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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commission on Local Government

November 4, 2021

11:00 A.M.

Henrico, Virginia

Members Present

Stephanie Davis, PhD, Chair (virtual)
Diane M. Linderman, PE, Vice Chair
Ceasor T. Johnson, D.Min
Rosemary M. Mahan

Members Absent

R. Michael Amyx

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Dr. Stephanie Davis, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Davis noted that she was participating in the meeting virtually pursuant to and consistent with the Commission's Electronic Participation Policy. She noted that her participation was from her home and it was for personal reasons.

Administration

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to amend and approve the draft agenda. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on October 15, 2021. The motion passed.

Dr. Davis opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Scott Mayausky, Commissioner of the Revenue for Stafford County offered gratitude to the Commission and staff for their work on the Property Tax Exemption Study. Mr. Mayausky noted that while he supported much of the recommendations laid out in

the Study, he opposed a recommendation that would limit relief to fiscal stressed localities. Mr. Mayausky explained that many of the localities more adversely affected by mandatory property tax exemptions, such as Stafford County, do not fall within the above average or high fiscal stress categories and therefore would not see relief under the recommendation.

No other members of the public appeared before the Commission. The public comment period was closed.

Mandatory Property Tax Exemption Study

Staff provided the Commission with a comprehensive overview of the Property Tax Exemption Study. This study, which was required of the Commission by legislation, examined how state tax exemptions such as mandatory property tax exemptions affected localities abilities to raise revenue and provide services to their constituents.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the Mandatory Property Tax Exemption Study with amendments. Such amendments expanded the factors that could be considered for offering reimbursement to localities affected by the exemptions. The motion passed.

2021 Cash Proffer Survey and Report

Mr. Cody Anderson, Policy Analyst at DHCD, presented a summary of the Cash Proffer Survey and Report. Mr. Anderson noted that very little deviation had occurred in comparison to past reports with the exception of a large increase in local government spending on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space. Mr. Anderson explained that this large increase was entirely due to activities taken on by a single locality.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms.Linderman to approve the 2021 Cash Proffer Report. The motion passed.

FY2019 Fiscal Stress Report

Ms. Grace Wheaton, Policy Analyst at DHCD, provided an in depth summary of the FY2019 Fiscal Stress Report. Ms. Wheaton noted that the Commission adopted the Report at the September 9

meeting and that this presentation was purely for informational purposes.

Municipal Utility Data Reports

Mr. Anderson provided a comprehensive summary of two Utility Arrearage Reports which were required as part of amendments to the State Budget. These reports included collection of arrearage data from every utility provider in Virginia not regulated by the State Corporation Commission. Each of the two reports detailed the amount of arrearages customers accrued statewide, as well as arrearages offset by various different state and federal funding sources.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan to approve the Municipal Utility Data Reports as presented. The motion passed.

Schedule of Regular Meetings

Mr. Anderson provided a variety of different scheduling options for meetings for the calendar year 2022. After deliberation, the following dates were considered:

January 6th
March, 10th
May 12th
July 14th
September 8th
November 3rd

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Mahan and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the proposed meeting schedule. The motion passed.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Mr. Anderson noted that the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference was scheduled to take place from November 10 through November 12. Mr. Anderson also noted that the Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference will also be in Norfolk from November 13 through 16.

Other

There was no other business.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Mahan for adjournment. The motion passed.

DRAFT