

**Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, April 6th, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**** MINUTES ****

BOARD REPORTS (10 Minutes)

Called to order at 7:35 pm.

President's Report, Peter Dickinson. Noted that the APR taskforce is meeting and some of our members and officers are attending that meeting. Supervisor Hyland is attending a Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting. Our general meetings were changed so that fewer nights would coincide with those meetings. Tonight is one of those nights.

Approval of March meeting Minutes via voice vote.

Return of voting cards. Asked that members check their cards before they leave tonight. Cards will be used for attendance as well as for votes that cannot be done via voice vote or when a motion for recorded vote is approved.

Treasurer's Report, Gloria Bannister: Gloria is attending the APR taskforce meeting

SUPERVISORS/LEGISLATORS TIME and DISCUSSION

George Barker, Virginia State Senator for the 39th district

Senator Barker was surprised the session only went one day late. There was a lot of compromising by the house to come close to the budget the senate wanted.

No tax increase, more money for Fairfax County schools than last year, no roll cuts in low income, disability, disabled hours, no cuts to rates state pays to healthcare providers, preservation of public safety positions. Unfortunately one compromise was to have localities keep prisoners longer before they go to state facilities.

Summary: a rather congenial and positive session.

Northrop Grumman is looking favorably on northern Virginia.

Spoke of the one race election this year. But there are also several proposed amendments to the Virginia constitution. Senator Puller proposed amendment giving prop tax relief for 100% combat disabled veterans.

Barker: give counties and cities power of taxation, increase by 50% the balance cap on the rainy day fund.

Defeat of LCI freeze.

Defeat of proposed closure of Mason Neck State Park.

Addenda to above "no tax increase ..." Despite no tax increase, no cuts in higher education.

Question about lower payment into VRS system. VRS is the state retirement program. Virginia is ~80% funded for retirement at this time; which is good compared to most states. The legislature is not paying to try to cover the gap as they have in previous years. From 2013-2022 the state will accelerate VRS funding so that it will be as if they had made no changes.

Question about sale of ABC stores. Bill to do so went nowhere. Defeated in committee 13-2 last year. Governor McDonnell has asked that the issue be studied. Member commented repeated 20% return on investment from ABC stores being more valuable than one time boost.

James Walkinshaw, Chief of Staff for Congressman Gerry Connolly

He spoke with Gerry earlier today and Gerry wanted him to convey his apologies for not being able to attend tonight.

Having had an opportunity to work with many of the northern Virginia state legislators, he expressed how fortunate our area is to have Senator Barker.

Congressman Connolly's office received many calls about roads and plowing

Congressman Connolly congratulates the community on the groundbreaking of the South County Middle School.

Civilian Conservation Corps project at Mason Neck State Park should start soon.

Gave several examples supporting positive signs in the economy. Turnarounds in several key economic indicators. Even so, national unemployment has remained at ~9.7%. Stimulus Bill (Recover Act) benefits: millions in loans to local small businesses, prevention of teacher layoffs. Federal funding for local road projects. Finance savings due to upfront funds for projects. Nine new VRE cars. Noman Cole water re-use. Two jobs at local park, Meadowwood(?).

Spoke of the recent Health Care Bill and invited members to ask questions. Spoke particularly about benefits for children, young adults and seniors. No cuts to medicare benefits. Savings to come from reducing waste/fraud/abuse. Republicans have been a strong voice in this effort.

Recognized and introduced Steve Jerry from Representative Connolly's Annandale(?) office.

Question about losing matching federal transportation funding. Confirmed that if Virginia does not spend at least a threshold amount on transportation, it will not receive matching funds from the federal highway funds.

Senator Barker noted that in the next 4-5 years, if Virginia does not spend enough money on transportation, it in effect cedes that money to other states that do. Noted new Virginia Transportation Secretary Connaughton(sp?) recognizes the potential for lost funds. He noted that there was recent change in funding formula.

Question about sources of revenue for transportation. Senator Barker noted a proposed a 1 cent/gallon increase in gas tax that failed. Also noted a proposed increase in a car sales tax; Virginia rate is lower than most states.

Member suggested having agencies be required to identify the savings from specific waste/fraud/abuse.

Christine Morin, Supervisor Hyland's staff

Clock tower on Lorton Road next to railroad is again running and correct.

Lorton Arts Foundation (LAF) revenue bond update.

Budget hearings.

Inova: BoS have approved the plan language to move ahead with the HealthPlex

APR Taskforce tonight. Marcia Hansen is attending that meeting for Supervisor Hyland.

Silverbrook & Hoes Road intersection improvement.

She spoke with Supervisor Hyland earlier today. He conveyed his apologies for not being able to attend tonight.

FFX Pkway. VDOT awarded a contract to build phase three of the Fairfax County Parkway. There have been some changes that resulted from input by adjacent communities.

In the usual handout is info about items that were cut that Supervisor Hyland will reintroduce.

Member requested followup on his inquiry to Supervisor Hyland's office regarding illegal road signs.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education (Christine Morin)
 - Changes to school budget
 - 1% reduction in transfer from county to county schools
 - Groundbreaking on Middle School: crews will very likely begin clearing for construction this week
 - The Federation expressed great appreciation for Christine Morin and Lisa Adler's strong consistent efforts leading to the successful start of construction of the South County Middle School.
- Land Use Committee (Linwood Gorham)
 - Upcoming issues for the LUC: Inova, SportsPlex PPEA
 - Noted that the Noman Cole water re-use is fast tracked and will be done with some stimulus funding. It does require a '2232'. Earl Flanagan wanted the federation be informed and involved in the process.
 - Presentation/overview of the reclaimed water project at Noman Cole.
 - Recent March 24th citizen forum meeting

- Tonight’s presentation will follow a ‘mini’ of that meeting’s agenda
- Brought hardcopy documents for attendees
- http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/water_reuse
- Question about planning for catastrophic failure of 75’ holding tank
 - There is adequate draining and landscaping including 24” culvert nearby
- Question about watering of school fields
 - That may happen in the future, they are seeing how the three initial usages work
- Question about small pond being used to hold re-use water
 - Regulations prevent that usage
- Question about Covanta water usage rate vs household rate
 - Covanta pays the same rate, but since their use is fairly constant, no ‘peak’ rate
- Impact on residential rates
 - Expect little to none
- Question about piping above or below ground
 - Some above ground at plant, some below. Beyond plant, ~3 to 3.5 feet below.
- Motion by Linwood to not oppose the re-use water project at Noman Cole. Properly seconded. Motion passed via voice vote.
- Public Safety, Clint Herbert (attending APR Taskforce meeting)
- Parks & Environmental, Gloria Bannister (attending APR Taskforce Meeting)
 - 22nd Watershed Cleanup on April 10th
 - Eagle Festival on April 24th
- Transportation, Marty Schirmacher
 - **Resolution 10-xx** calling upon Fairfax County to press Gunston Cove Bridge issues with CSX. Resolution passed via voice vote.
 - Member noted that CSX was planning to tear down bridges that are not high enough for adequate clearance for double stacked railcars. Asked federation contact Principi, an official (current?) from Prince William County. Steve Jerry from Congressman Connolly’s office said he would let our Congressman know the federation is interested in contacting Principi.
 - Member commented on VDoT response to suggestion of Bailey’s Bridge type to replace Gunston Cove Road bridge. Initially they rejected it due to maintenance and lifespan issue.

OLD BUSINESS

- President Dickinson commented on Federation taking positions on budget issues
- Lorton Community Action Center (5 Minutes)
 - 2010 LCAC Golf Tournament is Friday, May 14th at the Pohick Bay Golf Course
 - Current needs: cereal, tuna, peanut butter, size 3&4 diapers

NEW BUSINESS

- Independence Day Parade
 - Resolution to form a parade committee chaired by John Fedorshik for a parade to be held Saturday, July 3rd with \$500 budget, authorizing chair to contract within budget on behalf of the federation for the parade, and naming Linda Seton Grand Marshall. Passed via voice vote.

- Upgrade of transmission line
- Redistricting after decennial census will take place next year
 - Possibility of 10th Supervisory district
 - Member noted that economic conditions almost certainly will mean no added district in 2011
 - It will take place next year, but members should start thinking about it
 - Discussion of partisan influence in redistricting
 - Irma noted that the former prison population enumerated here. When 1,000's of inmates left, that forced shifting of political borders.
- Next meetings
 - May 4th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library
 - June 1st meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library
 - July 6th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library

Adjournment at 9:30.

Note: South County Federation website is at <http://www.southcountyfederation.com/>