

Update

The newsletter of the Virginia Municipal League

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Infrastructure bill still under construction



**Feb. 5
Richmond
Marriott**

Registration and information at www.vml.org

Recession will hang heavy over '09 General Assembly 46-day session will convene on Wednesday

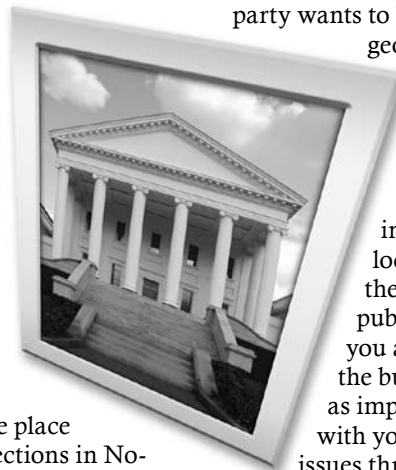
The 2009 session of the General Assembly will convene next Wednesday amidst the worst set of economic conditions since the Great Depression.

While how the legislature decides to balance the budget will be of critical importance to local governments, which must in turn craft their own spending plans for FY10, other important issues will abound. These include legislation to enable localities to deal with blighted properties, recommendations flowing from the governor's climate commission and local land use authority.

All this action will take place against the backdrop of elections in November in which all 100 seats in the House of Delegates, as well as the governor's office, will be up for grabs. Republicans will be working to maintain their majority in the House, while Democrats will be focusing on capturing the six seats necessary to win control of that body.

Virtually every bill and budget issue

will be viewed through a political microscope that focuses on the effect it might have on these races. The stakes are made even higher because of the statewide redistricting that will take place in 2010. Each party wants to be in the most advantageous position possible during that most political of processes.



Stay involved

Keep informed about important issues affecting local governments by reading the VML Legislative Bulletin, published three times a week. If you are not signed-up to receive the bulletin, contact VML. Just as importantly, stay in contact with your legislators on important issues throughout the session. Come to Richmond and join your VML legislative team for a day to see for yourself how the process works, and how the legislature will listen to constituents from back in their district.

Don't be intimidated about calling your legislator about a piece of legislation. You

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VML-VACo directory nears publication

VML and VACo are finishing collecting the data necessary for the two associations to publish a joint membership directory. The 2009-2010 directory will be printed and distributed following the January organizational meetings of some councils and boards of supervisors.

VML solicited changes in person-

nel, titles, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in recent months. If you know of changes in your membership information that have occurred since you were last contacted by VML, including the listings of new mayors or vice mayors, please send the changes as soon as possible to Sherall Dementi at sdementi@vml.org.

FROM THE CAPITOL

'09 General Assembly continued ...

don't have to be an expert on the topic. You do need to know the bill number, a brief explanation of the bill, and brief talking points. Telephone calls, faxes or e-mails work better than letters. Legislation can be introduced and voted on in committee within 24-hours. If you want your legislators to know what you think about a bill, don't assume that you have time to mail a letter. Contact them immediately!

Stay in touch with your legislators over the weekend and make the most of informal opportunities to discuss issues. This can be your best opportunity of ensuring that your views are heard.

Work through your local media on important legislative issues such as tax reform and local authority. Take the opportunity to write a Letter to the Editor or an op-ed piece in your local newspaper. Be willing to appear on local radio or TV news programs.

Legislative Day

The Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties will sponsor Legislative Day on Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Richmond Marriott,

located at 500 E. Broad St. in downtown.

VML and VACo staff will report on legislation affecting local governments. Local officials are then encouraged to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators at the Capitol. Local officials are strongly encouraged to take their legislators to dinner.

To register, mail the registration form available at www.vml.org and send a check (payable to VML) for \$40 per person to: VML, P.O. Box 12164, Richmond, VA 23241. Fax (804) 343-3758.

Officials who need to stay overnight at the Marriott can get a special rate of \$129 for a single or double room. Call the hotel at 800-228-9290 and use the special code VACo/VMLLegDay. Deadline for hotel reservations is Jan. 16.

General Assembly calendar

Keep these important dates in mind:

Jan. 14: Session convenes

Feb. 8: House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees present their budgets

Feb. 10: Cross-over; each house completes committee work on its own

legislation (except the budget bill).

Feb. 12: Each house to approve its own version of the budget

Feb. 18: Each house to act on the other house's budget and to appoint budget conferees

Feb. 23: Last day for committee action

Feb. 26: Budget conferees to present report

Feb. 28: Adjournment

Regional budget hearings

The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee will hold the last of six regional public hearings on the proposed state budgets on Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. in the General Assembly Building in Richmond.

VML thanks Abingdon Mayor Ed Morgan, Charlottesville Mayor Dave Norris and Lynchburg Mayor Joan Foster for making presentations on behalf of their municipalities and the league at the regional hearings to be held in their localities on Jan. 8 and 9. ❖

Recession continues to take toll on local budgets

Here are some of the latest snapshots of how the recession is affecting local governments across the state.

Arlington: Real estate property values for FY09 performed at a higher-than-expected level, showing a net gain of 0.4 percent. The commercial property tax base increased by 2.3 percent, while residential properties decreased by 1.2 percent. The encouraging news on property values was tempered by a downward revision for other revenues, including personal property taxes on motor vehicles. The county manager revised the projected budget gap for FY10 from \$40 million to slightly less than \$35 million. To balance the budget he predicted a combination of service reductions, downsizing, and tax rate increases. The county manager has already imposed a freeze on job vacancies, and has announced his recommendation for no employee pay increases in FY10.

Prince William: According to the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, home values fell about 30 percent this year, and are expected to fall an additional 15 percent next year before leveling off. The median sales price for homes in 2005 was \$389,000, falling to \$177,000 last year. The county has the second largest school population in the state, and faces the loss of \$40 million in state education dollars in FY10.

Portsmouth: Facing state budget cuts and reduced local support coupled with rising food and medical costs, the sheriff informed city officials that he may suspend some services that local inmates provide the city. Some 45 inmates pick up trash, repair and wash city vehicles, and move office furniture. The sheriff may move deputies from the work crews to the understaffed jail.

Chesapeake: The schools are looking for ways to cut \$14 million out of the FY10 budget through strategies that

would delay adoption of new textbooks, offer fewer classes, and increase teacher-pupil ratios. The loss of state education dollars along with the expected loss in local revenue will produce a school budget some 6 to 9 percent smaller than this year's budget. A draft budget will go before the School Board at the end of January.

Newport News: The sheriff says he will have to lay off about 30 deputies to accommodate the loss of state dollars in FY10. "If I have to let 30 people go, there is almost no way to run a safe and secure facility," Sheriff Gabe Morgan told the Daily Press. "We are already under-funded and understaffed. There is not a whole lot I can do." The city lost \$1.63 million in state dollars this year, and already expects to lose another \$1.6 million in FY10. The city projects a \$2.2 million deficit this fiscal year that could increase to \$13 million in FY10. ❖

FROM THE CAPITOL

Kaine proposes restaurant smoking ban

Gov. Tim Kaine proposed legislation this week for a statewide ban on smoking in restaurants, including dining establishments in public and private clubs. The legislation also clarifies the definition of a restaurant for purposes of the smoking ban. This is the second year in a row that the governor has introduced this legislation.

Standing with General Assembly members Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple and Dels. David Englin, Robert Brink, Adam Ebbin and Albert Eisenberg, and local officials and public health advocates at the Liberty Tavern, a smoke-free establishment in Arlington, Kaine noted the public health risks of secondhand smoke.

“The scientific evidence about the health risks associated with exposure to secondhand smoke remains clear

and convincing,” Kaine said. “I am compelled by concern for the health and wellbeing of all Virginians, as well as recognition of the high public costs of secondhand smoke, to once again ask the members of the General Assembly to approve this necessary and reasonable legislation.”

According to a press release from the governor’s office:

“The Virginia Department of Health estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for 1,700 deaths per year. The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids estimates that the Commonwealth spends \$113 million a year on health care expenditures related to secondhand smoke exposure.

“The proposed legislation changes the definition of a restaurant to any food establishment – including dining estab-

lishments of public and private clubs – where food is available for sale and consumption by the public and includes the areas of a restaurant where food is prepared, served or consumed. The proposal excludes exterior dining areas of food establishments from the ban, unless the exterior area can be enclosed.

“The recommendation for this definition was provided by the Department of Health, which held several public input sessions with interested groups and citizens on constructing the definition for purposes of a smoking ban. The Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia Chapters of the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association of Virginia, the Cancer Society, March of Dimes, and American Academy of Pediatrics participated in the process.” ❖

REGULATIONS

Proposed Regulation

Water Quality Standards. The State Water Control Board has proposed regulations that add a new section, 9VAC25-260-275, that is initiated when applicants for new or expanded VPDES discharges to Eastern Shore waters are not denied pursuant to 9VAC25-

260-270. If these discharges result in shellfish contaminations, then the applicant must analyze whether wastewater management alternatives other than a discharge would be feasible, produce less of an environmental impact, and not result in significant social and economical impacts to beneficial uses and to the locality and its citizens. If the analysis demonstrates that an alterna-

tive meets these criteria, then that alternative must be pursued for approval prior to the board taking action on the discharge alternative. A public hearing will be held. Contact Eleanore Daub, Department of Environmental Quality, at 804/698-4111 or emdaub@deq.virginia.gov for information. ❖

IN CONGRESS

Infrastructure bill still under construction

Plans to have an economic stimulus package addressing state and local infrastructure may take longer than initially thought. Congressional leaders initially believed they could have a bill ready to go in time for the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama, but the process has become more complex as economic conditions continue to deteriorate and as different groups join in the dialogue. Democratic leaders continue to say that they expect to have a bill ready to go later this month.

Earlier this week Obama met with Congressional leaders of both parties to discuss his economic recovery plan.

He said that he wants to create or save 3 million jobs in the next two years. He has asked state leaders for lists of infrastructure projects that are “shovel-ready;” that can be begun with federal funding within the next six months.

Local governments still should develop lists of infrastructure projects (e.g., school construction and maintenance, transportation, jails, water or wastewater) that would be ready to come under contract within 180 days. Communities should send a copy of this list to their Congressional delegation members and to Gov. Tim Kaine. The list should include a brief description of

each project, identify whether a project is new construction, renovation, or replacement; include the total cost of each project and the amounts and sources of sources and the timeline for completion. Your capital improvements project is a good source for such information. Your planning district commission can be a helpful source of information, as well as VDOT district offices, which should have a list of transportation projects that could be included.

If you submit a list, please copy Neal Menkes at VML (nmenkes@vml.org).

❖

POSITIONS

Longer version of job ads posted at www.vml.org

Because of the number of requests it receives to publish job advertisements, VML reduces the length of the position descriptions in Update. A full version of the entire job listings published here for the past two months appears on VML's Web site at www.vml.org. Visit the VML site and click on "Marketplace" to read the complete descriptions.

Director of Community Development, Dumfries

SALARY: \$57,502-\$94,879 DOQ (+) benefits. Plan, coordinate and direct the Community Development Department, which is comprised of the Planning, Zoning and Codes Compliance functions. Should have degree in urban planning, or related field, and min. 4 yrs. professional planning exper., preferably with supervisory exper. or any equiv. comb. of exper. and training that provides the req'd knowledge, skills and abilities. AICP certification, CZA or CZO preferred. Submit resume to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 56, Dumfries, VA. 22026 or to djohnson@dumfriesvirginia.org. Deadline: Jan. 30. EOE.

Risk and Benefits Manager, Fauquier County

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Oversee, develop and implement risk management and work safety procedures and coordinate administration of insurance/cooperate plans. Reqs. any comb. of educ. / exper. equiv. to bachelor's degree in business admin., risk mngmnt., insurance or closely related field supplemented by 5 yrs. exper. that includes all aspects of risk management, safety, loss prevention and health insurance administration, in addition to the ability to interpret and make decisions in accordance with laws and regulations including OSHA, COBRA, FMLA and ADA. Submit Fauquier County online application available at www.fauquiercounty.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

Transportation Director, Fauquier County

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Administer the School Transportation Department to include developing and implementing transportation services and managing daily operations. Reqs. bachelor's degree and min. 7 yrs. exper. demonstrat-

ing progressive leadership / supervisory responsibility in the field of transportation. Submit a Fauquier County online application available at www.fauquiercounty.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

Fire Chief / EMS, Vinton

SALARY: \$56,740-\$63,832 (+) benefits. (pop. 7,800). Manage activities related to fire suppression, fire prevention and emergency medical response that includes volunteers. Work under direction of the town manager; manage \$800,000 budget while directing all aspects of dept. Submit application, cover letter and resume to: Town of Vinton, Att. Human Resources, 311 S. Pollard St., Vinton, VA 24179. For a complete job description or to download an application, visit www.vintonva.gov. Deadline: Jan. 23. EOE.

Library Director, King George County

SALARY: \$55,000-\$75,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Seeking director with proven public library management skills to manage operations of the L.E. Smoot Memorial Library. Will work closely with active 10-member Board of Trustees. Reqs. master's degree in library science from ALA-accredited library science program and 5 yrs. responsible library exper. with supervisory responsibilities. Additional info at www.king-george.state.va.us. Send letter of interest and resume to: Grace Bottomly, King George County Executive Assistant, 10459 Courthouse Drive, Suite 200, King George, VA 22485 or e-mail to gbottomly@co.kinggeorge.state.va.us. Deadline: Jan. 31. EOE.

Human Services Professional, Amherst County

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Board of Supervisors seeking HR professional to work full time, part time or on consulting basis to review existing HR forms and documents, hiring practices, advertisements, filing and other related procedures. Also will review the draft personnel plan and provide recommendations on the adoption of the plan, assist with personnel issues and provide advice on the establishment of a human resource office. Submit resume, county application and 3 professional references to: County Administrator Rodney Taylor, P.O. Box 390, Amherst, VA 24521 or via e-mail at retaylor@countyo-famherst.com. County application available at www.countyofamherst.com. For more info, call 434/946-9400. Deadline: Jan. 16. EOE.

Executive Director, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

SALARY: \$90,000-\$120,000 DOQ (+) benefits. The planning district area consists of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson. Reqs. educ. and exper. equiv. to master's degree in planning or public admin. and min. 3-5 yrs. exper. in a responsible staff position, public role, or acting as a consultant in a comparably sized and progressive regional PDC, local govt., or in a state or federal govt. agency. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with employment and salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President, Springsted Inc., 1564 E. Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228; Fax 804/726-9752 or e-mail richmond@springsted.com. For full profile describing the region and the position visit www.springsted.com. Deadline: Jan. 26. EOE.

Senior Network Engineer, Winchester

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Designs, specifies, installs, configures, maintains, troubleshoots and repairs local and wide area network routing and switching and computer system hardware/software; assists in developing and implementing disaster recovery and system-wide backup plans; supervises technical support staff; and assists IT director with needs analysis, planning, procurement and implementation of technology systems. Reqs. bachelor's degree in technology field; significant exper. with large scale local and wide area networks supporting voice, video and data, as well as significant exper. with Windows-based server software. Apply: Administration Department, Rouss City Hall, 15 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA 22601. Tel: 540/667-1815 ext. 1449. TDD 540/722-0782. www.winchesterva.gov/ employment. Open until filled. EOE.

Director of Strategic Resource Allocation, Alexandria Sanitation Authority

SALARY: \$100,000-\$125,000 DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Lead the Finance, Human Resources and Customer/Community Service functions. Reports to the Engineer-Director (CEO) and will help lead the organization at the CFO level. Reqs. min. 10 yrs. exper. in formal leadership role; proven expertise in financial management, including accounting, budgeting, financial controls and reporting. HR and public sec-

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POSITIONS

tor customer / community relations exper. beneficial. Reqs. min. bachelor's degree in accounting or business (MBA or MPA preferred.) Seeking highly collaborative and relationship-oriented leader, strategic thinker and change agent. Send resume and letter to: Maxine Pegors at either ASA@ema-inc.com or EMA, Inc., 1970 Oakcrest Ave., #300, St. Paul, MN 55113. Open until filled. EOE.

Planning Director, Westmoreland County

SALARY: \$54,630-\$69,970 start range (+) benefits. Must possess skills in developing short-term and long-term planning programs. Reqs. extensive exper. in interpreting and applying zoning regulations, ordinances and plans; intensive interaction with the public; excellent public speaking and writing abilities. Reqs. relevant bachelor's degree and 6 yrs. local govt. exper. Master's degree in public admin., urban planning, environmental planning, or closely related field is desirable. For complete job description, contact the County Administrator's Office at 804/493-0130 or visit www.westmoreland-county.org. Submit cover letter, resume and 5 professional references to: Norm Risavi, County Administrator, P.O. Box 1000, Montross, VA 22520. Deadline: Jan. 30 EOE.

Other positions

NOTICE: *The following positions also are listed on VML's Web site at www.vml.org.*

Town Manager, Lake Lure, N.C.

SALARY: \$85,000-plus start range DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 30.

Division Superintendent (Utilities, Water and Sewer), City of Fairfax

SALARY: \$67,939-\$105,396 (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 16.

Director of Finance and Administration, Monroe, N.C.

SALARY: \$100,000 plus to start DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled. Deadline: Jan. 16.

PSA Engineer, Carroll County Public Service Authority

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Open until filled.

City Engineer, Waynesboro

SALARY: \$60,503-\$77,141 DOE/DOQ (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Teen Center Manager, Hampton

SALARY: (+) benefits. Open until filled.

Mental Health Case Manager, Southside Community Services Board

SALARY: \$30,715 to start (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 16.

Town Manager, Beech Mountain, N.C.

SALARY: DOQ/DOE (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 31.

Director of Capital Projects Management, Leesburg

SALARY: \$83,673-\$140,440 (+) benefits. Deadline: Jan. 16.

DEADLINE: *The deadline for placing a job advertisement in the next issue of Update is Friday, Jan. 16. Submit ads via e-mail to David Parsons at dparsons@vml.org. You may also submit via FAX at: 804/343-3758. VML publishes job advertisements at no cost to its local government members. Non-members are charged a flat rate of \$25 per ad per issue, which includes posting on VML's Web site and publication in Virginia Town & City (deadlines permitting). VML edits position descriptions in printed publications because of space limitations.*

Budget briefing for local officials set for Jan. 16 in Richmond

LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials can find out more about the governor's proposed budget at a briefing the afternoon of Jan. 16 in Richmond.

The exact time and location are still being worked out. That information will be distributed to members and posted on the VML Web site soon. In the meantime, please mark this date on your calendar.

Each year VML and the Virginia Association of Counties host the briefing



during which staff from the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget review the proposed budget amendments submitted by the governor.

The agenda will be an overview by DPB Director Dan Timberlake, and overviews by DPB managers on the areas of the Compensation Board, Social Services & Medicaid, taxation, education and the \$50 million across-the-board cuts. We also anticipate a presentation on the proposal in the governor's budget regarding VRS local contribution rates.

Update

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