

VIRGINIA: AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE BANQUET ROOM OF THE PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK BUILDING IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2005, AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT	HARRISON A. MOODY – CHAIRMAN	ELECTION DISTRICT #1
FROM	MICHAEL W. STONE - VICE CHAIR	ELECTION DISTRICT #5
DINWIDDIE	ROBERT L. BOWMAN IV	ELECTION DISTRICT #3
COUNTY:	DONALD L. HARAWAY	ELECTION DISTRICT #2
	DORETHA E. MOODY	ELECTION DISTRICT #4

OTHER: GREG HORWEDEL, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
KEVIN MASSENGILL, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
TIM SMITH, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESENT	COUNCIL MEMBER JOAN K. CARTER
FROM	COUNCIL MEMBER BRIAN A. MOORE
PETERSBURG	COUNCIL MEMBER KENNETH M. PRITCHETT (absent during roll call)

CITY	COUNCIL MEMBER DAMA E. RICE
COUNCIL:	COUNCIL MEMBER CARL M. ROSS
	VICE MAYOR HORACE P. WEBB
	MAYOR ANNIE M. MICKENS

OTHER: B. DAVID CANADA, CITY MANAGER  
CLERK OF COUNCIL, ANITA M. EDISON

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**IN RE: CALL TO ORDER**

The joint meeting of the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors and the Petersburg City Council was called to order and roll call taken at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Mickens expressed the appreciation of the Petersburg City Council for the opportunity to join together with the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors in the joint session. This meeting was scheduled in order to address some issues that will benefit both localities. Mayor Mickens turned the agenda over to Petersburg City Manager, Mr. Canada.

Mr. Canada stated that he and Administrator Horwedel would like to also express their appreciation for the meeting, and the possibility of discussing some topics of joint interest. He said their hope was to reach some consensus as to how to proceed. He said that this meeting was not intended to reach final conclusions on any of the topics that would be discussed. However, this meeting would serve to introduce those topics to the City Council and to the Board of Supervisors, with the idea that he and Mr. Horwedel would be given directions as to how to proceed in the future with respect to each topic.

**IN RE: OVERVIEW OF APPOMATTOX RIVER GREENWAY/BLUEWAY PLAN**

Victor Lu, Crater Planning District Commission, stated the Appomattox River Greenway/Blueway Plan was developed about three years ago. It was developed with the assistance of the Community Design Center at Virginia Tech, and was developed by cooperation of the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, and sponsored by the Crater Planning District Commission. The plan calls for development of twenty-two miles of greenway/blueway along the bank of the Appomattox from City Point in Hopewell (which is the east end of the greenway/blueway location), westward to Lake Chesdin in Dinwiddie County. There are six trailheads identified: Lake Chesdin, Appomattox River Park, Campbell Bridge, Pocahontas Island, Prince George Appomattox River Park and City Point. The next step is to attempt to connect those six trailheads and develop the greenway along the river.

Mr. Lu spoke about the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River. He said this is a citizen group appointed by the six localities along the river: Petersburg, Colonial Heights,

Hopewell, Dinwiddie, Prince George and Chesterfield. He said there is no time table because this volunteer group depends on funding.

Mr. Canada said that Petersburg owns a fairly extensive amount of land along the south bank of the Appomattox River extending from Campbell's Bridge westward to behind Battersea, and from the area of Appomattox River Park all the way to the abutment.

The City of Petersburg owns the Appomattox River Park which is roughly the fifteen acres to the south of the canal. In addition to that, Petersburg also owns the land along the south bank of the Appomattox and an existing trail way which needs improvement (approximately three miles). Also, there are seventeen acres, which is just west of the property owned by the City of Petersburg, that may be available for future development of the Appomattox River Park. Something that has been discussed over the years is the idea of some type of joint use of this facility, as it also has proximity to a fairly large segment of the population of Dinwiddie and also to Chesterfield County. A few years ago it was suggested that Dinwiddie, Petersburg, Chesterfield and, at the time, Colonial Heights, Prince George and Hopewell might develop a joint Recreation Authority that would have the ability to develop or acquire property along the river stretching the entire twenty-two miles that Mr. Lu addressed earlier (from Lake Chesdin to City Point in Hopewell). The purpose of that Authority would be not only to acquire property along the Appomattox River, particularly the South bank, but to also eventually position ourselves for a future request to the State of Virginia for the development of a park along this whole corridor. The acquirement of property would be in the form of easement through properties for trail or access purposes to the Appomattox River. Understanding that the undertaking of that might be something that requires much further discussion, and something that would develop over time, there is also the possibility of the development of a cooperative agreement between Petersburg and Dinwiddie with respect to further development of the Appomattox River Park. That may also include Chesterfield County. There was a meeting about two years ago in the Dinwiddie Airport Board Room to discuss the possibility of something along that line. At that time there was representation from Chesterfield County. At this point in time, there is need for direction from the respective governing bodies in order to explore this possibility and to bring back options both to the City Council and to the Board of Supervisors. As Mr. Lu indicated earlier, one of the primary objectives of the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River at this time is to assist the City of Petersburg in bridging a break along the existing trail that extends from Campbell's Bridge on the east, and would move westward. One of the other things that Mr. Canada and Mr. Horwedel had discussed was the possibility of a joint application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for transportation enhancement funds that might be used for improvement of the trail. In addition to that, there is also the possibility of joint application to improve Route 1 as it extends through Petersburg and reaches Pamplin Park as an access corridor.

Councilwoman Rice asked whether the Friends of the Lower Appomattox would be in charge of this.

Mr. Canada said that this is all preliminary, and that as far as the joint property agreement and management of the Appomattox River Park, they would not be looking to the Friends of the Lower Appomattox. However, they would be working with them and, in fact, are working with them now on seeking applications, and for funding for segments of the trail along the river. Also, they would look to them for volunteer assistance in developing some of those trails. He said they would hope that the joint cooperative agreement, if that is the desire of the respective governing bodies, would be one on which the signatories would be the City of Petersburg and Dinwiddie County. This would, of course, require the approval of both elected bodies.

Mr. Haraway said that when they met at the airport last year, he seemed to remember that Chesterfield volunteered to provide a cost estimate. Mr. Canada said that, no, they did not provide that. He said, however, that they did spend some time evaluating the condition of the trail, but that Petersburg had not received a formal estimate. He said he would be glad to follow up on that to determine what position they're in at this point. He said that he thought one of the reasons they volunteered to do that was because they had the expertise that would allow them to look at the various improvements that would be needed, and to cost them out. He said that Chesterfield County had included in its most recent bond issue monies for a trail system on the north side of the Appomattox. Therefore, there is a great potential for making connecting linkages from south to north, or north to south, along the Appomattox River. He said that he was sure that in the process of developing the estimates for inclusion in a bond issue that Chesterfield County also came up with a cost estimate for improvement on their side, which would probably be applicable on the south side as well.

Mr. Canada stated if the desire of the Council and the Board is for him and Mr. Horwedel to move forward on just looking at the possibilities and the options with respect to the joint use of the Appomattox River Park that could be done without responsibility of either governing party at this point in time.

Mayor Mickens said that unless Council had any objection, with the conditions that Mr. Canada stated, they would agree that an exploration of the possibilities would be what was desired by Petersburg City Council.

Dinwiddie Board of Supervisors Chairman, Mr. Moody, said that the Board was in agreement.

**IN RE: OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL TOURISM PLAN**

Mr. Morris, Staff Director of The Crater Planning District Commission, discussed the presentation on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Richard Bland College where consultants who were brought on board to assist in evaluating the potentials of the region spoke. He said that Ms. Randal laid out a blueprint that they are going to try to follow as much as possible. Also, he said that when this process was started, there were eleven jurisdictions that were interested in participating. Of the ten members of the Crater Commission, Charles City had also asked to participate. He said that Ms. Randal had been asked to identify those jurisdictions where there might be capability to work together on a regional tourism effort. She came up with her recommendations which included Dinwiddie County, the City of Petersburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Prince George County and Southern Chesterfield County. Those were chosen because of close proximity to each other resulting in good touring scale, complimentary attractions and amenities, similar and complimentary history and sense of place, multiple matching historic patterns and transportation linkages through rivers, railroads and highways. There is a sense of place among the jurisdictions she identified.

Mr. Canada added that with the regional tourism effort, the Petersburg City Council had directed him a few weeks ago to acquire a booth at the Virginia Municipal League Conference which will be held October 23 – 25<sup>th</sup> of this year in Richmond. He said that they have acquired a booth, and would like to make it available to all the localities within the region for dissemination of information about the various localities in terms of tourist attractions; and particularly for Pamplin Park. He said that he felt the idea was to promote more definitively what we have to offer in this area. He stated that if in the next few weeks or so, if there is a wish to participate they would like to make the offer open so that information would be in the booth about tourism attractions throughout this region.

**IN RE: EXTENSION OF PETERSBURG AREA TRANSIT (PAT) BUS  
SERVICE TO CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL & SOUTHSIDE  
VIRGINIA TRAINING CENTER**

Mr. Canada said that the City of Petersburg has extended bus service into Hopewell with Prince George, particularly to access the Virginia Employment Office. In addition, bus service has been extended, in cooperation with The Greater Richmond Transit Company to downtown Richmond, two buses daily. There are a lot people who are coming from Richmond into Petersburg, and then transferring onto city buses to go to Virginia State University or other locations within the region. Also, bus service has recently been extended into Colonial Heights to Southpark Mall. That was specifically to allow for there to be relatively inexpensive and convenient transportation of persons who are stationed at Ft. Lee to the Mall. That is a big benefit for economic development in this region. Mr. Canada went on to say that they had recently been approached by the Division of Real Estate Services of the General Services Administration about the possibility of extending bus service to the Southside Virginia Training Center, where there would be one stop. Also, bus service to the Central State Hospital, where there would be two stops. This service would not be extended without approval of the governing body of the locality to which the service would be extended. Mr. Canada expressed that perhaps this proposed extension could be given consideration at the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors' meeting. Primarily this is to facilitate access, particularly of customers as well as employees, to both employment centers. Mr. Canada said that he and Mr. Horwedel would plan on meeting, and bringing this to the Board's attention at a future time.

Mr. Canada said that there is no anticipation of cost sharing on the route. This is being explored at the request of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He said that the Commonwealth would like to have some decision so that they can plan on the utilization of the office space at the two facilities in the beginning of calendar year 2006.

**IN RE: USE OF LAND OWNED BY CITY OF PETERSBURG ADJOINING  
DINWIDDIE COUNTY AIRPORT**

Mr. Canada spoke about an issue that had been brought to their attention some months ago. This issue is the possible future use of land that the City of Petersburg owns in Dinwiddie County since 1942; approximately 45 acres that fronts on Route 460, and is in the vicinity of the Dinwiddie County Airport. He said that also there are two adjoining tracts that the County is currently marketing to some extent for economic development purposes.

Mr. Horwedel said that the County owns some property at the junction of I85 and 460. He said the County is marketing that for commercial development. It is about 180 acres that is planned for development as a high quality commerce park. There is the opportunity for the County to redevelop this entire region, and as Mr. Massengill was showing to the meeting on a map, the City of Petersburg owns a significant stake in the corridor. He said that he thought it was in the best interest of the City to determine what would be the best use of this property. He said that he and Mr. Canada would like to get some direction to cooperate on these particular parcels of land. Whether that would involve a sale, marketing the property for the City or the City using the property for some other venture; that just needs to be looked at, and then he and Mr. Canada could bring back some options to the respective governing bodies. He asked that both governing bodies formulate their questions, get them to their respective administrators, and then he and Mr. Canada would sit down and make sure that they answer those questions. They would come up with a plan that could then be considered.

Mayor Mickens asked if the Council had any concerns with the discussion. The Council was in agreement to the discussions.

**IN RE: COMMON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Mr. Canada spoke regarding legislative agenda that the City of Petersburg and Dinwiddie County may jointly pursue at the General Assembly this year. He said that one particular issue was future of the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation. He said that they would like to get some direction as to how they might approach the General Assembly. In the past they have always been opposed to the facility being located where it is currently located. The desire is for the Rehabilitation Center to be relocated to the south.

Ms. Martha Burton, Crater District Planning Commission, said that one of her jobs with the Commission is to serve as a legislative liaison for the localities within the Planning District. She said that she is in Richmond regularly, and has access to a significant amount of information and members of the legislature. She said that she follows the Capital Region Caucus, which is a caucus of Legislatures from the greater Richmond – Petersburg metropolitan area. She said that she hopes that she will be seen as a resource with legislative issues.

Ms. Burton updated both Bodies on the following legislative issues: Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation; Real Property Tax Issues; Telecom Tax Reform; Composite Index; At-Risk; Transportation; the Chesapeake Bay; Biosolids; Eminent Domain; Cable TV Franchising; Vicious or Dangerous Dogs; and Manufacturing in Virginia

Supervisor Bowman asked that she explain in a little more detail the effect of the real property tax.

Ms. Burton said that as it has been proposed so far, it would be local option and you would be able to exempt up to 20% the value of owner occupied homes. It is a tax break for home owners. It would be administered locally. She said she did not know much beyond that as it is a proposal on the table.

Supervisor Bowman asked whether the state would reimburse the 20%.

Ms. Burton said that hasn't been clarified.

Mr. Canada added that the proposal with respect to there being some type of state reimbursement, or state absorption, of the 20% is an issue being discussed by the Virginia First Cities Coalition. She said that the City of Petersburg is a member of this coalition, along with 14 other older cities in the state. He said that position was to be transferred to the study committee at the Virginia Municipal League for consideration.

Councilman Moore had a question regarding the Cable TV Franchise Law.

Ms. Burton said the Cable TV Franchise Law is something that is relatively new and she does not have a lot of background information on it. She has not been involved in meetings on that particular topic.

Mr. Horwedel stated that he had a couple of citizens come to him before the meeting regarding some VDOT issues. He will be addressing these with Mr. Varney. One issue was Squirrel Level Road, and the other was fly ash trucks.

Mr. Canada also said that Petersburg had added the improvement of Squirrel Level Road from the overpass to the Halifax Road area, to their six-year plan.

Board Chairman, Mr. Moody, asked whether Delegate Dance would like to make any comments.

Delegate Dance said she had an opportunity to meet with both localities separately, and to hear some of the issues of each. She said she was willing to do whatever she could to assist.

Mr. Canada provided the Council and Board with a brief overview of each topic that had been discussed. He stated that he and Mr. Horwedel would explore the possibility of some type of joint cooperative agreement with respect to the use and improvement of the Appomattox River Park. Also, they will work on the possibility of a joint application to VDOT for transportation enhancement grants. He reiterated that the City of Petersburg would make available the use of their booth at the Virginia Municipal League October 23 – 25<sup>th</sup> in Richmond.

Finally, he said if there are legislative issues that can be jointly proposed and advocated in the Legislative Session through the state legislators, Delegate Dance, and others, he and Mr. Horwedel will be glad to bring those to the respective governing bodies' attention. He said that in many instances it is really important that our positions are made known. Also, it is important to appear before the relative bodies at the General Assembly to advocate our positions.

Mr. Horwedel said that a lot of ground had been covered in the meeting in a short amount of time. He said that it was important that the City and the County come together in this joint effort. In cooperating on these issues, far more can be accomplished working together than individually. He said that these particular issues have the opportunity to make real and tangible differences in the lives of the respective citizens. He said that he very much appreciated the Mayor, Council Members, Delegate Dance, and the Board Members for the opportunity to get together.

Mayor Mickens and Chairman Moody each expressed their appreciation for the work of City Manager Canada and County Administrator Horwedel. Each expressed their desire to work together to toward common goals.

**IN RE: ADJOURNMENT**

The joint meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M. by Mayor Mickens, and by Chairman Moody.

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Harrison A. Moody, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Horwedel  
County Administrator

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