

[Login](#) / [Register](#) / [Reset Password](#) / [Contact Us](#)

[Place an Ad](#) / [Subscribe](#) / [Advertise With Us](#)

InsideNoVA.com

[Woodbridge](#) [Manassas](#) [Dale City](#) [Dumfries](#) [Lake Ridge](#) [Triangle](#) [Occoquan](#) [Manassas Park](#) [Haymarket](#) [Gainesville](#)

[Opinion](#) | [Letters](#) | [Columns](#)

Thursday, October 16, 2008 |

[Washington, DC 79° Feels Like: 79° Overcast](#) [View Warnings/Advisories](#)



News

Stewart: County 'sold a pig in a poke'

Text size: [small](#) | [medium](#) | [large](#)

By [Cheryl Chumley](#)

Published: July 30, 2008

To say Prince William supervisors are dissatisfied with the General Assembly's treatment of transportation would be an understatement.

"It's criminal," said Chairman Corey Stewart, R-at large, at the board's July 22 meeting, in reference first to the General Assembly's passage of a measure that unlawfully gave the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority taxing authority, and then to the members' approval for a transportation impact fee bill that turns out to be less than helpful on the local level.

"They knew or should have known that was unconstitutional," he continued, of the NVTA issue. "Now this too [impact fee measure] turns out to be a colossal flop and I think they knew it too."

The "flop," of which Stewart spoke, was the enabling legislation that gave Prince William authority to create an

impact fee system for transportation uses—the same type of authority "all of us on this board have pushed for" at the state level for years, he said.

"I think we've been sold a pig in the poke again by the General Assembly," he said.

Section 15.2-2317 of state code, according to background documents for the board, gives authority for local governments to assess fees in established Impact Fee Service Areas, "with clearly defined boundaries" that are set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

The problem with adopting an impact fee system now, county executive Craig Gerhart said, is that construction is down but the fees are based on planned construction projects. In effect, then, the legislation works at cross-purposes to current market climates, and to county growth desires.

"We can only base those fees on projects we plan to construct," he said. "If we don't build, we have to give the money away [to VDOT] at the end of 15 years."

So one question is whether impact fees would yield the county greater benefits in terms of transportation than the current proffer system.

According to consultants at the board meeting who were hired to help assess the feasibility of the plan, the impact fee authority is more a tool for growth than a means of raising revenue. As such, staff and consultants suggested supervisors shy away from implementation.

"This is pretty disappointing," Supervisor Mike May, R-Occoquan, said at the meeting. And in a follow-up telephone interview, he added that the "authority is only useful if the county has a robust road building program ... We don't want to be put in the position where we collect fees but can't apply them anywhere" because there's no money for road projects.

At the meeting, supervisors took no formal action on the impact fee issue, but did agree to send a letter to members of the General Assembly expressing dissatisfaction with the plan, and perhaps offering suggestions to strengthen the revenue-raising potential of the fee system.

Staff writer Cheryl Chumley can be reached at 703-670-1907.



Reader Reactions

Posted by (zcxnissan) on August 06, 2008 at 6:09 pm

Sorry dblu, we have those already they are called real estate taxes. Impact fees are what developers pay to develop an area. Proffers are so builders don't destroy an area they build in. It does not even compare to how bad it is in Venezuela, millions of people live on top of each other outside of Caracas. Whenever there are bad rains

hundreds even thousands of people die as their homes are washed down on top of other people. Yet the government does nothing. Poverty and disease are rampant. Yes gas prices are cheaper than the US, but then again what is the point when most people are unemployed and can't afford a car. Not to mention that Jimmy Carter participated and certified a fraudulent and crooked election, of course his choice won. Many others observed the unfairness of this election. LOL Chris Cummings

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (dblu2) on August 06, 2008 at 10:21 am

Impact fees and cash proffers are taxes placed on people who only wish to improve their quality of life. They are punished for wanting a better life. Just like Hugo Chavez punishes those who want more than he's willing to give them.

Here's an idea... try making everyone who uses services pay for services! Taxes paid by every homeowner during the life of the home will pay for all the services needed. These taxes pay for all services needed in 80 percent of America. But these clowns insist on a "pay as you go" formula that increases housing costs and criticizes people for wanting better housing than what they have. It's absolutely idiotic.

Get rid of the impact fees and cash proffers. Stop punishing people for wanting to do better. These taxes make Virginia no better than Venezuela.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (zcxnissan) on August 01, 2008 at 10:50 pm

Connolly is a an illegal apologist and war profiteer through his consultancy with SAIC. Road czar? Have you seen the roads in Fairfax County? LOL Chris Cummings

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (Skeptical) on August 01, 2008 at 11:26 am

Mr. Gray is correct, The BOCS gave some lip service to not raising taxes then sent Marty off with some tepid advice to not raise the taxes at which point Marty not only voted for them but also motioned for or seconded them. Riley, if Corey truly had been opposed to those taxes, it was within his power to kill them. All he had to do as the Chair was take Marty's place at the meeting, an option that was open to him, and vote with Loudoun. That's all it took, but then again that would take some REAL courage, REAL conviction and a set of cohones to do it right in front of Road Czar Connelly.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (John S GRay CPA) on July 31, 2008 at 5:26 pm

To Casanova Frankenstein: Now, there's an intelligent response!

I haven't been hiding so I haven't had to surface. Unlike you, thankfully, I have the maturity to acknowledge who I am, publish my name and take responsibility for my words and actions. You on the other hand, hide behind a false name. That takes real courage. And at least I had the temerity to run for office and try to make a difference, unlike you. By the way, you already criticized me as a perennial candidate on your blog, "Mr. Riley, Not O'Reily".

Regarding your statement I have no comprehension skills, if you knew what YOU were talking about, you'd know the BofCS did in fact vote 7-1 to support the imposition of the taxes authorized by the NVTA legislation. Only John Stirrup had the courage of his convictions and voted "no". Ergo, your beloved Corey did in fact vote to support these tax increases. That was a requirement of the law, that the local BoCS's accept the legislation.

If you want to add to the public debate, someone once said "You are entitled to your own opinion, not your own facts". YOU have YOUR facts wrong. Try to know what you will be writing about next time.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (Casanova Frankenstein) on July 31, 2008 at 3:56 pm

Wow, "John S GRay CPA"—PWC's own perennial candidate surfaces!!!

And if you had any reading comprehension skills, you would have understood that Corey did not "vote" for anything. The BOCS members do NOT have a vote in the General Assembly.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (Godsaveus) on July 31, 2008 at 11:37 am

Yes , it sound like Democrats about the war in Iraq.

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (John S GRay CPA) on July 31, 2008 at 8:28 am

Corey Stewart, a Washington DC lawyer (NOT a Virginia lawyer) had no idea it was unconstitutional when he voted to SUPPORT THE TAX INCREASES AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATION? Oh pu-leeese. It's his typical two sided talk. He voted TO INCREASE TAXES but now that the NVTA is declared unconstitutional, he claims the NVTA was criminal. Oh, I get it. He voted FOR IT it becore he voted AGAINST IT. Sound familiar?

Report Inappropriate Comment

Posted by (AbolishtheNVRTA) on July 30, 2008 at 11:23 pm

A fifth grader could have figured out that the NVRTA scheme was unconstitutional. Strange how few of our elected leaders (of both parties) were able to figure that out prior to the unanimous Virginia Supreme Court Decision. Perhaps all the money got in their eyes.

On the bright side, the NVRTA, which can serve as the poster child for incompetence, will soon be shutting its doors. The only people who were unable to see the NVRTA's repeated failures were the politicians (again, of both parties) trying to run the so called "Authority".

More information on the painful demise of the NVRTA is available here: <http://www.alextimes.com/article.asp?article=10516&paper=1&cat=155>

[Report Inappropriate Comment](#)

Posted by (zcxnissan) on July 30, 2008 at 10:50 pm

Keep the proffer system thats a no brainer. Way to go idiots no transportation agreement. Thanks a lot Timmy Kaine. LOL Chris Cummings

[Report Inappropriate Comment](#)



Post a Comment

(Requires [free registration](#))

- *Please avoid offensive, vulgar, or hateful language.*
- *Respect others.*
- *Use the "Report Inappropriate Comment" link when necessary.*
- *See the [Terms and Conditions](#) for details.*

[Click here to post a comment.](#)

Tags relating to this article:

- *No tags are associated with this article.*

Can't find what you're looking for? Try our quick search:



Advertisement

Media
General

DealTaker.com
Coupons and Deals

KEWLBOX.COM BOXERJAM
Games, Puzzles & Trivia

blockdot
Advergaming and Branded Media

InsideNova.com: [Contact Us](#) | [Email Alerts](#) | [Text Alerts](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Make Us Your Home Page](#) | [Site Search](#)

Partners: [Database Center](#) | [News & Messenger](#)

News Partners: [News & Messenger](#)