

May 12, 2011

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 12th day of May, 2011; at 7:00 p.m., there were present:

Howard M. Campbell

William G. Fore, Jr.

Don C. Gantt, Jr.

Robert M. Jones

Charles W. McKay

Howard F. Simpson

Jim R. Wilck

Mattie P. Wiley

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator; Sarah Elam Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Sharon Lee Carney, Director of Economic Development; Jim Ennis, County Attorney; and Alecia Daves-Johnson, Planner.

Chairman Fore called the special meeting to order, stating it is a reconvened meeting from May 10, 2011 for the purpose of continuing business regarding input on the PPEA Contract.

In Re: Public Hearing - Sandy River Reservoir Comprehensive Agreement

Chairman Fore said, "This is the date and time scheduled for a public hearing on the Comprehensive Agreement between the County of Prince Edward, Virginia and Crowder Construction Company for the development of a water treatment facility and water distribution system that would utilize the Sandy River Reservoir as the water supply. Notice of this hearing was advertised according to law in the April 29, 2011 and May 6, 2011 editions of THE FARMVILLE HERALD, a newspaper published in the County of Prince Edward.

Per the County's Guidelines and Procedures concerning the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, the Board of Supervisors entered into an Interim Agreement with Crowder Construction Company for said project on January 19, 2010. Crowder Construction Company provided the

County a Final Conceptual Estimate on February 10, 2011. This estimate described the project scope and provided the final estimate of costs based on that scope. These costs included direct costs (\$24,879,000), indirect costs (\$841,900) and annual operational and maintenance costs (\$554,000). This document was posted on the County's website for public review.

On April 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., the Board of Supervisors initiated a public comment period which commenced on April 27, 2011 and expires on May 31, 2011. The Board of Supervisors authorized the advertisement of a public hearing on the topic at 3:00 p.m. on April 26, 2011. The notice was so posted and the public hearing advertised as noted earlier.”

Chairman Fore opened the public hearing.

Kenneth Jackson, Lockett District, thanked the Board for its thorough endeavor on this project. He stated he has never seen an issue divide people as it has, and that this project is for the future of the County, and for the children or grandchildren of the citizens of the County. Mr. Jackson said the Board of Supervisors, whether in the Town or the County, the first priority is for the good of the county. A town is only minimally self-sufficient. Only a city is totally separate, independent and operated. Mr. Jackson said the water and infrastructure are necessary for the county.

Patrick Murphy, Prospect District, spoke in opposition of the proposed project but said he is in favor of keeping the water in Prince Edward County due to the fact that is the reason the reservoir was created. He said the debt load needs to be controlled and the County needs to take strong financial grounds for the betterment of the county. He then suggested the Board consider “Option A” as presented by Draper Aden, to move the water to the pump in Town. He said the future betterment of the County will be done through education and training. He also charged the Board to find out how the constituents feel regarding the project and to vote accordingly.

Cornell Walker, Prospect District, spoke in opposition of the project and stated that 50% of the County would not benefit from the project. He stated this would put a burden on the taxpayers and questioned the County only receiving one unsolicited bid. He said Prince Edward County needs a different way to prosper.

Henry Shelton, Prospect District, spoke in opposition of the project stating the information is incomplete and efforts have been made to conceal costs. He stated the census showed an increase of 18% but not all are “real estate taxpayers.”

Sam Campbell, Buffalo District, stated the Board holding a public hearing is absurd due to the Comprehensive Agreement being incomplete and containing false information. Mr. Campbell stated that there is a petition of over 600 names from the Buffalo District against the project. He questioned the qualifications of Draper Aden, and recommended waiting 20 years on this project.

Wendy Oliver, Hampton District, spoke in opposition to the project and stated she cannot afford increased taxes. She questioned the bid process used by the Board, and requested the issue be put to the voters.

Supervisor Gantt left the meeting at this time.

Virginia Price, Lockett District, spoke in favor of the project, and said people must think about the future, and that there is not enough water to support the growth that is anticipated over the years to come. Wells can be dug, but when the water table has dropped, there will be no water. Ms. Price said she appreciates the efforts the Board is making and commended them for trying.

Bemeche Hicks, Lockett District, spoke in favor of the project, stating that his grandfather sold land in 1968 for the project when it began. He said the intent was to build a water supply and recreation area for the future. Mr. Hicks stated the proposed water plant could create jobs and the county needs the infrastructure in place in the County to bring industry and career-type jobs. He said the County needs to plan for the future and asked the Board to progress with the project.

Richard Altice, Hampden District, spoke in opposition of the project, stating it is a bad time to take a large loan. He stated the Board needs to be concerned with the citizens’ best interest and the taxpayers would have the responsibility with no benefit.

Jack Houghton, Farmville District, reviewed a brief history of the project and stated he is opposed to the project. He questioned the lack of partners for the water project and suggested the Board of Supervisors initiate negotiations with the Town of Farmville.

William Kreye, Prospect District, spoke in opposition of the project, stating the Heartland Industrial Park has the necessary water and sewer for economic development. He suggested that if the Board does move forward with the project, it may be best to finance the project now when the interest rates are low. Mr. Kreye then spoke about other water plant projects in various areas, and stated that he is concerned that the price is too high and that the PPEA has failed the County. He stated that he felt it is not in the best interest of the County in the hope of attracting industry, that there is adequate space at the Industrial Park, and concluded that it would be better to invest in the schools or wait until there is a true need in Prince Edward County.

Supervisor Gantt returned to the meeting at this time.

Brian Lokker, Lockett District, stated that as an engineer for a state agency, he feels the price is too high. He also raised concerns regarding the plans being 30-50% complete or less, the contract containing change orders, and asked why the rush on the project. He recommended bidding the project for a better price.

Chairman Fore stated the Board will not take action for 30 days.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Chairman Fore closed the public hearing.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Gantt made a motion that the Board convene in Closed Session for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition of real property in conjunction with a proposal to house a regional governmental office, pursuant to the exemptions provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the *Code of Virginia*. The motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay: None
	William G. Fore, Jr.	
	Don C. Gantt	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Charles W. McKay	
	Howard F. Simpson	
	Jim R. Wilck	
	Mattie P. Wiley	

The Board returned to regular session by motion of Supervisor Gantt and adopted as follows:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck Mattie P. Wiley	Nay: None
------	---	-----------

On motion of Supervisor Jones and carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck Mattie P. Wiley	Nay: None
------	---	-----------

the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

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

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell William G. Fore, Jr. Don C. Gantt Robert M. Jones Charles W. McKay Howard F. Simpson Jim R. Wilck Mattie P. Wiley	Nay: None
------	---	-----------

the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.