

5. APPOINTMENTS

A. SPSA

As you may recall, House Bill 1872 (copy attached) was approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor earlier this year and, among other things, provides that:

- Each locality shall nominate three potential directors who must "possess general business knowledge" and cannot be an elected official;
- The Governor shall appoint one director from each of the lists of nominees submitted by the member localities;
- Each locality is authorized to appoint an "ex officio" board member who must be a locality employee;
- Each "ex officio" member is selected by a majority vote of the locality's governing body;
- Board members are appointed by the Governor for terms of 4 years. Vacancies for reasons other than expiration of a term are filled for remainder of unexpired term. Members are limited to two 4 year terms;
- According to SPSA's General Counsel, a statute elsewhere in the Code of Virginia provides that "ex officio" members of the board have voting privileges;
- No term or term limits are prescribed for "ex officio" members.

SPSA has developed the following timeline for new Board appointments in order to provide for an orderly transition:

- ASAP: Localities begin the process for selecting 3 candidates for nomination to new board;
- **August 2009**: localities submit 3 nominees to Governor for approval;
- September 2009: Governor Kaine selects new board;
- September 2009: member localities appoint "ex officio" members for service beginning January 1, 2010;
- October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009: orientation and attendance at board meetings by new board members and "ex officio" members;
- January 1, 2010, new board begins serving.

Accordingly, it is necessary for the Board to discuss and agree to the process for nominations. The sole statutory qualification is possession of "general business knowledge" which is pretty vague. In my judgment, the best qualified candidates will have a strong background in at least one of the following areas: engineering (we're in the steam and power business, among other things), accounting (not paying sufficient attention to the numbers will always get you into trouble), law (there are lots of contracts and agreements to understand and consider), business management (understanding people and what motivates them is always relevant), or finance (financing large capital projects can be pretty

complicated). In addition, they will need to possess the art of diplomacy (working with eight member communities that often have competing interests is never easy).

For an appointment of this magnitude, you may wish to solicit interested candidates (similar to an employment solicitation), or the Board may simply exercise its own judgment in identifying and approaching prospective candidates.

I am open to your direction.

B. CENSUS 2010 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

Last month, the Board adopted a resolution which, among other things, established a Complete Count Committee in Southampton County, which is charged with working with the community and business organizations to encourage full participation in the 2010 census.

It is necessary that the Complete Count Committee be appointed soon to begin planning its activities. Members appointed should be representative of a cross section of the community, be willing and able to serve until the census is over, and help implement a creative outreach campaign in areas that may pose a challenge in 2010. Members might include persons from the areas of education, media, business, religion, and community groups.

Subject to your concurrence, I am recommending that each Board member consider appointing two committee members from his/her respective election district, beginning next month.