



Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council Meeting

Elston Inn & Conference Center
Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595
October 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Members Present:

John Spencer for Susan Adams, Appomattox County
Kenneth Bumgarner, Amherst Town Council
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox, *Chair*
Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager

Absent:

Carl Boggess, Interim Bedford County Administrator
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Megan Lucas, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Don Kidd, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Region 2000 Workforce Development Director
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
June Driskill, Amherst Planning Commission, Chair
Philipp Gabathuler, Local Government Council, Senior Planner
Kelly Hitchcock, Local Government Council, Senior Planner
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Finance Director
Elizabeth Narehood, Region 2000 Business & Economic Development Alliance, Vice President
Matt Perkins, Local Government Council, Admin. Program Coordinator
Turner Perrow, Lynchburg City Council

Minutes

1. Welcome | Moment of Silence

Mayor Paul Harvey, *Chair*, called to order this meeting of the Council at 5:00 p.m. welcomed the Council and opened with a moment of silence. Mayor Harvey recognized Gary Tanner for his service to the Council and extended an appreciation for his work.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2015

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to approve the minutes of September 17, 2015 as presented, seconded by Scott Garrett, this motion carried unanimously.

3. Finance Report

Rosalie Majerus stated that salaries and fringe benefits are on target and operating expenses are tracking under budget at this time. Majerus noted that there would be a budget adjustment to the TMDL redevelopment line as the scope of that project has changed and there will be revenue from DEQ for that. Gary Christie noted that some budget adjustments will be presented to the Council in January.

Gary Christie brought for discussion the Council's fund balance and dues structure for FY17. Majerus noted that the current projected year-end fund balance is 844k. The Council has set as a goal a minimum of \$600k in the fund balance to cover 3 years of operating expenses to stay open if no additional revenue was received other than from VDOT, DRPT, and DHCD.

Gary Christie stated that the dues rate was \$0.65 per capita which was lowered to \$0.575 per capita in 2008. Christie provided an overview of the revenue structure and where the money is spent that is received by the LGC. Christie noted that the majority of the revenue received is in renewable contracts; other sources include grants and local dues. Christie presented the revenue numbers if dues are kept the same, with the only change coming from the change in population numbers. Christie asked the Council to take action setting the dues rate for FY17.

Delegate Scott Garrett presented questions to staff regarding accounting principles used in establishing the budget and noted that he felt that an unbalanced budget should never be passed.

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to maintain the current dues at rates of \$0.575 per capita for cities and counties and a flat fee of \$1,045 for towns, duly seconded by Jack Hobbs, this motion carried unanimously.

4. LGC Project Update

Item not addressed by Council.

5. PACE Information

Item not addressed by Council.

6. Discussion on Regional Branding

Item not addressed by Council.

John Sharp stated that we should be careful in the proposal/creation of a name so not to be so geographically centric to appear favorable to one locality over the other noting that it is a sensitive subject in Bedford. Mayor Mike Mattox supported the same stating that the Council is regional entity.

7. Continued Discussion on legislative items

Item not addressed by Council.

8. Education Discussion follow-up

Mayor Mattox reviewed a presentation on the state of education in the Region. Mattox led a discussion to explore the possibilities of how the Council could take a leadership role in education and education outcomes in the region. Mattox noted that it is difficult to brand the region as an exceptional region if the region does not boast exceptional schools. He noted that every school division in Region 2000 is below the state average in math and reading SOL's and graduation rates and that nearly 40% of students entering Central Virginia Community College need remedial education to prepare them for college level work. Additionally, Mattox noted that the number one thing that site selectors look for in a community is the availability of a skilled workforce. He also stated that the school divisions lack the resources to maintain and hire qualified teachers.

Mattox presented opportunities that could be potential areas where the Council could facilitate savings in areas such as insurance, combine human resources, purchasing, and transportation costs. Also, he stated that an exploration of other areas where processes and programs are duplicated such as curriculum. Mattox asked Council for ideas of what things they think they could do

Delegate Scott Garrett stated that he perceives parental involvement as a primary issue that needs to be addressed in order to be effective in student success, while noting that it is not necessarily teacher salaries or lack of resources or technology in the classrooms. Garrett agreed that in order to achieve 100% graduation rate in the region then complete concurrence that that is the priority is needed.

Dean Rodgers noted the concept of Promise Communities where the students are incentivized for continuing their education towards a degree or credential attainment. Rodgers also noted that it boils down to power and control. Rodgers stated that he feels, for a plan, proposal or idea to be most effective, that it should come from outside the region or from an independent body or organization. Rodgers suggested that a proposal be drawn up and sent to the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) from the Council and see if they could carry it forward to the legislative bodies for action such as incentivizing regional collaboration for projects and processes. Such examples discussed were consolidation of bus/fleet maintenance, human resource and procurement services, unifying curriculums, and other processes that demonstrated collaborative and cost saving efforts that would then be incentivized.

Mayor Paul Harvey stated that the he foresees the relinquishing of individual autonomy by local school divisions is a major hurdle.

Mattox noted that he believes that there needs to be a fundamental change in the prioritization of education or things will never change on any front.

Turner Perrow noted that finding a solution to cutting cost on auxiliary services to put those savings to classroom activities. Perrow noted that there are certainly areas for consolidation of services that may be good initial steps such as in the area of bus services/maintenance.

Elizabeth Narehood commented that the region is fortunate to have a very collaborative group of superintendents but noted that the system is set up, by the State, to be competitive, not collaborative, for resources. Narehood noted that it would be helpful for the State to incentivize regional programs and initiatives that show efficiency and cost savings from the school divisions.

Upon a motion by Dean Rodgers that approves Region 2000 to correspond directly with VACO and VML to suggest things that could be done at the State level to incentivize the Region 2000 school districts to collaborate to save money and promote education, duly seconded by Scott Garrett, this motion carried unanimously.

9. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Gary Christie presented the Council meeting schedule for calendar year 2016 as follows:

- January 21** – MPO; LGC
- March 17** – LGC Executive Committee
- April 21** – MPO; LGC Spring Dinner Meeting (Appomattox)
- May 19** – LGC Executive Committee
- July 21** – MPO; LGC
- September 15** – LGC Executive Committee
- October 20** – MPO; LGC Fall Dinner meeting (Lynchburg)
- November 17** – LGC Executive Committee

Upon a motion by Gary Tanner to adopt the Council meeting schedule as presented for calendar year 2016, duly seconded by Frank Rogers, this motion carried unanimously.

10. Items from Council or Staff

No further matters were discussed.

11. Adjourn

There being no further matters to discuss, Mayor Paul Harvey, *Chair*, adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Signed: Paul D. Harvey

By: Paul D. Harvey, Chair (title)