

Fluvanna County
Board of Supervisors

Vision & Goal Setting

Work Session

February 17, 2010

VISION

Fluvanna County is the most livable and sustainable community
in the United States.

What does this mean to each of you?

- Sustainable = density; Manhattan; walkable (Green Metropolis : What the City Can Teach the Country about True Sustainability by David Owen); generally not synonymous with rural communities
- Livable = quality of life; sustainable = leaving within your means; A Legacy of Rural Virginia by Don Payne (historical description of Fluvanna County)
- Livable = variety of lot sizes; character; rural; a spectrum of mixed uses and incomes; residents can choose to live in higher density or not
- Sustainable = basic needs are provided; Fluvanna is livable, but not sustainable; “is” is not accurate in that context – can we really afford our current spending levels?; need for assistance to families is increasing (e.g., food stamps); livable = rural character; the Lake Monticello subdivision has a rural feel too
- Livable = affordability and maintenance; reservations about sustainability in terms of taxes, increased need for assistance to families; green technology & practices are good; alternative energy use
- Sustainable = everlasting; clean environment; financial stability; mixture of housing; public safety; economic development

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What constitutes a livable community?

- Affordable (e.g., housing, taxes, transportation)
- Environmentally sound
- Open space
- Safe and secure (i.e., EMS, Fire, Police)
- Efficient transportation infrastructure; don't urbanize our roads; minimize congestion; balance traffic flow and speed
- Improve transportation methods; alternative transportation
- Maintain a strong education system
- Develop employment centers; job creation
- Strong faith community
- Economic empowerment
- Recreational amenities
- Being able to live, work, and play in place

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What does it mean to be sustainable?

- This concept does apply to rural areas (not just urban)
- Should we be more like Albemarle or Buckingham?
- Need to balance residential, commercial, office, and industrial uses; Loudon County's town communities
- Need mixed use, mixed income development
- Must be affordable; livable and sustainable may not be compatible concepts
- Lake demographic may be residential but generates 43% of real estate tax revenues (based on population percentage), but only approximately 30% of public school students

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Is this the Board's vision for the County?

- According to three Board members – yes

To preserve and enhance Fluvanna's unique identity and rural character.

- This is a more realistic and appropriate vision according to three Board members
 - This statement is easier to define
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- ✓ The vision should say who we are and what we want to be.
 - ✓ The vision should identify what makes us unique.
 - ✓ The current vision may give a false connotation.
 - ✓ The vision should accurately address the county's character and uniqueness.
 - ✓ Preserving and enhancing Fluvanna's unique identity and rural character while growing as a livable/sustainable community is a difficult challenge.

BOARD PRIORITIES / GOALS

The Board has stated that its CIP priorities, on the whole, are:

- Emergency Communications System
- Financial Software
- Vehicles for Fire/Sheriff
- School renovations
- Provision of Water

How does this translate into broader priorities?

One possibility is:

- Public Safety
- Fiscal Responsibility/Sustainability
- Economic Development

What do each of you think the Board's major priority should be?

- Fiscal responsibility (including clearly defining what this means)
- Economic development
- Budget (budget, budget)
- Economic development within the framework of the Comprehensive Plan and its goals and implementation strategies
- Education (investments in human capital as well as capital infrastructure)

Do these priorities achieve the vision?

- Yes

BOARD PRIORITIES / GOALS

A major County emphasis in the past few years (at a minimum) has been implementation.

How should each of your priorities be addressed, at least initially?

Education

- Costs must be sustainable; infrastructure, operations and maintenance
- High quality must be maintained through efficiency and identifying what is necessary vs. desired (high ranking within the state needs to be maintained - Fluvanna was one of fifteen school divisions to earn the Board of Education Excellence Award, an honor awarded as part of the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) program. Fluvanna County High School was one of 281 schools to earn the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award for having met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and for making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board. VIP was approved by the Board of Education in July 2007, as an incentive program to reward and recognize fully accredited schools and school divisions making significant progress toward academic excellence.)
- The Board of Supervisors has limited control (funding, not policy decisions) which is a challenge
- Both Boards must be partners in order to sustain a long term investment in the provision of high quality education in a safe, healthy, and good environment

Economic Development

- Implement the Comprehensive Plan
- Infrastructure – water, sewer, roads, etc.
- Financial Affordability
- Tools – zoning, proffers, staff, target/defined businesses and recruitment strategies

Budget

- First determine total revenues
- Fairly impact County services along with impacts to taxpayers (balance impacts)
- Be clear about proposed impacts to staff (e.g., layoffs vs. salary reductions, and so on)

BOARD PRIORITIES / GOALS

Does the Comp Plan still provide an effective mechanism to implement the goals and strategies that achieve the Board's priorities? (*Think about the Board's 2009 Goals Work Session – are those priorities and ideas still valid?*)

- Yes
- Implementation is critical!
- We need to identify where we want to be (with the strategies completed) in five years
 - Staff recommends a target of 85-90% of all strategies completed or in progress by March 2014 (the plan's 5-year review should at least be underway by that time)
- Staff should also update the Board quarterly with some key development/planning indicators (in addition to the annual Development Activity Report and monthly Planning Activity Report)

WRAP-UP

Are we comfortable with:

- ◆ the Vision
- ◆ the Priorities/Goals
- ◆ the method of implementation

- Vision - In general, yes, but with more emphasis on the county's unique qualities and rural character (high quality of life that is financially and environmentally sustainable)
- Priorities – Yes
- Implementation method – Yes

Thank you for taking the time to review and discuss these important concepts!

Hopefully it will help to guide you in your upcoming budget discussions.