

VIRGINIA:

A special-called meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Northampton, Virginia, held in conference room #2 of the former Northampton County Middle School, 7247 Young Street, Machipongo, Virginia, on the 18th day of August, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

Present:

Willie C. Randall, Chairman

Samuel J. Long, Jr., Vice Chairman

H. Spencer Murray

Oliver H. Bennett

Laurence J. Trala

Absent:

Richard Tankard

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman who announced that the purpose of the meeting was *Reconsideration of past action, and possible new action, relating to Zoning Text Amendment 2011-09: The Northampton County Planning Commission intends to amend the Northampton County Code, Chapter 154 Zoning Code, §154.003 DEFINITIONS to include new definitions pertaining to wind energy facilities; to add a new section to be known as §154.114 STANDARDS FOR WIND TURBINES, LARGE AND UTILITY-SCALE; and to amend Appendix A – Use Regulations, by deleting in Category 4, Community Service Uses, Item 35 Wind Farm and by adding in Category 3, Commercial Uses, and Category 4, Community Service Uses, to allow by major special use permit Large and Utility-Scale Wind Turbines in the A/RB Agriculture/Rural Business and EI Existing Industrial Zoning Districts.*

2. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the Board rescind action taken on August 9, 2011 with regard to Zoning Text Amendment 2011-09. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Tankard and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Bruce D. Jones, Jr., County Attorney, indicated that he had not realized that the

special use permit procedure for wind test/research facility was included in ZTA 2011-09. He asked the Board where it wants to go with this matter. He said that it was his impression that the Board does want to allow wind facilities by special use permit in the agricultural and/or existing industrial districts. The Board concurred. Mr. Jones further questioned whether the Board wanted to have conditions or performance standards for such wind facilities seeing as how it rejected the Planning Commission's eleven-page performance standards draft. He reminded the Board that it can set conditions with the approval of a special use permit.

The Board members responded that they did wish to consider performance standards for wind facilities but of such nature as to not be onerous to an applicant. Chairman Randall offered for the Board's review a revised copy of the Planning Commission's recommendation on ZTA 2011-09 which had been modified with comments from Ms. Sally McNeilan of Fugro Atlantic.

With the Board's concurrence, Ms. McNeilan explained her proposed changes and the Board indicated its agreement or disagreement with same. The County Administrator indicated that the Director of Planning, the County Attorney, and she would draft a revised document based on comments heard today and after analyzing same, would be able to determine if the proposed changes were substantial enough to require another public hearing. The County Attorney affirmed that if a new public hearing is warranted, it would only be before the Board of Supervisors and not the Planning Commission. The Board reiterated the urgency of the matter and was hopeful that the Board could act on this matter at its regular September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At the suggestion of Mr. Murray, the Board agreed to place on Monday's work session agenda a proposed action to direct the Director of Planning, the Zoning Administrator, and the County Administrator, to make a list of items in the current zoning ordinance that they feel the

Board should consider for change. It was Mr. Murray's objective to start trimming the zoning ordinance to reduce staff's work load as well as make things easier and less onerous for the citizens.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR