

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Minutes of Membership Meeting on November 21, 2002**

Call to Order. Art Wells called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Packard Center. Members attending are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

Minutes for the Membership Meeting on October 17, 2002 The minutes were moved, seconded and approved as published.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Charles Dane distributed and reviewed his report. The balance is \$2,396.43 with an additional \$155.00 in membership money received tonight and an anticipated disbursement of about \$120.00. A motion was made to receive the treasurer's report.

Introduction of Supervisor Sharon Bulova

Supervisor Sharon Bulova from the Braddock District as Chair of the Fairfax Budget Committee addressed the budget FY 2003/2004. Her fourteen-page presentation with charts and graphs was distributed to the audience. Some of her points of emphasis include:

- Residential Real Estate Assessments are up again by double digits
- If Real Estate Assessments continue to increase significantly, the Board will direct the County Executive to develop a budget FY 2004 that includes a reduction in the Real Estate Tax.
- Real Estate and personal property taxes equal 75.9% of the budget
- In FY 2003, the County transfer was 76% of the school budget and in the rest of the state that is reversed. The State provides the bulk of the school's budget in other areas.

She then looked back at the last ten years and examined how budget shortfalls have been dealt with by the County. Using this knowledge, the County has begun to require agencies to prepare baseline budgets with no new programs or services. Each agency is required to submit a 5% reduction package to be submitted with the FY 2004 budget. County agencies have been asked to identify "Targets of Opportunity" which are areas where a larger, more programmatic reduction may be possible. Finally, fees and fares are being reviewed to determine if increased rates are warranted.

Introduction of Delegate Vincent Callahan

As Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Delegate Callahan shared the speech he had given earlier in the day to the Virginia Business Council for the CEO's of the Commonwealth. As a Delegate to the General Assembly, only two have served longer than V. Callahan. His historical context was helpful.

The Governor's budget for the remainder of FY 2003/2004 is due December 20, 2002. The Governor has unilaterally cut 15% from the budget, which is the extent of his authority, but that still leaves a gap of \$1B+. The estimates for revenue have come in at a minus 5.5% the sharpest descent since they have kept records. A major budget item is the rising cost of Medicaid patients; 378,000 patients since inception of Medicaid have been added as a Federal mandate. This was not even a budget item in Delegate Callahan's first year in the General Assembly.

Revenue estimates will remain the same in 2003 and maybe a 4% increase (if there is a recovery) by 2004.

Why does this recession feel different than the 91-92 recession? Because this is largely a financial recession. The bear market has cut off the revenue that generated large capital gains and the inflated salaries of the technology boom.

A review of the state spending in the past 20 years reveals only a 2.3% average annual increase in state spending. We have added 100,000 more students, 30,000 more prisoners, 30,000 more in higher education, and, of course, the Medicaid patients. There is no wiggle room in the budget.

A tax study group has been tasked to study our antiquated tax system and perhaps can propose a solution.

Changing the formula for transportation won't solve the Northern Virginia transportation problem. There is only a finite amount of money.

Committee Reports

Human Services– R. Steele – Out of a \$449M budget for human services, \$16M needs to be cut. There are 20 appointees on the Human Services Council that are struggling mightily to determine what shall be eliminated. They need to have their recommendations to Tony Griffin by December 16, 2002.

Trails – R. Cate The Committee has adopted 16/17 trails that have been identified as a priority. These are cross-county or inter-county connector trails rather than local project trails. A recognition that in the future, should money be made available, some money will be set aside for small projects in each Magisterial District because they have such an impact in the local community.

Transportation – G. Smith In 1993 there was a 5B shortfall for transportation in Northern Virginia now in 2002 it is a 17B shortfall. There is an even a greater disparity between land use and transportation. The BOS has begun to talk about the transfer of development rights from where it could not be supported to where it could be supported. We need an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance like the one in Montgomery County that says you can build when there are adequate public facilities. We need to be allowed to consider impact fees that could be used for construction. We need 800M per year to fund the 2020-transportation infrastructure. Without a funding source like the sales tax, transportation has big, big problems.

Education – C. Dane

- Now have a representative to the FCPS Superintendent's Citizens Advisory Committee
- Have a representative to the School Board's Disabilities Committee
- Will bring before the board the name of a representative for the School Board's Human Relations Committee

Summary of FCFCA activities for the past month

In an effort to form an alliance with other civic organizations, A. Wells has met with the following

- MVCCA
- Alexandria Federation
- Springfield District Council
- Arlington Counties Civic Federation

To continue our relationship with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, we have been invited to sit in on their Policy Legislative Committee. A. Wells attended the first meeting and provided them a copy of our legislative package that was approved at the October 17, 2002 meeting.

A. Wells participated with the County Citizens Committee on the 2002 Bond Referendum.

To aid in the sales tax referendum, A. Wells attended the Press Conference at the Arlington County Board Room on November 1, 2002 and the Gridlock Rally in Old Town, Alexandria on November 4, 2002

There is always need for volunteers to participate in events and on committees in Fairfax County. We continue to look for diversity in our membership.

December 19, 2002 Membership Meeting

The program will be on Emergency Preparedness – An Update

The Guest Speakers will be County Executive Tony Griffin
Police Chief Tom Manger
Fire and Rescue Chief Ed Stinnette
Emergency Coordinator Doug Bass

January 16, 2003 Membership Meeting

The subject for the January meeting will be FY 2004 Fairfax County Public Schools Budget. The school budget will be released January 9 so this will be a very current topic. Superintendent Daniel Domenech will be the Guest Speaker.

Awards Banquet

It is too early for the confirmation of a speaker but the two dates in April remain open.

Website – M. Pierce www.fairfaxfederation.org is our web site coordinator. Please use the web site. New items are added continuously.

New Business

There was a recommendation to move the web site to a standing committee.

BLM has issued their recommendations for the use of Meadowood Farm. The report can be downloaded or printed from their web site – www.es.blm.gov.

Adjournment. The membership meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dolores Moseke, Recording Secretary.

Attachments:

Sharon Bulova's Presentation to Federation of Community Associations on Budget FY 2003/04