

VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED RETREAT OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE BOARDWALK CONFERENCE ROOM OF SMITHFIELD STATION LOCATED AT 415 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, SMITHFIELD, VA 23430 ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 AT 8:45 A.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH HOLMES
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN

ABSENT: SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

RETREAT FACILITATOR: MS. KATHLEEN GUZI, PUBLIC ENTITY SPECIALIST, VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Elliott began the retreat with welcome and introductions. Ms. Kathleen Guzi, Public Entity Specialist, Virginia Association of Counties introduced herself and discussed the purpose, intention, and goals of the retreat.

AGENDA, AGENDA PACKET, TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, AND NOTES

The retreat agenda, agenda packet, topics of discussion, and notes are attached as an integral component of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The retreat ended early due to inclement weather. The retreat on Friday, February 21, 2020 is re-scheduled to Monday, February 24, 2020 and will be held at the Dendron Parks and Recreation building located at 2850 Rolfe Highway, Dendron, Virginia 23839 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



Surry COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2020 RETREAT AGENDA

Smithfield Station

February 20-21, 2020

Time	Item	Day 1, Thursday, February 20, 2020
8:45-9:00 AM		Welcome & Introductions, Chairman Elliott
9:00-9:15 AM		Overview of Retreat Session, Kathleen Guzi <i>Public Entity Specialist, VA Association of Counties</i>
		Setting of Goals
9:15-10:15 AM		Environmental Scan: Board Members
10:15-10:45 AM		Environmental Scan: The County`
10:50-11:00 AM		BREAK
11:00-12:15 AM		Environmental Scan: The County, continued
12:15- 1:00 PM		<i>LUNCH – (Served in the Conference Room)</i>
1:00-2:15 PM		Environmental Scans Continued
2:15-2:45 PM		Environmental Scans Wrap Up (Vision & Mission) Next Steps
2:45-3:00 PM		BREAK
3:00 -5:00 PM		Discussion Items – BOARD MEMBERS Code of Ethics Other – TBD
5:30-6:30 PM		DINNER (Will be Delivered to the Conference Room)

CONTINUE TO FEBRUARY 21, 2020

Time	Item	Day 2, Friday, February 21, 2020
9:00 AM		Welcome, Introductions, Purpose (Chairman Elliott) <u>Purpose</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team building • Discussion of specific issues, challenges and/or highlights for each departments • To engage in dialogue between supervisors and department heads
9:15 AM	M. Rollins:	Surry County Accomplishments – 2015-2020 (15 minutes)
		Board of Supervisors & Departmental Engagement Discussions
9:30 AM	W. Saunders:	Dept. of Planning & Community Development (20 minutes)

9:50 AM C. Swindell: Mid-Year Financial Report & Financial Trends Update (20 minutes)
10:15 AM S. Williams: Building Inspections (15 minutes)
10:30 AM M. Vargo: Animal Control (15 minutes)
10:45 AM R. Phelps: Emergency Services (20 minutes)
11:10 AM 15 minute Break
11:30 AM S. Jones: Parks & Recreation (15 minutes)
11:45 AM L. Stone: Dept. of Youth & Family Resources (15 minutes)

12:15 PM: Break for Lunch – Lunch Will Be Delivered to the Conference Room

1:00 PM L. White: Virginia Cooperative Extension (15 minutes)
1:20 PM H. Slade: Dept. of Solid Waste & Recycling (15 minutes)
1:40 PM R. Woodard: Maintenance (15 minutes)
2:00 PM D. Brown: Information Technology (15 minutes)
2:15 PM 15 minute Break

2:30 – 3:45 PM. Social Services, Registrar & Constitutional Officers

3:45 PM D. Harrison: Economic Development (15 minutes)
4:00 PM Comments from the Board of Supervisors

Stable Schools: Graduation Rate, All Schools Accredited

Location: Proximity

Highways, Airports, Port, Hampton Roads

Economic Development

Western & Southern Areas: Development Potential

Access Development Potential

Water

Boat Ramp (5 years in the making)

River Based Economic Development/Tourism

Surry Seafood

Waterway - -Access business

HEAL Campaign: Healthy Eating and Active Living

Wind Turbines

Parts, Repair Business Potential

Agriculture

Changing from Large Farms to Small Farms

Niche Farming

School - specialized farming

Sweet Potatoes, Mushrooms

Winery

Berries - -Pumpkins: Adds activities for residents and tourists

Fruit Orchards – Cidery: Adds activities for residents and tourists

Trees – Lumber

Profile District

Conduct Town Hall Meetings

Inventory – Education

Regional Econ Deve

BOS

Foreign Communities

Video Businesses

Telling our Story

Additional Opportunities

Tourism
Educate - -Inform Citizens
Media
Communication
Communication with School System and Community
History
Educate - Surry
Internships with Dominion Energy
 Contact?
Potential Economic Development: Mega Site in Sussex
 Impact on Rt 460?

Weaknesses/Obstacles

Fiscal?? Perceived vs Reality
Road Improvements: Rt 10, Rt 31 and Rt 40
 Strip Development
Transportation for Seniors
 Live Alone
 Hard to gain access to transportation: food
 WAT: 1- 2 trips a month to get out
 Challenges once you arrive
 Ridership?
 Cost?

Trends: Population, Financial, Community: Citizen Needs and Services, Economic Development, Land Use

Population Trends

Aging

Declining, especially school age children

Folks Coming into the County: Empty Nesters, Retirement Age

They are used to traveling outside of County for Services

Healthcare Challenges

Regionalism – Increasing

Riverside Regional Jail

Hampton Roads Solid Waste Authority

Hampton Roads Sanitary District

Towns

Building and Land Use

Utilities in Good Shape, except need Natural Gas

Historical Review Board

Recent major subdivisions did not get off the ground completely

Residential Development Clustered near Ferry, River: Water View

Expensive

Development is Near/Around Towns vs Traffic Patterns

Development is scattered around

Abandoned Homes - - Blight (weakness)

Community

Loss of Community Centers: convenience stores, basic services

What Do We Hear From Citizens, What do They Request?

- Recreation: Health and Wellness, workout facility
- Community Gaps: Food Access, Rx
- Vacant School Building: convert to Recreation/Community Centers?
Location to Powerplant?
- Emergency Operations – Volunteer Rescue Squad – 911 Call Center: new building
Needed to move out of Dominion Power’s Emergency Evacuation Zone
- Ferry Transport - - Emergencies
- Broadband: Last Mile, Fiber to Home: County-wide; very successful in Obtaining grant funding, matching with local funds

What Do We Want to Keep/Preserve?

- Family Roots
- Sense of Serenity
- Expand on what we have
- HRSD: a good move
- Sense of Security
- Rural Nature
- Directed/Controlled Growth
- Strong Work Ethic
- Low Crime

What Do We Want to Change/Improve upon?

- Transportation
 - VDOT Change Rt 10
 - Rt 10 – Housing Only
 - Could be open for Development
 - Rt 460 - Southern
 - Building Issues – Swamp
 - Lots of Traffic
 - Not A Divided Highway
 - Opportunity: Cooperation

- Expand Rt 10 and Rt 40
- Need access to Major thoroughfares
- Property Owners may be reluctant
- Politics: Access to State \$
- Look at Prince George County: Rolls Royce and its impact
- Want a Crossroads
- Metro Areas - - Which Access Sussex – (Down Rt 10)
- Potential Economic Development: Mega Site in Sussex
 - Impact on Rt 460?

Economic Development

- Need Industry – need diversification
- Retail
- Lack of jobs
- Solar Plants: Current, Future
- How many? How much acreage?
- State taxing limits revenue benefits to County
 - How to define what we want/need
 - Comprehensive Plan
- Hog Farms: Current, Future
- Agri-Tourism
 - Outdoor, Recreation, Protecting Forests
- Finding Balance
 - Protected Land – Timber
 - Taxes: potential to increase
 - Ready for Industry

Community

- Entertainment
- 21st Century Communications
- Recent Grants
 - Health-Wellness Assessment
 - Community Partners
- Parks and Recreation – Senior Center Facility?
 - Existing Vacant School Building: within 10 miles of power plant
- Department of Social Services: does a good job with seniors

Power plant is both an opportunity and threat

Taxes

Composite Index

Future

Education:

Dual Enrollment Program

John Tyler CC

Themes Identified with Possible Next Steps

(In no particular priority order)

Community

Economic Development

Education

Fiscal Responsibility

Transportation

Community

Preserve rural nature, sense of serenity and security

Highlight family roots, strong work ethic, low crime rates

Improve Transparency

Improve Communication with Citizens: projects, programs, fiscal matters

District Profiles

Town Hall Meetings

Local Newspaper - -Highlight Recent Activities

Identify areas of service needs to focus on including:

Health and Wellness Facility

Community gaps: Food, Drug store, Community/Neighborhood Store

Identify potential uses for vacant county-ownes buidlings

Identify Additional Entertainment Opportunities

For growing aging population and to attract young people

Continue Broadband efforts

Economic Development

Continue to identify ways to assist the small farms, niche/specialized farming

Continue to identify ways to assist growing agri-tourism industry capitalizing on the natural beauty and amenities of the County

Keep lines of communication with Powerplant open concentrating on current opportunities (e.g. internships) and future activites

Review Comprehensive plan for possible changes affecting ability to locate solar farms in the County.

Work closely with Regional and State partners to identify targeted industries, including those that support County's existing partners (e.g. solar technicians etc.)

Continue Broadband efforts

Identify areas of County that are ripe for development

Education

Continue to work with the Schools to highlight successes including Graduation Rates, Accreditation, Dual Enrollment Program with John Tyler Community College

Continue to work with the Schools and Industry (especially Dominion Energy/Power) to identify internships

Continue to work with the Schools to identify voc tech skills needed by existing and targeted industries/employers

Fiscal Responsibility

Continue to keep stable tax rates while providing quality services for County's citizens

Continue to educate Board and citizens on fiscal matters

Continue to be transparent on fiscal matters

Improve Communication with Citizens on fiscal matters, especially debt

Transportation

Start dialogue on development of short and long term priority plans working with VDOT, regional partners (PDC and individual localities) and state legislators for major roads and corridors in the County including the ferry.