

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on Local Government
Public Hearing
City of Bedford –Bedford County
Voluntary Settlement Agreement
7:00 p.m., May 14, 2012
Gibson Memorial Auditorium
Bedford Science & Technology Center
600 Edmund Street
Bedford, Virginia 24523

Members Present

Cole Hendrix, Chairman
John G. Kines, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Harold H. Bannister, Jr.
Wanda C. Wingo
John T. Stirrup, Jr.

Members Absent

Staff Present

Susan Williams, Local Government Policy Manager
Zachary Robbins, Senior Policy Analyst
Edward Lanza, Senior Public Finance Analyst

I. Call to Order

A. Welcome

Commission Chairman Cole Hendrix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2012 in the Gibson Memorial Auditorium at Bedford Science & Technology Center, in Bedford, Virginia. Mr. Hendrix explained that the Commission is present to review a proposed voluntary settlement agreement between the City of Bedford and Bedford County. He further explained that the proposed agreement provides for the transition of the City of Bedford to town status within Bedford County; for the immediate incorporation of certain territory into the new Town

of Bedford's boundaries; for a simplified process for the potential incorporation of additional areas into the Town in the future; for a framework for a potential merger of the water and sewer operations of the City and the Bedford County Public Service Authority; for a waiver of certain annexation rights; and for other matters.

B. Advertisement

Mr. Hendrix indicated that the public hearing was advertised by notice published in the *Roanoke Times* and the *Lynchburg News & Advance* on April 24, 2012 and again on May 1 and the *Bedford Bulletin* on April 25 and May 2. In addition, he stated that notice of the public hearing was mailed to the local governments contiguous to, or sharing functions, revenue, or tax sources with, the City and the County.

C. Introduction of Commission Members and Staff

Next, Mr. Hendrix introduced the members of the Commission and provided biographical information on each member. He also introduced the Commission staff.

II. Commission's Review

Mr. Hendrix explained that the Commission on Local Government is directed by law to review proposed transitions from city to town status, annexations and other local boundary change and transition issues – as well as negotiated agreements settling such matters – prior to their presentation to the courts for ultimate disposition. He further stated that, upon receipt of notice of such proposed action or agreement, the Commission is directed to “hold hearings, make investigations, analyze local needs and make findings of facts and recommendations” regarding the issue to the affected local governments. With respect to a proposed agreement

Minutes
Public Hearing
7:00 p.m., May 14, 2012
Page 3

that is negotiated under the authority of Section 15.2-3400 of the *Code of Virginia* – such as the one proposed here – Mr. Hendrix said that the Commission is required to report, in writing, its findings and recommendations as to whether the proposed settlement is in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hendrix indicated that the public hearing is intended to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed agreement. He also announced that the Commission has agreed to keep its record open for the receipt of additional citizen comment through May 29, 2012 and will close its record as of that date. He further indicated that the Commission will endeavor to render its report to the affected local governments prior to the end of July 2012.

III. Receipt of Testimony

Of the approximately 50 persons who attended the public hearing, the following four citizens addressed the Commission during the public hearing.

Ms. Julie Bennington, Vice-Chair of the Bedford County School Board, on behalf of Bedford County Public Schools, supported the proposed agreement.

Ms. Phyllis Parker, Chairman of the Bedford City School Board, on behalf of the Bedford City School Board, supported the proposed agreement.

Mr. Greg Markham, 3010 Kelso Mill Road, a county resident, expressed concerns about his family's farm tract that would be split by the proposed annexation.

Ms. Tabitha King, 1094 Granite Drive, a city resident, supported the proposed agreement.

Minutes
Public Hearing
7:00 p.m., May 14, 2012
Page 4

Ms. Wingo asked Mr. Markham to point out his family's property on the map, and he indicated the location.

IV. Closing Remarks

Mr. Hendrix expressed the Commission's appreciation to the speakers for the comments they provided.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Cole Hendrix
Chairman

Susan B. Williams
Local Government Policy Manager