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Supervisors appointed to VRE-related boards

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By DAN TELVOCK

Supervisors Gary Skinner and Jerry Logan will serve on various commissions related to Spotsylvania County's membership with Virginia Railway Express effective Feb. 15.

Logan and Skinner both will serve on the Potomac-Rappahannock Transportation Commission, which reviews and votes on VRE's spending plans.

Logan also was appointed to serve on the PRTC Executive Committee.

Skinner also will serve on the VRE Operations Board. He played an instrumental role this summer in getting three more supervisors to support joining the rail service.

The VRE Operations Board advises the PRTC and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission on management, spending and acquiring property. The final decisions lie with the PRTC and NVTC.

Logan said his primary goal will be to represent the county's interest. One chief concern Spotsylvania supervisors have is that as ridership grows past the county's approximately 1,000 users, the subsidy they pay to VRE increases.

When the county joins, it will adopt a 2.1 percent tax on wholesale gasoline purchases. Logan said he will keep a watchful eye on VRE's spending plans.

"The subsidy that the localities have to pay should never exceed the revenue that they are collecting from the gas tax," Logan said. "It really boils down to the commission when it comes budget time to see that it doesn't happen and that will be one of my priorities."

Spotsylvania is anticipating an excess of more than \$2 million annually from the gasoline tax after it pays its share of the VRE subsidy. That money can be used to fund local transportation projects.

Skinner said VRE will be a good service for the county. By serving on the operations board, Skinner said he can help manage it.

"It is going to be our expenses, too," Skinner said. "I will very concerned about where every penny is spent."

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