

Dear Fluvanna Taxpayers Association Member:

The first of our "FTA Candidate Forums" -- for Board of Supervisors -- is just a week away: Tuesday, September 29, at 7 p.m. Help us get the word out by circulating the attached flyer among your Fluvanna friends and associates. Post it in public places. Share it with your neighbors. And, by all means, mark your calendar and plan to be there! The forum will take the place of our monthly FTA meeting.

Meanwhile, we want to thank volunteers who are out there working to make the forums a success:

- Vivienne and Dennis Smith, for distributing forum flyers throughout Lake Monticello this past weekend.
- Adrian Miller, who distributed some 300 flyers to County residences and businesses.
- Cliff Pelzer, of "Lake Monticello Classifieds," for donating the printing of 500 of the flyers.
- Leroy McCampbell, for overseeing site arrangements, flyer production, sound system, signs, and making candidate nameplates.
- Norma Hutner, for helping with event promotion.
- Jerry Patchen, Judi Ruch and Carolyn Karden, for serving on the Questions Committee.

Shifting gears, FTA Chair Elizabeth Franklin reports on an action taken by the Board of Supervisors last Wednesday night that shortchanged Fluvanna taxpayers. Although Elizabeth spoke out in public comments on behalf of taxpayers and pleaded with the Board to tie its action to monetary compensation, the Board voted otherwise. Her report:

Is Fluvanna giving away the farm?

On the September 16 Board of Supervisors agenda was this action matter: *'Transfer assignment of DEQ Water Withdrawal to the James River Water Authority.'* Translation of this innocent-sounding item: Supervisors were about to give away to the joint water authority, for free, perhaps the most valuable asset and leverage Fluvanna has in its water-sharing deal with Louisa -- its own James River permit without which the proposed pipeline would not be possible.

Nowhere in the documentation or in County Administrator Cabell Lawton's proposal was there any mention of compensation for Fluvanna. Nor, according to several supervisors, has there been any discussion at Board meetings of seeking remuneration for this all-important permit. Likewise at water authority meetings, where the authority board has discussed the imminent need for Fluvanna to sign over its permit to the water authority, but, again, absent any mention of reimbursement for Fluvanna.

While the two counties split the cost of the permit, it was Fluvanna that invested untold staff hours and expertise to work through the permitting process, deal with state agencies and file the required paperwork. Fluvanna taxpayers paid for that considerable time and

effort. Beyond that, it would have been extremely difficult, costly and time-consuming for Louisa to have gained such a permit on its own because of its lack of proximity to the river. By getting the permit in its name and dedicating significant man-hours to the task, let's be clear, Fluvanna has saved Louisa a bundle.

But what did Fluvanna supervisors demand for this prized asset? Nothing. In a 4-2 vote (Ott and Weaver against), the Board authorized signing Fluvanna's permit over to the joint authority without requiring one dime in return, representing a bonanza for Louisa and a loss for Fluvanna taxpayers. It's been suggested that supervisors may try to do a trade-out later on with Louisa. But as any savvy businessperson knows, once you relinquish what the other party desperately wants, you've forfeited your bargaining power.

But that wasn't all that Fluvanna's Board gave away with no strings attached. At the same meeting, supervisors in a 4-2 vote also approved signing over to the water authority contractual rights to withdraw up to 3 million gallons of water per day from East Coast Transport, Inc.'s intake structure, a deal that Fluvanna worked out in 2003 with ECTI. This contract allows raw water to be transported from the James near Bremono Bluff to a diversion point connecting with Pleasant Grove, where pipeline plans call for building a water treatment plant. Once again, Fluvanna did all the work. It committed the staff time and resources needed to obtain the agreement and keep it current. Equally important, the county negotiated with ECTI to reroute water discharge from the Tenaska power plant and is in the process of facilitating that agreement by seizing, through eminent domain, rights-of-way across land owned by 23 Fluvanna property owners. Where is the reimbursement for that?

Ironically, at this same meeting, the County Administrator reported that Fluvanna should brace for another hit to its budget -- the latest round of state cuts will slash funding to Fluvanna by another \$148,000. Especially given our current economic woes, the gratis giveaway of hard-won, taxpayer-subsidized contracts and rights by Fluvanna makes no sense. And it's hard to imagine Louisa being so magnanimous if the shoe were on the other foot. -- *Elizabeth Franklin*

Sincerely,
Your FTA Steering Committee