



Minutes from 14 December 2017

HRMFFA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building in Chesapeake on 14 December 2017. Public Board members present were: Mayors Price, Rabil, Rowe, Tuck and West; Supervisors Sadler and Shepperd; Poquoson City Councilman Southall attended for Mayor Hunt. Private Board members present were: Brickell, Curtis, Faulkner, Klett, Paveglio and Stephens. Military Liaison Doug Beaver attended as a non-voting member representing Mayor Alexander. Bob Matthias attended as a non-voting member representing Mayor Sessoms. Karl Johnson attended as a non-voting member representing Joe Campbell. Glen Dorsey attended as a non-voting member representing Dale Baugh. Del Freeman attended as a non-voting member representing Bruce Hoogstraten. Executive Director Quigley, Deputy Executive Director Dwyer and Treasurer Collins were also present. A quorum was achieved.
2. Board Chair Tom Shepperd called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and offered welcoming remarks. He also provided some remarks concerning how to use the new HRMFFA challenge coins that were placed at each Board member's seat.
3. Mr. Shawn Avery, President and CEO of Opportunity Inc, gave the Board a presentation on the new Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center. The idea for the center originated from an effort sponsored by the Commonwealth's Secretary for Veterans and Defense Affairs and is designed to connect more veterans in Virginia with job opportunities. The center will create a unified community process that advances employment opportunities for transitioning service members (TSMs), veterans and their families in Hampton Roads. It is intended to be a 'high-touch' center co-located with Opportunity Inc, with affiliate partner sites throughout the community to better connect individuals with available and needed services and resources. Through "one-on-one" case management services, the center will focus on connecting customers with employment and education or occupational training services. It will also connect other support services and resources through electronic portals. Several Board members commented on how important programs like this are to keep TSMs in Hampton Roads. Mr. Klett commented that he is projecting thousands of internet/cyber security jobs will be coming to the region in the next few years and these programs are critical to producing a ready workforce.



Ms. Curtis also remarked that the same thing is going on in the construction industry and they are concerned about having a trained workforce for those jobs.

4. Mr. Quigley introduced the November financial report to the Board and stated the budget was on track for fiscal year 2018. He noted that the new challenge coins approved by the board in September were accounted for under the "Equipment Purchase" line item which is why that line was slightly over budget for the year. No concerns or questions were voiced by the Board members.
5. John Simmons from The Roosevelt Group provided a Washington update:
 - He provided an update on the FY2018 federal budget discussions and noted December would be a critical month to reach a deal to avert a government shutdown. He briefed that another continuing resolution (CR) was passed funding the government at FY2017 levels through December 22nd setting up a showdown right before the Christmas recess. He stated the Republican priorities were to first get tax reform passed and then try to get DoD's budget passed for the rest of the fiscal year and extending the CR for the rest of the government until January 21. The Democrats are opposed to splitting out defense and are pushing for a fix to DACA (aka "Dreamers" protections) and Children's Health Insurance Programs fixes in this budget deal. The Republicans want those issues to be separate from the budget deal.
 - He also briefed on the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which authorized a topline budget figure of \$699.6B. This figure includes the base budget (\$626.4B), overseas contingency operations (\$65.7B), and mandatory spending (\$7.5B). This is far more than the Budget Control Act cap of \$549B for the base budget. Congress has three realistic options which include repealing the caps, raise the budget caps, or cut costs elsewhere to free up funds for defense.
 - Some good things for Hampton Roads included in the NDAA include a 2.4% pay raise for military members, increased funding for ship repairs and maintenance, and nearly \$271M for MILCON projects at area bases. However, without corresponding appropriations for these items, they may not be funded in FY18 or could be reduced.
 - Mr. Simmons briefed that the McCain-Reed amendment proposing another BRAC round in 2019 did not make it into the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. Therefore, it is unlikely it would be approved this year as part of a budget or appropriations bill. DoD is expected to again request a BRAC in their FY2019 budget request, but it is unlikely to pass due to 2018 being an election year.

- Finally, Mr. Simmons discussed President Trump's recently announced goal to return to the moon and then later to Mars. NASA Langley will be key in both initiatives as they are the center of expertise for entry, decent and landing technologies within NASA. He also mentioned the creation of a new NASA Caucus within Congress and that all four of the region's Representatives have joined the caucus. There will be a reception for the new caucus in early 2018 in DC, and HRMFFA, NAST and The Roosevelt Group will attend. The Roosevelt Group has also been working to help the caucus develop legislative priorities for the coming year which will include a big push for aeronautics. Aeronautics is a major mission area for the NASA Langley Research Center.
- 6. Executive Director Quigley presented the proposed HRMFFA 2018 Board meeting schedule. He noted the first meeting was proposed to be moved from March to April to stay aligned with HRTAC which must wait until after the General Assembly session for their meeting. The December meeting is also moved forward a week again so as not to interfere with anyone's holiday plans. Mayor Price made a motion to approve the schedule as presented and was seconded by Mayor Rowe. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
- 7. Supervisor Shepperd asked Mr. Simmons and Mr. Felix from The Roosevelt Group to leave the room for the next topic of discussion about renewing their contract with HRMFFA. Mr. Quigley briefed that the Board discussed in 2016 whether The Roosevelt Group's contract should be re-competed since it was about five years old. The Board decided to table the discussions at that time due to the political uncertainty of the upcoming elections. It was now time to discuss again whether the Board would like to re-compete the contract. He stated that legal counsel was consulted and there was no legal requirement for a non-profit to re-compete the contract after a certain time, but we may want to consider it due to perception of being too cozy with a certain contractor. Mr. Southall asked if the price continues to be the same if the contract was continued. Mr. Quigley said yes, The Roosevelt Group had agreed to continue the contract at the current rate indefinitely. Mr. Klett asked if it would be prudent to negotiate and try and reduce the rate. Mr. Quigley stated that if the terms were changed the contract would likely have to be re-competed and the cost would likely increase due to the current rates for such services. Mayor Price, Mr. Stephens, Mayor Rowe, Mr. Matthias and Mr. Freeman all spoke in support of keeping The Roosevelt Group, citing the favorable costs, the high quality of their services, and the fact that they have been with HRMFFA from its inception and are very familiar with the region, our federal facilities, and their missions.

Mayor Rowe made a motion to continue the contract with The Roosevelt Group at the discretion of the Board, which was seconded by Mayor Price. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Mr. Quigley presented the draft of HRMFFA's proposed 2018 legislative priorities and asked the Board members to review them and suggest any additions or deletions to the list. He stated that we would not go final with them until we've had a chance to digest the President's FY2019 budget request to the Congress. Mr. Matthias said we may want to consider adding an item opposing offshore oil and gas drilling due to the adverse affects on Navy training areas.
9. Mr. Freeman briefed the Board on the NASA Aerospace Support Team's intent to disband by the end of 2018 and transfer advocacy efforts for NASA Langley Research Center to HRMFFA. NAST leadership and HRMFFA staff have been discussing options the last several months on how to best continue NASA advocacy. The consensus is that HRMFFA will create a standing advisory committee on NASA issues made up of subject matter experts. This transfer should be seamless as HRMFFA and The Roosevelt Group already work with NAST and NASA Langley on advocacy efforts. Mayor Tuck asked for clarification on what would transfer. Mr. Freeman stated that HRMFFA would become the primary advocate for issues relating to NASA Langley support.
10. Mr. Quigley provided an update on HRMFFA working with the Navy League of Hampton Roads to co-sponsor a local dinner for the new Secretary of the Navy. The Board was provided the letter of invitation co-signed by the Navy League and HRMFFA chairs which was sent to the SECNAV last month. The preferred date was early January, but that would not work for the Secretary. However, his staff agreed that they would include a dinner on the SECNAV's itinerary when he does make a visit to Hampton Roads in the future. Mr. Quigley said it could be relatively short notice when it occurs, and he asked that Board members make every effort to attend to show the strong support the Navy has throughout the region.
11. During the public comment period, Ms. Donna Sayegh of Portsmouth made a statement of her concerns about the amount of money being spent on political campaigns and how this money could be better spent in other areas. Chairman Shepperd thanked Ms. Sayegh for her comments.



THOMAS G. SHEPPERD, JR., CHAIR . KENNETH C. ALEXANDER, VICE-CHAIR . NANCY COLLINS, TREASURER

CRAIG R. QUIGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . RICHARD E. DWYER, SECRETARY

12. Mayor Tuck asked to make a quick comment considering the holiday season. He mentioned a young 7 year-old boy in Hampton named, Christian Graves, who had an idea to collect dimes for homeless veterans. Over the last several months, Christian collected dimes. On December 9 he presented checks totaling \$1,200 to seven veterans service organizations who help homeless vets in the area. A great example of the holiday spirit we can all learn from.
13. Supervisor Shepperd adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

