

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the former circuit courtroom, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 20th day of April, 2010, at 5:00 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.

County Officials' Reports:

(A) Mr. Mark Cline, Building Official

The Board, Mr. Cline, and Katherine H. Nunez, County Administrator, discussed the County's Ordinance Governing Identification and Inspection of Rental Dwelling Units, adopted by the Board in December 2009. The County Administrator presented a flow chart detailing courses of action which may occur when implementation of the ordinance commences. Mr. Cline distributed a four-page summary of inspection points in the property maintenance code which he will be checking when the inspection program starts and spoke of his history with this type of ordinance in the City of Winchester. In his words, most of the inspection points were not imminently dangerous but some were.

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Randall expressed their concerns with the homelessness which may

result of implementation of the ordinance. Mr. Randall said that he believed the ordinance was targeting the poor communities and should be implemented county-wide.

Mr. Tankard responded that the ordinance was designed to target the worst areas of the county with the goal of making landlords more responsible. He continued by saying that there is a “safety net” in place through the ANPDC and its housing partners.

To address some of the Board’s concerns, Mr. Cline suggested only making exterior inspections during the program’s first year and/or limiting the number of active cases with the intent being to only proceed to the extent that the safety net can handle. Mr. Randall stated that he believed such modifications should be put in writing to avoid confusion.

Mr. Dave Fauber, a member of the Northampton County Planning Commission as well as the Town of Cape Charles’ Director of Public Works, was in the audience and noted that Cape Charles has a similar program but targets the health-and-safety areas rather than pure cosmetic items.

Motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Murray, that Mr. Fauber work with Mr. Cline (at Mr. Cline’s request), to develop a list of inspection points and bring same back to the Board for consideration prior to scheduling any public hearing for modification of the ordinance. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Long and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

(B) Joint Meeting with Planning Commission.

The Northampton County Planning Commission was present and in session.

The Planning Commission’s 2009 Annual Report was presented to the Board and was briefly explained by Ms. Sandra Benson, Director of Planning. The Board then reviewed a listing of proposed 2010 Work Tasks.

A general discussion relative to economic development was held. Mr. Randall said that he thought the “economic development pieces” need to be worked on to provide enticement for businesses to locate here. The County Administrator questioned whether this would be a function for the Board’s soon-to-be-appointed Economic Development Advisory Committee. It was the consensus of the Board that the Planning Commission could work in conjunction with the Committee. Mr. Meyers, a member of the Planning Commission, suggested the addition of the Chamber of Commerce. It was the consensus of the Board to add this task to the 2010 list.

It was also the consensus of the Board to delete the 2010 work task listed as follows, “discussion of potential historic district and appointment of a historic review board or re-constitution of architectural review board, as contemplated in the “Vision for Northampton County” articulated in the Comprehensive Plan, Part 1, Section 1.3, as this item does not appear on the Board of Supervisors’ Goals for 2010.

Mr. Randall and Mr. Murray urged the Planning Commission to be open to new ideas and that a multi-dimensional approach was needed, to-wit: development in town edge areas as well as along Route 13.

The Board also discussed possible work task additions to include:

- (1) review of Route 13 corridor zoning;
- (2) review of all commercial, existing business, and existing industrial zones.

Mr. Tankard suggested references in future comprehensive plans to commercial offerings located within the incorporated towns. He also suggested a new highway zone called “TS” for travel services.

(C) Award of Contracts

Ms. Nunez informed the Board that as a result of the RFQ issued for procurement of

engineering, grant administration, and community facilitation services to fulfill the requirements of the two planning grants recently awarded, six responses were received, review and ranked by the PSA Exploratory Committee.

Mr. Tankard said that he would be voting against the recommendation because adequate need has not been demonstrated. He stated his desire that specific areas of need should have been targeted.

Motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board accept the recommendation from the PSA Exploratory Committee, and award the contracts for both planning grants to the firm of Hurt & Proffitt of Lynchburg, Virginia, and authorize the County Administrator to negotiate prices for said contracts. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Long and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Tankard who voted “no.” The motion was passed.

Recess:

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be recessed to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2010, in the former circuit courtroom, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, in order to conduct the regular work session. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Long and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was recessed.

_____ CHAIRMAN

_____ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR