

13. CONSIDERATION OF A MOU WITH THE CITY OF FRANKLIN TO EXPLORE AND IMPLEMENT SHARED SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES

Attached for your consideration, please find a draft Memorandum of Understanding that is to be jointly considered by the Board and the Franklin City Council next Monday evening.

The primary objective of the MOU is to formally and officially establish a shared commitment to explore, evaluate and implement shared service opportunities to improve services, enhance efficiency and save money.

It establishes a working group comprised of two elected officials each from the City and the County to work with management and staff to identify potential opportunities and develop a framework of analysis in which to evaluate them. The ultimate goal is to create a model agreement which will spell out in detail the plan(s) for implementation.

The model agreement will be subject to full approval by both governing bodies, but this MOU contemplates that approval of future agreements will not be unreasonably withheld as long as they accomplish the stated objectives.

MOTION REQUIRED:

If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required authorizing Chairman Jones to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON
AND THE CITY OF FRANKLIN
TO EXPLORE AND IMPLEMENT SHARED SERVICES

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) is made and entered into this _____ day of November, 2012 by and between the County of Southampton, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia (hereinafter “COUNTY”), and the City of Franklin, a municipal corporation (hereinafter “CITY”).

WHEREAS, COUNTY and CITY recognize the substantial fiscal constraints that they face including diminishing state and federal revenues and local tax bases, and further recognize that these constraints will most likely continue in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY and CITY hope to reduce the duplication of services and seek greater efficiency in their daily operations through mutual cooperation; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY and CITY provide a number of similar public services and the parties have determined that cooperation and integration will be jointly beneficial to COUNTY and CITY; and

WHEREAS, this MOU is intended to establish a shared commitment to explore and implement shared services opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The primary principles and objectives of this agreement are to:
 - a. Improve services that are focused on the needs of residents of COUNTY and CITY;
 - b. Achieve greater economic value and financial savings for the taxpayers of COUNTY and CITY; and
 - c. Increase and improve operational efficiencies within the daily operations of COUNTY and CITY.
2. COUNTY and CITY will utilize the following shared values when evaluating, developing and implementing shared services:
 - a. **Innovation** - seeking innovative and imaginative solutions to improve service delivery and sustainability and reduce costs;
 - b. **Challenge** - being open to challenge from each other;
 - c. **Best fit** - adopting a “best fit” approach in search of solutions;
 - d. **Partnership** - developing positive and effective partnership working through the respective governing bodies;
 - e. **Accountability** - achieved through delivery of agreed outcomes; and

- f. **Transparency** - making open and clear decisions and demonstrating the improvements and savings achieved by shared services.
3. COUNTY and CITY will work in good faith to implement shared service opportunities that meet the principles and objectives identified in paragraph 1 above.
 4. COUNTY and CITY will develop a framework to evaluate each shared service opportunity with the intention of creating a model agreement to provide for the planned implementation of shared services, subject to final approval by the respective governing bodies.
 5. COUNTY and CITY will each appoint two members of their respective governing bodies to collaborate and work with management and staff in identifying, evaluating and implementing shared service opportunities. The respective appointees shall serve as the primary liaisons between the two governing bodies and regularly report ongoing activities.

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

CITY OF FRANKLIN

Dallas O. Jones, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Raystine Johnson-Ashburn
Mayor