



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

**November 15, 2018
5:00 pm**

Minutes

Members Present:

Susan Adams, Appomattox County Administrator
Kenneth Campbell, Chair, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
Megan Lucas, Lynchburg Regional Economic Alliance
Bryan Moody, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
Frank Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Bonnie Svrcek, Lynchburg City Manager
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager
Mayor Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst
Mayor Treney Tweedy, City of Lynchburg

Members Absent:

Carl Boggess, Bedford County Administrator
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Sara Carter, Amherst Town Manager
Del. Ben Cline, Virginia House of Delegates
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Beverley Dalton, Town of Altavista
Bruce Johannessen, Town of Bedford
Sen. Mark Peake, Virginia Senate
Gary Shanaberger, Appomattox Town Manager
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Charlie A. Watts, II, Campbell County Board of Supervisors

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Workforce Development Board
Gary Christie, Local Government Council, Executive Director
Susan Cook, Local Government Council
Rosalie Majerus, Local Government Council, Deputy Director of Finance

1. Welcome and Moment of Silence

Chairman Kenneth Campbell welcomed the Council and began the meeting with a moment of silence.

2. Approval of Minutes of the October 18, 2018 Meeting

Upon a motion by Dean Rodgers, seconded by Bonnie Svrcek, the minutes from October 18, 2018 passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report

LGC Deputy Director Rosalie Majerus reported that there were no unusual transactions or unexpected financial impacts during the first quarter of the fiscal year.

4. Update on Existing Site Readiness Analysis

Megan Lucas updated the Council on the readiness of existing publically owned sites in our communities for development. Two lots in Amherst at 4.6 acres and 14.6 acres are ready for development. One site in Bedford County at 37.4 acres is ready for development. There are nineteen (19) other sites in various stages of readiness at an estimated cost of \$38.6 million.

It was asked if there was significant value in going from a grade 4 to a grade 5, being almost ready to completely ready. Megan replied that often it depended on the buyer and that there are many sites that we compete with that are completely ready. Megan noted that the average request is for a 27 acre site. Having more 25-50 acre sites would be helpful and having 100+ acre sites even better.

Megan offered to circulate the report to each of the Council members and encouraged them to talk with their local economic developers.

5. Role of the Executive Committee

Gary Christie reviewed last month's changes to the bylaws which changed the composition of the Executive Committee to be the LGC Chair and appointed Administrators/Managers from each community. Gary then offered a review of those responsibilities that the Executive Committee might have on their own and those actions which would need to go back before the Council.

The Council reiterated that the idea of the Executive Committee was to assist and advise staff on operations, project progress and routine business and to bring back most of the policy decisions to the Council. The Council agreed that the Executive Committee should be charged with these tasks:

- a) Review the budget for presentation to the Council and review financial reports
- b) Review progress of projects
- c) Set meeting schedules
- d) Review and recommend changes to staff positions, job descriptions and salary ranges for staff positions
- e) Serve as a nominating committee when appropriate
- f) Consider time sensitive items that would later be affirmed by the Council

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Bryan Moody, the Council agreed to task the above responsibilities to the Executive Committee and then modify as needed over time.

6. Expectations of the Executive Director

Dean Rodgers reviewed the work of the Executive Director Feedback Committee, consisting of the current and past Chairs and the current and past Treasurers. He reviewed that the committee had met, solicited input from other Council members and met with the Executive Director. He presented the list of expectations which would be a benchmark for the Director's next review:

1. Initiate new regional projects or initiatives with appropriate staffing
2. Propose/offer helpful projects or initiatives to all the localities
 - a. Provide a list of potential (GO Virginia) projects for the Council to react to for future development – (from evaluation form)
3. Find grant opportunities; keep ALL apprised w/sufficient lead time
4. Use locality planning horizons to find PDC work opportunities
5. Champion the CEDS to keep it moving forward
6. Pursue and offer volume contracts for localities to use
7. Make quarterly report of regional and local projects status
 - a. The value of membership and engagement with the PDC needs to be better articulated to members. (from evaluation form)
 - b. Communications between our organization and our member jurisdictions and stakeholders continues to be a struggle and an organizational weakness. Expectation for the future is to strengthen this weakness. (from evaluation form)
8. Provide topics and lead discussions at luncheon gatherings
9. Issue an RFP for health insurance and provide the PDC Board with a recommendation including comparisons with locality plans. (from evaluation form)

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Paul Harvey, Council approved the list for the Executive Director for 2019.

7. Dues for 2019-2020

The Council discussed the member dues rate for 2019-2020 and encouraged the Executive Director to develop a message that showed value to localities that would be gained by a dues increase. There was discussion about increasing dues gradually. There was discussion about spending down some of our reserves before seeking a dues increase or spending down on projects that would benefit our member communities.

Bonnie Svrcek suggested that staff review and update the financial formula that determines what level of reserves should be held.

Upon a motion by Susan Adams, seconded by Bonnie Svrcek, the member dues rate was unanimously set at is \$.575 per capita for counties and \$1,045 for Towns for 2019-2020.

8. Legislative Priorities

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Megan Lucas, the Council adopted the following legislative priorities for 2019

Filing of Bills with Local Fiscal Impact: Support legislation that requires members of the General Assembly to file bills with local fiscal impacts as early as possible and no later than the first day of the legislative session, so that the appropriate fiscal impact analysis can be completed and reported in a timely manner.

Children's Services Act (CSA): CSA funding continues to be a serious concern. Actions taken by the General Assembly have increased mandated services and shifted costs to the localities. The General Assembly should refrain from adding additional mandated services and should fund its full share of the CSA program.

Economic Development: Preserve existing incentive and grant funds offered by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Tourism Corporation, and Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Educational Funding: Jobs are the key to economic recovery and adequate education is essential for preparing the current and future workforce. The State should fully fund the Standards of Quality (SOQ), including support staff costs and categorical incentive funds for At-Risk students and restore funding from cuts to education over the last biennium. The state has a constitutional duty to meet its education funding obligations and should refrain from changes in methodology and division of financial responsibility that result in a further shift of funding responsibility from the state to localities. These shifts do not change what it actually costs to provide education but simply transfers additional costs to local governments, and ultimately to the local real estate tax base.

The CVPDC also encourages the General Assembly to support capital funding for education infrastructure.

Prevention: Restore state funds for prevention services.

Social Services: Maintain funding for workforce re-training through appropriate agencies, retaining Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) staff and funding in Social Services. This program has successfully helped Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients secure and maintain jobs.

State Aid to Public Libraries: Restore state aid for libraries to at least FY 2010 levels. Public libraries serve as resources for early childhood education and for the unemployed seeking job opportunities.

Telecommunications and Wireless Infrastructure Regulation: Maintain local authority over zoning, land use, rights-of-way and taxation. Limit new state regulation preempting local authority regarding the use and compensation of local rights of way for telecommunications. Refrain from adopting any additional legislation that preempts local

regulation of the placement of wireless infrastructure in the public rights of way or on public property.

Central Virginia Training Center Environmental Remediation and Marketing Plan:

Provide state financial investment to redevelop the Central Virginia Training Center and create a marketing plan that would create the highest and best use for the property's future. The Commonwealth has a responsibility to the region and Amherst County to create a redevelopment plan and remediate any environmental problems before the property is offered on the market.

9. General Assembly Member Appointments to the CVPDC

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Megan Lucas, the Council unanimously asked that Senator Steve Newman and Delegate Matt Farris be invited to join the CVPDC for 2019-2021 and if they are unable to join then invite the next by numbered district.

10. Request to allow the LGC Operations to be closed on Monday, December 31, 2018

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Susan Adams, the Council unanimously agreed that Region 2000 employees would be given an additional holiday on Monday, December 31, 2018 and to wish the employees a happy holiday season.

11. Resolutions of Appreciation to Brookneal Mayor Phyllis Campbell and former Delegate Ben Cline

Upon a motion by Frank Rogers, seconded by Mayor Paul Harvey, the Council unanimously approved the sending of resolutions of appreciation to Brookneal Mayor Phyllis Campbell and former Delegate Ben Cline for their good work on behalf of the Local Government Council and the region.

12. Workforce

Workforce Development Director Ben Bowman reminded the Council about the ribbon cutting and name change at the Career Center on 11-16-18 at the former VEC building on Odd Fellows Road. He also informed the Council that the Workforce Board is updating the Workforce strategic plan and encouraged comments and suggestions.

13. Other Business

It was the consensus of the Council to have only one dinner meeting in 2019, which is a change from the past with two per year. Gary Christie stated that the LGC will meet quarterly, in the first month of each quarter, with the Executive Committee meeting in the other months.

14. Adjourn – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on 1/17/19.