

October 23, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of October, 2014; at 12:00 noon, there were present:

Board of Supervisors

Howard F. Simpson, Chairman
Pattie Cooper-Jones, Vice-Chairman
Calvin L. Gray
Charles M. McKay
Jerry R. Townsend

Town Council

David E. Whitus, Mayor
A. D. "Chuckie" Reid
Thomas M. Pairet
Dan E. Dwyer
Greg C. Cole
Sally B. Thompson

Absent: Robert M. Jones, C. Robert Timmons, Jr., and Jim R. Wilck.

Also present: Senator Tom Garrett; Sheila Bradley, Representative for Delegate James Edmunds; Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager; Lisa Hricko, Clerk of Council; Dr. David Smith, Division Superintendent of Prince Edward County Schools; Justin Pope, Chief of Staff, Longwood University; Bob Mitchell, former Mayor of Pamplin City; Tom Angelo, Chief Operating Office of Centra Southside Community Hospital.

In Re: 2014 Legislative Priorities

Following lunch, Chairman Simpson called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager, introduced the Town Council members and thanked the Board of Supervisors for arranging the luncheon. He then presented the Legislative Priorities from the Town Council: Do not eliminate the BPOL tax and ban the use of skateboards in travel lanes of public streets.

Dr. David Smith, Division Superintendent of Prince Edward County Public Schools, expressed his appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for organizing the event and to the elected representatives in attendance. He introduced the School Board members in attendance and presented the issues on behalf of the School Board.

Dr. Smith said the School Board's five issues are mirrored by the Virginia School Board Association and the Virginia Association of Superintendents:

- Repeal the statute that requires the opening of school after Labor Day.
- Fully fund and protect the funding for the Virginia Retirement System to maintain long-term viability and to provide confidence by school, local government and state employees that their diligence, contributions and sacrifices are matched by an equal level of commitment by the State of Virginia.

- Request that there be serious consideration and approval of supporting expedited Standards of Learning tests and retakes in Grades 3 through 8.
- Repeal the unfunded mandate or provide funding for development of the alternate assessment tests that are replacing SOLs in grades 5, 6, and 7.
- Request to increase the funding for Pre-K to ensure that all students in high poverty communities are included in Pre-K.

Tom Angelo, Chief Operating Office of Centra Southside Community Hospital, reviewed the legislative priorities. He stated the hospital is prepared for the risk of Ebola; the CDC is coming out with changes daily. He stated the best assistance from the Legislators is to provide the truth about Ebola – what it is, how dangerous it is. He stated it is transmitted by contact only, and stressed proper hand washing and equipment will keep it from progressing. He stated the hospital has a decontamination room in the emergency room which faces the outside of the building which can serve patients should the hospital be aware there is a case coming in ahead of time. Further information was provided on Ebola and plans for the hospital. [He] then briefly reviewed the Charity Care program at the hospital.

Justin Pope, Chief of Staff, Longwood University, reviewed the growth at Longwood University.

Bob Mitchell, former Mayor of Pamplin City, stated the High Bridge Trail is in operation in Farmville but it languishes east of Pamplin. Preparations for the Trail in Pamplin are complete, and with the rescinding of the restrictions as to what could be done with the right of way, the railroad can now proceed with the dedication of the land, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation can move forward with the completion of that last mile of Trail.

Glenn Culley, Jr., Hampden-Sydney College, presented a brief history, programs, enrollment and retention at the college. He reviewed a few projects and renovations upcoming at Hampden-Sydney. He thanked the Legislators for the TAG program.

Chairman Simpson thanked the staff that prepared the meal, and thanked all in attendance. He then introduced the Board of Supervisors. He thanked the Board members on the Legislative Committee for their hard work, and Sarah Elam Puckett for organizing the entire event.

Wade Bartlett, Prince Edward County Administrator, presented the Board of Supervisors Legislative Priorities for 2015:

County of Prince Edward, Virginia
2015 Legislative Priorities

1. **Animal Control** – The Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County urges the Virginia General Assembly to establish or require the establishment of model regulations for the construction, maintenance and operation of publicly-owned animal pounds.
2. **Voting Machines** – The Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County opposes any efforts by the Virginia General Assembly to eliminate the use of direct record electronically (DRE) voting machines.
3. **Appointments** – The Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County urges the Virginia General Assembly to give local governing bodies the authority to remove appointees from those local authorities, boards or commissions, if originally appointed by that governing body.
4. **Enterprise Zone** – The County of Prince Edward opposes any legislation that proposes amendments to the State Enterprise Zone Program that would disenfranchise rural Virginia from being a competitive applicant for a state enterprise zone; specifically, the County opposes legislation that would base the distress factors on the area of the proposed zone, rather than in the entire locality.
5. The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors also supports the Legislative Priorities of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo).

Mr. Bartlett then asked Senator Garrett to share his perspective, and Sheila Bradley, representative for Delegate Edmunds on how we might achieve the legislative goals for this community.

Senator Garrett stated many people have spoken with him regarding revenue generation; he stated he believed that revenue generation at the State level is not the problem and gave a review of the biennium budget. He stated the last one checked in right around \$84-85 billion. The most recent biennium budget was closer to \$96 billion, giving an increase of approximately 13% over the last two years. Local revenues and income have not gone up 13%; prioritization becomes the problem. We have the fourth consecutive governor to anticipate there being a revenue shortfall from their first full year in office. Senator Garrett stated he is unsure what will materialize with this; two of the last three shortfalls turned out to be surpluses. There is an absolute undeniable reality that the realignment, restructuring, and reduction of the military will disproportionately impact Virginia, because of Hampden Roads, Northern Virginia and Fort Lee. Perhaps, we've overestimated that impact; we are seeing a lot of centralization and some growth is occurring. There are two ways to increase revenue shortfall: one is to increase revenue and two, is to decrease spending. He stated what was not done at the state level or the federal level was the

prioritization of appropriate core functions of government which vary from level to level. Education is a core central function of the local government. The revenue is sufficient if the prioritization is appropriate.

Senator Garrett stated Medicaid expands itself. In Virginia over the last 22 years, it's gone from 6% of General Revenue expenditures to 22%. It's grown faster than any single spending obligation. This is an unfunded mandate from the Federal government to the State that has grown from 6% to 22% in two decades. One year ago, there was over a billion dollars of Medicaid fraud collected by the Office of the Attorney General; 1.3% of the entire state budget collected just in fraud receipts. The question was posed regarding what is being done to increase the size of the Medicaid Fraud Control unit to stamp out fraud abuse. Currently there is no criminal offense for Medicaid fraud in Virginia, therefore everything that we prosecute from the Attorney General's office has to be dealt through the Attorney General's office, as the Commonwealth Attorney's office does not prosecute Federal law, and it must be done at the U.S. Federal Court. Creating criminal offenses at the state level would allow multiple localities to pursue these sorts of charges, presumably reducing the costs of chasing down the people that are driving up the costs. Further discussion of unfunded mandates followed.

The Senator then discussed the issues with the stormwater program, dam safety regulations, and issues at the schools. He reviewed a few points that were raised from the participants during the meeting. Senator Garrett addressed the recommendation from the Board of Supervisors regarding the Animal Control shelters; he stated the General Assembly could adopt regulations that are appropriate for large counties but they could hurt smaller areas, but the localities need a straight answer. He acknowledged and agreed with the Board's opposition to legislation regarding the Enterprise Zone amendments as set forth in the Legislative Priorities. He discussed Economic Development issues and gave examples of tourism and marketing opportunities in the County; he spoke about mental health issues and reform.

Senator Garrett stated he would like to see the designation of regional universities in Virginia, adding that with the exception of California, Virginia has the best state university system in the nation. He said Virginia has wonderful state and local institutions. He also wishes to address tying each locality in Virginia to a regional university and create a system where any student that attends public school achieving a certain academic level can attend that university for free.

Sheila Bradley, Legislative Assistant, brought Delegate Edmunds' sincere apology for not being able to attend in spite of the great accommodation made for him. She stated the four main issues that Delegate Edmunds

sees as dominating the House of Delegates this year are Medicare Expansion, the Budget, Ethics Reform and Mental Health Issues. She encouraged each attendee to send to the Legislative Offices the Legislative Priorities by email. She also encouraged all to contact the office at any time.

The Prince Edward County School Board recessed their meeting until their work session on October 30, 2014.

Eldon Burton from Senator Warner's office thanked the Board and stated that if there are issues, please contact the office.

Chris Collins with Senator Kaine's office stated he is in the Danville office and to contact him with any questions you or any citizen may have.

On motion of Supervisor McKay, seconded by Supervisor Gray, and adopted by the following vote:

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

the meeting was recessed at 1:45 p.m. until Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Prince Edward County School Board.