



For immediate release

Taxpayer Association Fiscal Chapter Rejected by Planning Commission

November 14, 2008 – The Fluvanna County Planning Commission voted down the Fluvanna Taxpayer Association’s proposed “Fiscal Framework” chapter for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Barry Bibb, Cunningham commissioner, initiated the action at the commission’s November 10 meeting, reading a prepared statement of his objections and making the motion to reject the proposed chapter.

“I don’t believe the Planning Commission should be used by any special interest group,” said Commissioner Bibb in the preface to his motion. He also maintained that adopting the fiscal chapter would “not be wise in these economic times.” The other commissioners joined him in unanimously turning down the chapter.

“Since when did taxpayers become a special interest group in this county?” said Dave Hordyke, reacting to news of the decision. “I always thought that taxpayers were the reason county government existed.” Hordyke serves on the FTA’s seven-member Steering Committee.

Bibb also raised questions about the 150-member Taxpayer Association’s internal processes in preparing and approving the chapter and challenged FTA representative Elizabeth Franklin on the number of the people involved in its development. The 13-page chapter was completed in just one month after being proposed to the Planning Commission by FTA Chairman Lee True and receiving a show of interest at its August 27 meeting. The project, approved by FTA’s Steering Committee, was finished in time to meet the county’s public input deadline of September 30.

“I would think our county leaders would want to champion and celebrate a citizens’ contribution such as this, rather than focusing on discrediting the effort,” said Franklin. “Whether seven or 70 people did this, it’s still an amazing grassroots accomplishment.”

The FTA’s proposed “Fiscal Framework” chapter was designed to introduce fiscal accountability to the Comprehensive Plan. It is the first citizen initiative of its kind in Fluvanna County. “We should all take pride in this historic endeavor on behalf of Fluvanna taxpayers,” said True. “No citizens’ group has ever before proposed and developed an entire chapter for the Comprehensive Plan.”

Meanwhile, the FTA Steering Committee is considering options for pursuing the fiscal chapter when the Board of Supervisors takes up the Comprehensive Plan next year. “The Comprehensive Plan is supposed to be the county’s blueprint for growth,” said True. “But if you had an architect draw up plans for a house without ever discussing the cost, what kind of sense would that make? That’s exactly what we’re doing in Fluvanna. And that’s why our fiscal chapter is important and deserves more consideration.”

To read the Fluvanna Taxpayers Association’s “Fiscal Framework” chapter for the Comprehensive Plan, go to www.fluvannataxpayers.org.

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