November 18, 2010

At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library, on Thursday, the 18th day of November, 2010; at 12:00 noon, there were present:

Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Sydnor C. Newman, Jr., Mayor of Farmville; Gerald J. Spates, Farmville Town Manager; A. D. "Chuckie" Reid; David E. Whitus; Thomas M. Pairet; Otto S. Overton; Dr. Edward I. Gordon; Lisa M. Hricko;

Chairman Fore introduced Peggy Epperson, Director of the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library; she welcomed all to the library. Chairman Fore then asked Supervisor McKay to offer the invocation.

Chairman Fore called the joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Farmville Town Council to order, stating that it is a reconvened meeting of the Board meeting held Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

Mayor Newman called the Farmville Town Council meeting to order.

The Board of Supervisors and Farmville Town Council took a brief lunch break.

Thomas Pairet, Farmville Town Council, entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gerald Spates, Farmville Town Manager, stated $4.2 million was borrowed for the library; of that, $274,249.09 remains. Mr. Spates said that at the dedication ceremony, it was discussed that the hours
possibly be extended by three hours on Monday through Thursdays, and add Sunday hours. He said $30,000 would be needed in additional funding to cover the costs of the extended hours and staff for one year. Mr. Spates proposed splitting the cost from the remaining money, two-thirds from Prince Edward County and one-third from the Town of Farmville. He said the Town is waiting for the final bill and will then reimburse the County.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Wilck, to share the cost of $30,000 from the remaining funds, two-thirds from Prince Edward County and one-third from the Town of Farmville, for the extension of hours for the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library for one year.

Dr. Gordon said the money needs to be put in during the nurturing phase; this is a fine-tuning of the original project.

After some discussion, Chairman Fore asked that Ms. Peggy Epperson, Director of the library, keep separate usage records for the additional hours. Mr. Whitus said there have been rave reviews about the library and the main concern has been the hours of operation.

Chairman Fore restated Supervisor Simpson’s motion to share the cost of $30,000 from the remaining funds, two-thirds from Prince Edward County and one-third from the Town of Farmville, for the extension of hours for the Farmville-Prince Edward Community Library; the motion carried:

Aye: Howard M. Campbell
    William G. Fore, Jr.
    Don C. Gantt
    Robert M. Jones
    Charles W. McKay
    Howard F. Simpson
    Jim R. Wilck
    Mattie P. Wiley

Nay: None

Mr. Bartlett said that at the previous Board of Supervisors meeting, VDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant for the Prospect Historical Society and the train station. A request from the [Robert Russa] Moton Museum had been presented during the previous Board meeting which had been tabled because of resolution requiring the County to assume the operation and maintenance costs of the museum, in case they could no longer operate for whatever reason. He said he received a telephone call from a representative of the Moton Museum and told them the Board had never received a request on how to
handle the issue, and therefore there was no action taken. He said he and Mrs. Sarah Puckett contacted a representative from VDOT in Richmond and asked if the new grant was mainly for a parking lot and bus pull-out, and that if the Board approved that, does it limit the responsibility only to the parking lot or to operating the whole museum. He said an answer is forthcoming, and recommends approval to submit the application but not to provide the resolution. Mr. Bartlett said the application would then go into ‘incomplete’ status after December 14; he also spoke to the museum director regarding DCR taking over for the Historical Society as a sponsor and actually owning a portion of the train station. The director of the Moton Museum will attempt to find a sponsor other than the County.

Mr. Bartlett said the authorization to submit the grant would not obligate the County in any way, but would authorize the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) to work as the grant administrator; the deadline for the grant is December 1.

Supervisor Wilck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Simpson, to authorize the County Administrator to submit the application and that the CRC be requested to administer the grant; the motion carried:

Aye:  Howard M. Campbell  
       William G. Fore, Jr.  
       Don C. Gantt  
       Robert M. Jones  
       Charles W. McKay  
       Howard F. Simpson  
       Jim R. Wilck  
       Mattie P. Wiley

Nay:  None

Supervisor Wilck said VDOT is asking for suggestions and requests of roadways; he asked if the funding may be used towards projects that are already underway, such as the work from the Bridge or on Route 628. Mrs. Puckett said the Revenue Sharing funding can be used to advance projects in the Six Year Plan; it requires the County to match state funding.

Mr. Bartlett said a second issue is that there is funding that was determined to be available by the audit. There is a process that the engineers that are working with Route 628 are going through; they are going to a function where some of that can be explained. There is going to be a few $100 million that will be “freed up.” The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will determine and present the process on how to apply; most of the funding goes to projects that are already completely designed or underway, such
as the Route 15 project from Route 628 to Route 133, Kingsville. He said it may also be applied to other projects.

Mrs. Puckett said the Six Year Plan is state and federal money; the County can apply for Revenue Sharing funding to advance a Six-Year Plan project and put local money in to advance the projects faster.

Supervisor Gantt said the Carbone building has been sold and cleaned up, and is available for economic development use. Mr. Bartlett said the building has been cleaned and painted, roll-up doors have been installed. He said the building also has landing docks and is on a 40-acre lot, 30 of which are forested. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gerald Spates gave an update on the INS Facility; he said there are currently 278 detainees and 140 employees, and expansion is expected in the near future, with an expectation of up to 224 employees. He said prospective employees must undergo a governmental background check. He said a medical program has been secured through the federal government.

Chairman Fore asked about the general attitude of the detainees. Mr. Spates said it is very good and some wish to stay; some claim political asylum, which must be proven that their life is in danger if they are returned to their home country. Mr. Spates said a group of investors own the building; the Town gave them the 50 acres of land which was purchased from Johnny Bollinger for $50,000. He said the Town of Farmville has a contract with the Federal government and have subcontracted with the private developer. The Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission helped with two grants; one for the site work and one for sewer. The total was $600,000 for both grants. The Town of Farmville has no obligation. There is $12 million invested in the building; they have a $2 million payroll.

Mr. Bartlett asked if the ICE Facility pays business tax to the Town; Mr. Spates said it does.

Supervisor Gantt asked if there are any businesses coming; Mr. Spates said a restaurant is planning to open and a 72-room Holiday Inn Suites is expected. Discussion followed on the commercial possibilities along Alternate Route 628 and several marketing projects held jointly with the Town and County. Mr. Bartlett said this area attracts from seven counties and has Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College. Further discussion followed on the economic growth of the Town and County. Supervisor Simpson said the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County have been working together as long as he has been on the Board, citing examples of the YMCA, Lowes, Social Security building, the
housing development and the water and sewer for the housing development. Mr. Spates said the library is a prime example, and all should be proud of what has been accomplished.

Supervisor Wiley asked about the parking situation. Mr. Spates said the parking lot behind the courthouse is working for the most part; he reported there are some issues on Main Street. He said a bus runs from Lancer Park to the University campus.

Discussion followed on the Farmer’s Market. He said $102,000 from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. Mr. Spates said they are waiting on final approval on the plans from VDOT on the downtown area and then will be going to bid.

Chairman Fore thanked all for attending and anticipated another meeting be held in about six months.

The Town of Farmville meeting was adjourned.

On motion of Supervisor Wilck and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:          Nay: None
Howard M. Campbell
William G. Fore, Jr.
Don C. Gantt
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
Jim R. Wilck
Mattie P. Wiley

the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.