



Ann MALLEK for White Hall Supervisor

.O. Box 207 Earlysville, VA 22936 434-996-6159

<http://www.annmallekforsupervisor.com/>

For Immediate Release

October 27, 2007

Contact: Jean Wyant

Tel: 434-284-1176

email: jeanb82hd@comcast.net

Mallek Responds to False Wyant Charge on Taxes

Crozet, VA – On Saturday morning, October 27, White Hall residents received a letter – postmarked Harrisonburg – from White Hall incumbent supervisor David Wyant, accusing Ann Mallek of intending to raise taxes by 30% and wanting “County government [to] grow without constraints.”

Below is Ann Mallek’s letter of April 4, 2007 to the Board of Supervisors when the Board was considering the budget. This letter is a matter of public record, and can be found in the minutes of the April Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mallek’s letter specifically states:

- “We deserve careful budgeting where every dollar spent and every staff position is essential and effective. I hope you will delay hiring for new planning positions until you find new sources of revenue and require greater contributions from developers.”
- “Taxpayers can no longer subsidize our rapid growth.”
- “[Y]ou must develop the will to require “pay as you go” development. Developers should pay substantially more for expenses they create. Citizens should not subsidize the costs of rapid development. Last week we learned from our County fiscal analyst that the net loss to the County budget over 20 years for the Biscuit Run project is over \$45 million** when compared to its development by right. Where will that money come from?”
- “I urge you to expand tax assistance for qualifying homeowners. Make more detailed information available to all potentially qualifying residents. Offer assistance with the forms through community organizations and churches. I urge you to adopt a property tax deferral program for a percentage of the tax payment to protect our qualifying senior citizens. This is a policy you CAN change.”

Ann Mallek has consistently pointed out the enormous cost to taxpayers of the Board’s record of voting for massive new developments without requiring developers to pay the public costs they create. She has consistently called for trimming the budget and reversing the costly practice of hiring County employees who spend their time facilitating developers’ needs.

During his 4 years on the Board, the incumbent White Hall supervisor has voted for 27 out of 29 proposed developments.

The incumbent's letter from Harrisonburg refers to "principles of good government". It appears that his first principle of government is misrepresentation of the facts.

** This was the figure being cited at that time. Unrelenting pressure from Ann Mallek, planners, civic leaders, and citizens led to the Biscuit Run developers making higher proffers. It remains to be seen whether the Board of Supervisors will hold them to their agreement.

Full Text of April 4, 2007 Letter from Ann Mallek to the Albemarle Board of Supervisors

Currituck Farm
P. O. Box 207
Earlsville VA 22936
April 4, 2007

Members of the Board of Supervisors
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville VA 22901

Dear Members of the Board,

I am tending a sick calf today and may not be able to speak to you this evening. I know you are up to the challenge ahead of you, balancing the expenditures for programs we need while protecting the investment in home which is the major asset of Albemarle residents.

We know how we arrived at this dilemma. We don't need a magazine rating to put the county in trouble with growth. Every spring the University graduates more than 4000 future residents or retirees. We have thousands of approvals or permits for new homes and businesses. After April 11th, our challenge will be even tougher. We deserve careful budgeting where every dollar spent and every staff position is essential and effective. I hope you will delay hiring for new planning positions until you find new sources of revenue and require greater contributions from developers.

Every person in the room has an issue to support. I hope you will fund the ACE program. I value the program because it removes agricultural land from development pressure and all those expensive consequences growth brings. It protects our scenic values, contributes to the continuation of food production for local consumers, and ALSO results in reduced assessments due to the permanent inability to develop. Hopefully it provides less expensive land for future farmers to purchase and farm. The math in this equation clearly benefits the county. It is far cheaper to purchase easements than to provide needed services forever to people who would live on the land. We have the added benefit of protecting our watershed and our environment at the same time.

Taxpayers can no longer subsidize our rapid growth. Many long time residents, retired neighbors of mine, are at their limit. The perfect storm of fixed income, increasing costs of everything they need, and the increases in tax payments of all types will drive some people away. We will lose the blend of residents we value. I will lose people who have been part of my life since childhood.

I urge you to expand tax assistance for qualifying homeowners. Make more detailed information available to all potentially qualifying residents. Offer assistance with the forms through community organizations and churches. I urge you to adopt a property tax deferral program for a percentage of the tax payment to protect our qualifying senior citizens. This is a policy you CAN change.

To prevent the loss of our county's character, you must develop the will to require "pay as you go" development. Developers should pay substantially more for expenses they create. Citizens should not subsidize the costs of rapid development. Last week we learned from our County fiscal analyst that the net loss to the County budget over 20 years for the Biscuit Run project is over \$45 million when compared to its development by right. Where will that money come from?

We will be watching as you deliberate on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Ann Mallek