November 21, 2017

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 21st day of November, 2017; at 7:00 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones
Calvin L. Gray
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Howard F. Simpson
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
Jim R. Wilck

Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; and J. David Emert, Supervisor-Elect.

Chairman Jones called the special meeting to order

In Re: Request of Use Of Courthouse Lawn

Mr. Bartlett stated the County has received a request from Taikein Cooper to hold an event on the Courthouse lawn to raise money and awareness for homelessness on the night of Saturday, December 2, 2017. Mr. Cooper has held this even for the last several years on Longwood’s campus. He will be donating any money raised to STEPS, Inc.

Mr. Bartlett said the event will commence at 10:00 p.m. on December 2 and conclude around 5:00 a.m. on December 3. Approximately 10 people will participate. They will place chairs and a table or two on the lawn and possible shade tent / canopy like is seen at festivals. The participants may watch movies on a laptop but there will be no loud music or other activities that will disturb anyone. Mostly the participants will be sleeping outside to raise money and awareness of homelessness. Once the event has concluded, Mr. Cooper has agreed to be responsible for all clean-up of the lawn.

The County does not have a permit requirement for this type of event; requests for use of the Courthouse lawn are on a case by case basis. Since this use will not interfere with operations of the
Courthouse, the funds will be donated to a local organization that serves as the region’s Community Action Agency which provides assistance to those in need for both homelessness and energy assistance, and this activity will not place a financial or manpower burden on the County, Mr. Bartlett recommended approval of the request.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion to approve the request from Mr. Taikein Cooper.

Supervisor Gray asked if the County will have no liability or anything of that nature; Mr. Bartlett said the County will not be liable.

Supervisor Pride asked how money is raised if they are sleeping for the event. Mr. Bartlett said all participants are not likely to be sleeping at the same time.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said it is funded by donations; people come by and donate money. She added that since Mr. Cooper is her son, she will abstain from the vote. She said it is advertised.

Chairman Jones then returned to Supervisor Simpson’s motion, seconded by Supervisor Gray to approve the request from Mr. Taikein Cooper; the motion carried:

Aye: Calvin L. Gray
    Robert M. Jones
    Odessa H. Pride
    Howard F. Simpson
    C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
    Jim R. Wilck

Nay: None

Abstain: Pattie Cooper-Jones

Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

Supervisor Timmons questioned the development of a permit policy to be able to control activities or events. Mr. Bartlett said the Board can do that; the County does have permits for some events but not for the use of the Courthouse lawn.

Supervisor Timmons stated it is his understanding of the mileage policy is that this meeting is a special meeting and would be subject to the mileage; he then asked for the evaluation forms from the other Board members as he would like to have them before the next meeting in order to compile the summaries.

In Re: Closed Session

Chairman Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Gray, that the Board convene in Closed Session for discussion to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where
discussion in an open meeting could adversely affect the negotiating strategy of the County, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia; the motion carried:

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Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

The Board returned to regular session by motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and adopted as follows:

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Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

On motion of Chairman Jones and seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones, and carried by the following roll call vote:

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Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were
discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Timmons made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Cooper-Jones to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute the Memorandum of Understanding presented between the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors and the STEPS Board for the transfer of the property, located at 100 Industrial Park Road to Prince Edward County and make the up-fits that are needed; and to develop a lease with STEPS, Inc. for the space that they're using based upon the terms of the MOU; and to meet with the architect and redefine the scope of the work from the initial contract to include the revised scope, with the Properties Committee taking the lead on both the lease development and meeting with the architect; and to approve the revised cost of architectural services for the Courthouse of $165,079 and adding the engineering and architectural [costs] for the STEPS warehouse up-fits in the amount of $70,200; the motion carried:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
Calvin L. Gray
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Howard F. Simpson
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
Jim R. Wilck
Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

Nay: None

Supervisor Timmons stated a press release will be issued regarding the partnership between Prince Edward County and STEPS, Inc.

Chairman Jones thanked the Properties Committee for their hard work on this project; he said this will satisfy a lot of the needs of the County.

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

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
Calvin L. Gray
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Howard F. Simpson
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
Jim R. Wilck
Absent: Jerry R. Townsend

Nay: None

the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.