

VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED WORK SESSION OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ON NOVEMBER 4, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR REGINALD O. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR JOHN M. SEWARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR M. SHERLOCK HOLMES  
SUPERVISOR ERNEST L. BLOUNT  
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE

ALSO

PRESENT: MR. TYRONE W. FRANKLIN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MR. WILLIAM HEFTY, HEFTY & WILEY, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
MR. JOHN B. EDWARDS, JR., ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MRS. MELISSA ROLLINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
MS. RHONDA R. MACK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Reginald Harrison. Mr. Harrison requested an update from Ms. Rhonda Mack regarding progress of the Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee.

Ms. Mack began by reminding the Board that they had requested a copy of the current zoning ordinance with proposed changes highlighted for ease in consideration. However, she reported that this would not be possible to provide as the whole document had been restructured. Although the format of the document was very different, much of the content remains the same. Some provisions have been incorporated to provide for greater flexibility. Ms. Mack mentioned as an example regulations regarding temporary emergency housing and briefly discussed difficulties in enforcement stemming from a lack of, or non-specific guidelines. She then reported that the Committee hoped to have completed the draft zoning ordinance within six months and additional ordinances including subdivision, floodplain, and wetlands would be drafted thereafter.

Supervisor Lyttle commented that along with the reformatting and more specific definitions, the proposed document had added additional district categories. Ms. Mack replied that that was correct, but that the new districts would compliment what was already in place while providing a greater degree of flexibility.

Chairman Harrison raised concerns regarding the degree of restriction desired in the proposed document. Supervisor Blount asked for clarification regarding the previously mentioned temporary emergency housing. Ms. Mack responded and a brief discussion ensued. The discussion then turned to low density development and access roads – the development and maintenance of access roads in subdivisions. There was some disagreement with regard to whether or not hard

surfaced access roads should be required in all subdivisions. Mr. Franklin, along with other Board members expressed concern that the requirement would slow down development and make home ownership unaffordable for some as a result of development costs being passed on to potential home and property owners.

Unable to reach full agreement on issues relating to access roads, Ms. Mack suggested that the Board move on to the issue of density: the number of lots allowed per acre of property. Ms. Mack reported on proposed ordinance changes that affect density indicating that language in the draft ordinance actually would result in an increase in density. However, development at this time is limited by the lack of infrastructure. As a result, the County's wish to maintain its rural character and preserve rural and agricultural lands is protected.

Discussion then turned to land use issues as applied to camp grounds and recreational vehicle sites. Ms. Mack indicated that there were currently three proposed camps in various stages of permitting and that there were other interested parties who were contemplating the development of camp grounds.

Following the discussion, Ms. Mack informed the Board that the Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee would continue to provide the Board with periodic updates on their progress and present the Board with a completed draft ordinance as soon as it was available.

At this point, Chairman Harrison asked the Board to turn its attention to the development of a draft noise ordinance and Mr. William Hefty, County Attorney, addressed the Board. Mr. Hefty began his comments by updating the Board on a situation that had recently arisen in the city of Richmond with regard to the application and enforcement of their noise ordinance. He then went on to explain the difficulty in drafting a noise ordinance that could be an effective tool of any local government. Decisions would need to be made, Mr. Hefty advised, with regard to the use of decibels in the language of the proposed ordinance which would then result in the need for the County to purchase and train local law enforcement in the use of decibel meters. Mr. Hefty further suggested that the Board would need to decide whether or not to impose time limits and would need to consider exemptions: such as noise related to farming, development, aircraft, hunting, and forestry activities.

Following some discussion, Mr. Hefty reported that he would prepare a revised draft noise ordinance for the Board's review. Another public hearing will be required once the revisions are completed before the Board can take action on the matter.

At this time, Chairman Harrison called for a recess prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. the same evening.