



**Organization: Riverdale Regional Civic Association**

**Meeting Date: April 4, 2012**

**# in Attendance: 12**

- All money taken in between 2004-2008 in real estate taxes was spent frivolously.
- Boats are not included in the personal property tax. Why is that?
- Is it a tax for ownership of a boat, or just docking a boat? If I have a boat on my property, am I paying taxes on that?
- VIMS study just went to boat owners to ask if there were taxes would they keep their boats in Hampton and of course they said no.
- One citizen had a discussion with boat owners in Newport News who claimed that they dock their boats in Hampton so that they don't have to pay taxes, but they don't really keep their boats here. I pay taxes on my motorcycle that I don't even drive in Hampton. It rubs me the wrong way. The VIMS study did us a disservice because the boat owners ask for dredging and it costs the city money.
- I don't think you should have a tax on boats. This is a waterfront community which is why I live here. I only use it maybe 4 months out of the year, and it is very expensive to even have a boat to begin with.
- I have friends who have boats in Hampton, they talked about moving their boats and they got tired of running back and forth to get their boat. Tax policy needs to be fair and that policy is not fair.
- I don't know whether Council members are aware but members in the biking community are considering moving their bikes if this continues. It's an issue of fairness.
- Property taxes, I don't understand why anyone would be in favor of lowering taxes because people will lose their jobs and services will be cut. That is why I'm in Hampton. We have outstanding services, maybe the schools should be rolled back but teachers shouldn't lose their jobs. It wouldn't bother me if you brought income back to a level that services won't be cut but I don't want to throw away money either.
- Are taxable units diminishing in other sectors other than home values?

- Want to talk about assessed values. In the City of Hampton, you don't include any short sales, foreclosures or distressed sales in calculations. My fear is that we will continue to see decreases in values because some of the houses being sold for \$100,000 on a short sale will come back on the market for \$150,000 and then you will have to count it in the calculations.
- I bought a house, it wasn't a distressed sale, but the house needed a lot of work. Then my assessment was much higher than my purchase price. Does the city base assessments on purchase price? Are for sale by owner homes not included in city assessments?
- Do you think the housing market is going to continue to decline? How many more years until it will stop declining considering we don't count short sales and foreclosures?
- Does this relate to commercial properties as well?
- The Old Point building, we keep hearing about it but don't see anything?
- Will people on Fort Monroe have to pay real estate tax? What's happening with it? If the Army still owns the property, shouldn't they provide services?
- When do we think that the Army will transfer over the property?
- I don't have a boat, but I would like to voice my opinion regarding equity. They are vehicles just like any other and I don't know why they're exempt.
- My father voiced concerns about outsourcing. When you outsource you lose control and also lose positions and ability to do services.
- I have been a citizen of the city for many years, and I have registered complaints regarding city services but I have to say that the services that are provided are great! During hurricanes, the city services and the competence that the city workers had blew me away.
- I fell victim to outsourcing myself and the contract they chose went horribly so they are dealing with how to correct that mistake. I don't believe that outsourcing is a good solution.
- I have a fear that a big company can use this to manipulate us.
- Outsourcing street replacement is specialized work, and sometimes that type of work can be expensive.

- How much does the city take in on street sweeping?
- The ERU is a one size fits all on residential properties. One of the recommendations from the Waterways Steering Committee was to change that. Has anyone looked at this recommendation?
- Another concern about getting people to think differently, I see people blowing all of their yard waste into the street and there is still nothing that says you legally can't do that.
- The watershed study being done in Riverdale, which I was told has been put on hold. There is still concern about flooding in this area. The answers would be in this study.
- We would have recycle bins that lasted longer if the trucks were looked after more carefully.