

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW KENT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WAS HELD ON THE 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE OF OUR LORD AT THE NEW KENT FORESTRY CENTER IN PROVIDENCE FORGE, VIRGINIA, AT 3:00 P.M.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

Thomas W. Evelyn	Absent
David M. Sparks	Absent
James H. Burrell	Present
Stran L. Trout	Present
W. R. Davis, Jr.	Present

IN RE: WELCOME

Chairman Davis welcomed representatives from County businesses, and explained that this was the third in a series of meetings held with businesses throughout the County to introduce programs available to help businesses as well as to receive comments and concerns from the business community.

Economic Development Authority (EDA) Chairman Paul Robinson introduced the other EDA members and Economic Development staff and emphasized that feedback from businesses was needed and was being actively solicited.

IN RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development and Tourism Director Rodney Hathaway, by PowerPoint presentation, reviewed the activities of the EDA and the Economic Development Department which included marketing, website, brochures, targeted industry marketing, and managing the Incentive Program.

He reviewed the information that was available on both the economic development and tourism websites.

He explained the County's recently adopted economic development initiatives which included waiver of County environmental, planning and zoning fees for commercial and industrial products until December 2009; the refunding of all permit and inspective fees collected for commercial projects that had a Certificate of Occupancy issued by June 30, 2011; a permanent 15% reduction in the Business License Tax (BPOL) starting January 1, 2010; the establishment of a Business Liaison program to assist businesses in navigating County processes; the use of 16% impervious ground cover default for commercial and business related projects relating to stormwater management; a seven business day review goal for all business-related plans and permits; and a review of existing regulations as they pertained to the development of a "business friendly" environment.

He reviewed the EDA's Incentive Programs, which included grants to help home-based businesses move into commercial space; a façade improvement program; marketing sign program; employment center; and the development of a business directory. He briefly explained the criteria and process for each of the programs and encouraged those interested to contact him or visit the Visitors and Commerce Center.

IN RE: FEEDBACK

There were questions regarding the new sign ordinance under development. There were complaints and frustration expressed regarding the lack of public water and sewer services in Providence Forge and Lanexa, followed by significant discussion regarding the financial and geographic issues involved. Public Utilities Director Larry Dame shared information regarding the County's water and sewer systems and how they were paid for by the users and not general tax dollars. He also explained about the groundwater withdrawal permitting process and provided estimated costs involved in connecting to the public system. One of the guests suggested that it might be more cost-effective to bring just public water to Providence Forge. There was also a request regarding the status of broadband service.

The Question and Answer segment was concluded and everyone was invited to stay for refreshments and take advantage of the opportunity to network.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.