



TOWN COUNCIL
Joint Meeting with County Board of Supervisors
Former Circuit Courtroom, Eastville
August 27, 2009
6:00 p.m.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. Chairman Jeff Walker called to order the recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Present were Vice Chairman H. Spencer Murray and Supervisors David Burden, William Hughes, Richard Tankard and Laurence Trala. Also present were County Administrator Katherine Nunez, Assistant to the County Administrator Janice Williams, Commissioner of the Revenue Ann Sayers and Director of Finance Glenda Miller.

Vice Mayor Chris Bannon called to order the Joint Session with the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. In addition to Vice Mayor Bannon, present were Councilmen Bennett, Burdiss, Evans and Veber. Mayor Sullivan and Councilmen Elliott were not in attendance. Also present were Interim Town Manager Heather Arcos, Treasurer JoAnna Leatherwood and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were also approximately 15 members of the public in attendance.

Vice Mayor Bannon thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to meet with them and stated that the Cape Charles Town Council had requested this meeting to gain a general understanding of the funding process. Both groups expressed the desire to work together more closely to maintain the good working relationship between the County and the Town.

County Administrator Katherine Nunez reviewed the taxing powers granted to Virginia Counties, Cities and Towns outlining the taxes currently being assessed by the County and those assessed by the Town. Ms. Nunez went on to list the various county-wide services that are available to the citizens of Northampton County including education, the court systems, the jail, the sheriff's office and animal control, dispatch services for both the sheriff's office and regional 911, building services, planning and zoning, solid waste, social services which also includes foster care, food stamps and welfare, and the Emergency Medical Systems (EMS). The County also contributes to the Eastern Shore Library, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (ANPDC), Economic Development for the Shore, Regional Housing Authority, Groundwater Committee, STAR Transit, the Broadband Authority and the Eastern Shore Community College. Supervisor Richard Tankard also added that the County had assigned the STAG Grant to the Town of Cape Charles for its wastewater treatment system and contributed toward the Cape Charles Memorial Library.

There was much discussion regarding the school system and the average cost of \$11K per student and the fact that the majority of revenue for the County is derived from residential real estate taxes. There was further discussion regarding the recent tax re-assessments for real property which Councilman Evans felt was the reason that the citizens are questioning the use of their tax dollars. It was noted that if the tax assessments were reduced, the tax rates would have to be increased in order to compensate for the difference in revenue and the amount of tax paid by the County residents would remain the same.

The discussion continued regarding future growth potential and increasing the tax base by attracting businesses to the towns and County. Supervisor David Burden suggested that

the focus be on creating destination areas and the job of the Town Council was to convince people of the benefits to living in Cape Charles vs. outside the Town's limits. Mr. Burden added that some of the benefits include sidewalks, street lights, walking distance to shops and restaurants and police protection, which are not available to residents living outside of the Town's limits in the County. Mr. Burden went on to state that there is a lot of commercial growth potential at the intersection of Routes 13 and 184 (Stone Road). Councilman Evans noted that since the creation of the Eastern Shore Tourism Commission and the opening of the Welcome Center at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, the tourist traffic had increased significantly in Cape Charles. Mr. Burden added that 5K people stopped into the Welcome Center within two weeks of its opening. Mr. Burden also informed the Town Council that there is a Tourism Grant Program which had already awarded the Town with funding for a webcam at the beach and encouraged the Town to apply for additional grant funding for other tourism infrastructure needs.

Councilman Evans also thanked the Board of Supervisors for their efforts regarding the Comprehensive Plan by promoting future growth within the towns and added that the former Joint Planning Commission has been working on the corridor overlay and that the Cape Charles Planning Commission would like to continue with this project. Ms. Nunez stated that the new County Planning Commission did have the corridor overlay listed as a future project.

Vice Mayor Bannon thanked the Board of Supervisors again for this opportunity and added that the Board of Supervisors and the Cape Charles Town Council should hold annual or semi-annual meetings to continue this open dialogue regarding various issues.

Motion made by Councilman Veber, seconded by Councilman Burdiss and unanimously approved to adjourn the Joint Meeting with the County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Jeff Walker adjourned the meeting of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors.

Vice Mayor Bannon

Town Clerk