

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 22nd day of February, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Larry LeMond, Chairman

Richard L. Hubbard, Vice Chairman

Oliver H. Bennett

Laurence J. Trala

Granville F. Hogg, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

The Chairman noted that the purpose of the meeting was a review of the Board's Five-Year Strategic Plan and to receive a status report on the achievement of the goals and objectives as therein provided. The County Administrator presented the following Status Report as of January 2014:

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2012 – 2016

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on _____.

STATUS REPORT AS OF JANUARY 2014

VISION and MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northampton County Government is to provide the necessary services to protect the health, safety, welfare, environment and quality of life of our citizens consistent with the communities' values and priorities. This mission is accomplished by encouraging citizen involvement, by preserving the County's fiscal stability, traditional values and unity of our people through the implementation of effective and efficient government programs; consensus building; managing the County's natural, cultural, and historic resources; planning for the future; and representing citizen needs and desires to other levels of government.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- I. EDUCATION – Facilitate the development of a quality educational environment that provides for high-quality educational and job readiness skills all County residents
- II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Create an environment where businesses are welcome and services are available to help them be prosperous.
- III. INFRASTRUCTURE – Develop an infrastructure system that improves our quality of life.
- IV. HEALTH CARE – Provide and support adequate health care facilities, services and coverage for all citizens of the County, to the extent possible.

GOAL #1 - EDUCATION

Facilitate the development of a quality educational environment that provides for high-quality educational and job readiness skills for all County residents

OBJECTIVE #1: Develop mutually agreeable goals with the School Board by June 30, 2014.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Support prevention and early intervention programs for children and youth most at risk.B. Implement universal pre-K program.C. Increase graduation rates across demographic categories.D. Obtain accreditation for each school within the School District.E. Secure agreements between the School Board and the County to share costs and responsibilities where practical and when county cost savings can be realized. The range of programs and services amenable to possible collaboration include the purchase of supplies and equipment, vehicle procurement & maintenance, maintenance of physical plant and building grounds, financial management, personnel systems, insurance, audit services, and information technology services.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A.B. Funding included in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget to provide universal pre-K program.C. In progress.D. In progress.E.
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OBJECTIVE #2: Develop a funding strategy for mutually-agreeable school capital improvement plan by June 30, 2013.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Work with School Board in developing a feasibility study regarding the high school facility, including options for middle school location.B. Develop a comprehensive cost estimate through the feasibility study for the high school and update the existing capital plan for the two elementary schools.C. Utilize services of the county’s financial advisor to provide funding options and timelines to achieve implementation of the school capital improvement plan.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. School Board has hired Dills Architects who conducted a feasibility study; a presentation was made on January 30, 2013 that outlined 2 primary options: a renovation of the existing High School Structure with an addition or a new high school. Both options factored a design that accommodated the Middle School to remain as part of the High School property.B. Cost estimates ranged from \$29.8 million to \$34.6 million for the renovation/addition proposal and \$33 million for a new high school. Cost estimates do not include sewage/water infrastructure improvements nor any demolition costs of existing structure(s). These costs do not include any capital improvements for the elementary schools or the school administration building. These are detailed in a separate Capital Improvement Plan and currently funded through “surplus” operating school funds.
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OBJECTIVE #3: Continue funding at or above current per-student levels on an annual basis.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Maintain funding at or above current per-student levels, using the Fiscal Year 2013 budget as base.B. Examine the impact of the Composite Index re-calculation in spring 2014 for impact on Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 budgets.C. Develop a memorandum of understanding with the School Board that stipulates the county’s financial commitment to public education, on a fiscal year basis, that the School Board can rely upon when developing the school budget.
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GOAL #2 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Create an environment where businesses are welcome and services are available to help them be prosperous.

OBJECTIVE #1: Review and revise the zoning ordinance to promote business development by June 30, 2013.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Complete the Comprehensive Plan Update. B. Review the zoning ordinance for consistency and compliance with the updated Comprehensive Plan.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Planning Commission is in progress of Comp Plan review – draft plan now anticipated in summer/fall 2014. B. In January 2014, staff completed a proposed revision to the County’s Zoning Ordinance based upon consistency and compliance with the current Comprehensive Plan which has been moved out for Joint Public Hearing. Said hearing is scheduled for March 11, 2014.
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OBJECTIVE #2: Develop an Industrial Park by June 30, 2017

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop list of available properties that meet the criteria developed by the Board of Supervisors for an industrial park. B. Evaluate and refine the list by ranking properties that are most suitable for development into an industrial park. C. Engage discussions with landowners for acquisition of property. D. Seek and apply for federal and state funds to develop property for industrial park purposes.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. List of potential properties has been compiled. Economic Development Director has reviewed the attributes of potential sites; all proposed sites absent adequate sewer service. Recommend focus on development of existing zoned parcels’ infrastructure. Existing industrial park is still vacant with some prospective activity by logistics and marine operations.
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DONE

OBJECTIVE #3: Hire an Economic Development Director by December 31, 2012

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Include funding in the Fiscal Year 2013 for an Economic Development Director and an operating budget to support said position. B. Conduct personnel search for qualified candidates for Economic Development Director. C. Select and engage an individual to serve in the position of Economic Development Director.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Funding for Economic Development Director included in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. B. Springsted, Inc. engaged to conduct national search for candidates. Interviews of top candidates held in December 2012. C. Offer was extended and accepted by Charles McSwain for position of Director of Economic Development. Start date of January 14, 2013.
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OBJECTIVE #4: Develop Business Incentives that can be provided by the County to stimulate business recruitment, selection, location and development by June 30, 2013.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop and propose a Technology Zone for the County which would identify qualifying properties and provide incentives for the location of technology specific businesses within that zone. B. Develop and propose a Tourism Zone for the County would identify qualifying properties and provide incentives for the location of tourism specific businesses within that zone. C. Review and recommend additional incentives for the Enterprise Zone, relative to permit review and local taxation. D. Annually review the County’s tax structure and analyze its effectiveness and competitiveness with other similarly sized Virginia localities.
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STATUS REPORT	A.
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GOAL #3 – INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop an infrastructure system that improves our quality of life.

OBJECTIVE #1: Promote broadband availability for business and residential use by June 30, 2017.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Engage the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority in developing marketing materials that detail the location of high-speed broadband and the pricing of service. B. Partner with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in marketing the availability of broadband in the County. C. Work with local internet service providers in removing any barriers (zoning or otherwise) that may impede the offering of broadband to our businesses and residents.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. B. C. Zoning ordinance changes implement at request of local ISP provider in October 2012.
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OBJECTIVE #2: Provide water and sewer to Northern and Southern Nodes of the County in a financially responsible way by June 30, 2017.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Support the Public Service Authority with staffing assistance. B. Assist the Public Service Authority in seeking grant funding opportunities for water and sewer system development and construction. C. Examine feasibility of special tax districts to assist in the development of water and sewer infrastructure. D. Participate in outreach to the County residents, businesses and incorporated towns regarding the need, impact and cost of proposed water and sewer systems.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue to provide staff assistance to Public Service Authority. B. Ongoing. C. Presentation made in fall 2013 to Board of Supervisors regarding a Commercial District in the Cape Charles/Cheriton area and to consider the creation of a Special Tax District to fund the capital costs.
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GOAL #4 – HEALTH CARE

Provide and support adequate health care facilities, services and coverage for all citizens of the County, to the extent possible.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES & Key Strategies/Tasks

OBJECTIVE # 1: Ensure the County has a 24/7 Emergency care facility located in the County by June 30, 2017.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ascertain final plans from Riverside as to what remaining medical services and facilities will continue to be provided at the Nassawadox campus. B. Partner with Eastern Shore Health District and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District to determine what health services need to be solicited to adequately service Northampton County for emergency care.
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STATUS REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. On-going communications with Riverside to determine plans for remaining medical services and plans for remaining buildings and properties. B. Board of Supervisors formed an Ad-Hoc Emergency Care Committee to study the issue and outline options and develop recommendations. Report delivered at February 2014 Board meeting.
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OBJECTIVE #2: Strongly support EMS services by June 30, 2017.

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Review and implement the state Fire and EMS Study, commissioned in 2011, as it relates to EMS service. B. Complete feasibility study for renovation of former Middle School property as new location for the Northampton EMS Department. C. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the County-operated ambulance in relation to the volunteer ambulance coverage.
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(a) STATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Received feedback report from the Northampton Fire & Rescue Commission on this study. B. In progress.
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OBJECTIVE #3: Partner with Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital for a redevelopment plan for its present facilities by June 30, 2014.

STRATEGIES	<p>A. Engage the Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and Executive Management of Riverside in discussions to determine the scope of the medical services and facilities that will remain in Nassawadox.</p> <p>B. Work with the Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, the Executive Management of Riverside and the Nassawadox Town Council in identifying re-use possibilities for the property and any facilities that will not have a continued purpose for delivery of medical services.</p>
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STATUS REPORT	<p>A. On-going communications with Riverside to determine plans for remaining medical services and plans for remaining buildings and properties.</p>
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It was the consensus of the Board to reword Goal #1 and Goal #4. The County Administrator will draft revised language and present same to the Board for its approval. With regard to the goal of Education, it was the consensus of the Board to meet in joint session with the Northampton County School Board on Monday, March 3, 2014, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, for the School’s Board formal presentation of its FY 2015 Budget request as well as capital plan. The Chairman and Mr. Hubbard reported to the Board on preliminary discussions held with School Board Chairman Oakley relative to moving the school administration offices

into the former middle school building and establishing a middle school for 6-8 graders in what is now the school administration office at Machipongo. This topic will also be covered at the March 3rd joint meeting.

With regard to Goal #2, Economic Development, Mr. Hogg questioned how the Board can promote tourism. He suggested working with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in the hopes of establishing public access to beaches owned by DCR at the southern end of the county although it was pointed out that this practice is not in keeping with the Federal and State Governments' Southern Tip Strategy for the protection of wildlife.

Also in regards to Goal #2, the Chairman asked the Board members if the Southern Node (Public Service Authority project) was still a Board priority. Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Trala agreed. Mr. Bennett also replied in the affirmative but noted that everyone needs to remain aware of the Northern Node project as well. Mr. Hogg stated that the Hospital needs to take priority before the Southern Node. Chairman LeMond agreed that the Southern Node was a priority, indicating that this area remains the planned commercial area for the County and he would like to see options/costs from the PSA.

With regard to Goal #4, Chairman LeMond reported on a meeting he'd had with Susan McAndrews, Vice President of Riverside, noting that he had shared the Ad-Hoc Emergency Care Committee report with Ms. McAndrews and questioned how Riverside can help the County. The Chairman suggested a two-person Board committee to meet with the Riverside leadership in hopes of learning Riverside's plans for the Nassawadox campus; the status of the wastewater system; and the County's emergency medical services' needs. Mr. LeMond noted that "we need to start rebuilding the bridge" with Riverside. He additionally asked the Board members to begin thinking about the imposition of a special tax for emergency medical services purposes.

Mr. Hogg left the retreat at 11:15 a.m.

The County Administrator noted that we need to get more formal with the relationship between the County and the fire and EMS agencies. Currently, there are issues concerning, among other things, timely submission of required information and grant reporting, and she said that formal, written agreements containing performance standards, would help to insure a certain level of performance by these agencies. The County Administrator was tasked with drafting language to include this in the Board's Strategic Plan.

Lastly, the Chairman raised the topic of agricultural-forestal Districts and questioned maybe the County could look at something different. The County Administrator was asked to investigate.

Recess

Motion was made by Mr. Trala, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, that the meeting be recessed until 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2014 to conduct the regular work session. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Hogg and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was recessed.

_____CHAIRMAN

_____ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR