September 9, 2014

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 9th day of September, 2014; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones
Calvin L. Gray
Robert M. Jones
Charles W. McKay
Howard F. Simpson
C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
Jerry R. Townsend
Jim R. Wilck

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Sharon Lee Carney, Economic Development Director; and Jim Ennis, County Attorney; representatives from Dominion Power and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Emmett Toms, Manager, State & Local Affairs; Chet Wade, VP Corporate Communications; Jen Kostyniuk, State & Local Affairs; Bill Scarpinato, Environmental; Greg Park, Routing & Surveying; Brittany Moody, Routing & Surveying; Ramona Kanouff, Land; Dave Mordan, Engineering & Construction; Jonell Carver, Engineering & Construction; James Barvinchak, Engineering & Construction; Jay Riley, Engineering & Construction; Wayne Burkhammer, Operations; and Frank Mack, Media Relations.

Chairman Simpson called the September meeting to order as a special meeting for the citizens of Prince Edward County to receive information regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He stated questions will be accepted from Prince Edward County landowners only.

In Re: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Presentation

Emmett Toms, Dominion Power, presented an overview of the pipeline project, the benefits to the region, and the process for determining the best location, and installation once the route is determined. He stated the process is highly regulated and takes at least two years. He stated this is a joint venture with Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources. Other highlights included technical details regarding pipe size and type, and redundant safety systems. A timeline for the project included the survey work (May through December, 2014), the application process (2015 through 2016), and construction (2017 through 2018). The pipeline could be in
service in 2018. An “Open House” is scheduled to take place on September 18, at the Ag Center in Buckingham County.

Following the presentation, Supervisor Townsend questioned the number of jobs this will provide to the county and at what salary. The highly-skilled positions would be union contractors traveling with Dominion as well as local union workers; other employees, such as landscapers and fencing contractors, would be necessary. Various inspectors would be necessary for the welding, coating and environmental issues.

Supervisor Jones asked if the pipes would go under the Appomattox River. Mr. Toms said that water crossings are the most regulated construction process and they work closely with the Corps of Engineers and DEQ; the pipes could be “open trench” or under the river based of the findings from the field study.

Supervisor Gray questioned the longevity of the pipes. The pipes would remain and would be maintained as long as needed; some have been installed for 80 years. The pipes are steel and are coated inside and outside and have a cathotic protection system, and are hyperstatically tested. The welds are designed to be stronger than the pipes. They explained some of the ways the pipes are checked for wall-loss. Some pipes were installed in the late 1970s and look like new; some were installed in the WWII era and are still in service. There is 24/7 monitoring of the pipeline.

Supervisor Wilck asked about the 400’ right of way and the proximity to a residence. The representative stated the 400’ is the survey area, to study for the best location. The company would use 125’ for the construction, and when complete, the easement of 75’ would be maintained. All land can be used for farming, grazing and other uses.

Andy Ellington, Rice, questioned the effect on property values once the pipeline is installed and how it would affect the use of the property. The representative said there is no devaluation due to the pipeline; the landowner can build right to the edge of the right of way (easement) and if the land is used for farming or grazing, or if heavy equipment must be taken across the pipeline, construction can be designed to accommodate for such land uses.

Eva Philbeck, Rice, asked if crops could be raised on the easement, who actually owns the land, and raised concerns regarding old trees on the property. The representatives assured her that agricultural ground may still be farmed; the pipeline has a 4’ cover and the easement would just be the surface and could be farmed, but a house or barn could not be built on that 75’ easement. They also assured her that provisions are made to not disturb old trees.
Lisa Meadows requested a contact name and information and if there would be jobs locally once completed. Representatives stated information could be obtained from www.dom.com; there would be minimal jobs once construction is completed but there would be staffing of about 50-60 along the system.

Ronnie Reames questioned compensation for the easement; Ramona Kanouff stated it is a one-time payment for the easement, and every property is evaluated and special provisions are made to accommodate livestock or other uses.

Discussion continued.

On motion of Supervisor McKay, seconded by Supervisor Gray, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
     Calvin L. Gray
     Robert M. Jones
     Charles W. McKay
     Howard F. Simpson
     C. Robert Timmons, Jr.
     Jerry R. Townsend
     Jim R. Wilck

Nay: None

the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.