



TOWN COUNCIL
Joint Work Session
Cheriton Fire House
September 21, 2009
6:00 p.m.

At approximately 6:05 p.m. Mayor Dora Sullivan called to order the Joint Work Session with representatives from the Northampton County Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lewis of Cheriton. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, present were Councilmen Bannon, Bennett, Burdiss, Evans and Veber. Councilman Elliott arrived at 6:15 p.m. Also present from the Town of Cape Charles were Town Manager Heather Arcos, Town Consultant Bob Panek and Town Clerk Libby Hume. In addition to the Cape Charles Town Council and staff, present were Secretary of Natural Resources Preston Bryant, Delegate Lynwood Lewis, Northampton County Administrator Katherine Nunez, Northampton County Supervisors Chairman Jeff Walker, David Burden and Spencer Murray, Jim Christian from Timmons Group, several representatives from Webster Investors and Christopher Lloyd from McGuire Woods Consulting.

Christopher Lloyd introduced the individuals sitting on the panel and stated that the members of the panel would be giving presentations regarding their wastewater issues.

Secretary Bryant outlined Governor Kaine's Chesapeake Bay priorities and stated that even though the State of Virginia has a financial interest in the wastewater issues of Northampton County, it would ultimately be the decision of the local government and this meeting was to help facilitate the decision making process.

Delegate Lewis stated that his purpose was to ensure that all the localities had all the necessary information and all the State resources available to them to make these decisions.

Town Consultant Bob Panek gave an overview of the Cape Charles Wastewater Treatment Plant project stating that the Town had been granted \$7M from the Water Quality Improvement Fund and that he was working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to revise the grant funding based on the low bid of \$14.7M. The Town was also granted a \$4.5M Federal Stimulus Grant through the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. The Council plans to award the contract on September 24th and the groundbreaking is estimated to be mid-October. Discussions have been held with Bayshore Concrete and Bay Creek Resort & Club regarding effluent reuse.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Town of Cheriton currently does not have infrastructure for a wastewater treatment facility but they are currently listening to proposals and are interested in obtaining grant funding for a wastewater treatment facility.

Northampton County Administrator Katherine Nunez stated that the County currently operates small wastewater systems at the County complex in Eastville and in the Bayview community and that the County is interested in a regional system. Supervisor David Burden added that this is an opportunity for the local communities to work together but that he was not interested in one system covering the entire County but several regional systems within the County such as Cape Charles, Cheriton and the general surrounding area and that the system needs to look to water reuse vs. discharge into the Bay.

Supervisor Spencer Murray stated that he would prefer a series of small regionalized systems across the County to service the towns and their town edges.

Batista Madonia stated that he and his family operate four tomato packing houses and are interested in bringing one of the packing houses to the Webster site which would create approximately 400-500 good paying jobs. Mr. Madonia added that he would be interested in promoting a regional system but the 250K GPD facility in Cape Charles would not afford enough capacity to do so.

Mr. Jim Christian, Timmons Group, stated that he was an engineer and presented a regional system with a 500K GPD capacity which would be 100% effluent reuse with no discharge into the Bay. There would be a sewage pumping station in Cape Charles to pump to the Webster property. They could break ground within 45 days with an 18-24 month completion. Mr. Christian went on to explain that the cost of this proposed plant would be \$23.5M, not including the cost of infrastructure for a Cheriton system, and assuming a high percentage of grant funding, the amount to finance would be approximately \$3.9M and the cost to citizens would be \$5K for new hookups and approximately \$34 per month for usage. Mr. Christian added that the Town of Cheriton could probably obtain a block grant so the citizens would not have to pay to hook up to the system.

The presentations were followed by much discussion and various questions from the audience.

Secretary Bryant summarized the discussions and asked the representatives from the three jurisdictions whether they had any further challenges or concerns. Mayor Lewis stated that the Town of Cheriton has many senior citizens and his main concern was whether they could afford the \$34 monthly fee and that the majority of the citizens do not understand these issues and the need for infrastructure. Spencer Murray stated that the towns of Exmore and Nassawadox and Shore Memorial Hospital have their own systems and he would like to see them regionalized and to possibly incorporate Belle Haven. Mr. Murray added that Bob Panek stated it well when he said that the objective for the Town of Cape Charles was to borrow as little as possible because the debt service is what strangles municipalities.

Secretary Bryant added that he would like to see the three jurisdictions work together to continue discussions regarding a regional system with no or reduced discharge into the Bay and suggested that the Town of Cape Charles move forward with their plans since the delay caused by a decision to move the plant would put the Federal Stimulus money at great risk. The only way for the project to work is to have the plant in Cape Charles to serve as the backbone for a future regional system. Secretary Bryant asked that each jurisdiction designate one or two representatives to serve on a committee to continue discussions regarding this issue and further asked Mr. Christopher Lloyd to work with the municipalities to move this forward.

Motion made by Councilman Veber, seconded by Councilman Bennett and unanimously approved to adjourn the Joint Work Session.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk