

September 14, 2010

At a special called meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday the 14th day of September, 2010; at 3:00 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 Puckett, Assistant County Administrator; Jim Ennis, County Attorney; Fred Pribble, Draper Aden; Jeff Capano, Draper Aden; Mike Larson, Draper Aden; and John McIntyre, Crowder Construction.

Chairman Fore called the special meeting to order.

In Re: Water Project Update

Chairman Fore said the County is at the point from the engineer's perspective that the County needs to decide the options on the route or routes for the water pipeline. He said at the end of this meeting, the Board may wish to look at two or three options.

Mr. Fred Pribble, Draper Aden, introduced Jeff Capano, Draper Aden; Mike Larson, Draper Aden; and John McIntyre, Crowder Construction.

Mr. Pribble said we are comfortable with most of the issues of the lines to be installed from the water plant west to Route 15. He said the Board needs to consider the options of the water lines to be installed going east to Burkeville and Crewe; the line could follow the power line, the High Bridge Trail, Route 460, or a combination of all three. He then discussed each option in detail.

Mr. Pribble said installing the water lines at the edge of Route 460 would be the most expensive because the rights of way and easements would have to be obtained from both VDOT and the residents. He added tree buffers along the property lines may have to be removed, and there may also be environmental issues because of the need to cross creeks and wetlands. He then said the second option would be to follow the High Bridge Trail; if the water lines are installed along the High Bridge Trail, Norfolk Southern wishes to partner with DCR to get the Trail all the way to Burkeville. The railroad doesn't have a problem placing the pipelines into this right of way but they do have an issue with placing the Trail in their right of way because Norfolk Southern may wish to use the area for storage, which could be an issue. This option could provide service to Rice and along Route 460, and also the proposed DCR campground area. He said a Memo of Understanding with DCR is being worked on; Mr. Bartlett said DCR wishes to have water service to the Trail.

Mr. Pribble said the third option would be to install the lines along the Virginia Power easement; he said adding a line along Route 605 to get service closer to Route 460 in the Rice area would add a cost of approximately \$700,000 to that option. He said the power line option would provide the shortest distance, but would not bring a lot of service to Route 460 and would offer fewer options for future connections. Easements and access to maintain those lines would be an issue, and environmental impacts would also be a concern. Option Four would be to combine the options along the Virginia Power easement and the High Bridge Trail; there would be fewer easements necessary, installation would be quick and would be easy to maintain but there is not immediate service to Route 460 areas.

Chairman Fore asked about a short line for emergency use to the Town of Farmville. Mr. Bartlett said the Town has a line that ends in the vicinity of the interchange of Third Street and Route 460 which is very close to the proposed route. Mr. Pribble stated he thought the Town's line was an 8-inch line. Mr. Pribble said the western water line would run along Route 460 to State Route 630, then to Route 628, then follow Route 628 to the vicinity of the re-routed Route 628, then join the line that will serve Granite Falls. Draper Aden will investigate if cost savings could occur if the line went cross-country from Route 630 to Route 628.

Mr. Pribble then reviewed a summary of costs; he said there is about a million dollars difference between the options. The more that is known and evaluated, the less risk and the costs are lower. The more

we can concentrate on one option, the more risk we can eliminate and the better the price. Supervisor Wilck asked if all these costs are Prince Edward County's that Crewe and Burkeville would not pay for the pipeline. Mr. Bartlett stated the portion of the line crossing over the Nottoway line would be totally a cost to Crewe and Burkeville. Mr. Pribble said costs will be distributed proportionally by capacity and usage; they will be paying for the capital cost out of their actual usage fees, which will include the capital costs and operation and maintenance costs.

Supervisor Gantt stated if the water line was extended to the fire house at Rice, it would solve a lot of problems. There would be benefits to the fire departments and homeowners insurance would be less costly to citizens if water was available. Supervisor Wilck asked if Mr. Pribble had stated earlier if the cost to Rice would cost about \$600,000. Mr. Pribble stated that it would cost a little less than \$700,000 to get it from the power line to Rice. Supervisor Wilck asked if the line would be on both sides of the road in Rice; Mr. Pribble said no, only one side.

Supervisor Wilck asked what are the prospects for customers, and which option offers the best opportunity for customers. Mr. Pribble said Option Four, the combination of the Virginia Power easement and along High Bridge Trail, would provide for the least cost and the most potential customers, including the proposed campground, the town of Rice and along the proposed Enterprise Zone. Supervisor Wilck stated these are just potential customers. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Wilck asked before we run the line in Rice would somebody go and knock on doors to see how many people are interested before we spend the money. Mr. Bartlett said there is a form, offered by DHCD used to gather such information, and we will gather the information regarding interest throughout the area, not just Rice; once the lines are installed, there are DHCD grants for those citizens that are below the poverty level, which can help extend the lines through various CDBG programs. Supervisor Wilck said he wants to make sure there are enough interested citizens to make it feasible.

Mr. Pribble said December is the key date for getting the final cost estimate to the County. He said there will be meetings with Crewe, Burkeville, and Hampden Sydney College, to enable the engineers to finalize the financial analysis to present to the Board next month. He said there will be meetings with DCR, VDOT and VDH. Once all these meetings have been held we will be ready to finalize the financial

analysis; the goal is to complete that in the next month. He said Mr. McIntyre will contact local contractors to see how they will be able to assist Crowder Construction.

Supervisor Wilck then asked about the cost of a raw water line to Farmville. Mr. Bartlett said it would range between \$14 million to \$20 million. Discussion followed on the financial differences between building a new water plant and distribution system versus building an intake, running a raw water line to the Town's current plant and the County buying water from the Town to re-sell. He said the contract with the Town allows for only 250,000 gallons. Supervisor Wilck said that could be changed; Mr. Bartlett said the Town's lines would need to be resized and a bigger water tank would need to be constructed. Supervisor Wilck asked wouldn't that be a lot cheaper than building a new plant. Mr. Bartlett said you would have to compare the cost; if you run a \$14 million raw water line and then have to re-size the Town's lines and build a new tank it would be very expensive. Supervisor Wilck said he would like it looked at to compare the cost. Mr. Pribble stated the numbers are pretty close between those two options. Further discussion followed.

Supervisor Gantt asked if any entity could come in and take the water from the County. Mr. Pribble said there is nothing to stop the Board of Supervisors from negotiating a contract for the sale or from giving away the water. Supervisor Wilck asked if the water could be leased. Mr. Pribble said he would be very concerned about leasing it; once they have it, they would be reluctant to give it up. He said that in 1967, the County and the Corps of Engineers formed a partnership; the bill was passed by including the reason "for water supply." He said one of the things that has changed significantly is the regulatory environment; the focus had been on each entity taking care of its own needs and now the focus is on regional solutions.

Mr. Bartlett said the Code of Virginia includes sections concerning two entities that both have condemnation powers in the state, and the process if one attempts to condemn another. Often it's utilities trying to condemn properties, or neighboring county disputes. That is as the Code of Virginia exists today; the General Assembly can always make changes to the Code of Virginia, giving condemnation power or taking it away. If water becomes a scarce resource, the General Assembly could take action to distribute water from counties that have it to ones that don't. Further discussion followed.

Supervisor McKay said the Board should put the emphasis on Option 4 to get the estimate on the cost. Supervisor Simpson agreed, but asked to include an estimate for a line to be run to the fire department in Rice from the railroad tracks.

Supervisor Campbell asked about the water pressure in the water line. Mr. Pribble said a small pump will be running at all times to maintain pressure. If a drop in pressure is registered, it will automatically kick on a larger pump and there is a generator in case power is lost. He said the system is designed to provide approximately 1,500 gallons per minute, which is good for school and business needs, for residential areas and also fire protection needs. Mr. Pribble said additional storage tanks will be necessary as the system grows; initially additional storage will be located at the water plant.

Mr. Bartlett then said December 15th is the deadline and it is time to narrow down the options. Discussion followed on the benefits and drawbacks to the various options.

Supervisor Simpson made a motion to authorize Draper Aden and Crowder Construction to work on the cost estimate for Option 4 with the addition of the lines being installed along Route 605 to Rice, with the option of a spur to the fire department, and a cost estimate for Option 4 with the addition of the connection of lines installed along Route 605 to Rice, along the Rails to Trails with spurs to the fire department, and then along Route 460 to Burkeville. The motion carried:

Aye:	Howard M. Campbell	Nay:	Jim R. Wilck
	William G. Fore, Jr.		
	Don C. Gantt		
	Robert M. Jones		
	Charles W. McKay		
	Howard F. Simpson		
	Mattie P. Wiley		

Mr. Bartlett asked if Draper Aden planned to continue looking at the power line easement. Mr. Pribble said they are and will try to minimize costs along that route; they are also fine-tuning the costs of the line being installed to the west.

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

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 meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.