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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commission on Local Government

October 14, 2020

2:00 P.M.

Digital Meeting Only

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and the need to provide social distancing and prohibit large gatherings, the meeting was held electronically in accordance with the State of Emergency Declared by the Governor and the 2020 amendments to the 2020 Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Google Meet.

Members Present

R. Michael Amyx
Stephanie Davis, PhD, Vice Chair
Diane M. Linderman, PE
Rosemary M. Mahan, Chair

Members Absent

Kimble Reynolds, Jr.

Call to Order

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Ms. Rosemary Mahan, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. David Conmy, Local Government Policy Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) noted that due to the Governor's Declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19, it is impracticable and unsafe for the Commission on Local Government to assemble in a single location, so the Commission meeting is being held electronically, by video conference and telephone options, pursuant to 2020 Amendments to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Commission on Local Government and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The public is welcome to use the link and phone number options made available by staff to attend the meeting electronically. The Commission on Local Government will make available a recording or transcript of the meeting on its website in accordance with the timeframes established in Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3701.1 of the Code of Virginia.

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Administration

A motion was made by Mr. Amyx and seconded by Ms. Linderman to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed (Yeas: Amyx, Davis, Linderman, Mahan; Nays: None).

Ms. Mahan opened the floor to receive comments from the public. No one from the public appeared before the Commission. The public comment period was then closed.

Notice of the City of Martinsville's Intention to Petition for an Order Granting it Town Status within Henry County

Mr. Conmy provided the Commission with an overview of the notice submitted by Martinsville that indicates the City's intention of petitioning for an order to grant its reversion from city to town status. Mr. Conmy detailed the responsibilities and process by which the Commission shall review the case. Mr. Conmy noted that pursuant to section 15.2-2906 of the Code of Virginia, as well as Cannons 1, 2, 3, and 9 of the Commission on Local Government's Cannons on Conduct, Commissioner Kimble Reynolds is disqualified from reviewing the matter due to property ownership interests in both localities in addition to avoidance of any appearance of impropriety.

Mr. Conmy provided the Commission with two different review schedule options, with the first option being a six month schedule and the second option being an eight month schedule. It was noted that staff recommends the Commission adopt the second option for an eight month schedule which would be less administratively burdensome for staff during the 2021 General Assembly session.

Ms. Mahan recognized Mr. Stephen Piepgrass of The Law Firm of Troutman Pepper. Mr. Piepgrass spoke as representation for the City of Martinsville and provided an overview of the City's intention of reversion to town status. Mr. Piepgrass expressed general concurrence with the review schedules that were presented.

Ms. Mahan recognized Mr. George Lyle, the County Attorney for Henry County. Mr. Lyle spoke as representation for Henry County and provided an overview of the perspective of the County, as well as the County's intention of working amicably with the City to

achieve a smooth transition of the City to town status within Henry County. Mr. Lyle requested additional time for the County to respond to the City's initial Notice; otherwise, he was in agreement with the review schedule options.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Ms. Davis to approve the eight-month review schedule with an amendment allowing a two-week extension for the County to submit response to the initial petition. The motion passed (Yea: Amyx, Davis, Mahan, Linderman; Nay: None).

Other

There was no other business.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Amyx and seconded by Ms. Linderman for adjournment. The motion passed and the Commission adjourned at 2:41 p.m.