

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in conference room #2 the former Northampton Middle School, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia, on the 27th day of September, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Laurence J. Trala, Chairman

Willie C. Randall, Vice Chairman

Richard Tankard

H. Spencer Murray

Samuel J. Long, Jr.

Absent:

Oliver H. Bennett

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Closed Session

Motion was made by Mr. Tankard, seconded by Mr. Murray, that the Board enter Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:

Paragraph 3: Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition, or use of real property for public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held property.

Selma Farm

Paragraph 7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, consultants, or attorneys pertaining to actual or probable litigation, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board of Supervisors regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Eastville Boundary Adjustment: Meet w/ Eastville Town Council

All members were present with the exception of Mr. Bennett and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The Eastville Town Council, Mayor and Town Clerk were present and joined the Board in Closed Session.

After Closed Session, the Chairman reconvened the meeting and said that the Board had entered the closed session for those purposes as set out in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Section 2.1-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Upon being polled individually, each Board member confirmed that these were the only matters of discussion during the closed session.

Continued Discussion Re: Hospital/Urgent Care Facility

As per the direction of the Board, Ms. Hollye Carpenter, EMS Director, gave a presentation to the Board relative to an urgent care facility which is being proposed by Riverside for placement in Nassawadox at such time as the hospital is relocated. Ms. Carpenter noted that an urgent care facility was, in her opinion, “just a glorified doctor’s office” with some extended hours and diagnostic services. She informed the Board that the County’s emergency medical services’ agencies are obligated to transport patients to the “closest appropriate facility”, whether that is a new location of Riverside in Accomack County or Bayside Hospital in Virginia Beach. She stated that a stand-alone emergency room does provide 24-hour service but no in-patient services. Also noted was the fact that an urgent care facility operation is based on payment; i.e., it does not have to provide services if the patient cannot pay or does not have insurance. Assuming the hospital relocates to an area in the Onley/Onancock area, the cut-off point would be the Cape Charles Shore Stop; that is, patients being transported from there south would go to Hampton Roads and patients north of that location would be transported to the new Riverside location. Ms. Carpenter anticipates that the proposed relocation of the hospital would cause the doubling of her staff due to increased response and turn-around times resulting in very significant financial impacts to the County.

The County Administrator indicated that criteria for issuance of the required Department of Health Certificate of Need was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Randall noted that he expects the Certificate to be filed in December.

At the suggestion of Mr. Tankard, it was the consensus of the Board to include the Board's recent correspondence to Riverside in the minutes of this meeting as well as the transcript of comments made at the September 14th meeting relative to this matter. Said letter and transcript are set out below.

August 26, 2010

Mr. William B. Downey
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer
Riverside Health System
Corporate Offices
Fountain Plaza One, Suite 1000
701 Town Center Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

Dear Mr. Downey:

On behalf of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to confirm your attendance at our meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the former Northampton Middle School, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia, and to thank you in advance for speaking with the Board concerning the recent announcement by Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital to construct a new hospital facility in Accomack County.

We are aware that Joseph Zager, RSMH Administrator, held a town hall forum on August 4, 2010, to provide greater detail supporting the decision of the Hospital, which several members of the Board of Supervisors attended. However, while the material provided concerning the historical patient data usage, the financial history, and the discussion on medical trends and patient care including overnight hospital stays, were informative, there were many questions that were not answered to fully explain and justify the decision reached by the Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Board and affirmed by the Riverside Corporate Board.

The Board is hopeful that this meeting will provide the forum to have these questions answered:

1. Did the Hospital conduct a market analysis to determine future usage based upon remaining at its current location as well as based upon a new location in central Accomack County? If so, what were the results of this market analysis in terms of patient access/care, revenue generation, and expenditure impact?
2. Since the medical services of the Eastern Shore have evolved from and around the Hospital's location in Nassawadox (a decision made and implemented in the mid 1920's), what analysis was conducted to determine impact/change on patient choice of available medical facilities (i.e., Peninsula Regional, Sentara Bayside Hospital) to utilize as compared to a new location as proposed by Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital?
3. What analysis was conducted to locate an acute care facility in Accomack County and construct the new hospital in Northampton County to determine the pros and cons of this approach?
4. What analysis was conducted to determine the impact this proposed move would have for the residents in the southern portion of Northampton County?
5. Overall, the medical facilities on the Eastern Shore have developed around the nexus of Nassawadox as the medical hub as well as the establishment of the clinics by the Eastern Shore Rural Health System. Was there any consideration of these established facilities by the boards in reaching the decision to move the hospital and how did that information factor into the decision?

We look forward to meeting with you and to continuing the dialogue on this matter which is of great importance to our County and the Eastern Shore.

Sincerely yours,

LAURENCE J. TRALA
Chairman

Cc: Richard J. Pearce
President & Chief Executive Officer
Riverside Health System

Northampton County Board of Supervisors

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Transcript
September 14, 2010
Board of Supervisors' Meeting

Discussion with Riverside Health Services

Mr. Tankard: I don't want to monopolize your time and I thank you for being here. Did you have an opportunity to look at our letter and respond to some of those questions? Does everyone have a copy of that in the audience?

Mr. Downey: I did and a lot of those get into specifics of the Board's deliberations but again I'd like to emphasize that we presented significant information to the Board. They had the opportunity to request any additional information that was necessary in their deliberations and we believe it was a thorough, deliberative process that they went through.

Mr. Tankard: You don't have any specific answers to these five questions?

Mr. Downey: No, sir.

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Mr. Murray stated that he believed Mr. Randall was in a difficult position in serving as the Board's representative to the Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. Mr. Randall responded that the County is only invited to sit on the Board and it is not a requirement that the County provide a representative. In fact, the Hospital's Bylaws can be amended to eliminate this position altogether.

Mr. Murray stated that he believed that the Board should gather additional information and if necessary, appoint a subcommittee to see if something can be achieved with the Certificate of Need and to work with the County Administrator and the County Attorney and with the Towns who are clearly impacted to join with the County in this endeavor. To that end, it was the consensus of the Board to provide a list of possible appointees to the County Administrator prior to the October meeting. Mr. Tankard and Mr. Murray both agreed to serve if appointed.

Mr. Randall said that his presentation given to the Board at the September meeting was to

give the public and the Board an idea of how the process (relocation decision) was done.

Mr. Tankard distributed a copy of an article from the Washington-Post wherein a requested Certificate of Need for a Sentara facility was withdrawn. He commented that “we want to be active in this process.” He also distributed a map showing circles of coverage area (25-mile radius) on the Shore and noted that the bottom half of Northampton County would be dropped from coverage.

The Board complimented Ms. Carpenter on her presentation and it was their consensus to request that she give a similar presentation to the local hospital board, which meets on the last Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Tankard asked if the local physicians had taken a position on this matter and agreed to contact that group’s chairman, Dr. Goldstein, to see if he would share any such position with the Board at its regular October meeting.

On another matter, Mr. Murray referenced a spreadsheet included in the Board’s agenda packet which illustrated the cost of carrying the \$3.3 million in jail debt from FY 10 through FY 15. He stated that he was optimistic that the County would receive the funds in the Spring of 2011.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting was adjourned.

_____CHAIRMAN

_____ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

