

VIRGINIA:

At a special-called meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in the former circuit courtroom, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia, on the 17th day of February, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Jeff Walker, Chairman

Richard Tankard, Vice Chairman

Dave Burden

H. Spencer Murray

Absent:

Laurence J. Trala

William A. Hughes

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

Mr. Tankard read the following statement:

“I am glad to participate in today’s discussions and determinations on creating recommendations for possible expenditures of “Stimulus Package” monies here in Northampton County.

For the record, I do want to acknowledge how I think the Country got to its present financial predicament. We find ourselves in this national predicament because of the collapse of the housing bubble and the shaky and sometimes non-existent underwriting of credit that fueled the bubble. Many entities are to blame; investment bankers who created the instruments that magnified the impact of inept and unscrupulous mortgage brokers, speculators driven solely by greed, careless homebuyers lured by the illusion of rising home valuations, and by members of Congress who created bad government policy.

The ripple effect of those bad decisions can be felt right here in Northampton County. Unemployment in December 2008 stands at 7.9%, up from 4.6% a year ago. Foreclosures are occurring on homeowners and speculators with increasing frequency.

Unfortunately, many of the same Congressional politicians that created the policies that lead to the housing bubble helped craft the legislation known as the “Stimulus Package”. That legislation is deeply flawed. There is entirely too much “pork” spending that does nothing to create jobs. The massive size of the legislation will help push the 2009 federal budget deficit to 2 trillion dollars, which will likely cause interest rates to rise in order to attract buyers for Treasury bonds. A corresponding rise in interest rates could put a damper on economic recovery when the business cycle improves. Financing these big deficits almost always creates rising

inflation, or, if the Treasury creates too much money in a slow economy, we can have 1970's style stagflation.

Simply put, I don't think we can spend our way to economic recovery. But we are not here today to debate the merits of the Stimulus legislation. The votes have been cast and the bill has been signed into law by the President. We, as Supervisors, are in a very small way, capable of helping some of those dollars to be spent effectively.

I would like to add, that the taxpayers of Northampton County will send some of their hard-earned dollars to the Treasury. They deserve that those dollars come back to the County and in a meaningful way. Given that the dollars will be spent, then let's get some spent here. I just ask that job creation be the first criteria for possible expenditure.

I am looking past my misgivings about the "Stimulus" legislation and am willing to work with my fellow Supervisors to create a list of needed projects and programs that will benefit our County citizens. I appreciate Supervisor Murray's leadership with creating a list of possibilities and would favor using his list as the framework of our discussion.

For the record, Richard Tankard, Dist. #6"

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Murray distributed the following proposed list of projects to be considered by the Board for submittal under the federal economic stimulus program:

Category: Education

1. Middle School – Administration building
  - a. New sewage/water treatment facilities
  - b. Fix bathrooms
  - c. Energy update – solar/new systems
2. Eastville Buildings
  - a. Renovation or destroy and sell?
  - b. Old office buildings – Sheriff's etc.
3. Occohannock/Kiptopeke Elementary Schools
  - a. Roof repairs/improvements
  - b. Storm water management and landscaping at Kiptopeke
  - c. Solar panels/new heating & AC facilities
4. High School
  - a. Can back wall qualify for funding?
  - b. New athletic and field house
  - c. Solar/other upgrades to structure
5. New school garage/county maintenance building
  - a. school bus funding
  - b. County school bus/vehicle maintenance facility
6. Funding for teachers

- a. Special education
- b. Testing resources
- c. Workforce training
- d. IDEA (Individuals w/ Disabilities)
- e. Title 1 programs
- f. Nutrition programs

Category: Infrastructure

- 1. County Complex
  - a. Solar/heat/AC upgrades-courthouse/social services building
  - b. New juvenile justice court facility
  - c. Old jail – funding assistance
  - d. Landfill – funding assistance
- 2. USA Corps of Engineers Projects (USACE)
  - a. Dredge Occohannock Creek under Ops/Maintenance funding of USACE
  - b. Nassawadox Creek – Ops/Maintenance 0 if no cost to the county
- 3. Towns
  - a. Cape Charles sewer/water system replacement. Assistance with funding?
  - b. Cheriton sewer/water. Assistance with funding?
  - c. Eastville projects ?
  - d. Nassawadox projects? Sewer/water – hospital funding
  - e. Exmore projects?

Category: Community Development

- 1. Affordable Housing – Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
  - a. Land for development?
  - b. Upgrades for Bayview sewer/water
  - c. Community facilities
- 2. Broadband
  - a. Start-up expenses
  - b. Connection to towns, schools, hospital and other facilities
  - c. Education programs-business and other
- 3. Home Weatherization Program
  - a. Through ESAAA?

Mr. Burden distributed a breakdown by category of projects submitted to date which he had compiled from the State’s website.

School officials including Superintendent Bowmaster, School Board member Dr. Richard Drury, Director of Operations Tim Smith and Director of Finance Dawn McCready, were present and were recognized by the Chairman. The Superintendent distributed a listing of “shovel-

ready” projects from the School system, which totaled \$6.6 million. When asked to prioritize the 16 items, the Superintendent indicated that continued renovation of the high school should be ranked the highest, followed by roofing of all buildings and then the renovation of the high school auditorium. It was the consensus of the Board that the School Administration would submit its own listing to the State for possible funding and provide a copy to the County Administrator. The Board did ask the School to add “stabilization of the old high school in Eastville” to its project listing.

In looking at the list as prepared by Mr. Murray, the Board added under County Complex: older jail stabilization/renovation; repairs to former middle school; two remaining solid waste convenience centers; Indiantown Park renovations; and repairs/renovations to county-owned boat ramps such as Wise Point, Morleys Wharf and Willis Wharf. The Board added dredging of the Virginia Inside Passage to the USA Corps of Engineers Projects listing. Also included was rental assistance under the Community Development – Affordable Housing category and expansion/renovation of the EMS facility.

Mr. Burden and Mr. Murray agreed to serve as a subcommittee to continue work on the project listing.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Murray that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Trala and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR