

September 23, 2003

At a regular meeting of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on September 23, 2003 at 6:00 PM.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

Reggie W. Gilliam, Chairman
Eppa J. Gray, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Carl J. Faison
Dallas O. Jones
Charleton W. Sykes
Ronald W. West
Walter L. Young, Jr.

SUPERVISORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator (Clerk)
J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Assistant County Administrator
Julia G. Williams, Finance Director
Cynthia L. Cave, Community/Economic Development Director
Sandi Plyler, Data Processing Manager
Susan H. Wright, County Administration Executive Secretary

Important Note: Due to Hurricane Isabel and her aftermath, this meeting was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 rather than Monday, September 22, 2003, and was abbreviated. Also, it was not possible for agendas to be prepared and/or distributed to Board members in advance.

Chairman Gilliam called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. After the *Pledge of Allegiance*, Supervisor West gave the invocation.

Since the minutes of the August meeting could not be distributed to Board members in advance (they would have been included in the agendas), and it was not practical to read them now, the approval of the August 25, 2003 minutes would be deferred to next month's meeting.

Mr. Johnson announced that as Director of Emergency Services, he was seeking the Board's declaration of a local emergency. He read aloud the following declaration:

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Emergency Operations Plan for Southampton County, Virginia provides that the Director of Emergency Services, with the consent of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors, is the constituted legal authority for implementing the Emergency Operations Plan and declaring a local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Hurricane Isabel may present a condition of extreme peril of life and property which necessitates the proclamation of the existence of an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that an emergency now exists throughout Southampton County;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that during the existence of said emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services for Southampton County, Virginia shall be those prescribed by law and the ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of Southampton County in order to mitigate the effects of the emergency;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED that, in order to carry out the effect of this proclamation, funds shall be appropriated from the county's unappropriated fund balance to cover reasonable operational costs of emergency services pending further report to the Board of Supervisors as deemed necessary to cover the expected scope of this emergency.

This proclamation shall be subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors at its next scheduled session on September 23, 2003 in accordance with the provisions of § 44-146.21, Code of Virginia.

EFFECTIVE, this 17th day of September 2003 at 5:00 PM.

Michael W. Johnson
Director of Emergency Services

Attest: _____
J. Waverly Coggsdale, III
Assistant County Administrator

Vice-Chairman Gray moved, seconded by Supervisor Young, to adopt the declaration of a local emergency. All were in favor.

Mr. Johnson then presented a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting Hurricane Isabel efforts that had taken place and/or were currently underway. He advised that an emergency shelter was set up at Southampton County High School on Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 7:00 PM. It was managed by the Southampton Department of Social Services and food was provided by school employees. He informed that Robert Barnett, Building Official, headed up damage assessments and was assisted by John Jenkins, Code Services Specialist, Lee Copeland, Building Inspector, and Cindy Cave, Community/Economic Development Director. He noted that they worked long hours going road by road throughout the county assessing the damage. He reported that agricultural (cultivated) damage was estimated at \$11.8 million and building damage was estimated at \$3.5 million. He showed some pictures of some of the damage throughout the county. He advised that bottled water distribution was based at the Southampton County Fair Grounds. He gave credit to Lieutenant Bill Gentry who worked on site managing that effort and Waverly Coggsdale, Assistant County Administrator, who worked in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinating the distribution of the water.

Mr. Johnson informed that removal of debris throughout the county was contracted very quickly. A mass burn site was set up on Route 35 about 1 mile south of Southampton High School, and they were looking for an additional site around the Berlin area. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) had an inspector on site overseeing that operation. He advised that residents could take the debris to the dumpsites or place it at the right of way of their property to be picked up. He noted that the contractors were working the dumpsites first, and the last pass throughout the county for pickup of debris at the right of ways would be made in 45-60 days.

He reported that many municipal and public water systems lost pressure. As a result, rental generators were provided to the Boykins-Branchville, Edgehill, Ivor, Capron, Sedley, and Newsoms water systems. He informed that Boykins-Branchville was on a boil water notice.

Mr. Johnson recognized Waverly Coggsdale, Cindy Cave, Robert Barnett, Lee Copeland, John Jenkins, Jackie Vick (Building & Grounds), Bill Vick and Bob Croak and their staff (Public Utilities), and Hart Council and staff (Public Works) for exceptional service. He recognized all the sheriff's office personnel for their exceptional service and commented that after spending so much time at the EOC, he had greater respect and appreciation for all that they do. He recognized Billy Grizzard, Bill Wright, and Andy Harris of Southampton County Schools, and the Department of Social Services and Health Department for their service, especially at the emergency shelter. He recognized all the volunteer fire and rescue departments for their service as well as VDOT.

Mr. Johnson advised that residents may be eligible for individual disaster assistance through FEMA and should call 1-800-621-FEMA. He informed that the county was eligible for public assistance through FEMA for things such as debris removal, generators for the water systems, and infrastructure repair. He stated that the federal government would cover 75% of the cost, the state government would cover 20%, and the county would be responsible for 5% of the cost.

Mr. Johnson then announced that adoption of the following resolution was needed in order for Southampton County to apply for Enterprise Zone Designation, as discussed last month:

A RESOLUTION
ENDORING THE APPLICATION FOR THE VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S
ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, Southampton County desires to broaden and diversify its tax base through economic development while maintaining economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Southampton County seeks to attract new business/industry as well as encourage expansion of existing business/industry; and

WHEREAS, Southampton County's primary areas designated for business/industrial use qualify as economically distressed; and

WHEREAS, Southampton County possesses limited financial resources to offer as incentives for business/industry attraction or expansion

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors for Southampton County, Virginia, desires to partner with the Commonwealth of Virginia in stimulating overall economic growth by providing joint tax and financial incentives to business/industry operating in an Enterprise Zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board authorizes its Community/Economic Development Director to apply for Enterprise Zone Designation.

Adopted this 23rd day of September 2003.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Reggie W. Gilliam, Chairman

ATTEST

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

Vice-Chairman Gray moved, seconded by Supervisor Young, to adopt the resolution. All were in favor.

Mr. Johnson informed that bills in the amount of \$862,936.25 were received. **Vice-Chairman Gray moved, seconded by Supervisor Young to authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$862,936.25 with check numbers 58036 through 58751. All were in favor.**

Mr. Johnson announced that the following public hearing was scheduled:

The application of T. Davis Copeland (Owner) to rezone property identified as Tax Map 76, Parcel 31F, from Agricultural District (A-1) to Business District, General, (B-2). Said property is located off the south side of New Market Road (Route 688) approximately one hundred fifty feet south of its intersection with the east bound lane of Southampton Parkway (U.S. Route 58). Said property contains approximately 7.818 acres and is located in the Franklin Magisterial District and Franklin Voting District.

Vice-Chairman Gray moved, seconded by Supervisor Young, to table this public hearing, thus it would be heard next month. All were in favor.

Mr. Johnson advised that all other business could wait until next month. Thus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Reggie W. Gilliam, Chairman

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk