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To: Mary Jones, Chairman
James City County, Board of Supervisors

From: Bryan J. Hill
County Administrator, James City County

Cc: Board of Supervisors

Subject: 30 Days

Date: October 20, 2014

I have enjoyed my first 30 days at James City County, I want to thank you for your support and confidence in my ability to work through areas of concern as we develop and identify initiatives that we must address. I have spent numerous hours trying to learn and understand our beautiful community by attending meetings with businesses, residents, and most importantly staff. The theme of those meetings were consistent “James City County is a wonderful place to live”.

We have begun the process of identifying consultants to begin our strategic planning process. I had requested five (5) initiatives you felt as important to James City County. The list I have formed below are what I believe to be your immediate actions during the next 3 budget cycles. Each area positions our County for future success, growth, tourism and places our County as a desired destination.

1. JCSA
2. Stormwater
3. Education
4. County Appearance
5. Economic Development
 - Sports Tourism
 - Business Development

Brief Description:

JCSA-currently is our source of water for the majority of James City County residents, there are local sites that accept Newport News water in lieu of using the JCSA. Water is one of many if not the most important component that ensures our County’s viability. Presently, DEQ is deliberating our current ground water withdrawal of 8.8 million gallons per day (permitted) to be withdrawn. DEQ has proposed a reduction which would ensure that James

City County plan for the inception of 2.0 million gallons of water per day (MGD) from Newport News by 2020.

The amount of open permits may require an increase of current water sources, thus may warrant the execution of the 2019 contract with Newport News (25 million) to receive an additional 2 MGD. DEQ is failing to realize, restricting the use of ground water to large industry and JCSA does not preclude individual homeowners from drilling wells to allow for residential consumption.

Stormwater has been a major topic among various groups throughout the County. I have asked General Services and JCSA to look into developing a stormwater utility. Once I have more information, we will present our findings during the budget process.

Education and the growth of the public school system, currently there is a proposal for a fourth middle is on the table. The need is evident, the process not clear. It is time for the two boards to come to consensus.

1. Build at Blair: once completed develop a joint plan for an administrative complex focusing on consolidation, then use the current government complex site for a new school/s.
2. Find a parcel of land centrally located in James City County focused on the proposed growth map provide by Planning on February 28th. Build a school on that site.
3. Continue designs for the expansion of each high school.

The County appearance, I have asked General Services to increase our contractual services regarding litter pickup, the frequency of 4 times a year will move to 12 times (once per month). We are working with General Services and the State to increase mowing along our roadways. If we want to be the best, we must start looking the best.

The prospect of increased Economic Development was mentioned by each Supervisor. There are several types of Economic Development, James City County may want to focus on specific businesses and sports tourism. Each are very different and both need a specific focus, I do not believe we can continue intertwining this area. The board needs to adequately fund each component, develop strategies to entice business as well as develop complexes to host sports events. With the historic tie to Colonial Williamsburg, the fun of Busch Gardens and Water Country it would be a wonderful draw to host numerous events. Virginia Beach and Myrtle Beach has the capacity for attractions (both are missing the major theme park and historic significance of James city County).

We are in the process of developing a request for information (RFI) regarding our retreat to discuss strategic planning as discussed above, once we are able to review proposals a recommendation will be forthcoming.

I would welcome continued discussions regarding the topics addressed above at your convenience.