

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, was held on June 6, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., Lane Auditorium, County Office Building on McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PRESENT: Mr. Kenneth C. Boyd, Mr. Lindsay G. Dorrier, Jr., Mr. Dennis S. Rooker, Mr. David Slutzky, Ms. Sally H. Thomas, and Mr. David C. Wyant.

ABSENT: None.

OFFICERS PRESENT: County Executive, Robert W. Tucker, Jr., County Attorney, Larry W. Davis, Director of Community Development, Mark Graham, County Planner, V. Wayne Cilimberg, Clerk, Ella W. Carey, and Deputy Clerk, Meagan Hoy.

Agenda Item No. 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m., by the Chairman, Mr. Boyd.

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Agenda Item No. 2. Pledge of Allegiance.  
Agenda Item No. 3. Moment of Silence.

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Agenda Item No. 4. From the Board: Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Dorrier mentioned that the Eastern Connector had not been discussed by the Board in a while and should be included on the agenda in the near future. Mr. Boyd agreed, stating that the committee has met and there have been two sessions with the public on the matter, so now would be a good time to bring this back. Mr. Tucker agreed to put it on the agenda.

Ms. Thomas mentioned that she and Mr. Dorrier had traveled to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to look at a development that has parallels to some Albemarle developments, and UNC has decided to crack down on parking which has encouraged use of mass transit.

She also reported that she took a ride on CTS and found it difficult to get on and off the bus; there is also a need for shelters at bus stops.

Mr. Wyant commented that he has been to Bermuda, and they have ample bus service with routes that run every 15 minutes or so, but then there are issues of safety.

Mr. Rooker said that while Albemarle considers itself an aesthetically pleasing community, the County needs to do a better job of maintaining public areas with mowing and trash pickup. He suggested allocating some of the Board reserve this year for improving those areas.

Mr. Rooker also stated that the County had discussed a sliding scale policy for affordable housing, and he wondered what the status of that proposal might be. Mr. Davis commented that there is a work session scheduled for next Wednesday.

Mr. Rooker also asked about the ASAP proposal, and he suggested setting aside \$25,000 to proceed with the study on the impacts of population growth on ecological and environmental systems and what the upper limits might be based upon those factors. He said that his understanding is that the County would agree to the scope of the study and the consultant chosen to perform the work, with ASAP as the agent for the project.

Mr. Dorrier commented that a public/private matching situation would be desirable.

Mr. Slutzky said that ASAP was going to put up more, with both the County and City putting up \$25,000 each.

Mr. Boyd disagreed with Mr. Rooker's contention that there was consensus to move forward with this, adding that he has an issue appropriating additional dollars for what might essentially be a population control measure.

Mr. Rooker responded that ASAP is waiting for the County's response so that they can go to the city and to private donors, adding that this is a one-time expenditure.

Mr. Boyd commented that he is not convinced this would be a useful tool to the County.

Mr. Rooker said that the Board would be able to decide on the scope of work.

Mr. Slutzky mentioned that he had brought up the concept of conservation planning and everyone on the Board was enthused about that approach, adding that he recalled the Board agreeing to the more narrow scope of work as Mr. Rooker iterated. He added that he would support the \$25,000 allocation with the understanding that ASAP would provide a work plan and information about the hired consultant.

Mr. Boyd commented that he believes this will take the Community Development Department staff time and County financial resources, and he is not in favor of population control regardless.

Mr. Slutzky said that zoning in effect defines population, and this essentially means revisiting land use patterns that make for a sustainable community.

Mr. Dorrier stated that if the study would encompass the entire County, it would have a higher carrying capacity than just the urban ring.

Mr. Rooker commented that the focus of the study would be on resources in the County and what they could support for population.

Mr. Boyd said that there are no other localities in the United States that have done this.

Mr. Slutzky noted that the emergence of conservation planning will make it more common, and the idea is to have planning that accommodates human activity and is deferential to the long term survivability of valuable ecological systems.

Mr. Boyd responded that the master planning process should cover this.

Mr. Rooker stated that it is not covering the same thing, adding that it would be helpful to understand the impacts of population growth on resources.

Mr. Slutzky said that this is not a commitment to ASAP, but it is a step forward in conservation planning in the County.

Mr. Wyant commented that this is a major undertaking, and there will be significant resources needed.

Mr. Dorrier added that the entire region should be considered and not just the County.

Mr. Rooker replied that this is the first step, and this group is willing to leverage dollars to get a significant component of this done.

Mr. Rooker **moved** to set aside \$25,000 from the Board reserve to be applied toward the study subject to an approved scope of work, consultant agreement, and matching funds that are adequate to complete this component. Mr. Slutzky **seconded** the motion.

Mr. Wyant clarified that a work plan would be brought forth that includes a work plan and a consultant's specifications.

Mr. Rooker added that there should also be a reasonable study area defined, and ASAP would need some commitment from the Board in order to raise funds for the study.

Mr. Boyd said that he is opposed to anything that would require significant staff time, and he is not convinced this is not just population control.

Mr. Slutzky said that before the Board approves it, they need to understand the scope of what ASAP has in mind.

Mr. Rooker stated that he would like to have County staff review the proposed scope of work from ASAP, adding that allocated staff time could be limited after the proposal comes back if desired. He also said that does not appear to be a staff-intensive piece of work.

Mr. Boyd asked what the end product of this exercise would be.

Mr. Slutzky commented that he is stunned at Mr. Boyd's reluctance to put any staff time into this as there was a discussion in October by the Board on how to approach planning at which time they talked about the possibility of destroying ecological systems to accommodate additional population. He also said that he would like for this study to bring forward information about the carrying capacity of the County's ecological systems and where they are most vulnerable to the intrusions of human activity.

Mr. Boyd noted that this type of study is subjective.

Mr. Slutzky replied that it is definitely not as it is based on science and not social science. He stated that it's a path towards knowing the point at which we fall off the cliff, and he wants to know that point, and then the Board can have a policy decision about what to do about it, but that is a separate discussion.

Mr. Boyd noted that there are already many agencies involved in analyses of development projects in the County.

Mr. Rooker said that information from groups like StreamWatch could be collated and provided as part of this study. He stated that he thinks for long-term planning purposes it would provide a very helpful tool.

Ms. Thomas commented that what has been brought forth by ASAP is not as clear as it could be so this discussion will help them better articulate that. She stated that she is in favor of the motion with the contingencies as stated. Ms. Thomas stated that to say we do not want to know this stuff' is putting

our head in the sand when there is the possibility that this will be something of valuable information, and in ten years other counties will be doing it all over the country, and we will have been the first.

Mr. Dorrier added that what Albemarle does influences surrounding counties, and this cannot be done in a vacuum, adding that he hopes ASAP comes back with something that includes a regional approach.

Mr. Wyant noted that this could be a good planning tool and is an important undertaking, but it will likely require significant staff time and might require changing the Comprehensive Plan. He added that he would support it to get more knowledge.

Roll was then called, and the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Wyant, Mr. Dorrier, Mr. Rooker, Mr. Slutzky, and Ms. Thomas.

NAYS: Mr. Boyd.

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