



Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 @ 7:30 PM

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Administrative Matters & Officers reports
 - January Minutes - A **Motion** to approve the January meeting minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Treasurer's Report was provided by Dale Rumberger, Gunston Cove, Overlook Point, and Megan Turcot joined as permanent members.

3. Supervisors' Reports.

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity - Absent

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck commented on the following items:

Review and report sign violations now have a crew to take down and charge violators that could bring in additional revenue and clean up County roads. The Board of Supervisors decided to table the plastic vs. paper bag for lawn debris for further study. The 30th annual Mount Vernon District Town Hall meeting was a big success. Chairman Bulova will be putting together a County Land Use Committee to review how the County handles the Land Use process. The CSX bridge over Backlick Road has been approved and funded and Supervisor Storck will push to make the CSX bridge over Route 1 a priority. There will be a job fair to be held at the South County High School on April 29th. Supervisor Storck will host the Ides of Bark on March 29th.

4. Legislative Update

5. Committee Reports

- **Transportation**, Dale Johnson, Chair - The Transportation Committee continues to work with FCDOT on the Giles Run Connector Road.
- **Public Safety**, Jonathan Kiell, Chair - Jonathan stated that there are new CERT classes coming soon and reminded everyone to sign up for Fairfax Alert.



- **Land Use**, Nick Firth, Chair, spoke briefly on the Covanta Fire and stated the County has chosen an architectural firm to work on design and location of the new South County area Police Station and Animal Shelter.
- **Environmental & Parks**, Gloria Bannister, Chair
- **Education**, Chair vacant

6. Old Business –

7. New Business –

- Representatives from Covanta, Department of Public Works and the Fire Department gave a briefing regarding the fire at the Covanta facility that occurred on Thursday, February 2nd. 75% of Fairfax County trash first goes to the I-66 transfer station with the remaining 25% coming direct to the Covanta facility. Covanta has been operating the facility since 1990 with a new agreement with the County coming into effect in 2014. Fairfax County has a pre-arranged agreement with King George's County landfill to accept trash at a previously agreed ~~to~~ rate. Covanta's current agreement with the County ends in 2021 while their agreement to operate the facility terminates in 2031 therefore there are 2 more 5 year permit periods that remain. It was noted that DEQ had air quality monitors in place late Saturday, February 4th, but results are not available yet. The Fire Department stated that it was day 5 and that there were 3 shifts per day on site and that the fire was still smoldering and small fires were still being put out as they flared up. Covanta stated that it was a 20,000 ton pit and there was 14,000 tons present in the pit when the fire started. Covanta also stated that the floor capacity by permit is 3,000 tons and that there were 1,000 tons on the floor when the fire started. Covanta stated that the crane is completely melted that moves the trash to the boilers and that the cleanup would likely continue for another week until the fire is completely out and all trash removed. Questions were raised regarding the timeliness of information and why it was stated that the air quality was okay when the air quality monitor data was still not available. Fire Department Representative stated that information came from DEQ. DPW representative said that DEQ made that statement based on the recognition that **what** is being burned is only household trash. Concern was raised over what people actually put in their trash is sometimes outside of what regulations will allow and how is anyone aware of what actually is being incinerated. Covanta stated that their contracts are only with Fairfax County and Washington, D.C. and that none of the trash is individually inspected. Questions were raised as to whether we can have permanent air quality monitors in the area. Dale stated that the SCF will gather a list of questions that will be submitted to officials for a more thorough update at the March SCF meeting. Covanta stated that they have a fire suppression system in the facility but it was inadequate to contain this size of fire. Covanta is looking at other systems they can put in place to prevent future fires of this size such as foam fire suppression systems and heat sensors in the pit.



Question was raised as to whether there will be any kind of remuneration to the County to cover Fire Department Costs. Covanta and County stated that they will be meeting with the Risk Management Division and Insurance representatives for both Covanta and County. Supervisor Storck stated that he will make sure the facility will not open again until it is completely safe to do so.

Question was raised if the County is looking at alternatives to incineration, DPW commented that every 5 years during the permit renewal they look at alternatives but so far none have proved as reliable and cost effective.

Covanta stated that they take 650,000 tons of trash per year from Fairfax County and 200,000 tons of trash per year from Washington, D.C. and that they will take other trash from other areas if there is capacity available.

Request for County to offer better communication with the Community and a website to be created for citizens to find answers regarding the fire.

Fairfax County Park Authority representative, Linwood Gorham, stated that the Gunston Trail was coming along nicely and also that he is working to identify funds to clean up the Nike site.

President Rumberger stated that there are posters in the back with subject matters in the Community and for members to identify ones that they would like to hear more about.

A **Motion** was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn. Dale R adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

NEXT MEETING: March 14, 2017 at 7:30 in the South County High School cafeteria.

Future Meetings: March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12