Moving to the citizen request to address the Board, Mr. Johnson announced that included in the agenda was correspondence from Mr. Mack R. Ballance requesting time this morning to discuss certain concerns associated with the recent prolonged road closure within the City of Franklin between the Edgehill subdivision and Southampton Memorial Hospital. Mr. Ballance subsequently advised him that, due to health issues, he would be unable to attend this morning, but wanted to make sure that his concerns were relayed to the Board. Accordingly, he had placed this matter on the agenda simply for information purposes. After hearing from Mr. Ballance, he shared his concerns by telephone with Mr. Bucky Taylor, City Manager of Franklin, and followed up with a letter, a copy of which was included in the agenda. In essence, Mr. Ballance was concerned about the prolonged road closure because it did not allow for the passage of emergency vehicles, and this detour added a minimum of 6 additional miles (12 miles round-trip) for emergency vehicles responding to this part of the County.

The Board was appreciative of Mr. Johnson's contact with Mr. Taylor, as they deemed this a valid concern.

Moving forward, Mr. Johnson announced that included in the agenda was information relative to the upcoming annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo). It was necessary for the Board to designate a representative prior to November 1 to cast its votes at the annual business meeting. Supervisors Jones, Young, Brown, Felts and Wyche were registered for the conference, which would be held November 11-13, in Bath County. A conference agenda was also included in the agenda for their reference. He advised that Supervisors Jones, Young and Felts would be staying at the Conference Hotel. Unless taken off of the wait list, he and Supervisors Brown and Wyche would be staying at a small inn in Warm Springs. He noted that Susan had made advance arrangements for their entire delegation to attend the annual banquet on Sunday evening.

Supervisor Wyche moved, seconded by Supervisor Felts, to designate Chairman Jones and Vice-Chairman Young as voting delegate and alternate delegate, respectively. All were in favor.

Moving forward, Mr. Johnson announced that included in the agenda was an application for a fireworks display permit from Mr. Charles B. Darden, Jr., submitted pursuant to **Sec. 10-73** of the *Southampton County Code*. The display was scheduled for November 17, 2007 at approximately 8:30 PM. The rain date was November 18. Given the dry conditions, he asked them to note that this was a low-altitude display and was planned to be discharged directly over a small pond. The application was in order and a draft permit was included in the agenda for their consideration.

Supervisor Felts advised that she had been directly involved in several fireworks displays. She understood that they planned to discharge over a pond and this was a low-altitude display, which was 100' – 150'. However, although there may not be any wind down low, there may be wind at 100' – 150' that could shift the direction of the fireworks. She was a little concerned because of the dry conditions.

Supervisor West stated that he agreed with Supervisor Felts. Perhaps in issuing this permit, they could impose a stipulation that they would review it up until the schedule date of the display, and if conditions got worse, they would not allow the display to take place.

Supervisor Brown thought that the display being discharged over a pond and at low-altitude were positives that needed to be considered.

Supervisor Wyche indicated that he was ok with it because they would be discharged over water.

Supervisor Wyche moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Young, to issue the fireworks permit to Charles B. Darden, Jr. Chairman Jones, Vice-Chairman Young, and Supervisors Brown, Faison, Felts, and Wyche voted in favor of the motion. Supervisor West voted in opposition to the motion. The vote was 6-1 in favor of the motion, thus the motion passed.

BEGIN →

Moving forward, Mr. Johnson announced that included in the agenda was correspondence from The Honorable William J. Howell, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, seeking their consideration of organizing a local committee to help coordinate planning for a four-year

statewide commemoration of the American Civil War from 2011 through 2015. The request was reminiscent of one received from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation several years ago when they were requested to establish a similar committee to help celebrate Jamestown's 400th Anniversary. Despite good intentions initially, it was his understanding that the work of that committee was ultimately left up to just a handful of individuals. He was open to their direction.

Supervisor Felts stated that this was a good idea, but as Mr. Johnson mentioned, the Jamestown committee did end up consisting of just a few people.

Supervisor Faison advised that he would like for us to do this. He recognized that they had a problem with committees that were formed but not followed through. He thought that was a problem they needed to address but did not think it was something that should make them eliminate the idea of forming a committee. He thought these commemorations were very important. Maybe the Board needed to think of something they could do to encourage the committees to function. He suggested perhaps that the Board require the committee, and not the Board representative on the committee, to present a quarterly report to the Board. The committee needed to feel that its work was important.

Chairman Jones advised that Supervisor Brown had volunteered to head up this committee.

Supervisor Brown stated that he wanted to lead this committee, as this commemoration was very important to him. He spent 20 years in the military and was a student of the Civil War. He thought that when comparing the Jamestown committee to forming a Civil War committee, he thought there would be more interest in the Civil War.

Mr. Johnson advised that the letter he received indicated certain groups of people that were to be involved in the committee. Supervisor Brown advised that he would like the opportunity to provide some names as well.

END

Supervisor Wyche moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Young, to allow Supervisor Brown to head up and direct the organization of a local Sesquicentennial committee. All were in favor.

Proceeding to the public hearings, Mr. Johnson announced that the first public hearing was being held to consider the following:

> A proposed ordinance to exempt certain real property owned by Horizon Health Services, Inc., a charitable non-profit organization, from local real estate taxation in accordance with the provisions of Section 58.1-3651 of the Code of Virginia. The affected real property is located at 8575 Ivor Road, identified as tax parcel 15-22, and operates as the Ivor Medical Center, treating chronic diseases and acute illnesses in a defined medically underserved area. The property has a current assessed value of $180,000 and the real estate tax for the current year is $1,224.00.

The ordinance is as follows:

Ordinance Exempting from County Real Estate Taxation Certain Real Property Owned by Horizon Heath Services Inc., a Charitable Non-Profit Organization

WHEREAS, Virginia Code Ann. Sec. 58.1-3651 (Cum. Supp. 2007) authorizes localities to exempt, by designation or classification, from real or personal property taxes, or both, by ordinance adopted by the local governing body, the real or personal property, or both, owned by a nonprofit organization that uses such property for religious, charitable, patriotic, historical, benevolent, cultural, or public park and playground purposes;

WHEREAS, Horizon Health Services, Inc. is a charitable non-profit organization whose goal is to provide quality, affordable medical services by treating chronic diseases and acute illnesses in a defined medically under-served area where lack of access to primary health care continues to compromise the quality of life for local residents;

WHEREAS, Horizon Health Services, Inc. has acquired property located at 8575 Ivor Road, Ivor, Virginia, which is used for the provision of the described medical services;