February 10, 2011

At the reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Thursday, the 10th day of February, 2011; at 7:00 p.m., there were present:

    Howard M. Campbell
    Robert M. Jones
    Charles W. McKay
    Howard F. Simpson
    Jim R. Wilck
    Mattie P. Wiley

Absent: William G. Fore, Jr., Don C. Gantt, Jr

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Fred Pribble, Draper Aden Associates; Jeff Kapinos, Draper Aden Associates; Mike Larson, Draper Aden Associates; Carlos Norris, Crowder Construction; Linnell Stanhope, Crowder Construction; John McIntyre, Crowder Construction; Murray Taylor, Crowder Construction; and Chris Robards, Crowder Construction.

Vice-Chairman Simpson called the reconvened meeting to order. Supervisor McKay offered the invocation.

Vice-Chairman Simpson welcomed representatives from Nottoway County, the Town of Crewe, the Town of Burkeville, and the Town of Farmville. He then announced Chairman Fore was unable to attend due to a death in the family but provided a statement; Mr. Wade Bartlett, County Administrator, read the statement, which stated the presentation is the first in a series of meetings and is an informational briefing, and the public will have opportunities later to ask questions.

In Re: Presentation by Crowder Construction Company and Draper Aden Associates

Mr. Fred Pribble, Draper Aden Associates, presented information on the Sandy River Reservoir and provided a brief history of the project. Mr. Pribble discussed the droughts in 2002 and 2008, and presented a chart showing projected average daily demands, stating the demand increase is based on data from the Water Supply Plan and the 2000 and 2010 Census data showing Prince Edward County’s population is increasing. He further discussed the impact of the population expansion and projected
average daily demands and discussed other potential water demands that could occur but were not factored into the projections. Mr. Pribble reviewed the various options evaluated: (1) raw water to the town, (2) emergency water to the town, and (3) a County facility located at the reservoir. He explained the County chose to move forward with researching the third option that Prince Edward County proceed with a PPEA proposal, that the Board of Supervisors advertised for competing proposals and eventually approved an Interim Agreement with Crowder Construction Company.

Mr. Murray Taylor, Crowder Construction, reviewed the scope of the project; Mr. Chris Robards, Crowder Construction, provided information regarding the raw water intake structure, pumps, the control building infrastructure, the distribution system and potential service areas. Mr. Robards then presented information regarding cost reductions, the treatment study conducted in November [2010], and the opportunities for the local workforce, subcontractors, material suppliers and equipment rentals. He then stated the initial cost estimate for the project in 2008 was $33.7 million; due to the studies and competitive pricing, the projected cost is now $24.879 million with indirect costs estimated to be $841,900. Mr. Robards stated suppliers and subcontractors are willing to hold their cost submittals until May 1, 2011, thus Crowder Construction can only hold their price until May 1, 2011. Mr. Robards gave an estimated timeline for the remainder of the project and stated meetings will be held with the Board of Supervisors, potential partners and funding agencies; workshops will be held to determine the final scope.

Mr. Carlos Norris, Senior Vice-President of Crowder Construction, stated the timing is in the County’s favor due to the state of the economy and the low interest rates; he added this project is an investment that will provide a reliable water supply solution and will prepare the County for the next drought.

Supervisor Wilck expressed his concern regarding the number of pilot studies that must be done prior to receiving approval from the Department of Health. He said VDH has stated they are going to require additional pilot studies. Mr. Pribble stated the PER has been resubmitted and plans to schedule a meeting with VDH within two weeks and will discuss the issue. The Pilot Study conducted in the fall provided data for two of the three concerns expressed by VDH, namely the impact of cold water on treatment and to capture the fall turnover. Mr. Pribble stated the reason VDH wants another pilot study in the summer is to determine if algae would cause any treatment issues. Draper Aden’s position is two-fold:
First, if no algae bloom occurs this summer, would you have to wait another year to conduct another study. Also, there are many different types of algae and each can present different treatment challenges. Even if an algae bloom occurs this summer, there is no guarantee that a different type of algae could pose a problem in the future. Second, VDH requires new treatment plants to have provisions to deal with algae issues regardless of what any one-time study shows. Thus, it is Draper Aden’s position that any additional studies only increases the County’s costs and delays the project to determine a solution to a possible problem addressed in the water treatment design.

Supervisor Wilck then questioned the reports and documents not completed but submitted for payment; Mr. Pribble said all information has been submitted to the County Administrator, the financial documents have not been completed as the Board will meet with funding agencies and potential partners over the next few weeks. Supervisor Wilck implied he would like to release the engineering documents that have been paid for and ask for bids to see if the County could get a lower bid. Mr. Robards stated the designs are only 30% complete and are not at the stage to send out for competitive bids but because of the work Crowder Construction and Draper Aden have done and their intimate knowledge of the project, they are confident in their ability to submit a bid. Normally before a locality advertises for bids on such a project, the locality develops 100% design documents and receives VDH approval of those designs before bidding the project. To reach such a level of design would take a significant amount of time. Mr. Norris stated the County has every right to seek other bids.

Supervisor Gantt entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Norris said Crowder Construction will fulfill the contract; the County will be in possession of all documents.

Supervisor Wilck questioned the two PERs not being complete; Mr. Pribble said the second PER is not part of the Interim Agreement, but is a design document. He said the PER for the water distribution and the PER for the treatment plant were combined into one report and submitted to the Department of Health in August [2010]. Further discussion followed. Mr. Norris stated they are willing to review all
payment requests with the County and if there was an overbilling, the County would be credited and a refund provided if necessary.

Supervisor Campbell asked for clarification of the financial analysis for which the County was billed. Mr. Pribble said the model is complete but has not yet been run with the numbers from tonight’s meeting. A meeting will be held with Davenport to provide them the information, who will then review the financial analysis and report to the Board.

Supervisor Wilck asked if the final price includes the $2 million for the Interim Agreement, the $2.5 million to the Town of Farmville, and the $400,000 for the start-up of the [Virginia’s Heartland Water & Sewer] Authority; Mr. Robards said he is not privy to that information.

Mr. Bartlett said a schedule for work sessions will be set up to include potential partners and funding agencies.

On motion of Supervisor Campbell and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:  Howard M. Campbell
       Don C. Gantt
       Robert M. Jones
       Charles W. McKay
       Howard F. Simpson
       Jim R. Wilck
       Mattie P. Wiley

Nay: None

Absent: William G. Fore, Jr.

the meeting was recessed at 8:18 p.m. until Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.