

**INCOMING
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

March 3, 2010

RECEIVED MAR - 8 2010

The Honorable Dallas O. Jones
County of Southampton
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Chairman Jones,

As the Board Chairman of the County of Southampton, I felt it important to relate to you the value of the Office of Commissioner of the Revenue, and your Commissioner, Amy Carr, in particular. If you share my feelings, what follows may already be obvious to you.

As you know, Commissioners of the Revenue, along with their Treasurer colleagues, and the local governing body, comprise the traditional form of government in 128 of Virginia's 134 localities. This form of government has withstood the test of time in large part because we are directly accountable to the citizens we represent and because of the fundamental '*checks and balances*' it affords them. The local governing body sets the tax rate, the Commissioner assesses and the Treasurer collects. No one component of government has complete taxing authority over its citizens.

In these challenging economic times, Amy Carr and her office should be considered a core function of your local government. Without the efforts of this office all other functions of your local government would remain unfunded. In short, the Commissioner's office is the *one office* in a position to most assist the County of Southampton with identifying and generating revenue. It makes little sense to reduce funding for the very office which is most closely identified with revenue generation.

All Commissioners of the Revenue face tremendous fiscal challenges but still operate their offices with limited resources. We are extremely efficient with these resources and are, therefore, a very good value to the taxpayer. The cost to operate a typical office is less than .02¢ per revenue dollar administered.

I direct your attention to the enclosed "Discovery" circular and article from *Governing Magazine*. This circular illustrates the essence of what we do and what is possible when a cooperative approach is taken. It was placed in the hands of every member of the Virginia General Assembly recently.

Page 2 – The Honorable Dallas O. Jones
County of Southampton
March 2, 2010

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As we begin to recover from this national economic calamity, I encourage you to support Amy Carr and her commitment and contribution to the County of Southampton. If you feel strongly, I would also encourage you to contact your legislator and solicit their support for the work that we do.

If you have any questions, or future concerns, I encourage you to contact me directly.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Page Johnson, II', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

William Page Johnson, II
President
Commissioner of the Revenue Association

RECEIVED MAR 17 2010

**Town of Branchville
Post Office Box 129
Branchville, VA 23828-0129**

Arthur B. Harris, Jr., Mayor

Tel: (757) 654-9420

03/15/2010

Mr. Carl J. Faison
Supervisor
Post Office Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Dear Mr. Faison;

I'm writing, at the direction of the Town Council, about the asphalt storage and distribution facility located on Moore Lane outside of Branchville. It has been brought to our attention that the proposed water line to the facility will follow the Dominion Power transmission line. This route takes it away from the highway and all residences and structures. The council feels this is the least desirable route.

The best route is to come under the railroad tracks with an 8" line. This will give the maximum fire flow protection to the park that the current water system can provide.

The second best route would be to extend the existing line, on Old Branchville Road, with a 6" line following the highway until it comes to Moore Lane then up Moore Lane to the facility(s). According to our scant records the existing line on Old Branchville Road is 4". Without access to the proposed asphalt storage and distribution facility and the existing propane and fertilizer blending facilities fire load data (I'm sure this has been checked) it is impossible to state whether this combination 4/6" line will provide an adequate fire flow. If it has been proved to be adequate and the industrial park grows to where it is inadequate only the 4" portion of line would have to be replaced.

The least desirable route is the proposed route. Extending a 4" line down the power line does not provide any usable water or fire protection to present or future residents or buildings along Old Branchville Road. As with the combination 4/6" line discussed above any growth in the industrial park could require the 4" line to be upgraded to 6". The cost for this upgrade could be considerably more than triple that of the second best routes upgrade.

We would like to see the water line pushed under the railroad and the water system looped. This year there have been several instances of the water system having to be shut off for extended periods to affect repairs to the system. With a looped system the problem area could be isolated and repaired without shutting off everyone at and beyond the problem. When you shut down the water system it also has an effect on the fire protection of the area.