

**Virginia:**

At the Town Hall meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Charles City County Government Administration Building thereof on **Monday, October 28, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.** in the 244<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth and 385<sup>th</sup> year of the County.

PRESENT: Floyd H. Miles, Sr., Chairman  
Gilbert A. Smith  
William G. Coad

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Floyd Miles, Sr.

RE: OPENING REMARKS

Michelle Johnson stated the purpose of the meeting tonight is to start a conversation about the power plants in Charles City County. The County has heard there are great concerns concerning the power plants. We have talked to citizens, seen social media, and heard from a group called C5 (Concerned Citizens of Charles City County). When people come together for a common goal, it shows that we care; it's not that citizens did not care before; now it's an engagement. We are excited about the opportunity to move Charles City forward.

RE: PANELIST

Michelle Johnson introduced the panelist that will be helping with answering questions. The panelist names are: Tamera Thompson, Office of Air Per Programs, Manager; James Kyle, Regional Air Permit, Manager; Stanley Faggert, Air Guidance & Regulation Coordinator; Allison Sinclair, Regional Air Permit Writer; Joseph Grist, Water Withdrawal Permitting & Compliance Manager; Preston Lloyd, Williams Mullen, C4GT; Robert Perrow, Williams Mullen, C4GT; Jef Freeman, Balico; Ken Schrad, State Corporation Commission.

RE: PREVIEW OF ADVANCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED

Michelle Johnson gave a presentation on questions and concerns about the power plants coming to Charles City County. Questions submitted to [CharlesCityCountyPowerQuestions@co.charles-city.va.us](mailto:CharlesCityCountyPowerQuestions@co.charles-city.va.us) was reviewed and answered. She stated the County would be focusing on five pillars; Communication, Economic Growth, Community Development, Community Engagement, and Public Safety. The next steps will be better communication, District Town Hall meetings in 2020, increase social media information, and citizen notification campaign.

RE: QUESTIONS FROM CHARLES CITY RESIDENETS

Rodney Guerin, 4751 Sturgeon Point Road, Providence Forge, VA., stated he has been a resident for 37 years. We need to get to the root call of why we are here tonight. We are not Washington D.C.; the Board of Supervisors are not getting rich from big company lobbyists and factory deals. They are your neighbors; they live and work here. We

elected these officials to oversee the growth, management, and sustainability of our County. No decision they make will be without opposition; he wouldn't expect anything less. This Board and the committees they appoint are charged with the tasks of deciding what is best for our County. All we have to do is live with an open mind, attend meetings, and hear first-hand what is going on instead of listening to hearsay; most importantly see the big picture as they do. He also stated he has lived here for a long time, and he has watched years of mismanagement and decay plague the County. Watched our children graduate from a run-down high school in Ruthville, seen this county have to borrow money to make payroll. This Board for the last eight years has brought this County back, with that he says bravo. Keep up the good work; no one is perfect.

Kim Krammes, 5641 Country Woods Drive, Charles City, VA., stated she has lived in Charles City County for sixteen years. She has also lived in Hopewell. What about the noise and the wonderful smells that come with power plants? Jef stated there is a difference between Hopewell. Smells come from the manufacturing process; power generation does not have a smell. There is a special use permit for noise which limits the noise at the fence line, 85 decibels are the sound of someone talking in a normal voice.

Wanda Roberts, 20000 Morris Creek Landing, Charles City, VA., asked about the stranded assets, what are we going to do to reach the year 2050 goal of being 100% carbon-free, crack gas is being piped in, it's not piped in here, but what is the plan to become carbon-free? Preston stated he's not an expert, but this facility will be an asset that lives beyond 30 years. Investments would not be made if investors thought the lights would be off in a shorter period-of-time. Jef stated that investors would not invest in power plants if they thought it would be a stranded asset. There is only a certain amount of daylight, and a certain amount of wind, power plants are needed.

Cynthia Robinson, 9400 Holly Tree Lane, Charles City, VA., stated she went to visit the gas plant in Greenville, and she heard a noise. What is the difference in their plant versus the one that will be here in Charles City County? Preston stated the noise level can only go to a certain decibel limit to the fence line. If it exceeds that there are legal recourses available to the County to enforce the noise level.

Chasity Roberts, 20000 Morris Creek Landing, Charles City, VA., questioned the carbon and pollution in the air. She asked, what is the risk of explosions and fires? What does Charles City County have in place to protect the residents, the physical well-being of our health, and safety? Jef stated they have in place an Emergency Response Plan. They are partnering with Charles City Fire/EMS Department. Each plant has a self-contained fire protection plan, deemed with a fire suppressant system.

Matt Ferguson, 10010 Barnetts Road, Charles City, VA., stated the one concern he has is all the projects coming into the County is DEQ regulations. It was stated yes, DEQ has its regulations, but investors would not invest if they thought the plant would be shut-down for violating regulations.

Odessa Ghee, 10341 Roxbury Road, Charles City, VA., stated she lives two miles from where the plants are being built; she has a concern about her water. She had to dig an artesian well. She stated five years later, what is happening to my water? Mr. Griss stated they could have a conversation to find out what is going on with her well, as this predates the plants.

Linn Miles, 8500 Cool Hill Road, Charles City, VA., stated he lives within 5,000 feet of the proposed site. His concern is also the level and quality of his drinking water. His water level has been receding within the last ten years. Will the level of his water be reduced below his strainer? DEQ stated they could not say how you will or may not be affected. It may be 50 years before the 1-foot projected decline spans out 5,000 feet. If you have any problems with your well after the project is complete, you will have litigation in place.

Mark Gardner, 6620 Salem Pines Trail, Charles City, VA., in your professional assessment is there going to be any health issues or way of life for Charles City County residents? It was stated permits were written assuming the worst-case operating scenarios. No, no health issues will be an issue.

David Adams, 5001 Sturgeon Point Road, Charles City, VA, stated the State has approved permits to ensure they, the power plants, will do what they said they were going to do.

Tara Johnson, 9100 Lott Cary Road, Providence Forge, VA., asked what is the disposal of the water for the gas power plants? There is a treatment facility close to the James River that the water will be put back in; they will be taking water from the James River and returning the water to the James. Balico stated any water they take in has to be ultra-clean, the discharge will be going back to the Roxbury Industrial Center.

Owen Clark, 5640 Country Woods Drive, Charles City, VA., asked why are we so late in informing people in Charles City County? Michelle Johnson stated in her opening remarks it was stated the County has to do a better job in communicating, moving the County forward.

Steve Fuhrmann, 3400 Adkins Road, Providence Forge, VA., asked what is the plan for the county to expend the revenues that will be received? Has any consideration of sovereign funds been considered, where some of these funds can be invested for future generations? Michelle stated the County have acquired services with Davenport Financial Services. They will be providing financial analysis. We are going to make sure our schools are made whole, infrastructure in the County, and public safety. As we move forward, we want to communicate and have meetings with the citizens for you to tell us what you want; we all win when we work together. We will not make all the decisions, we want to have community engagement.

Wayne Orrell, 11200 Watermelon Field Road, Charles City, VA., stated one concern he has is DEQ seems to be moving towards a rubber stamp. If all boxes are checked, you get a permit. Need to revisit the notice problem, if these many people came out tonight there is a notice problem. DEQ agreed more needs to be done. They have started putting information on Facebook, tweeter, have informational meetings, and notify churches. Wayne Orrell asked, what is the number of dollars coming into the County? If there is a depot tax, will there be an exemption? It was stated that investment is projected close to one million dollars. The Commissioner of The Revenue recesses the value. Michelle Johnson stated our tax rate is \$0.76 per one hundred.

Stephanie Black, 2500 Barnetts Road, Charles City, VA., thanked the Board of Supervisors for their hard work in trying to bring Charles City into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A

few months ago, the Richmond Times-Dispatch ran an article on Charles City calling it “The Land That Time Forgot.” Maybe we can move one step forward with these new industries. She stated we have a new Dollar General Store and all the schools being accredited. That’s progress, that’s what we need.

Dan Roberts, 2000 Morris Creek Road, Charles City, VA., invited DEQ to come back and have move conversation on water and the effect it will have on the County. He asked if the power plant will be using surface water after seven years? James City has told him it would affect our water. Mr. Grist stated he does not have James River numbers; they do work with DEQ. New Kent County is in the process of surface water withdrawal.

Josh Pugh, Sturgeon Point Road, stated he feels this is a mute-point as permits have been approved. About stranded assets, why not put a clause in the contract to make sure nothing happens. Michelle Johnson state the contract has been approved, we can have a conversation, but we cannot change it.

Tara Johnson asked is there a water permit? Mr. Grist stated C4GT has a water permit; Chickahominy Power, LLC permit, is still in the preliminary process. Public comments are the next step. It will be advertised; local government will make sure the word gets out.

Wayne Orrell asked, will the power plants be exempt from depot tax? Bill Coada stated no, all businesses would have to pay depot tax.

Ricky Wooten, 7980 W. Cool Hill Road, Charles City, VA., asked how does the public get access to the litigation document? Mr. Grist stated it is a public document. If anyone is within 5,000 feet of the well and you have an issue, water will be made available to you within the first 72 hours.

RE: BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Gilbert Smith stated we are listening, and we have heard you loud and clear. The Board will be putting in place some areas of communication. We will be communicating with the citizens via social media, emails, Town Hall meetings, Board of Supervisors Meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and via churches. He thanked everyone for coming out and sharing their input. There are somethings we could have done better in communication beyond what was legally required. Good communication is the key to our future success. There is a lot of different opinions about the power plants, but there is no problem we cannot solve if we work together. He stated if you have any suggestions on how we can communicate to reach out to him to talk about how we can grow this County together.

Bill Coada stated he wanted to answer one question about stranded assets. The solar panels are highly toxic; at the end of their life-span, we have to dispose of the solar panels. He also stated this had been the most energized Town Hall meeting he has been to since he’s been here in his eight years on the Board. He thanked everyone for coming out. There will be more Town Hall meetings. He also stated, last November, when he was not on the ballet, he handed out brochures to everyone that voted with information in it about the power plants. When he asked someone about it, they stated they never read it. He asked that

everyone come to the Town Hall meeting; let's all work together. We all win when we work together.

Floyd Miles thanked everyone for coming out. The Board appreciates everyone's thoughts and concerns. We are committed to doing a better job of communicating. He has pledged to have Town Hall meetings. The voice of every citizen is important in how we move forward together. He wishes everyone will continue to stay active and find ways to work together for a better Charles City County. He invited everyone to come and share your thoughts on how we can improve. So many rumors have been spread that is false if you have a question or concern contact the County Administrator or your District Representative.

RE: CLOSING COMMENTS

Michelle Johnson stated as we are moving the County forward, something we are going to do differently are weekly email reports. At our next Board of Supervisor meeting you will be able to sign up to receive these emails. The other thing is coffee and conversation with the County Administrator; the dates will be announced. Charles City Neighborhood Leadership Institute; the County is committed to taking you through all the county operations to understand how we do business. Informed people are empowered people. We all win by working together. #imagnetomorrow

Floyd Miles stated there was an incident tonight, the deputies that work these meetings know that gentlemen are to take off their hats during meetings. There was one man that would not remove his hat; it's common and decent respect for each other.

Meeting recessed until Sunday, November 24, 2019<sup>th</sup>.