behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau, we are asking our partners to join us in making history by helping to boost the mail back participation rates across the Nation and in your community during the 2010 Census.

During each Decennial Census, the Census Bureau undertakes the count of every person residing in the United States, as mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. To encourage everyone to take 10 minutes to answer the 10 simple questions on the 2010 Census form, we are launching the "Take 10" campaign. Through "Take 10," you can visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> to get updates on the proportion of households that have mailed back the 2010 Census forms. You also will be able to view differences between your community's participation rates and those of neighboring communities or other areas across the country.

The "Take 10" Challenge - Tools to Inspire the Mail Back Participation Rates for the 2010 Census

During the 2000 Census, 72 percent of occupied households mailed back their forms. In 2010, we are challenging communities to do even better. The Census Bureau's "Take 10" campaign gives you a wide range of tools to inspire your community to meet our challenge. These include:

- An interactive, map-based, "Take 10" Web site that allows local areas to track and compare their 2010 Census mail back participation rates, which will be updated on a daily basis at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/>, and to look up their 2000 Census participation rates.
- An [electronic toolkit](#) is available which includes talking points, sample speeches, new releases, newsletter copy, event suggestions, flyers, stickers, and doorknob hanger templates, and more.
- Suggestions on how to use friendly competition with other communities to inspire participation in the census.

You can play an important leadership role in encouraging your community to mail back their forms. Most 2010 Census questionnaires are delivered from March 15-17, 2010. >From the time the forms are delivered until the closing of the mail campaign at the end of April, you have the opportunity to remind your area residents of the importance of mailing back their census forms. We believe that you can encourage participation through speeches, special events, and challenges.

The stakes are high; an accurate count of the local population helps to ensure that your community receives its fair share of federal funding. This funding includes resources for services, such as health care, education, and roads.

Your constituents must complete and mail back their census forms between March 15, 2010 and April 15, 2010. The good news is that the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history-just 10 questions that only take about 10 minutes to complete. We hope we can count on you to encourage participation in the 2010 Census. Visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> now to see your area's 2000 Census mail participation rate and check the site daily for updates beginning March 22.

The 2010 Census: It's in our Hands.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves
Director
U.S. Census Bureau