

**MINUTES OF THE
EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA
PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY**

A meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the County Administration Building, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia.

Members present:

Bob Panek, Chairman
J. T. Holland, Vice Chairman
Taylor Dukes
Carl Harris
Greg Hardesty

Member absent:

Nassawadox Representative (still to be named)
Garrett Dunham
John Reiter
Sean Ingram

Others present:

Janice K. Williams, County Administrator's Office
Granville F. Hogg, Jr.
Dorrie Southern
William Prosis
David Boyd
Phil Richardson
Irene Morris
Michael Steelman
Mrs. Mary Scott
Robert Meyers

Call to Order & Establishment of Quorum:

Chairman Panek called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Harris, that the agenda be approved. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Ingram, Mr. Dunham and Mr. Reiter and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

Statements from the Public:

Mr. David Boyd distributed the following written comments:

Comments to the PSA, 12/17/2013, by David Boyd

- 1) Is the \$70,000 in funding now being proposed in addition to the earlier funding of \$90,000 the BOS spent earlier out of taxpayers money, without their being made aware of it (apparently even the BOS chairman wasn't aware of it)?*
- 2) Is there a plan to recoup this \$70,000 and the earlier \$90,000 from the proposed commercial customers and re-pay it to the County taxpayers?*
- 3) Does this project include engineering for the alternate route to the Bayview treatment facility? If not, why not? That's a much shorter run to an underutilized facility – should be much cheaper.*
- 4) Why is this engineering plan not designed to include the Town of Cheriton? Any central sewer design in this vicinity needs to include Cheriton. Studies of fecal pollution in Kings Creek indicated the majority of that pollution was coming from Cheriton.*
- 5) The survey for the interest in this project is inherently flawed. It assumed anyone who didn't say no was interested in hooking up, thus skewing the results to show more were interested than is the likely case. It would have been just as valid, perhaps more so, to assume those that didn't say they were interested would NOT be potential customers. The survey and analysis was conducted with inherently biased assumptions, and is therefore not a valid estimate of interest, as presented.*
- 6) Has the total cost of this project been calculated, so we know what the potential indebtedness to the county residents will be?*
- 7) If it is assumed the commercial customers will eventually pay for it, has a valid study of the number of customers, versus the total cost of the project been made, to determine if this project is within the realm of reason for those customers to pay that cost?*
- 8) Remember the County population is shrinking and had done so consistently for 80 years. If, in 50 years we have ½ the current number of residents, the cost per resident will be twice what it would be with current population numbers. Furthermore, virtually every project such as a regional central sewer system has built in assumptions of substantial population growth. That would mean in 50 years there would be perhaps twice the population to pay the costs, so the cost per person would be ¼ the number based on current population numbers. Therefore, if you compare per capita cost estimates for an area with a shrinking population like Northampton*

County, to the estimates normally used for this type of project, we may be paying 4 times as much per person before all is said and done.

Ultimately, Northampton County residents are liable for whatever project costs the PSA is unable to fulfill. Given the way real estate and other taxes have increased so dramatically in the past 10 years, I don't think we can afford another project to saddle the residents with far more debt than the average sewer project customer.

It is also VERY important to keep in mind, central sewers are generally needed to offset increasing sewage load based on constantly growing population – that line of thinking does not apply to Northampton County.

It appears that when roughly 150 people turned out at the Cheriton PSA public comment session, and another 100 or so turned out to tell the BOS what they thought and well over 90% of them were opposed to this project, that it made little difference to you what their opinions were.

Since then, a general election ousted the Chairman of the BOS, in favor of someone inclined to think more reasonably on issues like this. I believe the election results were largely because of this sewer project.

What is it going to take to convince you the residents of Northampton County are VERY much opposed to this sewer pipe?

Sincerely,

David Boyd

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Mr. Robert Meyers questioned why the PSA had not addressed its highest priority: sewer service for Nassawadox and Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. He said that “messaging around” with sewage in Cheriton is ridiculous when three organizations (Heritage Hall, Community Services Board, Dialysis Center) in Nassawadox, which serve the entire county, are not being looked after. He urged the PSA to “get on the stick” relative to this urgent matter.

Vice Chairman Holland responded that the PSA has tried numerous times to meet with Riverside, who operates the wastewater system now serving those three properties, but without success.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Dukes, that the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2013, be approved. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Ingram, Mr. Dunham and Mr. Reiter and voted “yes.” The motion was unanimously passed.

Review of Financial Statements:

The Chairman distributed an Income Statement through December 11, 2013 which showed the FY 2014 budgeted amount, the one expenditure to date (Hurt & Proffitt Invoice #1) as well as a notation about the pending H&P Invoice #2 currently being processed.

Report of Chairman:

Mr. Panek reminded the PSA members that their Conflict of Interest forms were due to the County Administrator's Office by January 15, 2014.

Report of Vice Chairman:

Mr. Holland had no report.

Report of Hospital Committee:

There was no report.

Report of Northern Node Committee:

There was no report.

Report of Southern Node Committee:

The Chairman distributed a draft recommendations memorandum as prepared by the Executive Director, which he had revised this date. Following discussion by the members, motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Dukes, that the revised recommendations memorandum be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors as presented. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Dunham, Mr. Ingram and Mr. Reiter and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed. (*This document is on file in the office of the County Administrator.*)

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Report of Economic Development Committee

There was no report.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Harris, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exceptions of Mr. Dunham, Mr. Reiter and Mr. Ingram and voted "yes." The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the County Administrator's Office, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia.