

February 18, 2014

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014; at 5:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

Pattie Cooper-Jones

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

C. Robert Timmons, Jr.

Jerry R. Townsend

Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sharon Lee Carney, Director of Economic Development; and Jeffrey G. Reed, Executive Director of Virginia Growth Alliance.

Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order. Supervisor McKay offered the invocation.

In Re: Resolution: Affirmation of Declaration of Local Emergency

Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, stated that on February 12 at 3:00 p.m., he declared a State of Emergency due to the impending storm and then lifted it on February 15 at 3:30 p.m. The Board must now affirm those two actions. There was no damage.

Supervisor McKay made a motion to approve the Resolution of Affirmation of Declaration of Local Emergency; the motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay:	None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	Jim R. Wilck		

## RESOLUTION

### AFFIRMATION OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, at 3:00 p.m. on February 12, 2014 as a result of a major snow storm, W. W. Bartlett, County Administrator, as the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Prince Edward, found that the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, faced emergency conditions of peril to life and property which threatened and constituted a disaster, and made a Declaration of Local Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, at 3:30 p.m. on February 15, 2014, W.W. Bartlett, County Administrator, as the Director of Emergency Management of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, found that the conditions of peril to life and property had abated and therefore the Declaration of Local Emergency was rescinded; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia requires that such Declaration of Local Emergency be approved and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, as the governing body of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, that the Declaration of local Emergency, dated February 12, 2014, attached hereto and incorporated herein fully by reference, be, and the same hereby is approved and confirmed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, and affirmed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince Edward, Virginia, that the Declaration of Local Emergency was rescinded effective 3:30 p.m. on February 14, 2014.

#### In Re: Virginia Growth Alliance

Chairman Simpson introduced Jeffrey G. Reed, Executive Director of Virginia Growth Alliance.

Mr. Reed reviewed the objectives of the Virginia Growth Alliance (VGA) and the benefits to the County of becoming a member of the Alliance. He stated ten counties and the city of Emporia are members; Prince Edward County is currently in its six-month trial membership. Mr. Reed stated the VGA has taken on the former economic development duties of the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) and that it is a regional economic development organization that is responsible for marketing Southern Virginia and working with local economic development groups to bring new investment to the region. He then reviewed the history of the Commonwealth encouraging marketing an entire region as opposed to just one county. He added there are currently 15 projects ongoing, and the VGA expects to make their first announcement within the next few weeks. The VGA exists to market the region and develop prospect leads for the region.

Supervisor Wilck asked if the projects were mainly industrial and manufacturing. Mr. Reed stated industrial projects make up 75-80% of the projects. He added the four core targets include workforce development, tourism development, economic development, and community development. The primary focus

currently is the industrial development and economic development portion. He said that because of the unique attributes of Emporia, the primary target is commercial and retail development. Discussion followed regarding the characteristics of Prince Edward County and the region.

Supervisor Timmons questioned the necessary infrastructure for an industrial or manufacturing facility. Mr. Reed stated it varies dependent on the facility, adding that water, sewer, and fiber are vital, and rail transportation is important if the facility manufactures heavy duty equipment or a large amount of inventory. He added that workforce training is also important, and said that one drawback for the entire region is lack of natural gas availability. Discussion followed.

Mr. Reed stated the need for discussion regarding natural gas as a region is necessary. In addition to the critical access to water, sewer, fiber, rail, and access to a four-lane highway, the region needs sites that are “ready to go” and sites with shell buildings offer the “speed to market” prospects demand. Requests are being submitted for more pads and buildings consisting of 50,000-60,000 square feet, with 30-32 feet clear and the ability to double the square footage; there are four in the state of Virginia. The state is being cut from RFPs from prospects automatically just because there is no availability. More pads and more buildings will put the region in a much better position. Depending on what is needed to build that building and double it which would be 5-15 acre site pads.

Mrs. Carney stated Lot #10 can hold a 75,000’ building and pushes into Lot #11 which could hold a 150,000 square foot building. Lot #7B can hold a 50,000 square foot building; Lot #7A, 30,000 square foot ; and Lot #13, 100,000-200,000 square feet. She added there are no large vacant buildings left in the County and to enhance the park, we may want to consider moving forward on developing the access road to open up Lot 13.

Supervisor Timmons questioned the availability of housing. Mr. Reed stated that is a critical factor and currently Prince Edward County lacks local options for young professionals. Discussion followed.

Mr. Reed stated Prince Edward County’s strength is in marketing and it must be presented region-wide; prospective businesses do not typically factor in state and county lines. Discussion followed regarding industrial base and other targeted fields, including advanced manufacturing; logistics and warehousing; data center, back office and critical mission; retail; and wood products. Mr. Reed stated there are less than ten mega-sites in the U.S.; there is one in the region in Greenville County on I95. He added there are less than five certified data center sites in the region; there is a site nearby but data centers require two independent sources of power to serve the same site. Data centers also require a large capacity of water for cooling and can use a million gallons

of water per day; other requirements are to be a minimum of 1,000 feet from residential or commercial users and they do not wish to be visible from a four-lane highway. Discussion followed.

Mr. Reed stated the VEDP recognized VGA as a marketing group instead of the CRC for Prince Edward County.

Discussion followed on amendments to the VGA Bylaws. Mr. Reed stated 95-99% of the VGA information is digital to enable quick changes; policies and procedures are updated as the organization progresses. He added that VGA has no assets.

Discussion regarding the Virginia Growth Alliance web site followed and the professional identity and materials available to members were described. Mr. Reed said sites in Prince Edward County will be highlighted on the web site in a cohesive layout.

Chairman Simpson thanked Mr. Reed for attending and the information presented. Mr. Reed asked the Board to contact him with any questions they may have.

Supervisor Timmons wished to make a declaration that although the name is the same, he is no relation to anyone in the Timmons Group.

On motion of Supervisor Wilck and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay:	None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	C. Robert Timmons, Jr.		
	Jerry R. Townsend		
	Jim R. Wilck		

the meeting was recessed at 6:18 p.m. until Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Prince Edward County School Board at the Prince Edward County Career & Technical Center.