

VIRGINIA:

At a recessed meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in Conference Room #2 of the former Northampton Middle School, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia, on the 20th day of April, 2011, at 8:00 a.m.

Present:

Willie C. Randall, Chairman	H. Spencer Murray
Oliver H. Bennett	Laurence J. Trala

Absent:

Samuel J. Long, Jr., Vice Chairman	Richard Tankard
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1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.
2. Conduct joint meeting with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority, with five members present, was not able to call itself to order until 8:12 a.m. when the sixth member arrived.

The County Administrator indicated that the purpose of the meeting was an open discussion on the responsibilities of the PSA. She noted that several months ago, there was a motion at a PSA meeting to move forward with certain projects and investigate funding opportunities. That motion failed and a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors was then requested to solicit further guidance and input.

Mr. Granville F. Hogg, Jr., PSA Member, said that he was interested in hearing a vote of confidence from the County; i.e., is the Board ready to underwrite PSA obligations and/or impose mandatory tie-in requirements?

Mr. Henry J. Heneghan, Jr., PSA Member, indicated that the Cheriton Town Council has

considered this issue and has voted to consider mandatory hook-ups if the monthly fee could be reduced to \$35. He questioned what other conditions that the Board may be looking for, noting that the PSA was what he called an “implementing body”.

Mr. Artie Miles, PSA Member, said that the Town of Exmore is ready and willing to participate in the project, but wanted assurance from the Board that it would be willing to provide the moral obligation for any funding applications initiated by the PSA.

Mr. Sessoms arrived at this time.

Serving as Executive Director of the PSA, Ms. Nunez called that meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations for a temporary chairman to conduct the meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Heneghan, seconded by Mr. Sessoms, that Mr. Miles serve as temporary chairman for this meeting. There being no further nominations, the floor was closed.

Mr. Miles was elected Chairman.

Mr. Holland stated that he agreed with Mr. Miles’ comments.

Mr. Sessoms said that there are needs for proper sewage disposal in Northampton County, of vital importance due to the sole source aquifer.

Chairman Randall asked the County Administrator to read from the enabling ordinance as follows:

5. The purposes for which the Authority are being created are to study, implement and operate a septage treatment and disposal system, a sewer system, a water system, a stormwater control system, or any combination of such systems; and to transfer and operate existing systems; study and construct and operate expansions of existing systems; and study and construct new systems. The Authority is further authorized to exercise those powers set forth in the Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act which pertain to water and waste systems.

New Paragraphs 7 and 8 are to be added to the Articles of Incorporation for the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority as follows:

7. It is hereby determined that the initial focus of the Authority shall be:

- a. *Sewer expansion for Exmore and sewer service for Nassawadox, including Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, and the surrounding areas of Northampton County.*
- b. *Sewer expansion for Cape Charles and sewer service for Cheriton and the surrounding areas of Northampton County.*
- c. *Conveyance of the existing Exmore, Cape Charles and Bayview sewer and water systems to the Authority.*

8. *The study and construction of future system expansions or new systems shall be compatible with the Comprehensive Plans of the participating localities.*

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Mr. Murray indicated that he was supportive of the PSA, seeing this body as “taking the politics out of the equation”, and trusted that the Authority would provide true and impartial comprehensive studies of the infrastructure needs of the County. He said that there was nothing wrong with asking the Board’s guidance but the authority for the PSA already exists. Mr. Murray commented that we want to avoid “leapfrogging”; i.e., building too much infrastructure at one time. He also noted that the Board needs to have the “pure political guts” to follow-through with any required ordinances, etc., and that the PSA should have the collective vision and wisdom for the whole County.

Mr. Trala echoed Mr. Murray’s comments.

Mr. Bennett said that he would support the PSA as long as the citizenry are not over-obligated and that the monthly costs would be affordable to the “everyday” citizen.

To summarize, Ms. Nunez indicated that the PSA would like the Board to vote on:

- (1) what is the threshold level for monthly service costs?
- (2) is the Board agreeable to being a financial partner with the PSA on funding applications?
- (3) would the Board consider a mandatory connection ordinance?

Mr. Heneghan said he would also like the Board to consider continuing its support of the

County Administrator serving as Executive Director of the PSA and using her time and County facilities to allow the PSA to remain in operation (an in-kind contribution).

Mr. Hogg said that we need to start looking at the towns to provide temporary funding assistance. He also questioned whether the proposed routes were where the Board wanted development to go.

Mr. Sessoms stated that because of the demographics of the County, we have to look at diverse systems. Mr. Bennett agreed, noting that the PSA should consider areas of need and not just potential areas for development. Mr. Miles also agreed, stating that both Nodes are focused on current need, not future development possibilities.

Mr. Heneghan reminded the Board that there are three current vacancies on the PSA board, resulting from the resignations of Mr. Meyers, Mr. Walker and Mr. Gowen. He stated that it would be helpful if the applicants that were selected had backgrounds in the fields of real estate, business and legal.

Mr. Hogg questioned whether there would be any opportunity for pump-and-haul operations as are currently permitted in Accomack County. Mr. Sessoms replied that pump-and-haul operation is permitted currently by the Health Department on a temporary basis, but is not a permanent solution.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Long and Mr. Tankard and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

_____CHAIRMAN

_____ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR