



County

Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

February 1, 2008

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Impact Fee Changes Face Uncertain Future

A bill to significantly revise the voluntary proffer authority of local governments that was strongly supported by the Homebuilder's Association of Virginia was stripped of one of its major provisions by the Senate Local Government Committee on Jan. 29. In a surprise move, the committee members then referred the legislation to the Senate Finance Committee for further action.



SB 768 (Watkins), as amended, has four major components:

- Repeals authority of all counties to accept voluntary cash proffers from new residential development
- Limits the ability of all counties to accept off-site, non-cash proffers
- Permits 57 counties to assess impact fees on new and by-right development for roads and school and public safety facilities
- Requires any county located

outside of the two transportation authorities that adopts impact fees to increase its Grantors Tax by 20 cents on the sale of new and existing residential and commercial properties.

The Grantors Tax requirement, which was intended to help offset the loss of cash proffer authority, was eliminated by the Senate Local Government Committee over the objections of Senator Watkins, but with the support of the Virginia Association of Realtors. According to the patron, unless the Grantors Tax provision is restored, the Homebuilders may request that he strike the bill.

VACo, VML, the Coalition of High Growth Communities and several counties testified against SB 768. Their testimony noted that while local governments support broad impact fee authority, the proposed legislation was a major policy change that required further study. VACo Staff Contact: Ted McCormack ☞

Kaine's CSA Budget Costly to Localities

Costs will rise for most local governments if the governor's Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) budget stays intact.

Please contact your legislators immediately and ask them to oppose budget language (HB 30, Putney, Item 283) that penalizes local governments for using residential care services to meet the needs of at-risk youth.

Kaine's proposal would provide an incentive for local governments that use community-based services and penalizes those localities that use congregate care services. Local match rates for those localities that use community-based services could drop to 24 percent and rise to 75 percent for all situations wherein residential (congregate) care is used. Most local governments use congregate care in the absence of local community services to meet the needs of their respective at-risk children. Kaine's budget alters the fundamental tenants of CSA.

- The recommended changes to the funding of the local match rate for CSA is a fundamental shift in the founding concept of CSA -- the state as the senior

financial partner and local flexibility.

- The Administration's proposal does nothing to change the behavior of the school system or court system for placing children in residential care. Local governments have little control of child placements in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and court process.

- The implementation schedule for incentives and disincentives (penalties) is flawed and not realistic in the development of new programs that require local and/or regional approval. The proposed start date is July 2008.

- There is no start-up funding provided to localities to develop community-based programs.

- Local administration continues to be predominately funded by local governments.

- The administration is using a flawed assumption of a \$12.5 million savings as it transfers the bulk of funding for the program to local governments. This \$12.5 million savings to the state will

result in a "cost shift to local government."

- The administration has added additional mandates that would require local governments to serve additional children through the state CSA pool funds by adopting the "new CSA guidelines" in November 2007. These guidelines move a previous non-mandate category of individuals (children with only mental health services needs) to the mandatory category. In addition, individuals with a court disposition are being ordered to receive services through the CSA pool funds instead of the appropriate state agencies.

Contact your legislators serving on the House and Senate money committees and tell them to oppose the governor's budget recommendations on CSA. Please copy VACo on your letters and emails.

Staff contact: Dean Lynch ☘

Tax Rates 2007 Now Available

The Weldon Cooper Center's *Tax Rates 2007* is a wealth of information on tax rates for Virginia's cities, counties and selected towns. Email cps-pubs@virginia.edu to order your copy or call (434) 982-5704. The cost is \$25 for VACo and VML members and \$35 for nonmembers.

This volume contains detailed information on tax rates levied in all of Virginia's 95 counties and 39 cities. In addition, there is information for all of Virginia's 36 large towns and for 114 of the remaining 154 smaller towns. The study is based on an annual survey conducted by the Business and Economics Section of the Cooper Center. ☘

Kaine to Address Local Officials on Legislative Day



VACo's Immediate Past President Teresa Altemus introduced Gov. Timothy Kaine during Legislative Day 2007. Photo by Wendy Jenkins.

For the third year in a row, Gov. Timothy Kaine will address local officials during VACo/VML Legislative Day on Feb. 7 at the Richmond Convention Center. It is expected that he will discuss his 2008 budget and legislative priorities. VACo and VML staff members will update local officials on legislation affecting local governments. Local officials are encouraged to take their legislators to dinner. Send in your form now to join more than 400 of your colleagues from around the state.

Rural Caucus Dinner Set for Feb. 6

You are cordially invited to attend VACo's Rural Caucus Dinner on Feb. 6 at the Richmond Marriott. This year, several legislators will be available to speak to you about issues affecting rural counties. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Registration is required. Call VACo at (804) 788-6652 to request a registration form. ☘

NACo Legislative Conference Set for March 1-5

The 110th Congress, Second Session will hit town next January and a great number of programs that assist counties will be under intense scrutiny. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of "those who show up decide," you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference. Register online at www.naco.org. Source: www.naco.org ☘

Highlights from the New Supervisors' Forum

More than 150 local officials attended VACo's New Supervisors Forum in early January. The forum is held every other year and is geared toward new and incumbent county supervisors and features sessions on the Freedom of Information Act, ethics, board relations and much more. This year, more than 140 new supervisors were elected to county boards in Virginia. ☘

Photos by John Kandris.



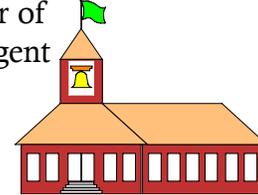
VACo staff member Larry Land took a minute to chat with King George County Supervisor James Mullen and his wife Peggy.



Ted Costin, the preparedness division director of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, served as the speaker for the "Emergency Management- Local Responsibility" session.

Revolving Loan Fund for School Construction Proposed

The VML/VACo Finance Program will host a school-construction revolving loan fund with the passage of pending legislation and new state funding. HB 923 (Rust), SB 737 (Barker) and SB 780 (Blevins) replicate the state's wastewater revolving loan fund: state funding supports competitive, market-rate loans. The loans will support the construction of school buildings. Re-payments replenish the fund thereby supporting additional loans. Del. William Howell, Speaker of the House, supports the initiative. VACo supports the legislation contingent on the state fully funding the re-benchmarking of direct aid costs. More information is available on VACo's homepage at www.vaco.org.



VACo Contact: Mike Edwards ☞

U.S. Communities Homeland Security and Disaster Assistance Contract Now Available

Although the federal government has provided significant funding for homeland security and disaster assistance, local public agencies have often had trouble meeting the spending and procurement deadlines set in statute. To help respond to local agency needs, the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance has awarded a contract for homeland security and disaster assistance commodities through a public solicitation completed by Fairfax County. This solicitation was done on behalf of all local and state public agencies, as well as for non-profit organizations serving local governments.

Fairfax County and a team of professional public procurement officials from cities and counties across the United States structured the homeland security solicitation to meet the needs of the Homeland Security Administration and the Office of Domestic Preparedness for the

use of federally-funded support to local and state agencies. The contract contains thousands of safety and security-related products. Most of the products offered qualify for funding under the Homeland Security Administration guidelines.

More than 300 manufacturers are represented through the contract, so it is important to engage with the supplier early in the procurement process to identify needs and determine alternatives that are available. Pricing has been established at a 39 percent discount off the supplier's most current price list. Freight terms are FOB Destination, and quantity discounts may be available through the contract.

In addition, the supplier can provide agencies with the ability to track all of their procurement spending through their Grant Tracker program. This web-based program provides agencies with the detailed information they need to track spending histories

and monitor grant compliance.

In light of the recent disasters across the Gulf States, Texas, Oklahoma and California, this contract also provides significant support for disaster assistance and relief. Coupled with the new MRO contract, the existing technology, electrical and communications/data contracts, U.S. Communities provides a comprehensive strategic sourcing program for public agencies across the United States. For more information on these contracts and to request direct contact from any suppliers, visit www.uscommunities.org.

U.S. Communities is open to all local and state public agencies and non-profits in the United States and Canada. The program charges no fees to public agencies, requires no minimum spending and provides oversight by professional public procurement officials from across the country. ☞



Mark Your Calendar...

Grant Writing Workshop

Feb. 4-5, Virginia Beach
Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary, walk-ins are not allowed. For more information visit <http://GrantWritingUSA.com>. Contact: Cathy Rittenhouse, Grant Writing USA, (800) 814-8191, cathy@grantwritingusa.com

VACo/VML Legislative Day

Feb. 7, Richmond Convention Center
Registration forms are available at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings."

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

Feb. 7, Richmond Convention Center

Chairman's Institute

Feb. 7-9, Richmond Marriott
Registration forms are available at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings."

7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities

Feb. 7-9, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC
www.newpartners.org

NACo's Legislative Conference

March 1-5, Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, D.C.

Forum for Rural Innovation

March 14, Best Western Motor Inn, Winchester
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Registration fee is \$35. Register at www.loudounfarms.org or call (703) 777-0426 for more info.

VACo Regional Meetings

March 17 - May 1

VACo staff will take part in regional meetings around the state. Locations and times will be announced soon.

VACo Board Meeting

May 3-4, Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton

Supervisor Certification Course

Managing While Leading: Understanding Your Powers, Duties and Responsibilities
May 4-5, Charlottesville
Closing session- June 30 in Charlottesville

Each course is \$450 per person

VACo Resolutions Committee Meeting

May 16, location TBA

NACo's 2008 Annual Conference & Exposition

July 11-15, Kansas City, Missouri ☼

Grant Available to Establish Emergency Text Messaging System

First Alert System Text Corp. (FAST) is assisting up to 100 communities establish a text message based emergency notification system for citizens at no cost.

FAST Corporation has negotiated and established formal agreements with all major cell phone carriers in the United States. Unlike other text message notification systems, the system developed by FAST is unaffected by spam blocks or heavy phone usage (as may occur in an emergency) and can reliably send more messages in less time than any other method available today.

FAST will waive all setup and licensing fees and will provide all software and technical support required to implement the system at no charge to entities receiving the Secure Communities Grant. In addition, grant recipients will be provided collateral materials to inform their community of the services and how to access alerts.

All applications for the 2008 Secure Community Grant are due by March 3. Applications are available at www.FirstAlertText.com. Questions about this grant program may be emailed to Grants@FirstAlertText.com. ☼

Congratulations!

VACo Staff Member **Phyllis Errico** has earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential from the American Society of Association Executives. The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry.

The cities of Galax and Waynesboro and the counties of **Halifax** and **Wise** have received Virginia Enterprise Zone designations supporting job creation and private investment through grants based on real property investment and the numbers of jobs created.

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), Virginia's leading preservation association, has awarded **Loudoun County** the 2008 "Outstanding Service in Community Preservation Award" in recognition of the county's Historic Districts interactive website.

Aaron S. Hofberg, P.E., a staff engineer on the Site Planning and Engineering Team with **Draper Aden Associates** has earned his Professional Engineer license.

The **Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)** has announced two additions to its GAP Funds Advisory Board and Investment Committee. Eric Koefoot is the newest member of the CIT GAP Tech Fund

Investment Advisory Board, while John Uhrin joins the CIT's GAP BioLife Investment Committee.

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has awarded three-year accreditation - the organization's highest measure of quality assurance - to eight programs and services provided by **Henrico** Area Mental Health and Retardation Services.

Buchanan and Lee counties will receive a combined total of \$1,979,842 in Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding for public water projects in April 2008. One project in each county has been selected for construction funding under Virginia's AML FY08 Grant administered by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

A 1,500-acre site in **Greensville County** has been certified as suitable for automotive assembly operations and other major advanced manufacturing facilities. The Greensville County site received certification from McCallum Sweeney Consulting. ☼

VACo Announces Staff Changes

VACo's long-time Administrative Assistant Kay Sheets retired from the association on Jan. 31.

She plans to spend more time with her four grandchildren and is already making plans to travel with her husband of 43 years. For eight years, Sheets provided critical staff support to VACo employees and managed the registration desk at all of VACo's events.

VACo's Communications Director Wendy Jenkins has accepted a position in the public affairs office of the Richmond Police Department. Since 2004, she has served as the editor of VACo publications and managed the Web site, media relations and the annual Achievement Awards Program.

VACo would like to welcome Pricilla Wallace to the staff as administrative assistant. She has worked in various positions at Virginia Commonwealth University for more than 20 years. Most recently, she worked as an undergraduate counselor in the School of Engineering. Wallace has a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from VCU. ☼

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

911 Communications Director/ The Eastern Shore of Virginia 911 Communications Center Commission

Deadline: Feb. 19. To be considered, please submit a cover letter, resume including salary history, and references to: John A. Anzivino, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228, Fax: (804) 726-9752, Email: richmond@springsted.com.

City Events Coordinator/ Hopewell

Open Until Filled. A City of Hopewell Application is required and may be accessed at www.ci.hopewell.va.us. Submit application to Human Resources, City of Hopewell, Municipal Building, Room 221, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, VA 23860. (804) 541-2211.

County Administrator/Patrick County

To apply, submit a letter of interest and detailed resume with salary history and work-related references to: Tom Rose, Post Office Box 466, Stuart, Virginia 24171. Deadline: March 15.

Community Development Specialist/Henry County
Planning, Zoning and Inspection Office. Starting salary: \$32,277. Open until filled. Send letter of application and detailed resume to: Susan Reynolds, Human Resources Director, County of Henry, P.O. Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078.

Director of Planning/Henrico County

For a more specific description of duties and qualifications, pay information and to apply, visit our Job Opportunity Source for Henrico (JOSH) on the Internet at www.henricojobs.com. Deadline Feb. 17.

Executive Director/ LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

www.lenowisco.org. Resumes must be sealed in an envelope and marked "Executive Director's Position" and must be received or postmarked by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 29 to: Mr. Jack Kiser, Chairman, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, PO Box 366, Duffield, VA 24244.

Historic Resources Manager/Isle of Wight County

Salary: \$36,139-\$46,077
Interested candidates should submit an application and resume to: HR, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit our website at www.iwus.net or call (757) 365-6263. Position open until filled.

Planner/Accomack- Northampton Planning District Commission

Salary: \$30,000 - \$40,000
Regional planning agency seeks Regional Planner to manage a Natural Resources program. Send resume to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, P.O. Box 417, Accomac, Va. 23301, (757) 787-2936. Open Until Filled.

Planner/Mathews County

Starting salary \$32K and up. Submit Mathews County Application and resume w/ cover letter to Planning & Zoning, P.O. Box 839 Mathews, Va., 23109. Application may be obtained at www.co.mathews.va.us or call (804) 725-4034. Position open until filled.

Senior Engineer/Leesburg

Salary Range: \$52,752-\$88,542
Open until filled. See www.leesburgva.gov or request an application from the HR Dept. at (703) 737-7177. Applications are accepted by mail, fax (703-737-7190) or hand-delivered to the Human Resources Dept. (Town of Leesburg, 25 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176).

Senior Transportation Planner/Leesburg

Salary: \$52,752-\$88,542
Closing Date: Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Town application required. Mail or hand-deliver applications to: Town of Leesburg, Human Resources Dept., 25 W. Market St., P. O. Box 88, Leesburg, VA 20178 or fax to the HR Dept. at (703) 737-7190. www.leesburgva.gov ☼

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Executive Committee

President: William B. Kyger, Jr., Rockingham County
President-Elect: Donald L. Hart Jr., Accomack County
1st Vice President: Phillip A. Bradshaw, Isle of Wight County
2nd Vice President: Robert R. Adkins, Wise County
Secretary Treasurer: Barbara A. Favola, Arlington County
Immediate Past President: Teresa L. Altemus, Gloucester County

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Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs: Michael L. Edwards
Director of Policy Development: Larry J. Land, CAE
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Dean A. Lynch, CAE
Director of Governmental Affairs: Ted McCormack, AICP
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Director of Technical Services: John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
Director of Member Services: Carol I. Huff
Director of Communications: Wendy D. Jenkins
Administrative Assistant: Kay H. Sheets, Pricilla Wallace
VACo Risk Management Programs: Wayne A. Faddis, ARM,
Administrator, (888) 822-6772

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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