



Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council Executive Committee Meeting

Partnership Conference Room
828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg, Virginia
March 19, 2015 - 5:00 pm

Members Present:

Kenneth Bumgarner, Amherst Town Council
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista, *Chair*
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Mark Reeter, Bedford County Administrator
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

Absent:

Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Aileen Ferguson, Appomattox County Administrator
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
Don Kidd, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Region 2000 Workforce Development Director
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Finance Director
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council
Bob White, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Planning & Core Services

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and moment of silence

Mike Mattox, *Chair*, opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

2. Minutes of January 15, 2015 Meeting:

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015 as presented, seconded by Kim Payne, the minutes of January 15, 2015 were approved unanimously.

3. Finance report:

Rosalie Majerus reviewed and discussed the year-to-date financials. She noted that there were no unusual expenses and the operating budget is tracking to plan.

4. General Assembly Session Update:

Del. Scott Garrett reviewed and discussed activities and legislation from the 2015 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly. Del. Garrett noted, among many others items, that there were no new taxes imposed this year, that Medicare was not be expanded funding was secured for the CVCC Amherst location, \$100,000 was secured for tourism for the Appomattox Sesquicentennial events, a 2% increase for state supported employees and 1.5% pay increase for teachers was passed, and the Opportunity Education Institute was repealed. Del. Garrett noted that the General Assembly had a very good year.

Garrett addressed comments and questions from the Committee on such topics as the Virginia Retirement System, workforce one-stop operation facilities and the Central Virginia Training Center.

5. Discussion on Regional Education Opportunities & Savings:

Mayor Mike Mattox, *Chair*, lead a discussion and presentation on regional education and to gage whether the Local Government Council should encourage a dialogue between education, government and business leaders. Mattox presented information that highlighted the state of the Region's public school system and its comparison to national averages. Mattox presented a challenge to the Council of answering the question of what Region 2000 can do to improve outcomes through regional collaboration and cooperation.

The Council noted that this discussion was worth continuing and noted that it was important to get the right stakeholders, specifically elected officials, at the table.

Upon a motion by Joan Foster to direct staff to begin compiling a plan to facilitate further discussion with local government, education, and business leaders to address improving the K-12 education and workforce education, seconded by Stan Goldsmith, this motion passed unanimously.

6. Nominations to Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee:

Gary Christie addressed the Council regarding a request to nominate representatives to the Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee. Christie noted that staff would send information to the Campbell and Bedford counties to aid in marketing and soliciting for nominations.

7. FY 16 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program and Resolution:

Bob White presented for the Council's approval the Rural Transportation Planning Work Program noting that this program promoted transportation planning activities outside the Central Metropolitan Planning Area. White highlighted some of the key elements of the program such as long range transportation plan updates, alternative transportation activities and support to localities with transportation related grant writing.

White responded to Council's inquiry regarding alternative transportation efforts specifically regarding recreational trail system and bike plans.

Upon a motion by Kim Payne for Approval of the FY-2016 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program, seconded by Jack Hobbs, this motion was approved unanimously.

8. Preliminary Discussion on FY 16 Budget:

Gary Christie presented the FY 16 budget for preliminary review noting that at the LGC meeting in May that the Council will be asked to approve a FY 16 budget. Christie noted that staff shopped for health insurance providers again this year through a consultant and a recommendation was returned that the LGC should remain with Local Choice, as they were the best, lowest-cost option. Christie noted that the staff needs to notify Local Choice of the LGC's intentions regarding the payment of the 2% increase, approximately \$1500, in premiums for the employees in FY 16 by the end of this April.

Christie responded to Council's questions regarding some additional aspects of the budget and for clarification on the Council's commitment relative the recommendation to remain with Local Choice as the health care provider.

Upon a motion by Joan Foster to authorize the Executive Director to execute Local Choice health insurance documents which include commitments that the LGC will pay the additional 2% premium for employees in FY 16, seconded by Mark Reeter, this motion was passed unanimously.

9. Discussion of Creation of Special Committee "Executive Director Feedback":

Gary Christie presented a plan to establish a special committee for the evaluation process of the Executive Director relative to job performance and pay increases.

Mike Mattox suggested that the past Chair of the LGC be assigned to the "Executive Director Feedback" committee in order to provide the best information regarding performance of the executive director, and not necessarily the current chair that may be remote from the issue and not have adequate information to offer a clear perspective on the Executive Director's performance.

Kim Payne suggested that in order to maintain continuity in the process that not only should the past Chair be appointed to the committee but also the current Chair. The consensus of the Council is to have the current and past Chairs and Treasurers be appointed as members of the "Executive Directors Feedback" committee. Additionally, Payne noted that is unfair that the Executive Director's performance and any associated pay increase be held up just because of inaction of a committee. Consensus of the Council is that this Committee is unable to take action by the November meeting, then the Executive Director would receive whatever pay increase effective January 1 that other employees had received.

Upon a motion Kim Payne, seconded by Joan Foster and approved unanimously, the Council agreed to establish an "Executive Director Feedback" committee. This committee would consist of the current and past Chair and the current and past treasurer. The committee, between August and October, would meet with the Executive Director and provide feedback on the Director's performance and evaluation and develop recommendations to the Council

regarding any pay and benefit changes. In the event that the committee did not complete its work in time to report to the Council by the November meeting, then, in those years when monies were budgeted for other LGC employees to receive merit based increases, then an increase in the amount set for other employees would be given to the Executive Director effective January 1.

10. Items from Staff:

a. Discussion on Communications Program:

Gary Christie presented the idea of the staff developing a communication strategy and asked the Council for suggestions, comments, and guidance.

Suggestions to improve communication from the Council members included:

- Suggesting that the communication from the LGC should allow for an opportunity to hear ideas the localities may have relative to improving their communities;
- Could be more focused on what the Council is doing and what can be done rather than focused just on completed projects;
- Could increase the frequency of the updates and information;
- Could provide information more specific (tailored) to each locality;
- Recommendation that the LGC should emphasize and make connections between how events in one locality may affect the other localities; and
- Suggested that the yearly presentations be in the working sessions of the town/city/county councils and boards in order to encourage more open dialogue and exchange of ideas.

b. Discussion of April 16 LGC meeting:

Gary Christie presented information on the work session and schedule for the April 16, 2015 meeting including highlights of the speaker's presentation and theme for discussion.

11. Items from Council:

Mike Mattox asked the members from Amherst County if the Council could do anything relative to the Sweet Briar closure. Related to the closures of business in Amherst County and their inevitable economic impact, Bob White noted that Amherst County has asked the staff of the LGC for specific reference, or chapter, to Amherst County in the upcoming CEDS update.

Russell Thurston provided insight on the regional education topic and the importance to boil it done to the core mission in order to make any process most effective.

12. Adjourn

Upon a consensus of the Council, Mike Mattox, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Signed: 

By: Gary Tanner, *Vice Chair*