



# Minutes from 16 September 2021

## HRMFFA Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building on 16 September 2021. Public Board members present were: Mayors Duman, Dyer, Rabil and West; and Supervisors Shepperd and Rosie (via phone). Councilman Southall represented Poquoson. Private Board members present were: Black (via phone), Faulkner, Garcia, Honecker, Klett, McKenna, Monaco, Rosetta, Stephens and Whitney (via phone). Bill Brown represented Mark Dreyfus and ECPI. Executive Director Quigley, Deputy Executive Director Dwyer and Treasurer Wilson were also present. A quorum was achieved.
2. Board Chair West called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Mr. Dwyer stated no public comments had been submitted. Chair West offered welcoming remarks to new Board members Mr. Mark Honecker of ITA International, and Ms. Aylin Rosetta of Newport News Shipbuilding.
3. Chair West introduced Dr. Taquisa Simmons, Hampton VA Medical Center (HVAMC) Director, as our guest speaker. Dr. Simmons briefed the Board on the extensive Department of Veterans Affairs presence throughout the region. Highlights included:
  - HVAMC is the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest VA facility in the country out of 141 and has served the veterans of Hampton Roads for over 150 years.
  - Due to COVID-19, in-person services were limited to 25% of capacity but greatly expanded telehealth options to serve patients. Since July 2021, they are now doing about 75% of services in-person.
  - HVAMC veteran market growth is in the 94<sup>th</sup> percentile for the nation.
  - A contract to build a new 196,000 SF Chesapeake Health Care Center was awarded June 28, 2021. Construction will begin in early 2022 and the facility should be occupied by late 2024 or early 2025.
  - A second Health Care Center has been approved for the Southside; location TBD. An additional Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Suffolk has also been approved to join the other CBOCs already located in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Elizabeth City.
  - Because of its age, the Hampton facility will need to be replaced. Dr. Simmons asked Sen Warner on a recent visit for \$1 billion for a new facility. Mayor West thanked Dr. Simmons for her presentation and for what the VA does for our region's veterans. He also said the City of Chesapeake is ecstatic to welcome the new health care center. Mr. Stephens mentioned how the Hampton Roads Chamber was working to support veterans' mental health





treatment in the area and asked how much of HVAMC's services went towards mental health issues. Dr. Simmons said approximately 25% of their services are for mental health. They were trying to hire more providers, increase telehealth options, and track high-risk individuals for this very serious problem. She said the local private sector providers and the DoD treatment facilities were very helpful. Mr. Stephens said he would like to follow up with her to further discuss some initiatives the Chamber was working in this area.

4. Mr. Quigley introduced the end-of-August financials which were provided in the read-ahead materials. He pointed out the spikes in the audit/professional services item were due to the recent completion of the annual audit. Likewise, the spike in travel expenses were because both he and Mr. Dwyer attending the ADC National Summit in D.C. in July. Otherwise, there was nothing remarkable about the financials. There were no comments or questions from the Board.
5. Chair West invited Mayor Duman to address the Board on the results of the FY21 annual audit which were provided to the Board in the read-aheads. Mayor Duman stated the Budget and Finance Committee had reviewed the draft audit results electronically and had no concerns. Bottom line was that it was a clean audit. Mr. Duman mentioned the auditor's comments about separation of internal controls which is hard to do with such a small staff. However, the auditor felt the Executive Director's review of all bank statements and the Board's review of quarterly financial statements and budgetary control review were sufficient. There were no comments or questions from the Board. Since the report was brought to the Board by the Budget and Finance Committee, Mayor West called for a vote to accept the FY21 annual audit results. The vote was unanimous to accept the audit results.
6. Mr. John Simmons and The Roosevelt Group (TRG) team next provided the Board a Washington Update. Highlights included:
  - Christine Wormuth is confirmed as Secretary of the Army, Frank Kendall is confirmed as Secretary of the Air Force, and Carlos Del Toro is confirmed as Secretary of the Navy. Both Sen Kaine and Sen Warner have a good relationship with Secretary Del Toro.
  - Congress has a busy rest of September to get a continuing resolution (CR) passed to avoid a shutdown on 1 October, voting on the budget resolution and infrastructure package, surface transportation reauthorization that expires 30 September, and raising the debt limit.
  - Expect a new National Security Strategy in 2022 from the administration.
  - The FY23 budget submission will be the first major insight into the administration's spending priorities going forward.





- Republicans are mulling whether to support a CR; law passed after last shutdown requires federal employees and contractors receive back pay regardless of whether they work during a shutdown.
- Many of HRMFFA's legislative priorities have been adopted including securing a 5G pilot program that helps to advance "base of the future" concepts at Oceana and other area bases; House and Senate NDAs added nearly \$25 billion for range of priorities including additional ship repair funds and infrastructure needs; fully supports FY22 military construction projects for Hampton Roads; budget requested \$50 million for Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) and House Appropriations Committee increased it by \$25 million; authority for Corp of Engineers to include federal lands in studies likely needs to be in next Water Resources Development Act bill.
- Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story and Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads both received DCIP grants this year.
- DoD will start conducting annual diversity, equity and inclusion surveys of service members to see how surrounding communities treat them.
- Biden Administration could ask for another round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in FY23. They are starting to look at resiliency issues and some concerns have been expressed on long term viability of Langley AFB. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations/Energy/Environment was not aware of some of the innovative solutions Langley is working to combat persistent flooding, so we invited her to the area during the ADC conference.
- Donna Lawson of NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) commented that the President's FY22 budget request for LaRC exceeded \$1 billion for the first time and indicated strong support for NASA. NASA Administrator set aside \$5.4 billion for infrastructure, including \$1 billion in Virginia; \$220 million for Wallops and a new materials lab and hypersonics wind tunnel for LaRC.
- Allen Baker of the Maritime Industrial Base Ecosystem offered additional positive news by stating Rep Bobby Scott offered an amendment to the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation act for \$22 billion for the Dept of Labor and Dept of Education for workforce training and apprenticeship innovations. Organizations like MIBE and the maritime industry in the region would be eligible for these grants to help them establish workforce training programs.

7. Chair West asked Mr Klett as the Vice-Chair of the Futures Advisory Committee to provide an update. Mr. Klett stated that the Futures Advisory Committee has assigned its members to various teams that will meet with federal leaders in the coming months as well as developed a comprehensive list of questions to discuss during those visits. The first meeting was held with NASA LaRC Director, Clayton Turner and went very well. Mr. Quigley stated that we had not made as much progress as desired scheduling meetings due to the busy schedules of the parties involved and normal summer vacation season.





However, staff has been in contact with Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, the Coast Guard, and others to set up meetings in the coming months. Should have more progress to report by the December Board meeting. The goal is to complete the work by the annual Board meeting next June.

8. Next agenda item was the annual Board trip to DC. Mr. Quigley stated that due to the ongoing pandemic and visitor restrictions at the Pentagon, the Board would not be able to make a trip to DC in October. We'll work with The Roosevelt Group and look for a potential date in the spring to conduct a trip.
9. Next item on the agenda was an update on Jefferson Lab. Mr. Quigley stated that the President's FY22 budget request was very favorable to JLAB and included \$2 million for initial planning and design of an east coast High Performance Data Facility (HPDF) or "super-computer." It also included for the first time in years sufficient funding for much-needed facility upgrades and full funding for its core nuclear physics research. While the Senate committee supported the President's request, the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee mark drastically reduced nuclear physics research funding and made no mention of the HPDF. Chair West sent a letter to the entire Virginia Congressional delegation asking for their support of the President's budget request for JLAB. Congressman Bobby Scott was successful in getting amendments added to the bill that restored the funding for JLAB.
10. Chair West then asked Mr. Dwyer to update the Board on adding additional municipal members. Mr. Dwyer stated that he and Mr. Quigley had reached out to Southampton County, Gloucester County, Surry County and the Town of Smithfield about joining HRMFFA per the Board's direction at the annual meeting. They had briefed the Southampton County Board of Supervisors on 27 July and were well received and the County Administrator said they would include HRMFFA on their FY23 distro list to request funding. Mr. Quigley and Mr. Dwyer are also scheduled to brief the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors on October 5<sup>th</sup>. They have been trading e-mails with Surry and Smithfield staff and have not yet scheduled dates to brief their respective elected officials.
11. Chair West thanked everyone for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting at 11:51 am.

