

September 21, 2011

At the reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Hampden-Sydney College, thereof, on Wednesday, the 21st day of September, 2011; at 12:00 noon, 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: The Honorable James E. Edmunds, II, Virginia House of Delegates
Bert F. Dodson, Jr., Demographic Candidate for 22nd Virginia Senate District
Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., Republican Candidate for 22nd Virginia Senate District
Paul D. Hoffman, Office of Congressman Robert Hurt

Farmville Town Council:

Sydnor C. Newman, Jr., Mayor
A.D. "Chuckie" Reid, Vice Mayor
Edward I. Gordon, M.D.
Donald L. Hunter
Thomas M. Pairet
David E. Whitus
Gerald J. Spates, Town Manager
Lisa M. Hricko, Clerk of Council

Longwood University

Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, President
Brenda L. Atkins, Executive Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs & Special Projects

Prince Edward County School Board

Russell L. Dove, Chairman
Harriett Fentress
Osa Sue Dowdy
Darin Edward Thomas
Ellery Sedgwick
K. David Smith, Ed.D., Division Superintendent

Wade Bartlett, County Administrator
Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator

Chairman Fore called the reconvened meeting to order, for the purpose of holding a Community Legislative Meeting. Supervisor McKay gave the invocation.

After a brief break for lunch, Chairman Fore made introductions of those in attendance.

In Re: Presentation of Legislative Priorities

Mr. Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager, presented the following Legislative Priorities:

- The Town of Farmville opposes the repeal or restriction of BPOL, machinery and tools, or excise taxes unless, at a minimum, suitable revenue neutral replacement sources are provided.
- The state and federal government should make payments-in-lieu-of-taxes for tax exempt properties in amounts equal to the cost of the local services provided.
- Counties should be granted taxing powers equal to those granted cities and towns.
- State-imposed changes to the real estate tax must be “local option.”
- The Town opposes the tax exempt status of the Longwood University Real Estate Foundation.

Dr. K. David Smith, Division Superintendent, presented the following Legislative Priorities:

- Public education must have relief from the extreme number of regulations and restrictions that create a continuing fiscal burden on the localities because they are not funded by the State and Federal government, in most cases.
- Support is needed to provide bond funding that will allow localities to finance, in the most affordable way, the renovation and major repair projects that allow our schools and other public buildings to remain viable far into the future. This approach is more cost-effective than allowing facilities to decline into a state of disrepair, thus increasing the costs to taxpayers for unnecessary replacement of buildings.
- The Virginia Board of Education has moved expeditiously to implement the use of a teacher performance growth model to direct the decisions on teacher compensation and retention at the local level, creating an urgent need to align the statutory date (April 15) by which teachers must be notified of changes to their employment status for the coming year. As the Growth Model is implemented with the expectation that this information drives employment decisions, and with the SOL test results being unavailable until early June of each year, the realignment of the April 15 date with these factors will allow administrators and School Boards the flexibility to make timely, effective employment decisions concerning teachers.

- With the Growth Model implementation, the need exists for extending the awarding of continuing contract status for teachers beyond three years. An additional year, resulting in a four year probationary status instead of three years, will enable administrators and School Boards to make more informed decisions about teacher retention.

Mr. Wade Bartlett, Prince Edward County Administrator, presented the 2012 Legislative Priorities:

- State Tax Reform
- County Food and Beverage Tax
- Devolution of State Secondary Road System
- Judicial Appointments and Funding
- Funding for Law Enforcement
- Insurance Exemptions

Brig. Gen. Patrick Finnegan, President, Longwood University, presented the following Legislative Priorities:

- Six year institutional plan due annually to the state, address institutional and academic needs
- Encourage government to refund \$10 million budget reduction for higher education

The Honorable James E. Edmunds, II, spoke on the Community Legislative Priorities:

- He stated he will introduce a Bill to allow localities by referendum to approve a 10% Local Option to the sales tax for K-12 education
- Charge a service fee for public lands (parks, etc.)
- Agree that many mandates on schools can be relaxed
- Agreed with raising the time from three to four years before teachers are awarded continuing contract status
- Composite index – Northern Virginia and Virginia Beach can out-vote the rest of the state
- Agreed that the implementation of a Meals Tax should be a local option
- Devolution – Agreed there is no way my counties can afford to fund their road system

- Judicial appointment – Governor could make an appointment but the General Assembly has not adjourned.
- Law enforcement funding – supports full funding
- Will put a bill in to address the insurance exemption issue

Thomas Garrett, Jr., Republican Candidate for 22nd Virginia Senate District, stated local government is either the direct victims or beneficiaries of government action from the General Assembly. He discussed issues relating to the schools, including the Teacher Performance Growth Model and the Composite Index Formula and stated it costs more to educate children in rural localities due to the transportation costs. Mr. Garrett said three essential functions of state and local government are public safety, public education, and public transportation and infrastructure. He added higher education must be a priority.

Bert Dodson, Jr., Democratic Candidate for 22nd Virginia Senate District, stated unfunded mandates are crippling local governments. He stressed the importance of education and the necessity with the current global competition. He said localities should be able to make their own decisions regarding local option taxes, law enforcement must be funded, and expressed his stance on various issues.

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

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck Mattie P. Wiley	Nay: None
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the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.