

Minutes of York County Homeowner Associations Meeting

April 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Senior Center of York

In Attendance:

HOAs -

Ambrits Point, Breezy Point, Glen Laurel, Jacobs Springs, Kings Villa, Marlbank Cove, Middletowne Farms, Rainbrook Villas, Robanna Terrace, Running Man, Sommerville, Woodlake Crossing, Woods of Tabb, York Point

York County Officials and Staff -

Board of Supervisors - Sheila Noll and Tom Shepperd; County Administrator - Neil Morgan; Deputy County Administrators - Mark Carter (Retired April 30), Vivian McGettigan, and Mark Bellamy (Effective May 1); Directors - Brian Woodward, Public Works and Susan Kassel, Planning and Development Services; Public Affairs - Paula Hersh and Kelly Thomas

Opening remarks and FY2019 Proposed Budget Presentation:

York County Administrator Neil Morgan welcomed those in attendance and introduced York County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sheila Noll and Vice Chairman Tom Shepperd. A slide presentation on the FY2019 Proposed Budget followed and can be viewed [here](#).

Regional Update:

Mr. Morgan provided an overview of regional issues including transportation (I-64 and HRBT widening, etc.) and shared services (jail, animal shelter, public safety and emergency communications).

York County Government Reorganization:

Mr. Morgan briefed attendees on recent changes to the York County government structure. An updated organizational chart was provided which can be viewed [here](#). Highlights included the announcement of Mark Bellamy's promotion to Deputy County Administrator upon the retirement of Mark Carter and the formation of the Department of Planning and Development Services.

Question and Answer Session:

- **On your organizational chart, Real Estate Assessment and Finance report to the same manager. One tries to get fair market value and the other is trying to get revenue for the County. Where are the checks and balances?**

Virginia law structures the assessment process and does not allow anyone other than the Assessor to direct decisions on value. Our organizational chart reflects administrative supervision only. Real Estate Assessment has been placed under the oversight of Deputy County Administrator Vivian McGettigan who is a credentialed fraud auditor.

- **Regarding school security, York High has one School Resource Officer (SRO). Is that number going to go up?**

Based on recent events, it's under review between the School Board and Superintendent. Currently, York County has full-time, armed SROs in the four high schools. I'm hesitant to speak too specifically about this in any public setting, but I can tell you that one of the priorities in the school capital projects is doing things to make school buildings more secure. A lot of the schools were built with open breezeways and multiple points of entry and they are incrementally doing away with all of that. This is a very important issue and the County is certainly open to upgrades in school security.

- **What is the projection for completion of the new fire station on Dare Road?**

Ground breaking is May 15 and construction should take about 16 months.

- **Someone mentioned proposed changes to the regional hotel tax that would bring the tax to County citizens. Can you tell us about that?**

You're referring to Senate Bill 942 which has been introduced by Senator Norment. His concern was that James City, York and Williamsburg were not putting the resources into tourism promotion necessary to be successful. Tourism is a very large part of our current revenue budget so it's certainly in our interests for it to be as successful as possible. Our competitors in the tourism market (Asheville, Chattanooga, Myrtle Beach, etc.) put 3 to 4 times as much money into tourism promotion as we do through various tax laws and state policies. The city of Williamsburg was able to pass provisions, such as an admissions tax and increasing their lodging and meals taxes, that counties are prohibited from enacting under Virginia state law. This created controversy in Richmond between the interested parties, so Senator Norment proposed a compromise; a one-cent sales tax surcharge for the three communities. If implemented, half of the money generated by this surcharge would go to a state agency to promote tourism in the Greater Williamsburg area. The other half of the money would go back to the locality in which it was generated. From a York County perspective, it mostly makes up for the state's unwillingness to give counties discretionary taxing authority for things like meals, tobacco, and admissions.

- **With regard to the regional governance concept, does the state generally allow local governments unfettered control on the kind of regionalism we can do?**

Almost any kind of arrangement a few local governments can work out is allowed. The problem has more to do with limited incentives. One of the reasons regional jails work is because if a locality builds a jail by itself, the state only reimburses 1/4, but if two or more localities build a jail, the state will reimburse 50%. That's a powerful incentive for localities to get together.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.