

1 **TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

2 701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501

3 Richmond, Virginia 23219

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9 **Executive Committee Meeting**

10 Tuesday, January 12, 2016

11 10:30 A.M.

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 The Hilton Downtown

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 Richmond, Virginia

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1 **APPEARANCES:**

2 The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore, Chairman

3 The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Vice Chairman

4 The Honorable Kathy J. Byron

5 The Honorable Charles W. Carrico, Sr.

6 The Honorable Maurice Jones,

7 Secretary, Department of Commerce & Trade

8 The Honorable Daniel W. Marshall, III

9 The Honorable James W. Morefield

10 The Honorable Edward Owens

11 The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

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1 **APPEARANCES (cont'd):**

2 COMMISSION STAFF:

3 Mr. Evan Feinman – Executive Director

4 Mr. Ned Stephenson – Deputy Executive Director

5 Mr. Timothy S. Pfohl – Grants Program Administration

6 Director

7 Ms. Stephanie S. Kim – Director of Finance

8 Ms. Sarah K. Capps - Grants Program Administrator,

9 Southside Virginia

10 Ms. Sara G. Williams – Grants Program Administrator,

11 Southwest Virginia

12 Ms. Stacey Richardson – Executive Assistant

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14 COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION

15 Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

16 Richmond, Virginia.

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1 DELEGATE KILGORE: I'm going to call
2 the Executive Committee meeting to order and ask the
3 Executive Director to call roll.

4 MR. FEINMAN: I will Mr. Chairman.
5 Delegate Byron?

6 DELEGATE BYRON: Here.

7 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Carrico?

8 SENATOR CARRICO: Here.

9 MR. FEINMAN: Secretary Jones?

10 SECRETARY JONES: Here.

11 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Kilgore?

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: Here.

13 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Marshall?

14 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Here.

15 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Morefield?

16 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Here.

17 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Owens?

18 MR. OWENS: Here.

19 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Ruff?

20 SENATOR RUFF: Here.

21 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Wright?

22 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

23 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Merricks? (No
24 response.) You have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: All right, do I

1 have a motion we approve the minutes of the 9/22/15
2 minutes?

3 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So moved.

4 DELEGATE KILGORE: We have a motion
5 and a second. All those in favor of the minutes say aye.
6 (Ayes.) Opposed? (No response.) The minutes are approved.

7 MR. FEINMAN: Something that's come
8 up fairly often, what we have encountered recently and the
9 Commission's practice has been allowing chairs of the
10 different committees to vote during meetings even though our
11 bylaws if we follow Robert's Rules and Robert's Rules say that
12 Chairs of Committees do not vote unless it is to break a tie. In
13 our communication with you, Mr. Chairman and the Chairs of
14 the other Committees, it became clear that chairs wanted to
15 vote and we needed to update without the opportunity to
16 contact Robert's Rules or who wrote the rules, we decided that
17 your bylaws should reflect that. That's the only substantive
18 change to the bylaws we did while we had the bylaws open
19 and made some changes that we thought improved the clarity
20 of the bylaws. Something that makes it clearer for what our
21 practice is but it was our goal that any non-Chair voting effort
22 to only do that would not substantively alter the bylaws.

23 The bylaws are distributed to the
24 Commission and should that be acceptable, this Committee
25 would make a motion.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: That motion
2 would be to recommend to the full Commission?

3 MR. FEINMAN: It would.

4 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any questions on
5 the bylaws from any of the members of the Executive
6 Committee?

7 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, I move
8 we approve those.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: We have a motion
10 and a second that we're recommending to the full Commission
11 those changes be approved to the bylaws. Do we have a
12 second?

13 MR. OWENS: Second.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any more
15 discussion? All those in favor say aye. (Ayes.) Opposed? (No
16 response.) All right, next we'll go to the Strategic Planning
17 Commission and I know you all did a lot of hard work on that.

18 MR. FEINMAN: I'll refer to the Chairs.

19 MS. COLEMAN: We've worked hard in
20 trying to organize the strategic plan. At our first meeting last
21 month in Southside, we basically wanted to have a
22 conversation with the Committee members about direction
23 and how we implement our plan and the timeline. So we
24 agreed upon a timeline and then we also asked staff to
25 proceed with looking at state government to find a facilitator

1 and go through that process.

2 We also believe and that was pointed out
3 that an outline for strategic plan and that basically would be
4 working through sections. The first one dealing with our
5 internal system and how we conduct our internal business
6 and how we handle the different programs and things like
7 that. Then the external section would deal with things like
8 our funding guidelines for grant recipients and the Committee
9 structure and things like that.

10 Then the last thing dealing with the
11 public and the feedback from the public and then having one
12 large meeting to hear about feedback about the draft version
13 of this plan and then the work done the last year. Then a
14 review of the timeline and that sort of thing. Evan, you could
15 explain that a little further.

16 MR. FEINMAN: Sure, the timeline, that's
17 the key point working backwards. The Strategic Plan
18 Committee wants to have a full draft before the full
19 Commission by our May meeting and ahead of that we'll have
20 two large meetings; one in Southside and one in Southwest
21 and be on different days so you could attend each one. Ahead
22 of that, we plan on having in May a final draft ahead of the
23 consideration of the meeting.

24 Then by February we want to have the
25 internal complete so the part that we don't need the input for

1 by the end of February. Then in January, we hope to get an
2 outline adopted.

3 DELEGATE KILGORE: You're talking
4 about this February?

5 MR. FEINMAN: Yes.

6 DELEGATE KILGORE: You said
7 January, I wondered.

8 MR. FEINMAN: Yes. I meant this one.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: I just wondered
10 why it would take so long. How are you proposing to get the
11 word out to all the participants and citizens?

12 MS. GOULD: Delegate Marshall thought
13 in our meeting earlier this morning the plan would be to reach
14 folks that are, we could have email service and we agreed we'd
15 have these two meetings in the respective areas.

16 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Put a message
17 on the front door of the Tobacco Commission.

18 MS. GOULD: Also online.

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: So the crowds
20 could gather. As soon as we get those dates and a lot of us
21 have Facebook accounts and get a copy of that and put it on
22 that so we can notify as many people as possible. I know it's a
23 pretty thankless job and I thank you all for going through
24 that. I know it's a lot of work yet to be done. If we have a
25 suggestion on something, we'd like to get it to the public so

1 that's one thing we could do but I thank you all for the work
2 you've all done.

3 Next would be the VRA.

4 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have
5 been very active and we have been negotiating with the
6 Virginia Resources Authority to create a memorandum of
7 agreement with VRA for the operation of our loan fund, which
8 members will recall we were authorized to do back in July.
9 We have distributed that MOA to everyone here. I believe it's
10 an excellent agreement and we spent a great deal of time and
11 energy by Commission staff and by VRA staff and put a lot of
12 work into the drafting of this agreement. We have one late
13 addition and that's with the possibility of the Department of
14 Treasury.

15 At the request of the Commission,
16 Treasury shall provide reimbursements to the General
17 Account from funds already approved at transfer through the
18 Commission's regular corpus invasion request from the
19 Taxable Endowment Investment Portfolio to the Taxable Fund
20 Investment Portfolio (fund 0732, project 82003). Such
21 reimbursement request will be included with the regular
22 drawdown from investments to the General Account.

23 That will clarify the operation of Treasury
24 and notifying them of transfers to VRA. The long and short of
25 the way this is going to work is that our operations will not

1 change from the way the Commission has been used to
2 operating. The difference being is that when a project comes
3 before a Committee, the Committee will evaluate the project
4 and decide if they want to fund it and then decide whether or
5 not there will be a staff recommendation to this effect. And if
6 they'd like the project to be a loan project, they'll go through
7 the traditional grant. Should the Committee and then the full
8 Commission agree to adopt the recommended project as a
9 loan, they will do that in a certain amount. Say a loan for
10 \$800,000 for example, yes. We would then send the project to
11 VRA. At that point, most of our engagement on the project
12 would be completed and VRA would perform a
13 creditworthiness analysis on the project and the applicants
14 and the project could receive a loan in the amount of their
15 creditworthiness or the amount the Commission requested,
16 whichever is the less; so never exceed our recommended
17 amount nor can we exceed the creditworthiness of a given
18 applicant. VRA would be administering all of that for us at
19 cost. What it costs their staff to do a project and what we are
20 reimbursing for.

21 Once we get a few of these under our belt
22 and we find out what the costs will tend to run, the staff will
23 look at the size of the loans that we do. We don't want our
24 initiation fees too large relevant to the size of the loan. It's
25 hard at this point to determine exactly what those would be on

1 a project by project basis given that the projects vary. What
2 we're doing right now is we're just saying that we'll reimburse
3 VRA for their staff time they spend working on the projects.
4 They're not netting any money doing this for us; they're doing
5 it at their costs. They will cover the administration and
6 collection of any loans.

7 Down the road when loan payments
8 begin coming back or working back into the fund, it won't be
9 necessary all the time to transfer Committee balances for the
10 loans. The loan fund itself will have a corpus from which it
11 can make loans and that will be a few years before we get
12 there or any significant repayments back in the fund.

13 DELEGATE BYRON: Are we going to
14 have some definitions or something clear about what the
15 creditworthiness means or what it is?

16 MR. FEINMAN: We do not have the
17 expertise there and we'll leave that to VRA and I believe we
18 have someone here who can answer those specific questions.

19 DELEGATE BYRON: Who is going to be
20 looking into this and how will we know –

21 MR. FEINMAN: It's my understanding
22 and I see someone approaching the microphone with far
23 greater knowledge of this subject than, maybe you can help us
24 out here.

25 MS. HAMLETT: Good morning, I'm

1 Stephanie Hamlett, Executive Director with the Virginia
2 Resources Authority. Creditworthiness is somewhat couched
3 in and it's not fairly unlike the program that the VRA operates
4 currently. Say for example, a full program of straight market
5 access and what the market bears and that creditworthiness
6 may be somewhat different than drinking water in a rural
7 community where there is a real need. What we would do if
8 we ran into a real problem and in some cases the Commission
9 staff could make the terms longer and things like that and
10 that would fall within your prerogative. We'd certainly make
11 you aware if something were problematic.

12 Our goal is to avoid, our goal is to get the
13 money back so you can use it again but at the same time, we
14 know some communities are in more stress than others and
15 that is factored in. It is your money and it's up to you how
16 you want the fund to operate and where that creditworthiness
17 scale, your comfort is taken into account, which is what we do
18 with drinking water and it's only our two market loans,
19 drinking water and what we do with clean water, the two
20 market loans that we look at. It's only our two market loans
21 that we look at it. I hope that helps.

22 DELEGATE BYRON: Well, what about
23 the risk factor, what do you –

24 MR. FEINMAN: - I think it would be on a
25 case by case basis.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: Southwest and
2 Southside communities would have whichever Committee
3 wants to fund it and they can make that determination and
4 then the credit.

5 MR. FEINMAN: That's the case, Mr.
6 Chairman and Delegate Byron. The thing to keep in mind
7 though is that I don't anticipate any changes to our general
8 funding policies, which state that we will be making these
9 loans to the localities primarily.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: Delegate
11 Marshall?

12 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So first of all, it
13 will be like TROF where there is a locality to cosign it and if it
14 doesn't or the payee doesn't pay then we go back to the
15 locality.

16 MR. FEINMAN: Yes.

17 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I'd like to go to
18 page 54 and can you kind of walk us through this flow chart
19 because I have a couple of questions about it.

20 MR. FEINMAN: This began essentially
21 the same way as the grant does. The applicant files an online
22 grant application with the Commission and the staff makes a
23 recommendation.

24 DELEGATE MARSHALL: We have a time
25 period for Special Projects and Southside and Southwest and

1 that we'll have a date certain that the application comes in. Is
2 this open all year long?

3 MR. FEINMAN: No. Our plans currently
4 are to still be adopting the instructions as they are now. For
5 example, if the community wanted a Special Project loan or
6 grant, we would wait until the Special Projects Committee is
7 ready to meet and we have expertise on this Committee and
8 some of the people that have been on it have been on it for a
9 while and know how to look at these projects and we want to
10 retain that. Each project by type will be categorized in the
11 same way that we do for grants right now. The project,
12 whether it's a loan or a grant, an agribusiness project or
13 whether a loan or grant will go to the Agriculture Committee
14 and the others just follow our operations in terms of taking in
15 applications and options.

16 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I guess the
17 question is as far as a grant or a loan, as far as Special
18 Projects for Southside or Southwest, we're basically doing a lot
19 of this now when we're doing grants. Nothing of that has
20 changed. The only thing then is deciding whether to make a
21 grant or a loan. So we will decide as a group when someone
22 makes an application to us if they ask for a grant and we say
23 no, we'll give you a loan?

24 MR. FEINMAN: I believe an applicant
25 could ask for a loan or if an applicant asks for a grant and we

1 say this is a good project, we're not interested in giving you a
2 grant but we will give you a loan. We can't make them take a
3 loan, of course, but we certainly offer that in the alternative.

4 DELEGATE KILGORE: Everybody can
5 apply for a grant but it's up to the Committee to decide
6 whether it's something that should be a grant or a loan.

7 DELEGATE MARSHALL: The terms of
8 the loan that we would make, would they be similar to what
9 VRA does now? In terms of the interest rate and payback et
10 cetera, would that be similar so you don't have to be shopping
11 back and forth?

12 MR. FEINMAN: Correct, my background
13 is not in lending, defining the interest rate on a given loan and
14 VRA can go into that in more detail. Our goal is to offer
15 attractive loan rates that are better than other financial
16 sources but not better than VRA, too much interest. I will also
17 share and it's my view that while the interest rate certainly is
18 a good thing on a loan, the primary benefit to the Commission
19 is that return of principal and that ultimately will contribute
20 to the longevity and operability. So while it will be a good
21 interest rate for both the borrower and the Commission, the
22 return of principal is the primary benefit of the loan.

23 MR. OWENS: Will we have clear criteria
24 whether it will be a loan or a grant when somebody comes
25 through and are we going to be able to distinguish that?

1 MR. FEINMAN: We have contemplated
2 and just discussed and in the Planning Committee meeting
3 having a loan program guidelines section in the strategic plan
4 to be adopted in May. We don't want to tie our hands when
5 something could go either way but we will have guidelines for
6 which we'll be in a position to make a decision.

7 DELEGATE WRIGHT: My question and
8 following along what Mr. Owens said and Delegate Marshall,
9 will we have an example that, are there any clear examples of
10 where we would be doing this?

11 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Wright, I think
12 the goal is for as many revenue generating projects as possible
13 getting them into the loan. As many loans as we can make as
14 an alternative to a grant the more of our money we're
15 protecting then we'll have an opportunity to put that back in
16 the Tobacco Region once repayment is made. That's going to
17 depend a lot on the projects brought before us. Right now, the
18 staff has been working very hard to make a variety of different
19 projects. You asked about \$600,000 when Tim and Sara and
20 Sarah go through these with the applicants, we need this or
21 we'll make it \$400,000. We are engaged in a pretty regular
22 fashion with the grantees learning the specifics of their
23 projects and then make a recommendation to the
24 Commission. That would just continue.

25 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Can there be a

1 hybrid with the grant application, say a person's from
2 Southside and they have an allocation and the amount
3 requested and the recommendation from staff says a certain
4 amount, so could they use the allocation and then have a loan
5 as well?

6 MR. FEINMAN: I don't know if we could
7 do that but what we would do, we could bifurcate it and the
8 Commission would make a grant in this amount and make a
9 loan in this amount. It's still dependent on having the
10 resources to do that. We need to have a discussion down the
11 road on what to do with loan funds once repayment has come
12 back in but currently through the next several years, it will be
13 restricted to the amount of money in any given Committee's
14 budget.

15 SENATOR RUFF: Traditionally when the
16 applicants apply, we want to make sure that they get any loan
17 or grant funding that's available.

18 Do we have a commitment from VRA that
19 they will not downgrade any creditworthiness to protect
20 themselves in any way?

21 MS. HAMLETT: I don't quite understand
22 the downgrade or credit policy, but what I actually foresee is
23 water and sewer or other funds where there is other watering
24 opportunities and communicate with the borrower that's been
25 referred to us that he might actually get a better deal in the

1 drinking water program if qualified. If we see it and we flag
2 that, where I see we may add one thing in the case of value.
3 That if there is a project or part of a project that could get
4 principal forgiveness and a lower interest rate in the drinking
5 water program, then we talk to them about that program and
6 preserve your funds. The same may be true with clean water.
7 Projects for drinking water and wastewater that are purely
8 economic development, they don't qualify for drinking water or
9 clean water. If we saw another opportunity that was actually
10 better for the borrower, we would discuss that with them
11 assuming they would want to do that and I would assume that
12 would be the case. It's not unusual now for us to do that to
13 switch our core program and drinking water is a piece that
14 qualifies for one and the other doesn't qualify so we have to do
15 it on the other side. I'm not sure if that answers your
16 question.

17 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, that
18 answers it perfectly. I want to make sure we're on the same
19 wavelength.

20 MS. HAMLETT: Yes, thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Marshall?

23 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I'd ask you to
24 go to page 20. If you look at the list of what projects are listed
25 here for Southside Economic Development and do the same

1 thing for Ag, if you run down from that list, you could make
2 the argument that they are revenue producing projects. So if
3 we were doing these next year at this time and approve this
4 then some of these would be a loan program.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: I would think
6 that's possible, very possible. Some of them may not be as
7 creditworthy as others and I'm not saying these are bad but
8 the stream of income may not be there and they'll come to the
9 Tobacco Commission initially for a grant.

10 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So when a
11 locality comes to us for a grant they might not qualify because
12 of revenue producing but if we keep going down this model,
13 where will we be?

14 SECRETARY JONES: I assume we would
15 have the ability to provide a grant in the interim so that some
16 of these might be part loan and part grant and there's the
17 investment and it also helps us hopefully investing longer in
18 the region. That's what we care about.

19 MR. FEINMAN: That's the way I read it.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: I think Delegate
21 Marshall and Secretary Jones have good comments that our
22 grantees and our applicants need to be aware of these
23 changes. Any more questions or comments? Do we have a
24 motion that we recommend this to the full Commission?

25 MR. FEINMAN: As amended, I believe.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: A motion as
2 amended. Any more discussion, all those in favor say aye.
3 (Ayes.) Opposed?

4 DELEGATE WRIGHT: No.

5 MR. FEINMAN: This is really affirming
6 Committee action that was taken at the September meeting.
7 We at that point authorized \$5 million to pursue a loan to a
8 project that was recommended at the September meeting. I
9 just wanted to reaffirm that we have guidelines and we have
10 an agreement with VRA and we're going to move forward with
11 the loan project. They've been waiting very patiently as we've
12 been setting up these programs and I believe they are eager to
13 get the ball rolling. I was hoping the Committee would then
14 bless us under these new guidelines and move forward with
15 all speed on this one.

16 DELEGATE KILGORE: Tim Pfohl?

17 MR. PFOHL: Mr. Chairman, at the
18 September meeting the Commission asked the Special
19 Projects Committee to develop guidelines for a mega site
20 prospect and Special Projects did not meet in this grant cycle
21 and as soon as they do, you'll have a meeting and an
22 opportunity to discuss this with the prospect and actually a
23 set of guidelines and report back.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Hampton
25 University has talked to me a few weeks back and wanted to

1 come before the Committee about some cancer research
2 projects and I told them we could give them a three to five
3 minute presentation and they're here.

4 MR. THOMAS: Good morning, my name
5 is Bill Thomas, Executive Vice President of Hampton
6 University.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: I think you have
8 Delegate Yancy with you?

9 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: Welcome to the
11 Tobacco Commission Delegate Yancy.

12 MR. THOMAS: Also have a couple of
13 colleagues present, Dr. --- and Dr. Thorpe. I'll be very brief.

14 I don't know if the Commission is aware
15 but according to the Virginia Department of Health Cancer
16 Registry of Virginia, cancer is now the number one mortality in
17 Virginia. Recently, like in Bedford County compared to the
18 City of Lynchburg, Amherst County, Appomattox and
19 Campbell, you are expected to have the largest increase in
20 cancer diagnostics over the next ten years.

21 By 2040, Bedford County can see an
22 increase of 45% in cancer cases, the most significant cases
23 will be the lung and prostate cancer, which will more than
24 double between 2010 and 2020 alone, the instances of
25 prostate cancer in Bedford County is expected to increase by

1 42% to 22% in Amherst, 20, 25% in Appomattox, 26% in
2 Campbell and 16% in Lynchburg. The overall state of the
3 Commonwealth is expected to see an increase of 34% in
4 prostate cancer.

5 Dr. Harvey, our president is a visionary
6 and some years ago decided he wanted to do something great
7 and the significance of that effort has been the development of
8 the largest cancer institute standing alone in the world. We
9 have six gantries, four are for therapy, one is for research
10 located in Hampton, Virginia. We were getting ready to see
11 this coming and we wanted to be ready to take care of it. In
12 addition to that, Hampton Roads as well as in Salem at VA
13 medical centers and we saw a terrible increase in veterans,
14 especially in Hampton, which has a horrible rate of
15 admissions for veterans. Some have died before they can even
16 get an appointment. We wanted to be a bridge with our
17 special capabilities and we have done that.

18 Most important, proton therapy is a new
19 science and the science of medicine is going to be connected
20 in the future more towards physics and must be application
21 through robotics. What we had planned to do in our program
22 is to start in Hampton Roads and then expand our outreach to
23 the Southside and Southwest because especially in your
24 communities, especially where the veterans are with Agent
25 Orange and we're creating, folks are dying horribly from that

1 and we saw a special opportunity. More than that, it gives
2 them a development tool.

3 We saw an opportunity where we could
4 train our students and work with hospitals to be P.A.,
5 physician assistants and involving the profession of medicine
6 in areas and that could create job opportunities for our sons
7 and daughters.

8 That's why we're here today. We're here
9 today not to compete or not to come saying we want
10 something for nothing. We want to create a win-win situation
11 and we figure if we work together we can increase economic
12 opportunities and expand our reach and outreach directly into
13 your communities.

14 Let me give you one example. Our
15 telemedicine program using robotics and to reach a patient
16 base in remote areas where they cannot get the services
17 routinely. We are right now working with the Hampton VA
18 system with that particular program and we can reach
19 veterans who are not well, we can go out and outreach to
20 them. Most importantly in terms of economic development.
21 I've pointed out that from the year 2002 to 2008, Hampton
22 University led all Virginia universities in winning competitive
23 federal contracts. We did about \$280 million of those
24 competitive contracts and was considered a very, very large
25 business in the opinion of DOD and Hampton Roads.

1 In addition to that, we were before the
2 General Assembly last year and Hampton University is the
3 only university in America that is considered to be a business.
4 The objective of Dr. Harvey is to run our institution as a
5 business and educational enterprise. We're so glad we're able
6 to reach out and touch people. If you look at the chart, there's
7 several businesses in the Hampton Roads area including
8 Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and Portsmouth, which by the
9 way has the highest mortality rate from cancer deaths in the
10 entire Commonwealth of Virginia. We want to do the opposite
11 of that and we want to try to talk to these folks and we want to
12 do something to get that, to help with this.

13 We also want to be able to try the
14 workforce development area and bring true economic
15 development by creating jobs and income and good paying
16 jobs to those communities as well. We have a track record for
17 doing that, trying to make America great again but I think this
18 Commonwealth is great; we just want to make it better. One
19 of the ways that we can make it better is have good
20 communications and trying to leverage everything we can.
21 We're not going to agree on everything but there are some
22 things we can agree on. I've had the privilege of talking about
23 this to many people but this just makes common sense.

24 Our institution is prepared to do research
25 with University of Virginia and with everybody because, my

1 mom died of cancer, my dad died of cancer, my sister had
2 breast cancer. It's just so horrific. Proton is the way. It's a
3 miraculous way and this is a way that it can be killed and
4 done away with and we don't have the aftereffects that you
5 had. People will say Bill, if this was so good, why wasn't it
6 working, well it has. It's been working for fifty years. John
7 Hopkins, the Mayo Clinic and even the Federal Research
8 Center at Los Alamos. They're going to create one of the
9 largest proton centers in the world. We want to partner with
10 them. We also want to partner with businesses and
11 communities and they're doing this high tech stuff. I could go
12 on and on but I wanted to give Dr. Thorpe a moment.

13 DR. THORPE: Thank you very much and
14 I'm a physician and I've been working on this therapy for 24
15 years. My expertise is actually head and neck. This is a
16 therapy we've been doing and using since 1961. This is not a
17 new therapy at all. It's just like a school of physics to
18 maintain our license to do the therapy.

19 Recently, there are manufacturers
20 making these machines, they're really a laboratory and that's
21 what made it possible for Hampton University to obtain one of
22 these. The group of clinicians we have at Hampton are
23 actually, we have trained most of the people in the United
24 States actually in this neutropro therapy. I brought my clock
25 along, you can see a proton here. The whole advantage of it

1 is, it's the only form of radiation that we can actually stop. So
2 we treat on average seventy percent less normal forms of
3 radiation therapy. That's why it's preferred for the treatment
4 of children including brain tumors and that's why we treat
5 lung cancer and breast cancer, particularly the left side of
6 breast cancer over the heart. So it's not a new therapy at all.
7 There's thirteen of these in the United States and we're
8 privileged to have one in Virginia. It's really a reasonable
9 resource.

10 What I and my colleagues want to do, we
11 want to integrate with the rest of Virginia. I'm a UVA graduate
12 and know very well this state and I'd like to tie in with the VA
13 in Southwest Virginia and Southside Virginia. I've spoken to
14 colleagues at Fairfax and North Carolina. This is a reasonable
15 resource to bring patients together for a more efficient use of
16 resources. This is very valuable for the training of our
17 students.

18 We're looking for resources to make that
19 integration possible. Thank you.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you.

21 MR. THOMAS: Just to end it, I saw
22 Secretary Jones and I would preach to him as well. I just
23 want to say I'm passionate about this and I've probably served
24 hundreds of veterans with traditional radiation and proton
25 therapy to see that their lives have been saved and the 1500

1 or so souls that we have saved to make their life better has
2 been a lesson to me. I reached out to my good friend Terry
3 Kilgore, for twenty years he and his brother have been in the
4 General Assembly for a long time and others to say that again.
5 Mom or dad or grandma or grandpa in Bristol or Danville,
6 they're not going to be as concerned as where cancer is going
7 to be but we want to have a service to save their kid and St.
8 Jude's is getting a proton center. What we want to do is share
9 that and share the technology and the intellectual capacities
10 and share the absolute wonder and we hope we can have that
11 discussion and figure out ways to make something happen
12 and make something work and that we be given that
13 consideration. Thank you so much for your time Delegate
14 Kilgore and everyone else.

15 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you and
16 we're looking forward to hearing from you and the staff; thank
17 you for your presentation.

18 Now, are there any public comments? All
19 right. Do I have a motion we adjourn this meeting?

20 MR. OWENS: So moved.

21 DELEGATE KILGORE: We're adjourned.

22

23

PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER

2
3 I, Medford W. Howard, Registered Professional
4 Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Virginia at large,
5 do hereby certify that I was the court reporter who took down
6 and transcribed the proceedings of the **Tobacco Region**
7 **Revitalization Commission Executive Committee meeting**
8 **when held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at**
9 **The Hilton Downtown, Richmond, Virginia.**

10 I further certify this is a true and accurate
11 transcript, to the best of my ability to hear and understand
12 the proceedings.

13 Given under my hand this 1st day of February,
14 2016.

15
16 _____
17 Medford W. Howard

18 Registered Professional Reporter

19 Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large

20
21 My Commission Expires: October 31, 2018.

22 Notary Registration Number: 224566