

September 7, 2006

At a joint meeting of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and Farmville Town Council held on Thursday, the 7th day of September, 2006, 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
Pattie Cooper-Jones
Robert M. Jones
Charles M. McKay
James C. Moore
Lacy B. Ward

Town Council

Sydnor C. Newman, Mayor
Dr. Edward I. Gordon
Harlan L. Horton
Anne H. Nase
Otto S. Overton
A. D. "Chuckie" Reid
David E. Whitus

Also present: Mildred B. Hampton, County Administrator; Sarah Puckett, Assistant Administrator; Sharon Carney, Prince Edward County Director of Economic Development and Tourism; and Cindy Morris, Town Planner.

Absent: Supervisor Sally W. Gilfillan, Councilman Donald L. Hunter; and Town Manager, Gerald J. Spates.

Chairman Fore welcomed those present and asked Supervisor James C. Moore to offered thanks over the meal.

Following lunch, Chairman Fore called the Board of Supervisors to order at 1:08 p.m., and Mayor Newman called the Council to order. This being the first of what is proposed to be ongoing quarterly meetings, Mr. Fore thanked the staff of both bodies for their efforts in making the joint meeting possible, and expressed appreciation for what he felt was the beginning of a very positive working relationship between the County and Town of Farmville. He stated that by working together the governing bodies could solve issues of joint concern with less effort, non-duplicating resources, and at a lower cost to the taxpayers.

In Re: County-Town Public Library

County Administrator, Mildred B. Hampton, briefed the group on the County-Town Library. She reported that she had received several calls from members of the Library Board concerning the library's

future, and through those calls learned that the Town had indicated a willingness to provide a site for a new building.

Mrs. Hampton advised that the Board of Supervisors had approved sharing in the cost of a new facility on a per capita basis, with the Town paying one-third and the County paying the other two-thirds. She also reported that in an informal conversation with the Town Manager, Mr. Spates had indicated that subject to approval by Town Council, the Town would serve as fiscal agent during the construction period.

Mrs. Hampton also advised that the Library Board had indicated a desire to turn over its day-to-day operation to either the Town or County and was asking how to proceed. She indicated that the County had received a letter from the Library of Virginia (copy included in the September 12, 2006 Board packet) outlining the process to change from a not-for-profit organization to a public library. The County Attorney will be asked to review the letter and advised the Supervisors on the process.

Mrs. Hampton indicated: 1) a decision will have to be made regarding the disposition of the existing library building, 2) research will need to be done on the availability of grants and/or endowments, 3) an RFQ will be needed for architectural services, and 4) a long-range plan will have to be developed for operation and maintenance of the facility.

Councilman Horton asked who would be involved in developing the long-range plan. Chairman Fore advised that he and Mayor Newman had discussed having the Library Committees from both the Town and County meet with the Library Board to develop a written implementation plan and projected budget. This information will be presented to the two governing bodies for consideration and action.

In Re: Public Safety – Mutual Aid Agreement and Communications

Chairman Fore advised that this item had been included on the agenda because of the lack of ability for the Sheriff's Department to monitor and communicate directly with the Police Department.

Dr. Gordon, Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Commission, confirmed that the Farmville Police Department was using a frequency that does not allow general communication between the Sheriff's Department and Farmville police officers on a car to car basis. It does allow communication through the dispatcher.

He indicated the LEPC shared concern about the lack of communication, particularly in an emergency situation, and was looking into a mesh network using wireless Internet. The network would provide the ability to have PC's in police cars and could be used as a phone system in the event lines were down. It would also provide joint communication between law enforcement officers and emergency response teams.

Supervisor Moore questioned the rationale used in placing the Sheriff's Department and Farmville Police Department on separate frequencies. Dr. Gordon advised that there had been problems with "walk-over traffic" and inappropriate use of the dispatch system. The LEPC plans to address the situation by teaching 911 protocol.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the County Administrator, Town Manager, Sheriff, Chief of Police, Dr. Gordon; and Mr. Jonathan Pickett, the County's representative on the LEPC, will meet to discuss and try to come up with a solution to the problem.

In Re: Tourism Strategy/Visitor Center/High Bridge Trail State Park

Ms. Sharon Carney, Prince Edward County Director of Economic Development and Tourism, advised that Virginia had identified jobs associated with tourism as the third largest employer in the State. She indicated that by working together to promote tourism, the Town and County could introduce a new, clean, and non-intrusive industry.

She felt that when the Virginia's Heartland Regional Visitor's Center opened in 2005, it laid the foundation for the establishment of tourism as a major economic factor. Ms. Carney reported that since January 2006 when the Center became fully operational, there have been over 250 visitors from 23 different states and two foreign countries. The Center's objective is to be open seven days per week and to achieve State Visitor Center Status.

Ms. Carney also advised that with the forthcoming development of the High Bridge Trail State Park there would be a great opportunity for the promotion of cottage style, mom-and-pop related businesses. She stressed that through coordinated marketing efforts, the Town and County could attract visitors who would stay longer, spend more money, and perhaps relocate to the community.

Ms. Carney also called attention to the fact that the Town and County were strategically located in the center of numerous tourist attractions and already had a mass of hospitality necessities needed to provide good visitor experiences. She felt that tourism was a huge, untapped resource waiting to be discovered and marketed.

During discussion, Mrs. Morris pointed out that over the years the area's manufacturing jobs have moved overseas. She felt that by promoting the Town and County's recreational activities, history and points of interest, new service oriented jobs could be provided for the community.

Ms. Carney and Mrs. Morris were asked to draft a Community Tourism Strategy for consideration by both governing bodies.

In Re: Sandy River Reservoir & Regional Water Supply Plan

Mrs. Sarah Puckett announced that the Department of Environment Quality had indicated the County's water withdrawal permit for the Sandy River Reservoir had been approved, and that Draper Aden and Timmons were continuing to work on the overall preliminary engineering scope of work for the development of the Sandy River as a municipal water supply.

She also advised that in 2003 the General Assembly passed legislation mandating that each locality in Virginia develop a local or regional water supply plan and submit it to the State Water Control Board for approval. This involves not only future planning for municipal water supplies, but also ground water.

The State staggered the submission deadlines for localities based on population. If the County submits an individual plan, it will be due in November of 2009. If the County and Town partner together, a regional plan will be due in November of 2011. Mrs. Puckett advised that should the two governing bodies elect to submit a regional plan, the process of applying for grant funding (up to \$50,000 in the spring of 2007) could be developed using a phased approach.

Mr. Ward asked if the work currently being done by the engineers entailed the establishment of lines. Mrs. Puckett advised that it did not include any construction work, but would provide a design for the best location of the lines, the cost of the facilities needed to make the reservoir an actual water supply

for the Town of Farmville, and the preliminary engineering needed for submitting grant applications to funding agencies.

Dr. Gordon asked if there had been any prior discussion regarding working together on this matter. Mrs. Puckett indicated there had been no discussion concerning filing a joint Water Supply Plan that would meet the State's requirements. It was suggested that committees from the County and Town meet and work toward making a recommendation on a regional plan.

In Re: Time of Joint Meetings & Opportunity for Public Participation

Chairman Fore asked Board and Council members if they wished to continue holding joint meetings, and if so, whether a time should be included on the agenda for public participation.

It was agreed that quarterly meetings would be held with the County and Town hosting the meetings on a rotating basis, and that public participation would be allowed.

In Re: Other Issues

YMCA - Supervisor Ward asked concerning the Town's involvement in the YMCA's quest for a new facility.

Mayor Newman advised that the Town was interested in the project, but reminded the Board that Farmville had its own recreation program. Mr. Horton added that the YMCA had not approached the Town for a specific request as they had done the County.

Town of Farmville Skateboard Park – Mayor Newman reported that McDonald's had collected over \$6,000 during the previous evening's fundraiser. The money will be donated toward the construction of a skateboard park at Wilck's Lake.

Agenda Items For Next Joint Meeting – Mayor Newman suggested two agenda items for the next joint meeting. The first was the parking situation in downtown Farmville. The second, a request that Longwood University construct a pedestrian walkway over Main Street to the new apartment complex. During discussion, it was brought out that this was a safety issue that needed to be addressed immediately. It was decided that the County Administrator and Town Manager should meet with the University's

President regarding this matter, as well as parking for students living in the new facility, at the earliest possible date.

Date of Next Joint Meeting – It was decided that the next joint meeting of the two governing bodies would be held during the month of January 2007. The Town will be responsible for scheduling and hosting the meeting.

Comments - Supervisor Simpson commented that the items discussed during the meeting were important issues that needed to be followed through.

On motion of Mr. Moore and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	William G. Fore, Jr.	Nay:	None
	Pattie Cooper-Jones		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	James C. Moore		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	Lacy B. Ward		

the meeting was recessed at 2:10 p.m., and will reconvene September 11, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., for a joint public hearing with the Prince Edward County Planning Commission on proposed changes to the County's Zoning Ordinance.