

Commission on Local Government
July 23, 2024
2:00 pm
All-Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members Present (virtually)

Edwin Rosado (chair)
Diane Linderman
Ceasor Johnson
Terry Payne

Members Absent

Robert Lauterberg (vice chair)

DHCD staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Legrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst
Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Director

Call to Order

Mr. Edwin Rosado, Chairman of the Commission on Local Government, called the regular meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Legrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst, DHCD. Mr. Northcutt reported that a quorum of Commissioners Rosado, Linderman, Johnson, and Payne was present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to approve the draft agenda. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote (Commissioner Johnson was not recorded as voting).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing on May 20, 2024. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 21, 2024. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment

Mr. Rosado opened the floor for public comment.

After seeing no speakers, Mr. Rosado closed public comment.

Mr. Rosado introduced guests presenting before the Commission, including John Foote, Martin Crim, and Roy Barnett. Others in attendance who were introduced were Tolley

Gwinn, counsel for the Towns of Warrenton and Washington, and Star Nyan, an associate at the law firm Walsh Colucci.

Staff's Report

Mr. Northcutt updated the commission on staffing changes and vacancies and presented on issues of potential interest to the Commission. The issues included ongoing efforts to regulate short term rentals in localities and the potential split of the combined James City County and City of Williamsburg school system.

Electronic Meetings Policy

Mr. Northcutt presented the changes to the electronic meetings policy necessitated by HB894 (2024).

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adopt the amendments recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. (Commissioner Johnson was not recorded as voting).

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adopt the amended policy. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. (Commissioner Johnson was not recorded as voting).

Cases Before the Commission

Mr. Northcutt updated the Commission on the adoption of the voluntary settlement agreement between Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg by the Localities.

Loudoun/Leesburg VSA

Mr. Barnett, representing Van Metre Properties, and Mr. Foote gave a presentation of the background of the Voluntary Settlement Agreement between the Town of Warrenton and Fauquier County that was filed with the Commission on May 17th, 2024. The presentation covered the events that led to the agreement and the details of Van Meter's proposed development.

Fauquier/Warrenton VSA

Mr. Northcutt presented the proposed review schedule for the Voluntary Settlement agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adopt the proposed review schedule. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Northcutt will coordinate with representatives of the Town and County to finalize logistical details and find meeting spaces for the Commission's hearings.

Rappahannock/Washington VSA Mr. Northcutt presented the key components of the Commission’s Report on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement between Rappahannock County and the Town of Washington.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to amend the report by deleting a hyphen on page 8 and striking the words “apparently unanimous” and replacing them with “strong” on page 15. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to approve the report as amended. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Northcutt will send the final report to the Town, the County, and the developer.

FY2022 Fiscal Stress Index Report Mr. Northcutt presented the FY2022 Fiscal Stress Index and identified several trends of interest.

A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Payne to adopt the report subject to replacing the maps with more legible versions. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. (Commissioner Johnson was not recorded as voting).

Assessment of Mandates on Local Governments Mr. Northcutt presented assessments of mandates on local governments that have been received from state agencies as of the date of the meeting. The assessments spanned FY2023 and FY2024.

Mr. Northcutt will continue to collect assessments for FY2024, present any additional assessments at the September regular meeting, and transmit all presented assessments to the Governor and legislature after the September meeting in accordance with Executive Order 56 (2007).

Regulatory Items Mr. Northcutt informed the Commission that the regulatory package to accomplish regulatory reduction goals is still being reviewed by the attorney general’s office and that staff is still preparing regulations to implement the provisions of SB645 (2024).

Commission Work Groups Mr. Rosado updated the Commission on the Fiscal Stress Report work group’s progress. The work group will give a full report at the September meeting.

Mr. Northcutt updated the Commission on the HB564 (2024) study. The draft report will be given to the commissioners at the September meeting for comments and feedback.

Future Meetings The November regular meeting will be held on November 1, 2024 at 10:00 am instead of 11:00. The meeting will be all-virtual.

The next meeting of the Commission will be September 17, 2024 at 8:30 am.

Other Business There was no other business to be discussed.

Adjournment A motion was made by Ms. Linderman and seconded by Mr. Johnson to adjourn the meeting of the Commission; The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

