

AT A RETREAT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE BANQUET ROOM OF G. WILLAKERS RESTAURANT, 25 WILLOW SPRING ROAD LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2009 AT 2:00 P.M

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN R.H. RIEGEL
MEMBERS: C.R. COMSTOCK, R.S. FORD, M.R. SMITH A.W. LEWIS, JR.
CLERK OF BOARD: CLAIRE A. COLLINS
FISCAL DIRECTOR: ROBERT E. CLAYTOR
COUNTY ATTORNEY: VICKIE L. HUFFMAN
STAFF: SAM CRICKENBERGER

Opening Comments

Chairman Riegel welcomed everyone to the retreat.

Potential Creation of County Community Development Department

Ms. Collins opened the discussion by giving a summary of the area localities which have in-house Economic Development Departments and where this department is typically placed in the entities' organizational charts. She also briefed the Board of the job descriptions the localities provided for their Community Development Director performing economic development duties. Ms. Collins noted some localities at times find it difficult to devote adequate time to the needs of economic development when it is combined with community development; therefore it is important to determine the level of priority for economic development in relation to the overall goals of the Board.

Mr. Crickenberger expounded on the County creation of a Community Development Office which would incorporate economic development as one of the facets of the office. He continued by presenting an organizational chart and explaining staff responsibilities relative to the proposed conceptual team approach. Mr. Crickenberger noted the workload in the office has not decreased because of the economic downturn and the creation of a Community Development Office could provide for "one stop" shopping. In response to a question from Chairman Riegel, Mr. Crickenberger stated the advantages to creation of the office would 1) offer a team approach for development, 2) provide one stop shopping and 3) offer the knowledge of land use regulations throughout the County and what could potentially be a "good fit". Board and Staff spent some time discussing whether a conflict would arise from having the same individual serving as the Director of Planning and Zoning as well as the Director of Economic Development. It was emphasized a team approach would be the most effective for the County at this time. Staff was asked to bring back revised job descriptions and to re-examine the structure of the concept so there would be no conflicting roles in the proposal and for planning and zoning to be separate from economic development.

Determination of Level of Priority for Economic Development

Ms. Collins gave the Board a status report on what had been done recently relative to County area economic development. She also presented a report from the Agricultural Center Committee offering its recommendations. The Board agreed on the following areas for focus: 1) recruitment of small new businesses to the area that offer

diversity and would be considered ecologically neutral; 2) business retention and encouragement of expansion of such and 3) focusing on community education on such issues as the broadband project and dispelling possible myths about the capacity the County can offer in ways of job diversity due to its size and resources.

Route 251 Water Flow

The Board recognized the joint effort being made by the Maury Service Authority and Public Service Authority to address water flow issues in the Route 251 area. At the suggestion of Supervisor Ford, the Board entertained the feasibility of the three area jurisdictions conducting a study which would offer recommendations for a regional water plan. It was determined it was premature to consider such a study until the interest of the Cities of Lexington and Buena Vista are obtained. The Board asked staff to gather more specific information concerning the Route 251 water flow issue.

Moore's Creek

It was noted the City of Lexington seemed to be amenable to maintaining an emergency water supply source but would like to dissuade the source to be Moore's Creek Reservoir. Chairman Riegel stated the next step being proposed is for the Moore's Creek Negotiating Team to meet with representatives from the Maury Service Authority to investigate alternatives as sources of emergency water supply.

Establishment of Common Board Goals

Due to time constraints, the Board consensus was to take topics/issues raised by citizens' that were not on the agenda under advisement and to make efforts to communicate more with each other.

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was continued to the regular scheduled meeting, 150 South Main Street, Administrative Office Building.