

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION

GOVERNMENT CENTER BOARD ROOM

NOVEMBER 24, 2009 - 4 P.M.

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Board Discussions

1. 2009 Comprehensive Plan: *Historic Past, Sustainable Future*
2. 2010 Legislative Program

D. Break



JAMES CITY COUNTY 2010 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Part I. Legislation to be Introduced on Behalf of the County

1-1. LOCAL CIGARETTE TAX

Amend Virginia Code § 58.1-3831 to authorize counties to levy a tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes to the same extent permitted by cities and towns.

1-2. APPEAL OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS DECISIONS

Amend Virginia Code § 15.2-2314 to clarify that appeals taken from decisions rendered by boards of zoning appeals are not suits against the board of zoning appeals and that boards of zoning appeals are not parties to those suits.

1-3. PROVIDE THAT ONLY VESTED MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM ARE ALLOWED TO WITHDRAW CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE RETIREMENT

Amend Virginia Code § 51.1-161 to add the word “vested” before the word member to limit when a withdrawal of contributions may be made from the Virginia Retirement System. Employees who work less than five years would not be eligible for a withdrawal of contributions given that they never made a contribution. This change would assist in maintaining sufficient funds to compensate vested members.

1-4. APPLICATION OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX TO TRAVEL COMPANIES AND INTERNET SALES

Amend Virginia Code § 58.1-3819 et seq., to clarify that the transient occupancy tax applies to the entire amount charged for rooms by travel companies and on Internet sales regardless of any discounted rates paid by such companies for such rooms.

**JAMES CITY COUNTY
2010 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**



Part II. Position/Legislation to be supported by the County

2-1. STATE FUNDING FOR TOURISM

The County urges the General Assembly to increase funding for the Virginia Tourism Corporation (“VTC”) to promote tourism in Virginia generally, and the Historic Triangle in particular.

2-2. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE IMPACT FEES

Amend Title 15.2, Chapter 22, to authorize localities to impose impact fees in order to fairly fund public infrastructure costs caused by new residential development.

2-3. LIGHT RAIL IN SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA

The County supports the planning for a light rail system from Richmond to Virginia Beach which would connect urban centers for commuters and provide transportation alternatives for tourism.

2-4. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

James City County urges the General Assembly to address critical transportation infrastructure needs. Transportation should be addressed as a statewide issue rather than a regional or local issue.

2-5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT (“CSA”) FUNDING

James City County urges the General Assembly to: 1) adequately fund the Medicaid waiver program to reduce the waiting list of individuals and families now eligible for services; 2) provide services to children with serious emotional disorders; and 3) to cover reasonable administrative costs for CSA programs. Adequate funding and services will help prevent the mentally ill from being released early from treatment, living on the streets, going to jail, or being inappropriately placed in residential facilities or other government programs.

2-6. SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

James City County supports maintaining State funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment in jails and juvenile detention facilities given the overwhelming percentage of adults and juveniles in the system diagnosed with mental health and/or substance abuse conditions.

2-7. CONTINUE SERVICE LEVELS AT EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL (“ESH”)

James City County urges the General Assembly to delay the downsizing of ESH by retaining existing buildings and staff until State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has a plan in place, including funding, for alternative community services for the patients that are currently at ESH in State custody.

2-8. STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, PRE-K, K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The County supports maintaining the gains made in recent years for pre-K and K-12 funding. In addition, the County supports restoring the cuts made to higher education which could cripple some of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world, including the College of William & Mary.

2-9. ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

James City County supports the State maintaining funding to public libraries to make sure that State and localities maintain their proportionate share of funding.

2-10. RESTRICTION ON IMPOSING REAL ESTATE TAXES

James City County opposes any legislation restricting local taxing authority to establish real estate tax rates or place artificial limits on the assessment of real property at its fair market value.

2-11. OPPOSE PUBLICLY FINANCED MARKING OF PRIVATE UTILITY LINES

James City County opposes requiring public water and sewer providers to mark privately owned and maintained water, sewer and storm water lines on private property.

2-12. THE DILLON RULE

James City County supports legislation consistent with that which exists in the majority of states, to provide counties, cities and towns greater local autonomy over matters within the purview of local governments.

2-13. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS OF THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AND THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

James City County supports the legislative programs of the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties.