

MINUTES
Town of Grottoes – Augusta County
Oral Presentations
Commission on Local Government
4:00 p.m., November 9, 2009
Grottoes Town Hall
601 Dogwood Avenue
Grottoes, Virginia

Members Present

Vola T. Lawson, Chairman
Harold H. Bannister, Jr.
Frances M. Parsons
Kathleen K. Seefeldt
Wanda C. Wingo

Members Absent

Staff Present

Susan Williams, Local Government Policy Manager
Steve Ziony, Principal Economist
Matthew Bolster, Senior Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Commission Chairman Vola T. Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on November 9, 2009 at the Grottoes Town Hall in Grottoes, Virginia.

I. Oral Presentations by Town of Grottoes and County of Augusta Representatives on Proposed Voluntary Settlement Agreement

A. Introductory Remarks by the Chairman

Chairman Vola T. Lawson welcomed those in attendance and explained that the Commission scheduled the oral presentations as part of its review of the proposed voluntary settlement agreement negotiated by the Town of Grottoes and Augusta County. She explained that the agreement would allow the town to annex about 99 acres of

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territory known as Grand Caverns Park in Augusta County and would also establish a moratorium on further town-initiated annexation with the limits of the county for a period of ten years subsequent to the effective date of the annexation of the specified area.

Mrs. Lawson stated that the oral presentations were advertised by notice published in the *Staunton News-Leader* and in the *Daily News Record* on Monday, October 26, 2009 and again on Monday, November 2, 2009. She further stated that notice of the presentations was provided to the appropriate local government officials.

Next, Mrs. Lawson introduced the members of the Commission and the staff. She then described the authority for the Commission's review of the agreement and summarized the activities that have occurred in connection with the review to date. Mrs. Lawson stated that the Commission's record in this matter will remain open for the receipt of additional comment until November 24, 2009 and that the Commission will endeavor to issue its report no later than March 2010. She then asked the town and county representatives to proceed with their oral presentations.

B. Oral Presentations

Nathan H. Miller, Counsel for the Town of Grottoes, indicated that he would be making a joint presentation on behalf of the town and county, and he introduced the following officials who were present and available to answer questions and/or provide technical information:

Ashley N. Davison, Town of Grottoes Superintendent
Joe Morris, Town of Grottoes Mayor
Jim Justis, Member, Grottoes Town Council and Chairman, Water and Sewer Committee

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Patrick J. Morgan, Augusta County Attorney
John C. McGehee, Assistant County Administrator for Augusta County
Ron Sites, Director of Parks and Recreation for Augusta County and former
Chairman of the Upper Valley Regional Park Authority's Board of Directors.

Mr. Miller then presented the provisions of the proposed agreement as well as an overview of the submission to the Commission. Commission members and staff asked numerous questions throughout the presentation, which were responded to by Mr. Miller or the appropriate town or county official. In addition, during the presentation, Commission members and staff requested additional information, which Mr. Miller and Ms. Davison agreed to provide.

C. Closing Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation to the parties for the information they provided. She then reminded those in attendance that the Commission will close its record in this matter on November 24, 2009.

II. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.