



Virtual Zoom Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

- President Dale Rumberger (Dale R) called meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORTS

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Dale Rumberger (Dale R) called for any corrections to the January minutes as posted on the website. There being none, the minutes were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Clark said there are no changes from last month:

Sun Trust Checking: \$1,059.52

TIAA CREF Money Market: \$6,733.30

Total funding: \$7,792.82



- **South Fairfax Chamber Report – Casey Whitmarsh**
 - SFCC Member Highlight – Trademasters
(<https://trademasters.com/>)
 - HVAC services
 - Great community steward, recently utilizing their own resources to install LED light panels in the Lorton clock tower
 - Life Insurance and Divorce Webinar – March 18. After webinar, recording available on the website
 - Annual Roundtable – April 29
 - Teen Job Fair – two job fairs and career building workshops, hosted virtually
 - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs>
 - Saturday, March 13 from 2-5pm
 - Saturday, March 20 from 11am – 2pm
 - SFCC will be working closely to support this effort. Any interested participants can contact Casey for more details.

III. SUPERVISOR REPORTS

- **Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity**
 - Not present or represented.
- **Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck** – As shared by Nick Rinehart:
 - FY2022 Budget Highlights
 - Recommends 1-cent Real Estate Tax rate decrease from \$1.15 to \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value.
 - Recommends \$14.13 million increase to County schools



- Does not recommend County employee pay increases
 - Recommends an additional \$20 million to an Economic Recovery Reserve
 - Funds modest investments in Board priorities, including:
 - Public Safety staffing
 - Diversion First
 - Opioid Use Prevention Efforts
 - Environmental Initiatives
 - Body Worn Camera Program
 - Health Department positions
 - Recommends 17 additional positions for the South County Police Station
 - Recommends support for the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (strategies that help the County, residents, and community members prepare and respond to direct climate threats)
 - Public Hearings on the Budget
 - April 13-15 | FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program and FY 2021 Third Quarter Review
 - Budget Market and Board Adoption
 - April 27 | Third Quarter Review
 - May 4 | Fiscal Plan, Tax Levies, Appropriation
- Storck appreciates County Executive has proposed a budget that reflects these uncertain financial times, and is a reasonable starting point for discussion. Budget does not meet every community need, but shows



commitment to preserving County programs and protect residents in uncertain times.

- Recognition that while Real Estate Tax rate decrease is proposed, with rising real estate assessments, this will mean a tax increase in some cases and decrease in others depending on property value
- Supervisor Storck welcomes questions, comments or feedback about the proposed FY 2022 budget and encourages everyone to testify (virtual testimony allowed)
- COVID Vaccination Shot Locations in Mt. Vernon District Boundaries
 - Remains frustrated the County is not getting enough vaccine doses to this district, which is the hardest hit by the COVID pandemic
 - Continues to push Health Department for more vaccine locations in our district, and for more first doses at the Gerry Hyland building and other locations in South County
 - Giant locations offering appointments in or near our boundaries
 - 7501 Huntsman Boulevard, Springfield
 - 6365A Springfield Plaza, Springfield
 - 5740 Union Mill Road, Clifton
 - 5870 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria
 - Overall there is a nationwide shortage of the vaccine that has slowed our ability to vaccinate, but supply is improving
 - Appreciate patience as they are getting through queue as fast as possible
- Fairfax Peak proposed development on Alpine X



- Commend and congratulate the SCF Executive committee on a job well done. Posed great questions to the Alpine X team, and Storck looks forward to continued communication
- An amendment to the Interim Agreement will be brought to Board as an action item March 23
 - Minor amendment would allow scope expansion of drilling and implements more concrete liability measures and rules to follow
 - More details will be provided by Storck's office as they receive them
- Update on County Projects
 - Lorton Community Center and Library
 - No schedule delays, setbacks or design changes
 - Completion Spring 2022
 - Phase 1a complete, interim park open and actively being used. Steel framing continues at community center building, and construction has started on the new library addition. Continued communication with the LCAC as they continue to provide services to the community
 - South County Police Station/Animal Shelter
 - Forrester Construction awarded Notice to Proceed Feb 2021
 - Groundbreaking anticipated May/June 2021, completion in 2023
 - Supervisor Storck will reconvene the SoCo Police Station/Animal Shelter Task Force to



meet and discuss the naming of the site, to receive an update from FCPD on the service area, and an update on the construction timeline

○ zMod

- zMod is being undertaken to update the current zoning ordinance. It's 42 years old and out of date with many legal references and terminology.
- zMod has been underway for 2.5 yrs with over 80 public meetings and outreach including in-person and remote meetings, emails, website updates, surveys, social media announcements, district newsletters, etc.
- Final draft installment released Nov 24, 2020
- Planning Committee held public hearing on the proposed draft January 28 and Q&A session Feb 3
- Proposed ordinance under scrutiny by the public due to perceived adverse impact on communities due to staff's recommendations to restrictions related to Accessory Living Units and Home-Based Businesses.
- Last Wednesday, March Planning Commission recommended:
 - Repeal and replace current zoning ordinance, except:
 - For accessory living units
 - Retain special permit process for all accessory living units
 - Remove age or disability requirement
 - Allow to occupy the entire basement or cellar, but only up to the size of the



basement or cellar existing as of the effective date of the new ordinance

- For home-based business:
 - Allow zero customer at a time and zero customer per day with administrative permit, except for instructional activities, allowing four students at a time and eight in a day
 - Allow customers with special permit approval
 - Require approval of the Health Department prior to approval of administrative or special permit if the property is served by a well or septic system

- Graffiti in CCT tunnel along Workhouse Rd.
 - Storck's office worked with VDOT for removal
- Missing man in Lorton located deceased
 - No foul-play detected
 - Thoughts are with his family at this time

- **Mount Vernon District School Board – Karen Corbett – Sanders**
 - The generosity of our tax payers really pays for our public school funding
 - The typical model:
 - 45% from local tax base
 - 45% from the state funding
 - 10% from the federal government
 - FFX County's Model



- 73% from the local tax base
- 23% from state
- 2% from the federal government
- So when the governor announced that there was a 5% pay increasing for teachers, what that really meant was that FFX County to be able to take advantage of that pay increase, would have to put forth 80% of funding (80% vs. 73% because Fairfax has a higher teacher to student ratio than other counties and provide resources other Counties do not)
- Requested in letter to Governor that will be sent tonight that rather having to match the dollars by the State Government, that we would have more flexibility in form of grant funding to take advantage of the amount coming from the State (\$23M vs. \$0)
- The federal government has chronically underfunded the schools, but with the COVID Relief Acts we should get relief for necessary funding of network infrastructure, computers and PPE necessary to getting students back full-time
- Everyone in FFX County Public School wants students back 5 days a week
- Our schools are designed to allow 18 inches between students, so getting 6 ft of distance is incredibly challenging
- 2 Summer School Programs
 - 2-week sessions back-to-back for remediation and acceleration
- Vaccination Success Rate
 - 92% of all staff are vaccinated
- Community Spread of COVID



- Have had very little spread in our school buildings and classes, we have had a number of outbreaks on the sports fields which does impact our classrooms
- Encourage you all to make sure your kids wear masks and are abiding by social distancing
- **Springfield District School Board – Laura Jane Cohen**
 - Welcoming children back to school
 - Intervention groups began in February
 - As of today, special programs, kindergarteners, 1st & 2nd graders, 7th and 8th graders, and all of high school students are back in the classroom
 - 3rd -6th graders expected next week who have chose in-person instruction
 - Still navigating CDC guidelines
 - requiring masks and 6 ft. of social distancing
 - lots of handwashing
 - continuing in coordination with the FFX County Health Department to have procedures in place to mitigate the spread
 - A few COVID cases have occurred, but we have not seen transmission in student-to-student or staff-to-staff, except for athletic programs
 - Teachers exhausted trying to concurrently educate both students in the classroom and virtually
 - Looking at continued communication to ensure people are fully informed about schooling options available to them
 - Silverbrook Principal
 - Good things are being heard, despite the challenge of coming in mid-year in COVID



- If you have any comments please let us know
- Currently working on the budget
 - Budgeting and planning for 5 days a week in person
 - Having conversations on what it would like for families that are not able to participate in person
 - Meeting weekly with regional teams and visiting schools to get a perspective on what is occurring in the school system
 - Asking Board of Supervisors for money to keep pace with bordering counties that are providing staff and teacher salary increases this year
- Working on Calendar for next year (late this year, but it was pushed back from the fall)
- **Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) – Linwood Gorham**
 - Disc Golf Parking area
 - 17 parking spaces
 - Timing for paving will be this Spring
 - Will be signage to instruct visitors of Liberty residents not to use spaces
 - Dog Park is in fact on the Master Plan for the Laurel Hill Area (west of Burger King and east of Snowden Ashford Rd.). There is no access to that area at that point, so if we want a dog park sooner rather than later, we might want to put on our thinking caps and think of another place to do that. Infrastructure is always the most expensive thing, so that would be good to do
 - Overlook Ridge Project
 - Been attending meeting for two months. People working on it are very competent and capable



- Many concerns about protecting amenities promised, and they are well intact at this point
- Only notable change is that the BMX trails would not be safe and so they are not being considered
- COMMENT: President Rumberger: With the 17 spaces, plus the 6 spaces in Liberty that means that are 23 spaces for the disc golf players, which is great. That is a big relief. The other big win is the dog park location. The next step would be to look at the County Plan and timing is perfect to get a committee of citizens out there. On Overlook Ridge Park, that will be a topic we want to bring up in April – we’ll come back to you and see if that’s still available for Park Authority to be able to participate
 - Linwood: It’s going to be close then, it might need to get pushed out one more month after that. But, things are moving along pretty well at this point.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly**
 - House poised to vote to approve the compromised COVID-19 relief bill
 - \$1.9 Trillion bill Biden recommended
 - Substantial monies for school, localities and state governments
 - \$200M to Fairfax County
 - Currently projecting a \$40M deficit, so this will help meet fiscal needs
 - Will have until 2024 to spend or obligate money



- \$175/\$180M to schools in Fairfax County (on top of money in the previous four bills)
- \$3-5M to the State of Virginia
- Good news for food security – will cut child poverty in half in America
 - One of the largest anti-poverty pieces of legislation since the Great Society of President Lyndon Johnson
 - Focused primarily on children
 - 9% of Virginians were classified as food insecure one year ago; 25% today
- Vaccination rate is picking up
 - 2M people per day are being vaccinated (above Bidens original hope for 1M people per day)
 - With Johnson & Johnson vaccine, could increase to 3M per day
 - 20% of American have been vaccinated, moving towards herd immunity which we might achieve by late May/early June
- Want schools to re-open as quickly as possible, but to open safely without putting anyone at risk
- Passed HR1 bill to shore up how we finance campaigns in America but also to protect people's access to the ballot box
 - Still infrequency in voting nationwide
 - This bill continues to make voting easier
- United States Capitol was attacked in a pre-mediated, violent storm that led to 5 deaths and 2 suicides
 - Have not seen this type of attempt to overthrow and interrupt democratic process and free elections since post-reconstruction America



- Very traumatic, but the goal was to go back to the floor and certify the election
- Lie to say the election was fraudulent or stolen, America is not well served by catering to that set of falsehoods
- Next up: Infrastructure
 - Passed the infrastructure bill in the House last year, but it died in the Senate
 - Will use that blueprint - \$1.5 Trillion investment program – a very far-reaching bill
 - Looking at the bill we already cast last year will help guide this year’s public infrastructure bill
 - Example of considerable length of time infrastructure investments take to come to fruition in America: Rail to Dulles
 - First reference made in 1962 when Dulles Airport was opened
 - Signed full funding grant agreement and broke ground in 2009 (47 years later)
 - Just now celebrating the fact that we are finally going to hand over Phase 2 to metro
 - About 45 years longer than it takes in China to build public infrastructure, “we’re going to lose our competitive edge”
- **U.S. Congressman Don Beyer** – as delivered by Julia Kravitz as a Legislative Update for the 117th Congress
 - Congressman’s Leadership Roles
 - Chair of the Joint U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee



- Recently selected to Chair the House Committee of Science, Space and Technology, Science Subcommittee
- America Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will be considered in the House tonight or tomorrow
 - Massive bill for transit industry
 - WMATA to receive \$1B – will curb the service cuts taking place in FY22
- HR1
 - Key provision Congressman Beyer is excited about that creates a grant program that seeks to fosters civic engagement for ages 16-17 year old
 - Creates pre-registration system for this age group to register to vote
- George Floyd Justice In Policing Act
 - Passed by House last Wednesday
 - Congressman Beyer and Congressman Holmes-Norton introduced a Federal Body Camera bill within this
 - Requires federal officers to wear body cameras and use mounted dashboard cameras in marked vehicles
- Cost of Police Misconduct Act
 - Introduced in March
 - Requires federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to report police misconduct allegations, including court proceedings and settlement fees to the Department of Justice
- Will reintroduce the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act during this Congress
 - Will increase the amount of low income housing tax credits allowed to each State by 50%



- Establish a 4% minimum credit rate for housing projects
- Repeal the qualified census tract population cap
- Would produce roughly half million more housing units. This legislation had bipartisan support in Congress
- Protecting Right to Organize Act 2021
 - Currently being considered
 - Has to do with Labor Unions
- Background Checks – two bills to be considered later this week
- COMMENT – President Rumberger
 - We’ll have continued infrastructure conversations with the SCF Executive Committee that will cover a number of topics and we will report back out to the larger federation on that effort. Thank you to Laura, and to the other Congressman for their assistance in organizing those efforts
- **Senator George Barker**
 - Personal Accomplishments
 - Played a large role in final budget that was adopted
 - Senators were limited to 12 Bills this Session
 - Passed 11 of Senator Barker’s 12 Bills – the most of any Senator
 - Senator Barker participated in 12 Conference Committees – successful to find resolution with both Senate and House colleagues for all of them – the most of any legislator in VA
 - Many budget amendments Senator Barker put forth were also adopted
 - Positive Steps Forward for Climate Change



- Bill moved forward on Solar and Energy Storage Partnerships between localities and private companies
- Will help us take a huge leap forward in generating and maintaining energy in ways that do not produce greenhouse gases, all helping to reach goal of carbon neutrality by 2045
- Worked on issues important to the Fairfax County and City of Alexandria Juvenile Court System
 - Focused on adolescents that are in the juvenile court system and are also receiving health and human resource services
 - Aims to do a better job of helping adolescents recover and go forward to be highly productive adults
- Moved bill forward for Telemedicine Services
 - Focused on a provision for Medicaid funding of telemedicine services that have helped a lot of people during the pandemic period
- George Mason University
 - Put forth a Bill to make them one of 5 or 6 universities that now have the ability to make their own financial decisions on education rather than being told by the State Council on Higher Education what to do
 - Will allow them to respond quickly to what is needed for student population
- Data Coordination
 - Data for a lot of commuter systems at the State level and at the local level, but generally we've found it successful for those systems to talk to one



another so we can have the best data and provide the best services to people

- Legislation was put forth a couple years ago and we took the first round of steps, and now we're taking the second round of steps there
- Opioid Abatement Authority
 - Attorney General believes we will be highly successful in getting contributions from third parties who were involved in promotion of what ended up being the opioid crisis
 - Set up a Commission and Committee to figure out the best ways to address the crisis
- Economic Situation
 - In very good shape in VA, general fund revenues are up substantially putting us in a good position as it relates to our budget
 - Senator Barker put in legislation on behalf of Fairfax County to allow the County to authorize restaurants to continue outdoor dining well past the pandemic period to recoup costs that they lost during the pandemic period and comply with all social distance requirements
- Budget
 - Restored a lot of things that had been funded last Winter, only to have the funding frozen in April
 - We'll be up more than 10% from last year in revenues
 - Allowed us to restore programs vital to people in the Commonwealth
 - Increase K-12 funding substantially



- Funding for three categories of support positions at the State level – there was a temporary freeze 12 years ago that was never restored
 - Put in legislation to restore funding
- Provided substantial funding for higher education institutions
 - George Mason and Old Dominion have been short-changed for years, but are now getting more money
- Funding for clean water and storm water retention issues
- 5% in full pay increases for State employees, including well as teachers and others in the school system.
- Made substantial additional payments to our reserve category
 - We'll have well over \$2B in our reserve fund
 - Allows us ensure we have resources during future recessions
 - Only State in the nation that has had AAA Bond Ratings since the 1930s
- **Senator Scott Surovell**
 - Successful State Legislative Session (45-day session)
 - Budget
 - Includes a new public water line for Mason Neck
 - \$2M to help to the County buy River Farm
 - Also passed a bill that will give the County the authority to prohibit subdivision and require public access to that property



- Chief sponsor for legislation repealing Virginia’s capital punishment system
 - Death penalty repealed, were able to push it through without any “collateral” such as adding to any mandatory minimum life sentences
- Still working on Marijuana Legalization Bill as part of a Conference Committee
 - In its current form, it removes the civil infraction for possession of marijuana for the amount of 1 oz. or less starting January 21, 2024
 - Possession under the age of 21 illegal as of that date
 - Allows new Cannabis Control Authority to get up and running and start working on regulations, but does not allow them to adopt any regulations until the General Assembly comes back and approve the remainder of the legislation
 - Reenactment clause –on 95% of the bill due to its size that means we have to vote on it a second time before it becomes law (largely centered around licensing issues)
 - Estimates another 12 months of sorting through those issues before we come up with a system that does not have a lot of unintended consequences
 - We may hear about some amendment from the Governor in coming days, but don’t expect any large amendments
 - Many headlines are inaccurately stating that the State legalized marijuana, when in reality we legalized small possessions 2.5 years from now
- Changed Virginia’s Sealing and Expungement Policy



- One of only 8 states in America that doesn't allow you to seal a misdemeanor conviction at some point later in your life and only one of 14 states that doesn't allow you to seal a felony
 - Most other states you can get your records sealed for good behavior so that it doesn't inhibit your ability to gain employment, lease property, get insurance, etc.
 - Two-part bill that passed
 - One has automatic expungement for certain misdemeanors after 7 years for good behavior
 - Allows you to petition to have Class 5 felonies all the way down to Class 4 misdemeanors sealed
 - However, none of that relief is available for about 4 years because the state police needs to spend about \$15M updating their computer systems to be able to speak to the Supreme Court's computer systems
- Passed bill requested by the County to give Fairfax County the ability to raise money to underground utilities in commercial areas
 - Have tried to get the utilities undergrounded as part of the route 1 widening project from Ft. Belvoir to Huntington
 - County is concerned about spending general funds on that because they would rather spend that money on school and parks, so they asked for an alternate funding source
 - A couple years ago Senator Surovell passed the bill to enact a tax of up to \$1/month on every



residential electric meter and a separate tax on commercial

- County wanted to spend it on areas other than Rt.1, so this bill allows them to spend it on any commercial area in County – even areas unconnected to road widening projects
- County will raise \$3.4M a month (\$40M annually) which will underground a lot of utility lines in the County for more reliable electrical service
- Study extending Blue Line through Lorton
 - Funded last year and is about to start picking up
 - Plan is to bring the blue line down through South County
 - This is a 15-25 year discussion, but the idea of the discussion is to identify what time frame is feasible/viable
 - Public meetings expected to be held to hear public input
- Any questions are always welcomed at ssurovell@gmail.com
- COMMENT: President Rumberger commends the legislators for their work on the blue line study and encourages continued collaboration and is happy to do anything needed to further that effort
- **Delegate Mark Sickles**
 - In South County, we were able to fund many things this session
 - \$5M for the National Museum of the U.S. army that will be used for two outdoor memorials
 - \$2M+ in for Gunston Hall – doing archeology and rebuilding slave quarters



- Attaching water supply to the Mason Neck State park, as mentioned by Senator Surovell
- One breakthrough we had this year revolves around the minimum wage increase and its huge impact on our budget. Because we are the lowest payer, particularly in our Medicare program, we have \$130M to help increase the pay rates of our home workers – which was a heavy hit on the budget
- For the first time ever, we were able to provide 5 sick days to our consumer directed home healthcare workers. Previously had no benefits at all
- Beefed up Rebuild Virginia program for small loans for small businesses
- Put money back in for designer workforce solutions to attract and build businesses in Virginia
 - Program just enacted that will bring the U.S. headquarters from France to Arlington for the second largest shipping container company in the world
 - 200 employees to help with their research and development
 - Already a big carrier and have U.S. operations in Norfolk now
- Worked to help nursing home industry. Have been giving them \$20/day which is matched with federal funds that will continue at a reduced rate of \$15/day through the end of this year and next year. Many operators say this has saved them.
- Continued Rent and Mortgage Relief Program with federal support



- The new COVID Relief bill will be on the President's desk this week and that will cause us to go back and revisit many items, especially healthcare
 - Expects to have another Special Session to deal with new money coming from federal government
- Delegate Sickles is the Chairman of Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee and Chair of the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee of Appropriations
 - A year ago we created Virginia healthcare exchange, replacing healthcare.gov with our own exchange to make it more accessible to people that don't have employee-sponsored insurance
 - You'll see a new check box on your income tax form that is voluntary, then social workers can determine if you're not taking advantage of subsidized healthcare insurance
- Carried a bill for Fairfax County to increase the Economic Development Board from 7 to 9 people, which has already been signed into law
- Carried a bill to amend last year's Virginia Values Act that prohibits discrimination in employment and housing to add disabilities
 - Already had a disabilities act but it was dated. Now we will have new ways, without litigation, to have an assisted or negotiated administrative process so employers can make reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities to work
- Prescription Drug Transparency Bill
 - Will tell us in time what direction drug pricing is going to help unravel mystery of drug pricing
- Spent a lot of time on Reinsurance Program



- Will help reduce healthcare insurance premiums for people that buy insurance in the individual market
- Technical corrections to sports betting bill
 - 5 licensees we have so far are competing for early market share
 - Had a \$4B illegal betting market, now bringing it out into the light
 - Expects to raise \$40-50M per year. 95% of money goes back to players, but hopefully will be raising for our general fund with time
- **Delegate Kathy Tran**
 - House legislators were allowed to introduce 7 bills,
 - All 7 of Delegate Tran's bills passed out of the House, and 5 passed out of the Senate
 - In the last 4 sessions, Delegate Tran has been able to pass 29 bills
 - Really glad to have everyone's support to get Mason Neck's connected to public water (in addition to two new staff positions for the park). Thank you for all the advocacy from the friends of Mason Neck Park.
 - 2 new workgroups that came through the Budget this year
 - Language access across our State government ensuring equitable access to government services
 - Refugees in Virginia and how they can participate to work in our labor market and better integrate refugees
 - Delegate Tran's 5 passed bills
 - Two small bills
 - Ensuring that our most vulnerable Virginians have better access to employment opportunities



- Unemployment insurance program can contact people with methods other than snail mail
 - Will speed up communication with the VEC
 - Ensure we are saving taxpayer money when we can
- Three large bills
 - Bill that expands rights of people with disabilities when they go into the hospital settings
 - Can now bring a healthcare person with you
 - Bill that ends discrimination against military service members, their spouses and their dependents in employment, public accommodations, and housing
 - Bill that ensures DMV data privacy
 - Bill provides guard rails for when DMV data – like where a person lives, what kind of car they drive and a photo of them - can be released or shared in aggregate form
 - DMV Data is also accessed by State Police so there were additional guard rails there
 - DMV Data can only be shared with ICE in certain situations for civil immigration enforcement

Legislative Comments and Questions



QUESTION: Is equalization on taxes a state or local issue? What about a state homesteading provision in taxes? We've heard many people saying that their taxes have gone up, yet some places are having no tax increase because there are hardly any sales in that area. There must be a study or better way to tackle that.

ANSWER: Senator Barker: There was a significant study three years ago that dealt with this issue. We've gradually begun to improve the effectiveness and fairness of equalization. One thing that is significant is that a lot of jurisdictions, such as Fairfax County, provides their assessment every year, while other jurisdictions go longer periods of time before making determinations on assessments – that is where you start questioning fairness. We'll probably be looking that again this year in the Housing Commission and we also have a tax committee that will be looking at the tax structure overall in Virginia.

Senator Surovell: Having a homestead exemption would be unconstitutional. Under our constitution, all taxes have to be uniformly levied on all similar classes of properties. Not allowed to have one set of rules for residential and a different set of rules on commercial

Kathy Tran: Last year, Delegate Vivian Watts shepherded through a bill to make the taxing authority between counties, cities and towns similar. It now allows Counties to make a decision as to whether or not real estate taxes are the only way or best way to move forward for local revenue. They can look better at a lot more tools than property taxes

COMMENT: Delegate Tran: We talked a lot about COVID and the State response tonight and the South County House of



Delegates will have a Town Hall on the 16th at 5:30 pm with Dr. Danny Avula

- South County Delegates Town Hall:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/565201457749608>

COMMENT: Delegate Sickles: Just wanted to mention the school raise and funding issue.

- State tries to pay overall 55% of the standards of quality. The SOQ's need to be updated, and it would cost them millions to do so, so that's on the agenda for the future to get the SOQ's updated.
- Biggest issue we have is ongoing spending vs. one-time spending. Right now, with the revenues projected to be down, we don't want to put things into the budget that will have an effect on ongoing spending.
- Looking for ways to one-time investments (like investments in broadband) that will have a lasting impact over time with some of the federal money we'll be getting
- Fairfax County is a .65 on the LCI, when I started it was close to .80. With the recession, growth in other parts of the State, and wealth in other parts of the State, we've come down.
- Hoping we can get the Governor to provide more flexibility. Right now, if you can't do a 2% raise, you have to do 0%. County can't afford a 1% raise, let alone a 2% raise.

QUESTION: What percentage of the revenue from the lottery allocated to the school district, if any?

ANSWER: Senator Barker: We officially provide the funding to education from the lottery proceeds, but we also reduce the amount



of funding from the general funding dollars. This year, when we had some increases in the lottery funds, we tried to make sure we were not taking money out of the other pots that would help schools

COMMENT: Laura Jane Cohen: Want to thank our Legislators for the 2-year SOQ study that is going to happen.

- SOQ is a determination the State makes of how much staff you need based on the number of students that you have
- One of the big areas in Fairfax County is in our special education programs. Our ratios are nowhere near enough staff for what they need to be. But we tend to have a lower student-to-staff ratio than our programs than other are able to fund.
- Arguing for years for LCI to be increased,
- Unlikely that we will ever get a 1 to 1 match, but I am so grateful that they will look at these SOQs because I do think they are now out of line with best practices on how to deliver instruction to these children

QUESTION: One of the Senators spoke about undergrounding utilities from Ft. Belvoir to Huntington. Has any consideration been given to Rt. 1 southbound past Ft. Belvoir to Lorton? We are bottlenecked, Rt. 1 becomes congested and narrow especially past Gunston Road. Has any consideration been given to expanding Rt. 1 further south especially past Gunston Road? On that stretch of road, once it gets congested, people want to do a u-turn that impact northbound traffic and causes accidents?

ANSWER: Senator Surovell: The reason we're doing the underground utilities is because the State and County are investing



close to \$1B in widening Rt. 1, and while the ground is open we thought it would be a good opportunity to get those utilities buried. However, the money for undergrounding has not been fully identified yet – typically something the local government would fund. Verizon has committed to undergrounding at no cost, but there is still about \$65M that needs to be covered. In the legislation I passed, the County could use the money to underground utilities on any part of Rt. 1, including the part you’re talking about – which would be a vote by the Board of Supervisors.

With regard to widening, in 2011 we were able to conduct the Rt 1 multi-modal analysis study that took place over a 4-yr period, resulting in a final report in 2015. That final report recommended we extend the bus rapid transit in three phases. The County has completed Phase 1 and updated the comprehensive plan for Phase 2, but they have not yet started Phase 3 (Belvoir to the Woodbridge VRE) yet. Dale and I have talked several times about connecting with Supervisor Storck to get started on Phase 3 -to make plans for that and start to identify funding for whatever road improvements are needed- but the County has elected not to start that planning process yet. Starting that planning process would be the first step to take with regard to the widening you’re asking about.

CSX bridge is slated to be demolished and replaced with a new \$64M rail bridge over Rt 1 that will make the underpass wider and safer. That, at least, is coming in 2025.

QUESTION: How do we get to the Supervisors to start considering Phase 3 on Rt.1? What does that process look like?

ANSWER: Senator Surovell: This organization is the perfect place to start that discussion and get that process started. You can also reach out to Supervisor Storck directly about it.



President Rumberger: The May SCF meeting is on transportation and this is one of the topics that needs to come up

GENERAL COMMENT: President Rumberger: In June, Laura Jane and Karen will be hosting our Education Update.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Transportation, Peter Weyland/Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs

- Long Bridge Expansion Project
 - Over the next 10 years, you'll often hear two phrases: "transforming rail in Virginia" that is the umbrella that includes "the Long Bridge Extension"
 - Transforming Rail in Virginia is a rail improvement program that separates freight and passenger operations primarily along the I-95 corridor, as well as the I-65 and I-85 corridors
 - The Long Bridge Expansion calls for the building of a new, two-track rail bridge for passenger trains over the Potomac river.
 - This \$3.7B project changes future of rail transportation in VA.
 - Allows for greater separation of freight and passenger rail operations and sets the stage for future expansion of passenger service
 - The existing two-track Long Bridge is the major rail bottleneck on the East Coast
 - The bridge carries 80 trains a day and is over 100 years old. It's at 98% capacity during peak hours
 - Impacts to Lorton Area



- Two new railroad bridges
 - One over Newington Rd. where Fair Winds is located
 - New bridge over Rt. 1 over Richmond Hwy (construction begins in 2023, completed in 2025)
- Franconia to Lorton will receive a new track that will be run on the east side of the existing track
- Franconia-Springfield will have a by-pass where the new rail on the east side will cross over the existing track and switch to the west side. Allows for VRE pick-ups
- Traffic Hazard on Gunston Rd. where utility poles are very close to roadway
 - Location is at the bottom of a dip where vehicles often speed.
 - Pole has been hit twice within the last 6 months knocking out power to the community, thankfully with no serious injuries to the motorist
 - Supervisor Storck asked VDOT to conduct a traffic engineering study. It may take up to 8 weeks for VDOT to review the location, but will advise the SCF upon completion of that study
- May 12 there will be many more transportation updates
 - **Public Safety, Jonathan Kiell, Chair**
 - NextDoor
 - Noticed a number of people are using NextDoor to report crimes.
 - It's important to note that police do not monitor this platform. They are able to use it as a means to communicate with the public, but the reverse is not true.
 - If someone is posting on NextDoor that their car was broken into, that is not getting to the police.



- If there is not a crime in progress, it should be reported to the non-emergency number.
- **Environmental & Parks, Chair, Wes Speers**
 - Community Garden Plots – hit a bit of a hiccup in planning, but still confident in its success
 - Updates will be sent out to those that signed up at lortongardens@gmail.com
- **Land Use, Nick Firth, Chair**
 - Shoppers Food Warehouse
 - Have torn down the front façade and are reconstructing
 - Storck’s office will inquire as to their design plans
 - Hope to have that information reported back in next few days
 - Latest rumor mill for new tenant is Amazon Fresh, but nothing has been confirmed yet. We’ll post it on our website as soon as we hear.
- **Education – see school board member report**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.



Dale Rumberger adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2021 (held virtually)

FUTURE MEETING DATES in 2021: May 11, June 8, July 13, August (no meeting), September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14

Recorded by Angelina Fuller