

# County of Henry

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Fax (276) 634-4781

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Kathy Lawson  
Mayor, City of Martinsville  
P.O. Box 1112  
Martinsville, VA 24114

Dear Mayor Lawson:

The Henry County Board of Supervisors thanks you for your letter of April 3, 2020. We would like to offer the following thoughts on your letter and a path forward.

We remain committed to a meeting and we look forward to sitting down with your team and beginning this work. When that can occur, however, most likely will not be Thursday, June 11 as you requested. The Board and our staff have some internal work to complete before we could sit down with your team. We are hopeful of wrapping that up in the near future, and then we will be better able to discuss a meeting date.

For a host of reasons, we offer two alternatives to your location suggestion of Chatmoss Country Club. They are the Henry County Public Safety Center on DuPont Road, and the Commonwealth Centre for Advanced Training (CCAT), located within Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre (CCBC). Please let us know if either alternative is acceptable.

Likewise, your voluminous proposed agenda includes many items that we believe aren't necessary or appropriate for a kickoff meeting. We offer the following alternative for our first meeting:

1. A half-day time frame, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at either of the meeting sites offered above.
2. The two teams are fine as outlined, with the possible addition of a representative from Guynn, Waddell, Carroll & Lockaby on our side. We have two attorneys at the

firm working on this process, and both may want to attend. We have no issue if you wish to add another person to your team.

3. Rather than get a laundry list of issues on the table at the first meeting, we prefer a "set the expectations" agenda. The City team presents a 60-minute opener of what it wants the City/Town to look like in 5-10 years and how to get there; the County follows with its own 60-minute presentation of a similar approach. That leaves us two hours for questions, breaks, sidebars, etc.
4. Requesting the Virginia Commission on Local Government to provide a mediator/facilitator.

We understand and support the notion that these discussions should be confidential, and any "decisions" reached are not binding until acted on in public by both bodies. Our negotiating team will share details with other members of our elected body, but we will do so with the understanding that the details being shared should not be discussed or disseminated to anyone outside of the elected body. We are fully confident that our team will comply.

We think this is the best approach at this time. I look forward to your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jim Adams  
Chairman

CC: Henry County Board of Supervisors  
Tim Hall, County Administrator  
George Lyle, County Attorney  
Leon Towarnicki, City Manager  
Eric Monday, City Attorney  
Jeremy Carroll, Attorney, Guynn, Waddell, Carroll & Lockaby, P.C