Essex Supervisors public meeting coming soon

By DJ Jackson

Freedom of speech was truly exercised as each resident used their five minutes to passionately discuss topics including: Rifle hunting, school funding, conflict of interest, fiscal accountability and the proposed purchase of the June Parker Marina (Marina). The Essex Board of Supervisors (BOS) held its monthly meeting Tuesday, June 15; the public hearing session continued the majority of the two-hour meeting. The first order of business was the motion to accept and amend the FY 2017/2018 budget and appropriate the $875,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The CDBG grant is earmarked for the repair and restoration of residents’ homes damaged during the 2016 tornado. The Northern Neck Planning District is administrating the funds; however, Richmond County is the fiscal agent.

During the public hearing session Joseph Boesman shared his concerns regarding the purchase of the Parker Marina saying, "Put your hands in the air and step away from that Marina." Boesman feels that there is a conflict of interest due to Board Chair, Margaret H. Davis' personal hunting preference and he requested the names of Board members in favor of the purchase of the Marina.

John Clickenre addressed specific concerns in three areas—planning, financial management and stewardship, stating, "... overspending, unbudgeted spending, unauthorized spending, and the frequent need to transfer funds." Clickenre also questioned the soundness of the purchase of the Marina.

Monsignor Volo, owner of Bella pizza, shared his frustration over the 50 percent increase in his personal property taxes and the purchase of the Marina. Volo said, "This is a small town, this ain't Fredericksburg... Richmond...you will drive business away." He gave the analogy if he decided to increase his menu prices by 50 percent guaranteeing that customers would go elsewhere.

Lottie Brooks and Roy Brown shared their sentiments against the development of the Marina. Brooks simply asked, "What is your plan for the Marina. How much beachfront is on the marina?"
Supervisors
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Bill Croxton stated “He has heard a lot over the last few months over the Marina...there is one underlying major problem...we have done a pitiful job of public relations in explain what we intend to do with Marina and what positive things could come from the county acquiring.”

Croxton agreed with some of what the previous speakers stated, saying, “The citizens have not been apprised of where the money is coming from...”

“Every weekend every guest asked what can I do on the water...we are sending our guests somewhere else. It could change the financial dynamics of a small town like this.”

Cheyenne Bray, speaking on behalf of the millennial generation, stated “The Marina, if done right can become something great.” Bray spoke about the need to protect the small businesses, low wage individuals, and those on fixed incomes when consideration is given to raising taxes.

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Jeremy Gaskins

Warner
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Recognizing the atrocities and bloodshed upon the land by Native American and non-native Americans, Richardson stated, “Today, we have been given an amazing opportunity to come together in unity, bringing those descendents of the first colonies to reconcile with the native peoples of the land, to ensure the environment here on the Rappahannock River will continue to be blessed.”

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- Anne Richardson

Graduation
Continued from A1

Each student showed their expressions of joy in unique ways, to include a selfie with Ferguson. The conclusion of the commencement ended with the traditional congratulations, praise and announce- ment from John A. Brown, School Board Chairman and of course, the throwing of the hats.

Congratulations Class of 2017
from the Northern Neck News staff

Real Estate Auction
Friday, June 30th at 12pm
9 Properties and still adding more!
Current properties include:.............

1) Bay Quarter Shores lots 16 & 20, 3 Acres
2) Bay Quarter Shores Lot 28, 22, 2-29, 35 Acres
3) Sherwood Forest Lot 35, 35, 2.25 Acres
4) White Sand Harbor Lot 106 “beautiful corner lot” 58 Acres
5) Heritage Point Lot 120, 2-1, 2.10 Acres
6) Lot 33 Peasley Creek “nice waterfront lot” 1.32 Acres
7) 2 lots totaling 4 acres on Rappahannock River off farm land and old farm home
8) Lot 10 Fred Trail Road “great hunting track” 5.49 Acres

Auction conducted by Big Red Auctions
For more property details and a bidders packet email bigred@bigred auctions.com
Broker participation paid.
Auction will be held at

Tappahannock
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Also pointed out was the fact that 72

Future to foster private-sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration by business, education, and government.

Bi-partisan and business-led, the GO