

Proposed Town of Vienna 2016 Legislative Agenda

On November ____, 2015, Citizens of the Town of Vienna, through their duly elected Town Council, adopted the following Legislative Agenda at a public hearing and now respectfully proposes to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia the following:

2016 Legislative Agenda Items:

- 1.** The Town of Vienna supports legislation that would provide revenue sharing between Counties and Towns of the Commercial Transportation Tax imposed on commercial real estate properties (Commercial & Industrial Property Tax or “C&I taxes”). The Town of Vienna builds and maintains streets and sidewalks. HB 3202 requires that counties ensure that towns within their boundaries receive a proportional share of revenues made available to counties. With the new increase in the tax, C & I taxes will generate about \$55.5 million per year in revenues for the county. Like the stormwater tax collected, Vienna should have some input into how local improvements from these taxes are appropriated directly around the Town businesses that generate these taxes.
- 2.** The Town of Vienna requests that language be added to specifically include “new sidewalk projects” as eligible for HB 2313 funding. An expanded sidewalk network provides alternative transportation options and reduces motorized vehicle use and congestion. Revised ranking criteria language for transportation funding (under HB 2313, HB 2, HB 599) regarding “congestion mitigation” and “additional capacity” should specifically include sidewalk funding in dense urban areas where providing alternative means of transportation reduces single-occupancy auto use.
- 3.** In support of funding necessary for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority as set forth in HB 2313, the Town of Vienna opposes any revisions that would reduce funding to localities in order to address the shortfall in state revenues.
- 4.** The Town of Vienna supports restoration of full 599 funding to localities.
- 5.** The Town of Vienna supports a change to the VDOT local road maintenance funding formula from lane mileage to lane volume. Or, in the alternative, Vienna requests changes that provide additional funding to localities that maintain roads and have roads that exceed the statewide average traffic volumes for such types of roads by more than 20%. In addition, the Town of Vienna supports a change to the composition to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to have greater representation from urban/dense suburban areas of the Commonwealth.

6. The Town of Vienna requests an amendment to the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) whereby building permits for residential structures in specific zoning districts have a project time limit for completion and issuance of an occupancy permit for any new structure or addition to an existing structure. The Town would like to participate in the regulatory process to amend the USBC.
7. Virginia Code §2.2-4304 (cooperative procurement) should be amended to permit localities to use competitively bid construction contracts for certain projects *not exceeding \$200,000*.

Last year the GA struck language in the cooperative procurement provisions of the Virginia Procurement Act that previously permitted localities to ride certain construction contracts.

Relevant Virginia Code § 2.2-4304 amendments:

B. In addition, a public body may purchase from another public body's contract or from the contract of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments even if it did not participate in the request for proposal or invitation to bid, if the request for proposal or invitation to bid specified that the procurement was a cooperative procurement being conducted on behalf of other public bodies, except for:

1. *Contracts for architectural or engineering services; or*
2. *Construction in excess of \$200,000 by a local public body from the contract of another local public body that is more than a straight line distance of 75 miles from the territorial limits of the local public body procuring the construction. The installation of artificial turf or other athletic surfaces shall not be subject to the limitations prescribed in this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit sole source or emergency procurements awarded pursuant to subsections E and F of § 2.2-4303.*

8. New stormwater regulations permit a developer who disturbs less than 10 AC and requires less than 5 lbs of pollutant removal to buy offsite credits without even trying to provide pollution removal onsite or locally to improve water quality in Vienna streams. We would like to require an on-site BMP or, if there is a hardship, then elsewhere in Vienna.
9. The Town of Vienna requests that the General Assembly provide adequate funding for water quality improvements to localities for sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) as mandated by federal and state legislation, regulation, and policies.

- 10.** The Town of Vienna supports an amendment to Virginia State Code Section 15.2-107.1 relating to newspaper legal advertisement requirements. Current requirements add expense and are considered not generally viewed by the public.

Proposed amendment as follows:

15.2-107.1 Advertisement of legal notices on web sites

In addition to any requirements that a locality advertise legal notices in a newspaper having a general circulation in the locality, such notices may also be published on the locality's ~~World Wide Web site~~ website.

However notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, in any town within the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William legal notices may be published on the locality's website instead of in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality.

- 11.** Towns should have one vote as a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Transportation Authority (NVTA). Virginia Code Sections 33.2-2501 *et seq.* should be amended accordingly.
- 12.** The Town of Vienna opposes any changes to investment policies of the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) that would jeopardize the pool's rating or compromise the long-term stability of the pool.
- 13.** The Town of Vienna opposes any bill that reduces or eliminates local land-use authority.
- 14.** The Town of Vienna supports revenue-sharing mechanisms between localities and the state.
- 15.** The Town of Vienna supports the Virginia Municipal League's Legislative Program position on "State and Local Government Fiscal Relationship" as adopted by the VML Board for the 2016 legislative session.

Approved this ____ day of November 2015.

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Laurie DiRocco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

C:SDB/LegislativeAgenda DRAFT Proposed 11 04 2015