

Notes Tuesday, September 24, 2019

- Ken Sspan and Anna Cloeter met with Supervisor Chairman Phil North, County Administrator Dan O'Donnell and Asst. County Administrator Rebecca Owens.
- Ken and Anna presented the case that the Registrar's Office requires additional space, particularly in light of upcoming changes in Virginia's no-excuse absentee in-person early voting law that will be in effect as of the November 2020 Presidential Election.
- In the process of that presentation, Mr. North learned that the voting machines were being stored in a relatively unsecure location in Vinton. He was adamant that the machines be moved and stored in a secure location as soon as possible and acknowledged that accessibility to the Registrar's Office was important.
- Both Mr. North and Mr. O'Donnell agreed that one way to potentially alleviate crowds during early voting and address the Office's concerns about its existing location and hours being inconvenient to voters in Catawba/Hollins/Vinton would be to add a satellite absentee voting venue in the area. They acknowledged that this would not eliminate the need for additional office space.
- Both also agreed that the Registrar's Office needs a larger space in which to conduct its business that will accommodate both its election equipment and early voters in addition to addressing shortage of workspace and security concerns is a necessity and finding a long-term solution is a goal.
- Ms. Owens said she would have the directors of General Services and Parks & Rec to meet with Anna to explore possible venues for a new storage area for the machines, satellite early voting location, and a new office space.
- Anna and Rebecca will also work closely on specific needs for a new office and on the budget.