

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the
Virginia Association of Counties

December 1, 2010



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Commission seeks public input to consolidate or eliminate

By Ted McCormack
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Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring is considering a recommendation from its Simplification and Operations Committee to consolidate or eliminate a number of advisory, regulatory, or policy boards and commissions. As part of the review process, the commission is seeking comment from the public on the proposals.

The list of boards and commissions for potential consolidation or elimination is available on the Reform Web site.

Some of the proposals include:

- Combine State Air Pollution Control Board, State Water Control Board, and Virginia Waste Management Board into a new Board for Environmental Quality;
- Consolidate the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board into a new Stormwater Management Board;
- Merge the Center for Rural Virginia into the Department of Housing and Community Development or the Department of Business Assistance;
- Eliminate the Compensation Board;

INPUT

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Reform Commission targets local government 'administrivia'

By Ted McCormack
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At the Nov. 18 meeting of Gov. Robert F. McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring, members adopted recommendations that may be the first small steps toward more flexibility under the Dillon Rule. In addition, the commission requested more examples of statutes restricting local authority that could be eliminated.

Local governments are well aware that they must request authority from the General Assembly to do seemingly minor activities, such as regulating the parking of boats, utility trailers or campers on subdivision streets, or requiring mandatory connection to water and sewer systems. Indeed, one of VACO's long-standing legislative positions is a relaxation of the Dillon Rule to give counties greater autonomy.

Several recommendations of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Reform Commission, chaired by Mayor Paul Fraim of Norfolk, adopted on Nov. 18 seek to give, in certain instances, relief from some statutory restrictions on local activity. Those recommendations include authority to:

- Provide for the cutting of grass and weeds on property;
- Perform review and issuance of permitting for bus shelters;
- Develop an expedited process for installing bus shelters;
- Determine the color of local public

vehicles;

- Develop a blanket permit process for small transportation projects that do not exceed a set amount;
- Install Watch for Children and school speed zone signs; and
- Exempt new bike and pedestrian trails adjacent to existing roadways from stormwater runoff regulations in certain instances.

The commission also wanted to see other examples of statutes or regulations that limit authority to provide local services and programs, but have no compelling statewide priority or impact. Mayor Fraim agreed to provide the members such a list for review at a future meeting.

The commission also adopted a significant proposal to the governor requiring the Virginia Department of Education to examine state laws and regulations in education to determine:

- Those required under federal law, those not required, and those that exceed federal requirements;
- Which unfunded regulations or mandates should be eliminated; and
- Which unfunded regulations or mandates the Commonwealth should fund.

Other recommendations to the governor adopted by the Commission

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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VACo adds new member to team

The Virginia Association of Counties is pleased to announce the hiring of B.R. "Beau" Blevins, III, as government relations liaison. His first day at VACo will be Dec. 14.

"Beau really impressed us with his blend of experience, energy and enthusiasm," said VACo Executive Director James D. Campbell. "Beau will fit right in with the talented legislative team we have assembled at VACo. I have no doubt that he will make a positive and lasting impact in the General Assembly on behalf of Virginia's 95 counties."

Blevins joins VACo after serving as senior budget advisor at the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget in the Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Resources Division. At DPB, Blevins worked with the administrations of Gov. Timothy M. Kaine and Gov. Robert F. McDonnell and

regularly advised executive officials on financial and policy-related issues.

"I'm honored and excited to be joining the strong team at the Virginia Association of Counties," Blevins said.

"Moreover, I look forward to representing the interests of Virginia's counties and the important work they do to better serve the people of the Commonwealth."

Blevins also has worked at the local level as an urban planner for James City County and at the federal level as a staff intern for Congressman Frederick C. "Rick" Boucher's office. Before entering the government field, Blevins worked as a project manager for DAS Management in McLean.

Blevins received his Masters in Public Administration from George Mason University and his B.A. from Emory & Henry College in Political



Science. He is a member of the National Association of State Budget Officials, the Association of Government Accountant's Richmond chapter, and the Virginia Historical Society.

Blevins played collegiate tennis and still enjoys the game on the weekend. Besides tennis, he also likes to read and exercise.

Dean Lynch becomes VACo deputy executive director

The Virginia Association of Counties has appointed Dean Lynch to the position of deputy executive director. Lynch has worked at VACo for 14 years over two stints, and rejoined the association in 2006.

"Dean has been an outstanding member of the VACo organization and clearly has the skills and experience for his new role," Executive Director James D. Campbell said. "Dean will lead our legislative team and organize our legislative efforts. He is highly respected, not only in the Capitol, but throughout the state."

Prior to rejoining VACo in 2006, Lynch served in Gov. Mark R. Warner's cabinet as deputy secretary for health and human resources. His wealth of association and local government

experience has come from his liaison service with VACo and in various positions with Scott and Russell counties.

"I've always enjoyed my time at VACo," Lynch said. "I look forward to working with our members as we try to secure a better future for our counties and their citizens. This is a new challenge, but one that I welcome whole heartedly."

Dean is a certified association executive. Lynch received his Master's in City and County Management in 1994 from the College of Business at East Tennessee State University and his undergraduate degree in 1982 from Appalachian State University. He also played fullback at Appalachian State and helped Gate City High School win a state championship in 1974. He



rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior in 1977.

He and his wife Jackie have been married for 26 years. The couple has two children, Paige and Cody. Paige is a police officer for Roanoke County and Cody is a senior in high school.

If you are a regular reader of County Connections, you know we like to publish your new hires and retirees.

If you haven't done so in the past, we encourage you to send us your latest staffing news.

Let's recognize those who serve the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Bailey becomes fifth Virginian ever to serve on MSRB

Dr. Sheryl Bailey, deputy county administrator, management services, has been appointed to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, having been approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Authorized by Congress in 1975 and overseen by the SEC, the MSRB protects investors, state and local government entities, and others whose credit stands behind municipal bonds, by promoting a fair and efficient municipal market. The MSRB accomplishes this by regulating securities firms and banks that underwrite, trade and sell municipal securities, and oversees municipal advisors who provide advice and services to municipal governments on financial products and securities.

The MSRB also collects and disseminates market information, and operates the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) website to promote transparency and widespread access to information.

"Chesterfield County is extremely fortunate to have Sheryl Bailey on our team, and her recent selection as only the fifth Virginian to serve on the MSRB and the first from a Virginia local government demonstrates that her credentials and experience have been noticed at the national level. I am confident that Sheryl will be a tremendous asset to the MSRB as it

works to protect the public interest and investors by promoting market information transparency and a fair and efficient municipal securities market," said Chesterfield County Administrator James J. L. Stegmaier.

Bailey, who joined Chesterfield County in September, earned her bachelor's degree from Norfolk State University, and her master's and doctoral degrees in Economics from Harvard University. Bailey previously served as deputy secretary of administration of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and also served as executive director of Virginia Resources Authority, the state municipal bond bank.

"The election of Dr. Sheryl Bailey to the MSRB is an extraordinary honor and places a key Chesterfield County official on the body that regulates the municipal industry. Dr. Bailey is a highly-respected governmental official that has worked at many different levels of government for a number of years. Having her experience and well-disciplined voice on the regulatory body that affects the entire municipal industry will be extremely beneficial for state and local governmental issuers of bonds. As a municipal industry professional regulated by the MSRB, I applaud Dr. Bailey's selection as a public representative and believe she will serve the MSRB and our industry



in a balanced and fair manner," said Ronald Tillett, managing director of Morgan Keegan and Company, Inc., and former Secretary of Finance and Treasurer of Virginia.

The municipal securities markets provide financing for state and local government capital projects, such as water, sewer, roads, bridges, schools and other public infrastructure. Access to a fair and efficient municipal finance market helps these projects get done, generating jobs and enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life of communities nationwide.

For example, Chesterfield County recently broke ground on the Meadowville interchange, which was financed with municipal bonds and will be a major economic boost to the county and region.

Roanoke announces new director of social services

Roanoke County officials recently named the new director of the Roanoke County/Salem Department of Social Services. Joyce Earl, currently assistant director of the department, will succeed Dr. Betty McCrary following her retirement at the end of the year.

Earl has been employed with the department since 1997, first as a social work supervisor and since 2001 as the assistant director of social services under Dr. McCrary who is retiring after 37 years with the county.

County Administrator Clay Goodman is extremely pleased that Earl has accepted this important position.

"Joyce has been an outstanding assistant director for many years and a national recruitment process with input from the City of Salem shows her to be the best candidate from among many outstanding applicants to lead the department into the future.

Under Dr. McCrary the department has established itself as a leader in the Commonwealth in many areas including foster care and services for children as well as adults, and Joyce's dedication to public service and her thorough knowledge of the programs and staff will serve the community well."

Earl will take over as director on Jan. 1.



Task force releases report on rural enterprise opportunities

By Ted McCormack
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The Rural Enterprise Opportunities Task Force released its final report Nov. 1 on the expansion and promotion of farm businesses and rural enterprise.

The Task Force was empanelled as the result of compromise legislation passed during the 2010 Session [See HB 582 (Landes)/SB 347 (Hanger)]. The group met under the auspices of the Center for Rural Virginia.

As directed by the legislation, members of the task force included the Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for Rural Economic Development, and representatives of the Virginia Farm Bureau, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), VACo,

the American Planning Association-Virginia Chapter, and at least one owner of a farm business or rural enterprise interested in expanded economic opportunities.

The Center for Rural Virginia convened the initial meeting of the Task Force in June, and the group met five additional times. Each meeting included presentations on farm business, rural enterprise, and related topics.

The Task Force's report contained three recommendations that the members felt could have a positive impact on the expansion and promotion of rural enterprise opportunities in the Commonwealth if implemented. Those recommendations include:

- Adopt various process-streamlining to the Agricultural and Forestal Districts Act (Chapter 32, Title 15.2, Code of Virginia).



- Adopt legislation modeled on the Agricultural Enterprise Act of 2005 with proposed additional provisions.
- Encourage local governments to use the checklist "Is Your Community Planning for Agriculture" to help local leaders determine if their locality is supportive of both traditional agriculture and farm based value-added enterprise. [Brochure courtesy of the Virginia Farm Bureau.]

Virginia DOE seeks comments on numerous issues

By Phyllis Errico
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The Virginia Board of Education is seeking public comment on a number of issues including The Standards of Quality, The Standards of Accrediting Public Schools, Homebound Instruction, Concussions in Student Athletes and Guidelines for Prevention of School Misconduct and Abuse. Comments are due by Dec. 28 and can be made by U.S. mail, e-mail or fax to the DOE representative listed below. The Board is expected to review public comment and take action at its meeting on Jan. 13, 2011.

Standards of Quality

In response to 22.1-18.01 of the Code of Virginia, which requires the Board of Education to review the Standards of Quality in even-numbered years, the Board is seeking public comment on its proposal to reaffirm its 2009 proposed policy directions, options for revisions to the Standards of

Quality, and issues for further study, which may be found here.

Standards of Accreditation

In response to HB 1199, passed by the 2010 General Assembly, the Board of Education is seeking public comment on its Regulations Establishing Standards of Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (Standards of Accreditation) as the regulations relate to homebound instructional services. The Board of Education also proposes to add to its Guidance Document Governing Certain Provisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia related to the waiver provision. The item may be found here.

Homebound instruction

Homebound instruction shall be made available to students who are confined at home or in a healthcare facility for periods that would prevent normal school attendance based upon certification of need by a licensed physi-



cian or licensed clinical psychologist. The item may be found here.

Send comments to Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications, Virginia Department of Education, P. O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120, Anne.Wescott@doe.virginia.gov, Fax: 804-225-2524

Concussions in student athletes

The Board of Education is seeking public comment on the Proposed Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes. The proposed guidelines may be viewed here.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 652, the 2010 General Assembly amended the

DOE

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Visit Arlington County and the U.S. Air Force Memorial

The U.S. Air Force Memorial honors the service of the personnel of the United States Air Force and its predecessors. The Memorial is located in Arlington, on the grounds of Fort Myer near The Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, at the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Joyce Street.

It was the last project of American architect James Ingo Freed (known for the design of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum).

The three memorial spires range from 201 feet to 270 feet high and appear to be soaring; its array of stainless steel arcs against the sky evoke the image of "contrails of the Air Force Thunderbirds as they peel back in a precision 'bomb burst' maneuver."

Only three of the four contrails are depicted, at 120 degrees from each other, as the absent fourth suggests the missing man formation traditionally used at Air Force funeral flyovers.

The four bronze statues of the Memorial's Honor GuardThe spire structure consists of stainless steel plates with high-strength concrete filling the lower 2/3 of each spire. The upper third is hollow stainless steel.

In addition to hosting over 200,000 visitors throughout the year, the Air Force Memorial is the scene for more than 200 ceremonies, special events, wreath laying, tours, weddings, and U.S. Air Force Band Concerts throughout the year.

SOURCE: Wikipedia



Mark Your Calendars

Commonwealth of Virginia
Governor's Transportation Conference
December 8 - 10, 2010

Reforming and Revitalizing Transportation in Virginia

Virginia faces monumental transportation challenges. They range from heavy congestion in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to the need to make transportation investments to support economic development in Southside and southwest Virginia.

Join Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton and the Governor's transportation team, legislative leaders and key modal stakeholders at this conference to explore the steps needed to reform and revitalize transportation in the Commonwealth. Don't miss this unique opportunity to influence the future direction of transportation in Virginia.

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Conference information, please call Margaret Redford at 804-225-3542 (Blackberry 804-836-2337). Persons with disabilities or requiring any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations, please call Holly Williams at 540-231-2188 by Nov. 29.

HOSTS

Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Department of Aviation, Motor Vehicle Motor Board, and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

Visit Web site.



The deadline for class of
2011 applications
is Jan. 15, 2011

LEAD VIRGINIA, a statewide Leadership forum celebrating its five-year anniversary in 2010 is accepting applications for its upcoming 2011 class.

LEAD VIRGINIA is a non-partisan, nonprofit educational forum connecting Virginia's proven leaders across the Commonwealth.

For an application, 2011 class schedule or more information about LEAD VIRGINIA, visit www.leadvirginia.org or e-mail Susan Horne, President & CEO at shorne@leadva.org.

The deadline for class of 2011 applications is Jan. 15, 2011.

Grants Training in Roanoke, VA Jan. 18-19, 2011

Roanoke Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop Jan. 18-19, 2011. In this class you'll learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines.

Click here for complete event details.

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts

for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment.

Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals.

Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are available here.



GRANT WRITING USA

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More than 10,000 agencies across North America have turned to Grant Writing USA for grant writing and grant management training.

New rules approved for 'small' wind operations

By Larry Land
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The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently approved new regulations for "small" renewable wind energy projects.

Under the companion bills HB 2175 (Hogan) and SB 1347 (Wagner) that passed the 2009 General Assembly, a "small" wind energy project is one that generates up to 100 megawatts of electricity.

The type of regulations approved by DEQ for small wind projects is known as a "permit-by-rule," which is generally understood to be an expedited permit approval process for facilities considered to have limited environmental impacts.

In the area of solid waste, a "permit-by-rule" process is currently utilized for approving such facilities as transfer stations and materials recovery facilities where recyclable items are separated.

Pursuant to HB 2175 and SB 1347, DEQ will be developing additional regulations under the "permit-by-rule" framework for other types of small renewable energy projects, including those powered by sunlight, falling water, wave motion, tides, geothermal power, certain agricultural feedstocks (switch grass, barley, and others), and municipal solid waste.

DEQ's new permit-by-rule procedure for small wind operations will have no impact upon existing local

government authority to regulate such facilities through land use ordinances.

A chief provision of the Hogan/Wagner legislation requires applicants for a permit-by-rule to obtain certification from a local government that the facility is consistent with all applicable land use ordinances.

For wind projects generating more than 5 megawatts of electricity, DEQ's permit-by-rule imposes the following requirements upon applicants: to analyze potential environmental impacts, produce mitigation plans to offset identified environmental impacts, submit a site plans of the facility, administer a program to allow for public participation in the approval process, and pay certain permit fees to DEQ.

The permit-by-rule also establishes procedures consultations between DEQ and other agencies that may also have interest in a proposed project, including the Department of Historic Resources, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and others.

DEQ's permit-by-rule addresses proposed wind projects that are land-based, as well as those located in state waters.

For very small wind projects generating between 500 kilowatts and 5 megawatts of electricity, DEQ has developed a rule requiring applicants to provide DEQ with notification along with several other minimal requirements. The permit-by-rule places no requirements on projects of 500



kilowatts and less.

Regardless of facility size, wind turbine operations would still be subject to existing local government approval processes.

According to Governor McDonnell, DEQ's permit-by-rule for small wind operations "creates a clear path for developing wind energy in Virginia. Wind energy causes no air pollution. In addition, developing and expanding our renewable energy industries will boost Virginia's economy and create good jobs for our citizens."

To develop the permit-by-rule, DEQ established two stakeholder panels that met 22 times between July 2009 and September 2010.

Most of the provisions of the new regulation reflect the panels' consensus-based recommendations. The stakeholder groups included state agencies, environmental organizations, wind developers, academia, local government and the military.

More information about the wind energy permit by rule is available on the DEQ website.

Note: VACo staff member Larry Land served on both stakeholder panels assisting with development of the permit-by-rule for small wind operations.

GACRE recommends cautious spending

By Dean Lynch
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Lawmakers, industry executives and economists who make up the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates (GACRE) struck a cautionary tone in their meeting with Gov. Bob McDonnell last week. The council reviews economic indicators and state revenue forecasts to advise the governor in preparing his budget. Gov.



McDonnell will present a revised fiscal plan for fiscal year 2011 and 2012 on December 17 to a joint meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

"We're going to take a hard look at what, if any, revenues we might add to the budget based on the forecast," McDonnell said at the conclusion of the meeting. The good news, he said, is that the state had positive growth in seven of the last eight

months, and is on track for the 2011 forecast, if just slightly behind.

"The bottom line is this: we should err on the side of caution," he said. "We've got to be very prudent and it's still necessary to cut spending and reform government and do things smarter."

To help him prepare his budget revisions, McDonnell has asked state agencies to propose spending reductions of 2, 4 and 6 percent of their budgets. VACo will continue to keep counties apprised of revenue estimates.

Contributing: Richmond Times-Dispatch

JLARC weighs in on ABC privatization proposal

By Dean Lynch
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The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) has submitted a new report that indicates Gov. Bob McDonnell's initial proposal to privatize ABC may be flawed because of inaccurate estimates and mathematical calculations being wrong.

JLARC found that Gov. McDonnell made numerous assumptions in calculating his plan, which calls for almost three times as many retail stores in the state, and changing any one variable could raise or lower revenue.

McDonnell's proposal to privatize the system was made public on Sept. 8, estimating that Virginia would receive one-time revenue of at least \$458

million for transportation.

JLARC concluded that prices of distilled spirits would rise from 11 to 26 percent, potentially causing a drop in sales not accounted for in McDonnell's projections.

Virginia's Senators requested that JLARC perform an analysis of the impact of McDonnell's initial proposal - including the plan's revenue projections for upfront cash from the sale of retail and wholesale licenses, its predictions of ongoing revenue from a new taxing structure for a private system, and its suggested use of money from the sale of the system for transportation -- before the General Assembly debated the issue.

The Report indicates that the state could receive less than half of the \$160 million McDonnell expects to receive



from selling wholesale licenses. The Report also concluded that McDonnell may have overstated how much more alcohol would be sold in a newly privatized system as a result of Virginians who now buy distilled spirits in DC and Maryland.

Gov. McDonnell has a national financial management company looking into a retail-only option for the General Assembly to debate when they return to Richmond for their legislative session in January.

County cash proffer revenue rebounds

By Ted McCormack
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Despite the continuing slowdown in residential and commercial construction, counties reported an unexpected increase in voluntary cash proffers receipts for FY 2010.

According to the recently released report of the Commission on Local Government on its annual survey of cash proffer revenue and expenditures, the 30 counties reporting activity in FY 2010 collected approximately \$43.9 million, or an increase of 15.5 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Because voluntary cash proffer revenue makes up only a small portion of county capital budgets, however, expenditures from that development-driven revenue source went down from \$48.4 million in FY 2009 to \$44.2 million, or a drop of 8.7 percent.

The Commission's survey also disclosed that county proffer expenditures for schools dropped significantly, from \$22.0 million in FY 2009 to \$13.4 million in FY 2010. While some may conclude that localities have 'caught up' with school needs resulting

from new residential development, the most likely explanation is that counties do not have the bulk of the local capital funds required to build new classrooms.

Regardless, county expenditures from proffers for schools remained the largest category in FY 2010 (30.3 percent of total proffer expenditures). The next closest item was transportation improvements - \$13 million or 29.4 percent of county proffer expenditures.

It should be noted that both are service areas from which the Commonwealth has decreased its commitments in the recent past.

The recent report continues to demonstrate that voluntary cash proffers are not a reliable or sufficient source of revenue for counties confronting the need to provide services to new residents even when construction costs are significantly down.

For example, a recent newspaper



article reported that the estimated cost of a proposed new middle school in Isle of Wight County would be \$23 million, or almost half of the total proffer revenue received by the 30 counties collectively.

Copies of the Commission's report may be downloaded from its Web site.

INPUT

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- Abolish the Board of Towing and Recovery Operations;
- Eliminate the Commission on Youth;
- Abolish the FOIA Advisory Council; and
- Eliminate the Council on the Status of Women

Several of the suggestions could have an impact on counties, and VACO members are encouraged to offer feedback on one or more of the board and commissions on the list.

Submit comments by going to the Reform Commission's website [www.reform.virginia.gov], then click on the "Comment on the Commission's Potential Recommendations" link on the left hand side.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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call for alternatives to the publication of legal ads and other notices only in newspapers and to allow localities to send notices by first class mail rather than using certified or registered mail.

Although the governor has gone on record saying that he is a strong supporter of the Dillon Rule, counties are hopeful that he will back the recommendations of his commission to relax some of the restrictions on local authority.

There's a lot to like on our Facebook page

DOE

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Code of Virginia to include §22.1-271.5 directing the Board of Education to develop and distribute to local school divisions by July 1, 2011, guidelines for policies dealing with concussions in student-athletes, and requiring each local school division to develop policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes.

Senate Bill 652 also requires the Board of Education to define appropriate licensed healthcare providers authorized to evaluate and provide written clearance for return to play.

Send comments to Vanessa C. Wigand, Principal Specialist for Health Education, Physical Education, Driver Education, and Athletics, Virginia Department of Education, PO Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218, FAX 804-

786-1597, Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov.

Sexual misconduct and Abuse

The Board of Education is seeking public comment on the proposed Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and Abuse in Virginia Public Schools.

The proposed guidelines may be viewed here.

The 2008 General Assembly adopted legislation (HB 1439 and SB 241) amending Standard 7 of the Standards of Quality to require school boards to adopt policies addressing sexual abuse of students by teachers and other school board employees.

Send comments to Charles Pyle, Director of Communications, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218, Charles.pyle@doe.virginia.gov, Fax: 804-225-2524.

Loudoun receives distinguished budget presentation award

Loudoun County has received a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

The association cites Loudoun County government and staff for a "commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting." In order to receive the budget award, Loudoun County had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a government's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

In addition to the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation has been presented to the Loudoun County Budget Office, the agency designated as being primarily responsible for the county receiving the award.

The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program recognizes governmental entities that have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide excellent examples for other governments to follow.

The GFOA is a nonprofit, professional association serving 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America. The group's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only North American awards program in governmental budgeting. More information about the GFOA is available online at www.gfoa.org.

More information about the Loudoun County budget is available on the Loudoun County Government Web site at www.loudoun.gov/budget.



NACo submits comments on EPA proposed coal combustion residual rule

By Larry Land
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Last week, the National Association of Counties (NACo), in a joint letter with the American Public Works Association, National League of Cities, National Association of County Engineers, and U.S. Conference of Mayors, submitted comments on a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to regulate, for the first time, coal ash from the disposal of the wastes generated by electric utilities and independent power producers.

EPA is considering two possible options for the management of coal ash. Under the first proposal, EPA would list these residuals as special

(hazardous) wastes subject to regulation under subtitle C of the Resource, Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA), when destined for disposal in landfills or surface impoundments.

Under the second proposal, EPA would regulate coal ash under subtitle D of RCRA, the section for non-hazardous wastes. Currently, coal ash is considered exempt wastes under RCRA.

The joint letter calls on EPA to "consider the unintended consequences of any new regulatory policy regulating coal combustion residuals (CCRs)," such as discouraging beneficial use and "new and uncertain requirements for shipping, handling, use and disposal" of coal ash under a hazardous waste



designation.

To read the NACo's letter to EPA, [click here](#). Questions pertaining to the proposed CCR Rule may be directed to Julie Ufner, NACo at (202)942-4269. E-mail: JUfner@naco.org.

Virginia submits revised plan for cleaning up Chesapeake Bay to EPA

By Larry Land
lland@vaco.org

On Nov. 29, Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources, Doug Domenech, submitted a revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to U.S. EPA.

The WIP's purpose is outline a series of actions Virginia plans to take in order to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Nov. 29 WIP revises a DRAFT WIP submitted to EPA on Sept. 3.

The revised WIP is intended to address many concerns raised by EPA that Virginia's Sept. 3 DRAFT WIP failed to provide "reasonable assurance" that EPA's expectations for achieving water quality improvements would be satisfied.

The consequence of Virginia's failure to provide these assurances in the revised WIP could mean the imposition by EPA upon Virginia of federal actions (or "backstops") to assure water quality improvements. These "backstop" measures could include more stringent discharge stan-



dards on wastewater treatment facilities, tighter regulations affecting agricultural operations, or stronger stormwater standards in urbanized areas.

Nov. 29 was the deadline for Virginia to submit its revised WIP to EPA.

By Dec. 31, EPA is expected to issue its final "Total Maximum Daily

Load" or "pollution diet" for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

A copy of Virginia's revised WIP is available at VACo's Web site.

Also available is Secretary Domenech's cover letter, which echoes several concerns about EPA's approach that have been expressed by VACo and various local governments.

Learning from others - The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

By Rob Clemons
(EMS Project)

Bio: Rob Clemons has over 30 years of experience in both the career and volunteer fire and EMS service. He holds the rank of Captain with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. Captain Clemons currently serves as a Program Advisor for the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System.

Synopsis: EMS and fire services communities simply cannot continue to do business as usual when so many of its own are getting injured and dying.

We are all acutely aware of the responsibility we have in protecting ourselves and the people that work for us. We have to explore all the tools they need for safety and success.

When EMS and fire service communities examine the common threads of Line of Duty Death (LODD) reports and near-miss events, training is almost always a recommendation for improvement.

So how do you incorporate didactic learning and practical scenarios to your training and where do you start?

I have an idea for you; start with implementing the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System as a training tool for you and your personnel.

Each year we face the sad task of honoring more than 100 firefighters who have died or been killed in the line of duty and deaths to EMS providers are increasing at an alarming rate.

There is almost unanimous agreement among the leadership of the EMS and fire service communities that these losses are painfully more than "part of the job." Just over 3 years ago, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), in cooperation with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), launched a new program that is taking a different approach to EMS and firefighter safety.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System (www.firefighternearmiss.com) came online with just one goal: reduce the number of EMS and firefighter line of duty deaths (LODDs) and injuries.

Changing the safety culture of the EMS and fire service communities has been a topic of conversation for many years.

The lessons learned from the reports submitted to the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System can be applied to

most any training program around the country. We at the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System believe this program has helped to improve EMS and firefighter safety.

By incorporating training programs and sharing lesson learned we are helping to change the EMS and fire service safety culture.

The program end users have confirmed testimonials of near-miss avoidances. There are submissions of best practice and procedural changes realizing the shortcoming of the near-miss experience.

The report submission, our reviewer callbacks, and talking with firefighters that have submitted reports, confirm the impact.

As EMS and fire service professionals, we are always looking for innovative ideas to help us with our training drills. Sometimes, the hardest part of our job is building that "slide tray" of real world experiences into our EMS and fire training.

Using the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System provides you with not only real near-miss events, but other tools that can assist you in developing station training drills. Here

are some information and learning objectives on ways you can use the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System.

Learning Objectives:

These learning objectives are designed to give you a starting point for developing your training. Each training session is designed for 1 to 2 hours and I have provided you with information on how to use the Near-Miss Reporting System and its features.

You will find the website is very easy to navigate and there are many different learning tools at your disposal. As you go through this very important week of training and if a near-miss event is brought up, please take the time to submit the story. Someone will

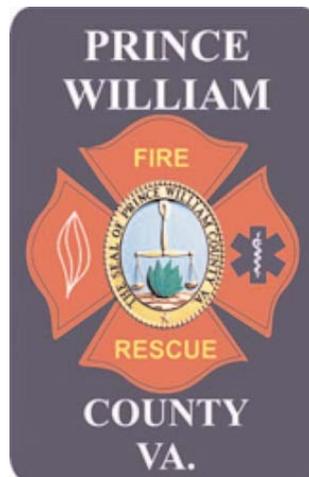
learn a lesson and you could possibly save a life.

Review of shift activities and explanation of purpose for crew: Take time to talk about causes of line-of-duty-deaths and review fire and EMS near-miss events that have occurred in your department.

Discuss and stress importance of equipment readiness, maintaining logs, daily apparatus and equipment checks, SCBA, and PPE checks.

Use the Near-Miss Reporting System's - Search Report and Resource tabs to view near-miss events involving PPE, SCBA, equipment, and apparatus.

SAFETY: Take time to talk about vital statistics regarding safe driving practices and review some compliance awareness



Watch how art can stimulate an economy

Virginia communities Arlington County and the Town of Floyd, have successfully used the arts to stimulate their local economies.

The communities are featured in videos Virginians for the Arts has produced as part of the Arts Build Communities project. The project is funded with the help of Altria Group.



Floyd video

Arlington video

Other videos on VFTA's YouTube channel show ways the arts have been used to spur tourism and new business and to enhance K-12 education in South Boston, Abingdon, Staunton, Hampton Roads, Central Virginia, Lynchburg, and Roanoke.

VFTA's Arts Build Communities project is designed to promote awareness of the work of Virginia arts organizations in Virginia communities. Arts organizations, which are small businesses, contribute to the overall economic health of their communities.

They provide jobs and spur cultural tourism. They help to revitalize both urban downtowns and small town Main Streets. They improve the quality of life for the community, attracting jobs, new businesses, and talented young professionals who are attracted to communities with a lively arts and cultural scene.

VFTA works to develop understanding of the importance of public funding for the Virginia Commission for the Arts. The Commission provides seed money in the form of grants, including matching funds to localities, which develops the arts (and thus communities) throughout the Commonwealth.

REPORTING SYSTEM

Continued from page 11

standards. This can include a review of NFPA 1451 - Standard for Fire Service Vehicle Operation Training Program and your department's policy and procedures on driving emergency apparatus.

If your department does not have a driving policy, check out the sample driving policy found in the Resource Section under "other training tools."

Use the Search Report function on the Near-Miss Reporting System to assist you in viewing reports that deal with responding to, returning from, and routing driving incidents.

HEALTH: Review EMS and fire ground scene safety. Have an honest group discussion about health and wellness and set some goals on how to improve your nutrition and exercise regimen.

If you do not already do so, think about starting a group workout program. This not only gives all of us a little push, but it builds that teamwork we need when working in stressful situations.

Do not re-invent the wheel. Use the Near-Miss Reporting System to help you find reports about EMS providers and fire fighters that have experienced health related issues.

Click on the Search Report tab and use the "Keyword Search" function. This is the easiest way to perform quick searches on the Reporting System about heart attacks, cancer, physicals, cholesterol, etc.

If you want more information about fire fighter fatalities, go to the Resource section, click on the Presentations link and view a power point titled: Saving Lives through Lessons Learned - Fire Fighter Fatalities.

The Near-Miss Calendar can also give you some information about cancer awareness.

In the Resource Section, click on the calendar and review the month of April.

SURVIVAL: Everything we do is to prepare us for that emergency. Survival is an instinct but preparation is our duty to ourselves and our crew members. Here are some training suggestions for survival of you and your personnel:

Search Report - use this function to help you find reports that deal with near-miss events about building construction, reading smoke, tools and equipment, conducting a proper size-up and walk around, etc.

Resource Section - use this function to assist you in finding training programs that have been developed by people that have submitted reports.

Here are a few that may help you:

- Crew Resource Management

Power Point

- Equipment Reports
- Fire Department Near-Miss

Investigations

- Group Reports
- Tactical Worksheets
- Other Training Tools

• Near-Miss Calendar - review each months training topic

WRAP-UP: As EMS and fire service professionals we can become overwhelmed with the responsibility of it all and sometimes we need a little help.

Use the resources that are available to you like the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System to help you develop a plan for improving safety in your EMS or fire service agency.

VACo releases 2011 Legislative Program

ACTION

VACo members urged to share with their General Assembly delegation.

The 2011 Legislative Program for the Virginia Association of Counties has been posted on its Web site.

The VACO membership adopted the program on Nov. 9 at the annual conference in Bath County.

KEY INFORMATION

Highlights and excerpts from VACo's 2011 Legislative Program.

Educational Funding

"VACo supports sufficient state funding for public education programs, including the Standards of Quality, teacher salaries and retirement costs, the Standards of Accreditation, the Standards of Learning, incentive and categorical aid, and capital and maintenance support. VACo opposes changes in methodologies and the division of financial responsibility intended to shift education costs from the state to localities."

State and Local Fiscal Responsibility

• "VACo calls for the repeal of the state's FY 2011 and FY 2012 Reductions in Aid to Localities. Instituted in FY 2009 (\$100 million for 2008-2010 - \$50 million each year; and \$120 million for 2010-2012 - \$60 million each year). These reductions are in addition to program specific cuts (for example, state budget cuts to K-12, Constitutional Officers, the human services and public safety)."

• "VACo opposes proposals to eliminate or reduce specific local tax revenues, including local business taxes (the Machinery and Tools and the Business Professional Occupational License taxes). The state is obligated to replace repealed local revenues with new, offsetting local revenue sources. The elimination of local revenues without providing a replacement will lead to increased local property taxes, including

those on homeowners."

• "Counties must be assured of reliable revenues and authorized to adopt and maintain practical financial policies, including tax assessment and collection laws, to provide the core public services and to comply with state and federal mandates. Conversely, VACo opposes mandated "one-size-fits-all" budget, revenue and investment policies that hinder local government's cost effectiveness. VACo also opposes changing the legal presumption for the application of local taxes."

Water Quality Improvement Program Funding

"VACo urges state and federal agencies to carefully consider impacts on local governments of any initiatives intended to reduce loadings of pollutants into state waters from both point and non-point sources. In order for comprehensive, watershed-wide, water quality improvement strategies to be effective, major and reliable forms of financial and technical assistance from federal and state governments will be necessary."

In addition, the 2011 Legislative Program contains a priority statement on the privatization of the state's distilled spirits (ABC) operation. Excerpts from that statement affirm that "VACo opposes any ABC privatization proposal unless the following principles are met:

- Localities must retain full authority to participate in the initial ABC licensing process for retail liquor outlets and in subsequent processes that will result in the transfer of those licenses;
- Businesses selling distilled spirits must remain subject to all local land use and zoning ordinances, including public hearing requirements and regulations;
- State General Fund dollars that are currently available from the Commonwealth's ownership of ABC must be replaced on a dollar-for-dollar



basis and steps must be taken to ensure that, at a minimum, this ABC related funding is available to the General Fund in the long run;

- Businesses selling distilled spirits must be subject to all local taxes that are levied on any other similar establishments (e.g., BPOL);
- The state must ensure that revenues from privatization adequately fund the enforcement of state ABC laws and increased state fund for locally administered substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation programs;
- The state must recognize that new, one-time revenues, even if loaned out in a revolving fund and dedicated to transportation projects, are not a replacement for a comprehensive, adequately funded revenue stream that is dedicated to meeting all of Virginia's well-documented multi-modal transportation needs; and
- In the event the state gains new revenues from privatization, the state must resume the sharing of profits from the sale of all ABC products with localities."

Read the VACo's 2011 Legislative Program.

KEY CONTACTS

VACo Contact: Ted McCormack

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads are edited due to space considerations.

To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org and click on the employment link on the top left corner.

County Administrator/Sussex County

The County operates under a six-person Board of Supervisors. Salary is negotiable dependent upon qualifications and experience, supplemented by an excellent benefits package. To apply, submit a letter of interest and detailed resume as well as a Virginia State Application to: Chairman, Sussex County Board of Supervisors, Post Office Box 1397, Sussex, Virginia 23884. Applicants may also submit information electronically to Ms. Deborah A. Davis, Assistant to County Administrator, at ddavis@sussexcounty-va.com. Applicant information must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 31. The County of Sussex is an Equal Opportunity Employer
QUALIFICATIONS: A Master's degree or a Bachelor's degree with experience equivalent to a Master's degree in public administration or related field combined with demonstrated evidence of strong professional, administrative leadership and public-sector management of similarly sized community and related experience is required. County residency is required within one year of employment.

**Information Technology
Specialist/Isle of Wight County**

Information Technology Department
Starting Salary \$34,885
Isle of Wight County seeks a professional to fill the role of Information Services Specialist. This position provides user support and customer service on Isle of Wight County supported computer applications and platforms. Installs, troubleshoots, and maintains end user network devices. Requires an AS or BS degree, plus 1-3 years formal IT education/training or work related experience; knowledge of various operating and access systems

and wireless networking preferred. Interested candidates should submit an application, resume, and certification copies by Dec. 17 to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 80, Isle of Wight, VA 23397. Visit www.iwus.net or call us at 757-365-6263.

**Superintendent of Maintenance/
Hanover County**

The Superintendent of Maintenance works within Hanover County's Department of Public Utilities and supports four wastewater plants, one water treatment plant and the County's water distribution and sewer collection systems. This is a supervisory, professional position responsible for managing utility supervisors and technicians. Primary duties include but are not limited to:
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent with a minimum of five years experience related experience including supervision. Must have extensive knowledge of complex water/wastewater systems and associated electrical/mechanical equipment. Working knowledge of purchasing procedures and the budget cycle. Strong oral and written communication skills. For more information and to apply please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call 804-365-6489 (TDD# 365-6140). EOE/MFDV.

**Senior Real Estate Appraiser/
Gloucester County**

Virginia real estate appraisal license required and the incumbent must be available to work flexible hours and/or overtime during deadlines and extremely busy times. Salary Range: \$40,193-\$60,290/yr. Competitive Salary, Depending on Qualifications with an excellent benefit package; County pays the entire cost of participation in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). To be considered, please submit an official Gloucester County application, cover letter, and resume to: Gloucester County Human Resource Department, 6467 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. (804) 693-5690. EOE M/F/D.

For additional information please visit our Web site www.gloucesterva.jobs. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, 2011.

**Project Research Specialist/Virginia
Economic Development Partnership**

The Research Division of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership seeks an innovative individual to provide project assistance through the preparation of comprehensive customized business proposals, requests for information, and other special studies used to market Virginia and its communities to international/domestic and existing Virginia company prospects. Visit www.yesvirginia.org/About_Us/Employment.aspx for a complete description of Position #00735 and application instructions. Application deadline is Dec. 3.

**County Administrator/Prince George
County**

The salary for the position is negotiable, based on the candidates' qualifications and experience with a maximum salary level established at \$145,000. Benefits include, but are not limited to: vehicle allowance or use of a public vehicle, participation in the Virginia Retirement System, vacation and sick leave, group life insurance, medical insurance, professional dues and conference expenses. Moving and relocation expenses may be negotiated with the County. County residency is required within a reasonable time of appointment to the position. Please submit a letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and five (5) work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1564 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax 804-726-9752 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com. Resumes received by Dec. 15 will receive primary consideration. For a complete community/position profile related to the position please visit www.springsted.com.

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 14

**Director of Budget and Finance/
Orange County Public Schools**

Responsible for all financial operations of the school system including administration of the budget, fiscal planning, accounting, purchasing, health and risk management insurance program.

REPORTS TO: Superintendent of Schools

QUALIFICATIONS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Bachelor's degree in accounting or business management; CPA preferred.

Permit Technician/City of Falls Church

The City of Falls Church is recruiting for a full-time Permit Technician. The work requires regular contact within the department, with other departments, outside agencies, the general public and permits customers both supplying and seeking information on permit matters. HOURS: Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. SALARY RANGE AND BENEFITS: \$33,557 + depending on qualifications. Includes comprehensive benefits package including health insurance, dental insurance, pension plan, deferred compensation plan, flexible spending account, college savings plan, life and long-term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, credit union membership, free parking, and more. See www.fallschurchva.gov for additional information. TO APPLY: Submit a resume to the City of Falls Church, Human Resources Division, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046, or via e-mail at hr@fallschurchva.gov. Open until filled.

City Arborist/City of Falls Church

The City of Falls Church Planning

Division has an immediate vacancy for a full-time City Arborist. Responsibilities include creating and following urban forestry management plan, conservation and protection of City arboreal resources, maintenance of trees growing on City owned land and regulation of owner/developer actions on trees growing on private property, which are subject to the City Code. HOURS: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. SALARY AND BENEFITS: \$54,042 +, Depending on Qualifications, plus excellent benefits package. TO APPLY: Send resume to City of Falls Church, HR Div, 300 Park Ave, Falls Church, VA 22046 or hr@fallschurchva.gov. For a complete job posting see www.fallschurchva.gov.

County Engineer/Pulaski County

Pulaski County is hiring for the position of County Engineer. Salary range is \$59,030 - \$86,116, DOQ. This is a full time position with benefits: health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, optional vision insurance, State retirement program, optional 457 retirement program, sick and vacation leave, paid holidays, and much more. Interested applicants may apply directly to Robert Hiss, Assistant County Administrator, 143 3rd St, NW, Pulaski, VA 24301 or through the Virginia Employment Commission Office, 206 3rd Ave., Radford, VA, 24141, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please submit a cover letter, resume, and completed county application which is available at the county Web site: www.pulaskicounty.org. Application review to begin Nov. 22. Open until filled.

Transportation Multimodal Planning Specialists/VDOT

Two positions are available which will be located at DMV Headquarters at 2300 West Broad Street, Richmond. Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, Transportation Policy, Public Administration or related experience. Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning, Transportation Policy, Public Administration preferred, or American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification. Successful candidates

must consent to a fingerprint background check. Salary is commensurate with experience. Position will remain open until filled. To apply: Applications will only be accepted through the online Recruitment Management System.

**Deputy County Administrator/
Hanover County**

Qualified candidates must possess knowledge of modern managerial techniques, principles and practices. Diverse experience managing and directing local government operations and administration is required. Proficient technical knowledge of assigned areas is desirable. Managerial experience leading and coaching staff, and the ability to interact effectively with people in a wide variety of situations is also required. The demonstrated ability to communicate and to present ideas effectively, both orally and in writing, is imperative. Hiring range is \$108,515-\$146,504, plus excellent benefits. For more information or to apply for this position, please visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com. (804)365-6075, (TDD #365-6140).

Budget-Finance Director/Wythe County

The Wythe County Board of Supervisors is accepting applications for a full-time Budget/Finance Director. Applicants shall have a minimum of two years experience in governmental accounting and be familiar with GASB. Educational requirements include a B.S. degree in Accounting and professional licensure as a CPA in Virginia would be preferred. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Salary range for this position is negotiable based qualifications and experience. Interested applicants may obtain a job application at the Wythe County Administrator's Office or from the Public Documents area of the county Web site: www.wytheco.org. Applications and resume due will be accepted at the County Administrator's Office, Attention: Mr. R. Cellett Dalton, 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, Virginia 24382. Open until position is filled.



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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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