

October 23, 2012

At a joint meeting of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and Farmville Town Council held on Tuesday, the 23rd day of October, 2012, at 12:30 p.m., at Settle Hall, Hampden-Sydney College, there were present:

Board of Supervisors

William G. Fore, Jr. Chairman
Howard F. Simpson, Vice-Chairman
Howard M. Campbell
Don C. Gantt, Jr.
Charles M. McKay
Jim R. Wilck

Town Council

Sydnor C. Newman, Mayor
Dr. Edward I. Gordon
A. D. "Chuckie" Reid
Donald Hunter
David E. Whitus
J. J. Jamie Davis
Sally B. Thompson
Thomas B. Pairet

Absent: Pattie Cooper-Jones, Robert M. Jones

Also present: Susan F. Lascolette, Representative for Senator Tom Garrett; Delegate James Edmunds; Paul Hoffman, Representative for Congressman Robert Hurt; Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Puckett, Assistant Administrator; Gerald J. Spates, Town Manager; Lisa Hricko, Town Clerk; Marge Connelly, President of Longwood University; Glenn Culley, Vice-President for Business Affairs and Finance; Dr. Dale Jones, Vice-President for Strategy, Administration and Board Affairs; Dr. David Smith, Division Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools; Russell Dove, School Board Chairman; Bill Bass, Chief Operating Officer, Centra Southside Community Hospital; and Will Rogers, Executive Director of Crossroads Community Services Board.

Chairman Fore welcomed those present and Supervisor McKay offered thanks over the meal.

In Re: 2013 Legislative Priorities

Following lunch, Chairman Fore called the Board of Supervisors to order as a recessed meeting for the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Newman called the Council to order. Chairman Fore stated the meeting was for presentation of the 2013 Legislative Priorities.

Chairman Fore introduced Marge Connelly, President of Longwood University.

Ms. Connelly stated the needs for Longwood University include a student-oriented research facility and a new and/or improved admissions office.

Chairman Fore introduced Glenn Culley, Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance, and Dr. Dale Jones, Vice-President for Strategy, Administration and Board Affairs with Hampden-Sydney College.

Dr. Jones stated Hampden-Sydney is concerned about the Federal Pell Grant Program. Since 1984, there has been an 83% increase in students receiving Pell Grants, which is a 210% increase in the total Pell Grant dollars awarded to Hampden-Sydney students. He added that 209 students (19% of students) would not be able to attend Hampden-Sydney without the grant to support their education. He requested support in the appropriation of additional funding for Pell Grants.

Dr. Jones also requested support for the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grants; 739 grants have been awarded for this academic year for a total of \$2,039,000. He strongly urged Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly to restore the undergraduate award amount to \$3,200 per individual.

Chairman Fore introduced Dr. David Smith, the Division Superintendent of the Prince Edward County Public Schools.

Dr. Smith reviewed the priorities of the School Board. He said the single most important factor in achieving high levels in student achievement is consistently high levels of instruction from the teaching staff. To that end, the School Board is interested in seeing the probationary contract term for new teachers extended from three years to five years. The School Board also recommends the extension of the probationary period from one year to two years for teachers who transfer from another school division. He said the School Board believes that the academic year should be the decision of the School Board and not the tourism industry and asks for the repeal of Section 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia* that mandates schools to open after Labor Day. The School Board also asks for legislative assistance in fully funding the Virginia Retirement System. Finally, the School Board asks for legislative assistance in lessening the ever-growing financial strain due to funding reductions.

Chairman Fore introduced Bill Bass, Chief Operating Officer of Centra Southside Community Hospital.

Mr. Bill Bass stated one of the main issues at the state level is indigent care; currently, Centra gives 5.5% (\$8.6 million) to indigent care. The other issue of concern is Medicaid and if the state is going to participate in the expanding health care programs that will come in 2014, by making it easier for people to get the assistance necessary.

Chairman Fore introduced Mr. Will Rogers, Executive Director of Crossroads Community Services Board.

Mr. Rogers requested legislative assistance obtaining more Medicaid waiver slots for persons with intellectual disabilities, along with an increase in the Medicaid rates. He added increased funding is necessary, whether it be through Medicaid expansion or other avenues, to provide outpatient services.

Chairman Fore introduced Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager.

Mr. Spates introduced the members of Town Council in attendance; Mr. Spates requested a change in the Virginia County Code to allow use of an impoundment in a county as a water supply without obtaining permission of the host county or DEQ.

Chairman Fore then introduced the Board of Supervisors members and county staff in attendance; he asked Mr. Bartlett, County Administrator to present the 2013 Legislative Priorities for the County.

Mr. Bartlett said the Board of Supervisors urges the Virginia General Assembly to grant counties the same taxing authorities as cities. He stated the Board of Supervisors urges the General Assembly to give governing bodies that make appointments to local authorities, boards and commissions the authority to remove such appointees. The Board of Supervisors also requests the Virginia General Assembly require the Compensation Board to seek local governing body approval prior to authorizing personnel changes that affect localities financially. The Board of Supervisors also strongly urges the Virginia General Assembly to take back the costs of the Line of Duty Act. The Board of Supervisors requests the Virginia General Assembly require all legislative mandates with a cost associated with them must also have a sunset clause; in the event state funding is eliminated, the mandate would sunset and no longer be binding on localities. The Board of Supervisors requests that the Virginia General Assembly fully fund the State Compensation Board to a level as set out in Section 15.2-1609.1, Code of Virginia (one deputy per 1,500 population). The Board encourages the General Assembly to study the need for further modifications of continuing contracts for K-12 employees. Finally, the Board of Supervisors supports the Legislative Priorities of the Virginia Association of Counties.

Chairman Fore introduced Susan Lascolette, Representative for Senator Garrett.

Ms. Lascolette stated many items brought up are issues of concern to Senator Garrett. He will support the VTAG program. He is concerned that DEQ and DCR may merge into one unit. He is also concerned about the Medicaid issue and the Affordable Care Act; November 1 is the deadline for the state

to let the federal government know what it will do. Ms. Lascolette appreciates the unfunded mandates sunset clause as proposed by the Board of Supervisors.

Delegate James Edmunds stated he will work to restore the TAG grants and that Medicare is important and he will advocate to restore funding. He stated he will work to make the changes the schools requested and will try to change the Composite Index but that will be difficult. Delegate Edmunds added that he supports changing the “Kings Dominion Law” – the repeal of Section 22.1-79.1 of the *Code of Virginia* that mandates schools to open after Labor Day. He added he supports all of the issues raised by the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Fore asked for any questions or comments and thanked all for attending.

On motion of Supervisor Simpson and carried:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr. Howard M. Campbell Don C. Gantt, Jr. Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck	Nay: None
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Absent: Robert M. Jones, Pattie Cooper-Jones

the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.