

March 10, 2010

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Wednesday the 10th day of March, 2010; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

William G. Fore, Jr.

Don C. Gantt, Jr.

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

Jim R. Wilck

Mattie P. Wiley

Absent: Robert M. Jones

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; George Carter, Treasurer, PE-FYA; Bruce Davis, Vice President, PE-FYA; Ryan Johns, PE-FYA Board; and Johnny Holman, PE-FYA Board.

Chairman Fore called the Special Called Meeting at 5:30 and said the meeting was scheduled to meet with representatives of the Prince Edward – Farmville Youth Association (PE-FYA) to discuss the purchase of the “Field of Dreams” property from STEPS, Inc.

Chairman Fore moved the meeting to the Third Floor Conference Room.

Chairman Fore said “We feel it’s necessary to look you in the eye and say to you that Prince Edward has considered, by vote last night, the purchase of the “Field of Dreams.” It is an exercise of the second – I’m lost for a word – not option – second right of refusal; the PEFYA being first, the County being second. We need to ensure that the “Field of Dreams” remains the “Field of Dreams.” There has been a lot of years and a lot of work that has gone into that field by your organization and the folks before you all, to make that thing what it is today. And it provides for our county children a top-notch recreational program. The Board of Supervisors does not want that program to stop. The Board of Supervisors wants PEFYA to continue to operate that program just exactly like they’re doing right now. We don’t have any idea of telling you how to run the program. All we want to do is own the field so that you will continually have a place for our kids. That’s all we want, and we want you to know that up front.

There's been a mention of the Y[MCA]; the Y[MCA] doesn't enter this equation whatsoever. We want the PEFYA to continue to operate like you've been doing. Now, that is – that's pretty much it in a nutshell. You guys know that you have the first option of buying the field. And you can do so; if you've got the money, you can do so.”

Supervisor Gantt said their option could be sold or split.

Chairman Fore said if the option is not exercised, the Board of Supervisors has voted to purchase the property. He then asked if there were any questions of the Board.

Mr. Bruce Davis, PE-FYA Vice-President, suggested a partnership between PE-FYA, the Town of Farmville, and Prince Edward County. He asked if the County can donate the land to PE-FYA to ensure the land would be used for recreational facilities. Chairman Fore stated he didn't believe so.

Supervisor Simpson said he had no problem with purchasing the property and giving full charge of the property to PE-FYA, and suggested that the property would be deeded to PE-FYA with a clause that it would revert to the County if its use is discontinued.

Mr. Ryan Johns, member of the PE-FYA Board, expressed concern that the capital expenditures would never actually belong to PE-FYA.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Gantt asked if the funds could be borrowed. Mr. Bartlett said it would be a cash transaction.

Supervisor Wiley stated she has been a long-time supporter of the PE-FYA organization and strongly supports the purchase of the property by the County to ensure the recreation program continues as it has been.

Supervisor Gantt said PE-FYA is looking for the reassurance that they retain the money they've invested in the property regardless of who owns the property.

Mr. Davis said he felt PE-FYA is stuck in the middle of two political seats; PE-FYA wishes to retain support from both the Town and the County.

Supervisor Campbell said that in discussion with Dr. Gordon the Town will continue to support PE-FYA. Supervisor Campbell said the programs need to continue to be run as they are for the children today and the children in the future.

Supervisor Wiley said she supports funding for PE-FYA.

Supervisor Simpson asked if anyone else has offered to deed the land to PE-FYA with the clause that it revert to the purchaser in the event PE-FYA discontinues use of the property.

Mr. Carter said the PE-FYA Board of Trustees has five members; the Board of Directors consists of 11 members.

Mr. Davis suggested the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County share the cost 50/50 and deed it to the Association; it would be a “win-win for the community.”

Supervisor Wilck left the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Wiley asked PE-FYA’s feelings about the County purchasing the property. Mr. Davis said they would need reassurance that the County and the Town would continue to support the association and that the Association will be permitted to continue with the programs.

Chairman Fore stated that the Board of Supervisors is offering that assurance, with the exception of the Town, as the Board cannot speak for the Town.

Supervisor Wiley then asked if PE-FYA intends to pass the option to purchase to the Town. Mr. Davis said the PE-FYA Board has not yet met.

Discussion followed on the deadline for the decision.

Mr. Davis said that all three should “go into it together” in the best interest of the children.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Johns said PE-FYA is concerned about losing support from either entity.

Chairman Fore said the Board voted to purchase the property, and the Board intends for PE-FYA to continue the programs as they are currently, now and in the future.

Mr. Davis said it was their job to go to the Town and ask if PE-FYA still has their support

Mr. Carter asked if the County could regroup with the Town as it is the “Prince Edward – Farmville Youth Association.”

Chairman Fore said that if Prince Edward County purchases the “Field of Dreams”, it will be deeded to the PE-FYA organization.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion that when Prince Edward County purchases the “Field of Dreams” it will be deeded to PE-FYA so that the property belongs to the Association for as long as they wish to hold ownership, and that at the conclusion of that ownership, it will revert back to the County of Prince Edward to protect the interest of the taxpayers of the County.

Supervisor Gantt made a substitute motion that when Prince Edward County purchases the “Field of Dreams” it will be deeded to PE-FYA so the property belongs to the Association for as long as they wish to hold ownership, and at the conclusion of that ownership, it will revert back to the County of Prince Edward and the Town of Farmville with each holding a 50% interest. The motion failed:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell Don C. Gantt, Jr. Charles W. McKay	Nay:	William G. Fore, Jr Howard F. Simpson Mattie P. Wiley
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Chairman Fore restated Supervisor Simpson’s main motion, that if Prince Edward County purchases the “Field of Dreams” it will be deeded to PE-FYA so the property belongs to the Association for as long as they wish to hold ownership, and at the conclusion of that ownership, it will revert back to the County of Prince Edward; the motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt, Jr. Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Mattie P. Wiley	Nay:	None
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On motion of Supervisor Campbell and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt, Jr. Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck Mattie P. Wiley	Nay:	None
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the meeting was recessed at 6:37 p.m. until Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 12:00 noon.