

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the Office of Northampton County Farm Bureau, 15527 Lankford Highway, Eastville, Virginia, on the 5th day of April, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Laurence J. Trala, Chairman

Willie C. Randall, Vice Chairman

Richard Tankard

H. Spencer Murray

Oliver H. Bennett

Absent:

Samuel J. Long, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

At the request of the Northampton County Farm Bureau, the Board met with that Board of Directors and other interested parties for discussions relative to several agricultural issues including Agricultural-Forestal Districts, Drainage, and Tax Rates. The Board heard a presentation from Ms. Lindsey Reames, a specialist with the Farm Bureau Federation – Government Relations Department, with regard to AFD and the impacts of agriculture in a community.

Mr. Randall indicated that there had been abuse in the past within the agricultural-forestal district (land use taxation) program and suggested a reassessment of same. Mr. Bill Shockley noted that 70-75% of the County's farmland is either leased or rented and that this is a large impact on the County's program. He suggested that concessions need to be made for those farmers who lease or rent their lands. Mr. Murray agreed that the year-to-year land use taxation

program did have abuse, noting that when the County provided a second window of opportunity for applications through the AFD program in 2009, some of those participants chose not to sign up, not wanting to agree to a ten-year commitment.

The next topic of discussion was drainage and many speakers indicated that excess regulations were part of the problem. Mr. Shockley indicated that the underlying structure remains in place to solve many of the drainage issues and suggested that grant and/or conservation funds be sought to address the matter. Mr. Murray said that the Board was willing to work on a drainage plan and Mr. Randall suggested that Mr. Shockley develop a committee to work on the problem.

There was a general discussion relative to tax rates in the County with comments heard from Mr. Granville F. Hogg, Jr., who indicated that if the Board was planning to implement a tax increase in the upcoming year, that it specifically designate the purpose of the tax increase and so inform the public.

In another matter, many speakers noted the significant large number of deer in the county and the crop damage which results. Suggestions such as a longer deer hunting season and larger limits were offered. It was stated that there is a one-month comment period offered each year pertaining to possible changes in hunting regulations and the Board may wish to offer official comments along these lines at the appropriate time.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Long and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN

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