Minutes of October 17, 2013 Worksession

The worksession of the Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors for discussion of Stormwater Management was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lunenburg District Courtroom, Lunenburg, Virginia. The following members were present: Supervisors Alvester Edmonds, Charles R. Slayton, Robert Zava, Edward Pennington, County Administrator Tracy M. Gee, Building Inspector Jamie Tuck and County Attorney Frank Rennie. Supervisors T. Wayne Hoover, Frank Bacon and David Wingold were absent.

Chairman Pennington called the meeting to order.

Jenny Johnson and Lee Hill of Joyce Engineering gave a brief overview of the Stormwater Management Program and the Local Stormwater Management Planning Grant. They also gave a slide show presentation to accompany their explanation of the aspects of Stormwater Management. County representatives and staff discussed many particulars of the program and accompanying documents.

The Stormwater Management Program was previously under the Department of Conservation and Recreation, but was moved to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The management of the programs was mandated by the General Assembly in 2012 to be the responsibility of the locality and not the state. However, the state will benefit from a mandated fee for each application which will be remitted to the Treasurer of Virginia. This was due to the fact that the locality controls development, not DEQ. The fee schedule recommended by DEQ was based on advice from a stakeholder group that included VACo officials, engineers, locality officials and inspectors.

The Local Stormwater Management Planning Grant includes Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties. These counties applied for an extension for implementation of the Stormwater Management Program and simultaneously successfully received a grant for $100,000 to have an engineering firm create the regional plan for submittal to DEQ by the extension deadlines.

Any application for building permits that involve land disturbance will be required to also submit application for Stormwater Management. The fees will depend on the acreage being disturbed. Many localities agree that the suggested fees are outrageous, but that the cost and time required to complete all aspects of the application, plan review, inspection and enforcement are justifiably expensive. All permits must be submitted electronically through a state e-permitting program. Applicants must retain bonding in order to successfully submit a Stormwater Management application. Plan review may be fee-for-service from an outside contractor/vendor.

Implementation of a Local Stormwater Management Program will involve the approval of the submission of the proposed draft ordinance, a preliminary fee schedule and staffing recommendations. These items are due November 15, 2013. The Board of Supervisors will need to vote on the submission of the draft documents as an application to DEQ for Local Stormwater Management at the next regular Board meeting on November 14, 2013.
The final ordinance and other relevant documents in their permanent form will need to be submitted by March 1, 2014 following public hearing and approval by the Board of Supervisors of each locality.

Supervisor Zava made motion, seconded by Supervisor Edmonds and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting.

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Tracy M. Gee, Clerk
Edward W. Pennington, Chairman
County Administrator
Board of Supervisors