

VIRGINIA: MINUTES FOR THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HELD IN THE BOARD MEETING ROOM OF THE DINWIDDIE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING ON THE 8th DAY OF MAY 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	SAMUEL W. HAYES	VICE CHAIRMAN	AT-LARGE
	EVERETTE PROSISE		DIST #1
	JOHN HARVELL		DIST #3
	THOMAS TUCKER		AT-LARGE
	ANTHONY SIMMONS	CHAIRMAN	DIST #5

ABSENT:	BUTCH CUNNINGHAM	DIST #4
	EDWARD TITMUS	DIST #2

OTHER:	MARK BASSETT	PLANNING DIRECTOR
	JAMIE SHERRY	PRINCIPAL PLANNER/ZON. ADMIN.

IN RE: CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chairman called the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

IN RE: ROLL CALL

The roll was taken and Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Titmus and Mr. Simmons were not present. Shortly after the roll call Mr. Simmons arrived. Mr. Hayes turned the meeting over to Davis Plunkett, Development Project Manager, and Stephen Young, Development Manager from the Holocene Clean Energy Company.

IN RE: SOLAR PRESENTATION BY HOLOCENE CLEAN ENERGY COMPANY– Davis Plunkett and Stephen Young

Mr. Plunkett began talking about the presentation that he handed out to each of the Planning Commission Members. He explained what Holocene Clean Energy solar projects are designed to do. He explained how Holocene develops, finances, designs, builds and operates in numerous states. He discussed the economic benefits that are derived from solar energy. One benefit he said is increased property tax revenue over a 20-to-40-year lifespan of the project. Another benefit is the economic stimulus, jobs created during the construction period. The last benefit he mentioned was potential education and training opportunities during and after construction.

Mr. Prosise asked if any part of their project is subsidized.

Mr. Plunkett said there are Federal investment tax credits for solar that relate to the capital expenditure on equipment.

Mr. Prosise asked if this project would be economically feasible without the tax credits.

Mr. Plunkett said not at this stage. The industry still depends on them. However, every year the subsidies decrease until they are completely phased out.

Mr. Prorise asked if the projects amount to an argument of why the Atlantic Coast Pipeline should not be built and if not, why have them.

Mr. Plunkett said they do not amount to an argument to not have the pipeline, but the reason we have them is because the state has a renewable energy portfolio standard and a goal to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels.

Mr. Prorise said with that being the case, why are we building these in rural areas that are designed for agricultural components.

Mr. Plunkett said this particular business model that we are working with Southside Electric Co-operative on injects power on their power distribution lines.

So when you think of transmissions coming into their substation from Dominion transmission, Southside Electric takes those transmissions and distribute them within their network of substations. These solar power facilities will connect on the local side of the substation, feeding right into their distribution network. They are not transmission fed. Doing this offsets their need to buy power from Dominion and the power they do buy is equal to or less than traditional power. When you add in things like battery storage there are other potential benefits to the Southside Co-op and their customers.

Mr. Hayes asked if the proximity to a substation, like with this request, adds to the success of a project.

Mr. Plunkett said it adds largely to the success of a project. The proximity to the substation and to the distribution lines coming out of the substation is the primary driver of our site selection.

Mr. Tucker asked what chemical elements are given off from this project.

Mr. Young said there are none.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman said he would entertain a motion to adjourn the workshop. Mr. Tucker made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting and Mr. Hayes seconded the motion with all members present voting "AYE" the workshop meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Bassett
Planning Director

Signed: _____
Planning Commission Chairman

Dated: _____