Virginia's Region 2000
Local Government Council
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504

January 19, 2017
5:00 pm

Minutes

Members Present:

Kenneth Campbell, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager
Bruce Johannessen, Town of Bedford
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Megan Lucas, Lynchburg Regional Economic Alliance
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Bonnie Svrcek, Lynchburg City Manager
Mayor Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst

Members Absent:

Susan Adams, Appomattox County Administrator
Carl Boggess, Bedford County Administrator, Treasurer of Council
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Del. Ben Cline, Virginia House of Delegates
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
Bryan Moody, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Michael Rousseau, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors, Chair of Council
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

Others Present:

Scott Baker, Virginia Coop. Extension
Ben Bowman, Local Government Council
Kevin Camm, Virginia Coop. Extension
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, *Executive Director*
Susan Cook, Local Government Council
Adam Duncan, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates
Philipp Gabathuler, Local Government Council
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, *Deputy Director of Finance*

Scott Smith, Region 2000
Margaret Carmel, News & Advance

1. **Welcome and Moment of Silence**

   Joan Foster, Vice-Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with a moment of silence.

   - **Introduction of New Members**
     Mayor Foster introduced new members Mayor Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst and Bruce Johannessen, Town of Bedford, and reported that Del. Ben Cline has also agreed to serve.

   - **Expression of Thanks to Outgoing LGC Members**
     The council agreed, by consensus, to send letters to outgoing members Kenneth Bumgarner, Stacey Hailey, and Del. Scott Garret, thanking them for their service as representatives on the Local Government Council.

2. **Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2016**
   Upon a motion by Kenneth Campbell, and seconded by Dean Rodgers, the minutes of the November 17th meeting were approved as presented.

3. **Discussion on Next Steps to Support the Agriculture Economy of the Region**
   Scott Baker, Extension Agent for Bedford County, gave the council an update on where they have been and where they want to go next, developing a plan for the future of agriculture and forestry in the region. Part of this process involved updating their Strategic Plan, which can be found on the Local Government Council website.

   Kevin Camm, Extension Agent for Lynchburg, presented three priority areas they identified with the first plan:
   1) Coordinate regional outreach and marketing
   2) Strengthen resources for producers
   3) Promote career and small business development opportunities

   Gary Christie noted that an update to the Strategic Plan was appropriate, and suggested having a discussion with stakeholders in each of the counties and Lynchburg.

   Frank Rogers asked if agriculture, as economic development, could be moved forward through the CEDS implementation.

   The consensus of the Local Government Council was to continue to work on the Agriculture and Forestry Strategic Plan.

4. **Financial Update and Audit**
   Adam Duncan, from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, reviewed the audit report. He reported that there were no findings or recommendations to report.

Bonnie Svrcek questioned the excess funding of VRS. Gary Christie said this would be looked into.

The motion was made by Bonnie Svrcek, and seconded by Frank Rogers, to accept the audit report for FY 2016. The motion was unanimously approved.

Rosalie Majerus reviewed the financial report, stating that operating expenses are currently under budget.

5. Review of Current Staffing and Proposal to Hire a Communications Manager

Gary Christie reported that with Bob White's retirement, he was put into the budget this year for ½ of his salary. Kelly Hitchcock has been moved into the Planning and Development Director slot that was created in November. Scott Smith has been moved into the Transportation Director position that was created last summer. Matt Perkins has been moved into a direct operations role, managing grants and doing field work.

Mr. Christie proposed a new position to be shared with the Workforce Development Board. Each would pay ½ for a new communications person. Services provided for the Workforce Development Board would be working with the business community to market the services of the Workforce Board. Services provided for the Local Government Council would be to tie the Rideshare Program more closely into Workforce Development, and to help with the CEDS process. This staff person would also work with both organizations doing the website, annual reports, and newsletters. Ben Bowman added that this position is also contingent upon the Workforce Board approving their ½ of the position as well.

Dean Rodgers asked if his locality could draw on this person, as on other resources. Gary Christie replied that this would be possible, as long as fair compensation could be worked out and time was available.

Bonnie Svrcek asked for clarification on the intersection of the work related to EDA and Economic Development. Mr. Christie explained that for the CEDS process Kelly Hitchcock will be the point person working with the implementation committee. Staff is being organized in order to help the implementation committee to stay on track for the CEDS process. The Local Government Council will provide the planning and a little bit of staff support, while Megan Lucas does the marketing and implementation.

Mr. Christie explained to the council that he could not promise, at this point, that the new fiscal year would be started with a balanced budget. He assured the council that he would continue to search for new contracts and work to reduce expenses. Options for office space is one consideration for reducing expenses.

Dean Rodgers made a motion to authorize the hiring of a Communications Manager. Kenneth Campbell seconded the motion, contingent upon the Workforce Board also approving their portion of the position. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Charlie Kolakowski, and seconded by Jack Hobbs, to approve the job description for the Special Projects Manager. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Resolutions

Dean Rodgers presented a resolution in support of exploring future use of the Central Virginia Training Center site.

A motion was made by Frank Rogers, and seconded by Jack Hobbs, to approve this resolution. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Senator Representative on the LGC – 22nd Senate District Representative

Gary Christie asked the Local Government Council for permission to invite Sen. Mark Peake to serve on the Local Government Council.

The motion was made by Bonnie Svrcek, second by Megan Lucas, to allow Mr. Christie to as Sen. Peake to serve on the Local Government Council. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business and Reports

- CEDS Implementation Committee **–** Gary Christie reported that the CEDS process has been completed and the implementation committee is being formed.
- Go Virginia Update – GO Virginia continues to build a regional board with Lynchburg, Blacksburg and Roanoke. The Governor's budget amendments reduced GO Virginia's budget from $35m to about $15m.
- Executive Committee Voting – Mr. Christie explained that the Local Government Council Bylaws has an unusual Executive Committee, where one representative from each jurisdiction has a vote on the committee. This has traditionally not been followed. Mr. Christie presented two scenarios:
    1) Have a roll call at the beginning of each meeting and identify who the voting members are
    2) Do not have Executive Committee meetings

After discussion by the council, future meetings will be announced as full Local Government Council meetings. Everyone present would be eligible to make motions and to vote.

- Mr. Christie reminded everyone that they can send a substitute with a proxy vote, if unable to attend a meeting.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

The next meeting of the Local Government Council will be on March 16, 2017.