

# **Patrick County Board of Supervisors**

## ***Work Session***

Third Floor – Veterans’ Memorial Building, Stuart, Virginia

10:00 a.m. – Monday, May 15, 2006

**PRESENT:** Roger L. Martin, Chairman; David G. Young, Vice Chairman; H. Danny Foley, Sr., Crystal P. Harris, and Jonathan Large, Board Members; Regena H. Handy, County Administrator; Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator; and Mary Beth Roberson, Assistant to the County Administrator.

**ABSENT:** Eric Helms Monday, County Attorney

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***Call to Order:*** Chairman Roger L. Martin.

David G. Young was temporarily absent.

### ***Items for Consideration:***

I. **Report and Discussion of Road Matters with VDOT Official:** This day came Lisa Price Hughes, Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), to discuss matters pertaining to the primary and secondary road systems in Patrick County.

a. ***Route 8 Connector Project:*** Mrs. Hughes advised that VDOT received Federal funds in 2000 for the Route 8 Connector Project with a 20% match; however, the estimated project cost has increased and is now approximately \$1million above the budgeted funds for same. She stated that VDOT’s original plan included three lanes to provide a climbing lane for tractor-trailers. She advised that VDOT cut the project down to two lanes; however, it is still over budget. Mrs. Hughes stated that VDOT would obtain the needed right-of-ways in the near future for the project, which would take approximately one year to complete.

b. ***Request for Abandonment of a Portion of Moorefield Store Road:*** Mrs. Hughes presented the Board with a proposed resolution to abandon 0.19 mile of Moorefield Store Road. She advised that one family owns the property on both sides of the right-of-way and are interested in purchasing same. The Chairman asked if any citizens are dependent on the right-of-way. Mrs. Hughes advised that no one is dependent on same. She stated that no one would become landlocked

**and that portion of the road was discontinued in 1973. She recommended the abandonment of the said right-of-way.**

**On motion by H. Danny Foley, Sr., seconded by Jonathan Large and carried, the Board does hereby adopt the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation has provided this Board with a sketch dated August 21, 1973, depicting the abandonment required in the secondary system of state highways as a result of Project 0700-070-143,C501, which sketch is hereby incorporated herein by reference,

WHEREAS, the portions of old road identified to be abandoned are deemed to no longer serve public convenience warranting maintenance at public expense, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board abandons as part of the secondary system of state highways, those portions of road identified by the sketch to be abandoned, pursuant to Section 33.1-155, Code of Virginia, and Section 3 in blue on the aforementioned sketch, a total distance of 0.19 mile.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Resident Engineer of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

**(Sketch in Minute Book)**

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, and Large**

**Voting Nay: Harris**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**Mrs. Harris stated that she voted nay because in some instances, right-of-way abandonments cause future landowners to become landlocked. The Chairman stated that by law, real estate cannot be landlocked.**

**c. *Dobyns Road*: Mr. Large inquired about cutting back the bank in two curves on Dobyns Road. Mrs. Hughes advised that she would look into his request.**

**d. *Abram Penn Road*: Mr. Foley inquired about lining Abram Penn Road. Mrs. Hughes advised that portions of the road are not eighteen feet wide; therefore, the road could not be lined.**

**II. Presentation by Teresa Carter, SAAA Director: Teresa Carter, Southern Area Agency on Aging Director, appeared before the Board to discuss various issues regarding the Agency.**

**a. *Farmer's Market Nutrition Program:* Mrs. Carter thanked the Board for enabling SAAA to expand the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program into Patrick County. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Carter for her assistance in the program and stated that he has received multiple calls from citizens who participate in the program and are very appreciative of same. Mrs. Carter advised that the program provides eligible senior citizens with a \$40.00 booklet of coupons, which allows them to purchase fresh produce from approved vendors.**

**b. *Medicare Part D and Sign-up Deadline:* Mrs. Carter advised that SAAA has been very busy for the last year trying to educate the public about the Medicare Part D Program. She stated that the program is very complicated and hard to understand. She noted that the sign-up deadline is today. She stated that some members of Congress would like to extend the sign-up deadline and waive the one percent in premium cost penalty for a period of time.**

**On motion by H. Danny Foley, Sr., seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried, the Board does hereby adopt the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, a new Medicare plan approved by United States Congress that subsidizes the cost of prescription drugs will benefit millions of elderly and disabled Americans, and

WHEREAS, rural Patrick County located in the great Commonwealth of Virginia has a large percentage of elderly population, causing Medicare programs to rank high in levels of importance among its constituency, and

WHEREAS, a deadline of May 15, 2006 has been set for registration into the new Medicare prescription drug program, to be followed by a penalty for those who fail to comply within that time frame, and

WHEREAS, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors believes that due to the complexity of the program, many seniors have not yet enrolled in same, the end result of which will be an additional burden for the very people that the program is intended to serve,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors hereby urges federal lawmakers to introduce legislation that would extend the midnight deadline of May 15, 2006 and to eliminate the penalty that comes with late enrollment into the new Medicare prescription drug plan.

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**c. *SAAA Audit Report:* Mrs. Carter presented the Board with SAAA's FY2005 Audit Report for its review. She stated that there were no significant changes to the FY2005 Report in comparison to the FY2004 Report. She reported that the agency's revenue increased by \$139,894, which represented an approximate increase of 4% due to resources that were provided by local governments in the form of funds and in-kind contributions. She stated that the agency's total expenditures equaled approximately \$3.3million, which included services for two cities and four counties. The County Administrator advised that the SAAA Program is very beneficial to Patrick County.**

**III. Wireless Broadband Project: The Assistant County Administrator advised that the Tobacco Indemnification Commission awarded \$40,000 to Patrick County for the Wireless Broadband Project, which will be used to fund the design of the system. He noted that the County would contribute \$10,000 to the project and that Requests for Proposals from design firms have been advertised in newspapers.**

**IV. Tobacco Indemnification Commission Grant Allocation: The Assistant County Administrator advised that the Tobacco Indemnification Commission Grant Allocation process has been changed to an annual basis and noted that the 2006 application deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Burnette requested authorization to submit grant applications for the Wireless Broadband Project and the Rich Creek Corporate Park (RCCP) Shell Building. He suggested applying for \$800,000 from the Tobacco Indemnification Commission with a ten percent match from the County for the construction of the Wireless Broadband Project. Mr. Burnette proposed applying for a \$300,000 grant, \$252,300 restricted funding and \$47,700 unrestricted monies, from the Tobacco Indemnification Commission to "build out" the RCCP Shell**

**Building. He advised that the County is currently working with a prospect, which is considering locating in the shell building. Mr. Foley asked for an update on the Reynolds Homestead project. Mr. Burnette advised that the Tobacco Indemnification Commission special project pre-application has been completed by Virginia Tech, which he is currently reviewing. He stated that he would forward same to Pittsylvania County and Henry County for their review.**

**On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by H. Danny Foley, Sr. and carried, the Board does hereby authorize the Assistant County Administrator to apply for an \$800,000 grant from the Tobacco Indemnification Commission with a ten percent match from the County for the construction of the Wireless Broadband Project.**

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**On motion Crystal P. Harris, seconded by H. Danny Foley, Sr. and carried, the Board does hereby authorize the Assistant County Administrator to apply for a grant from the Tobacco Indemnification Commission in the amount of \$300,000, which is comprised of \$252,300 restricted funding and \$47,700 unrestricted monies, to “build out” the RCCP Shell Building.**

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**V. Consideration of Revisions and Amendments to Various County Ordinances:**

**The County Administrator advised that the County Attorney was scheduled to present proposed revisions and amendments to various county ordinances; however, he was absent due to illness.**

**VI. Consideration of Financial Requests Relating to Social Services and Capital**

**Equipment Monies: The County Administrator advised that the Patrick County Department of Social Services has requested an additional appropriation of \$75,000**

to the department's monthly allocation. She noted that the requested funds are state and federal monies.

On motion by H. Danny Foley, Sr., seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried, the Board hereby approves an additional appropriation of state and federal monies in the amount of \$75,000 to the Patrick County Social Services budget.

Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large

Voting Nay: None

Temporarily Absent: Young

The County Administrator presented the Board with a \$65,000 Capital Improvement Money request from the CCDF Rescue Squad. Mrs. Harris stated that she spoke with a member of the rescue squad and advised him that the contribution must be used for land. She recommended the approval of the request.

On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by Jonathan Large and carried, the Board does hereby authorize the release of Capital Improvement funds in the amount of \$65,000 to the CCDF Rescue Squad.

Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large

Voting Nay: None

Temporarily Absent: Young

**VII. Advisement of Public Notification of Patrick County Closed Landfill, Permit #70**

**Draft Permit Agreement for Corrective Action Plan:** The County Administrator presented the Board with notification of a Patrick County Closed Landfill, Permit #70 Draft Permit Amendment for Corrective Action Plan. She advised that Olver, the County's engineering firm, would be holding a public hearing on behalf of the County on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Patrick County Branch Library in Stuart. She stated that her office would notify adjoining landowners of any new corrective action procedures in the plan. Mrs. Handy stated that no action by the Board is needed.

**VIII. Request for Agreement of Indemnification Regarding Use of County Parking**

**Lot:** The County Administrator presented the Board with a request for agreement of indemnification regarding the use of the Patrick County Veterans' Memorial Building parking lot for the Town of Stuart's Strawberry Festival. Mr. Foley advised that the

**County does not charge the Town to use the parking lot; however, the School Board charges the County for use of their facilities. Mr. Large stated that it would make sense to allow the County to use the School's facilities at no charge and vice versa.**

**On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by H. Danny Foley, Sr. and carried, the Board does hereby adopt the following:**

Agreement of Indemnification

This agreement of Indemnification, made this 15<sup>th</sup>, day of May, 2006, by and between the Town of Stuart, Virginia, a Virginia political subdivision, hereinafter referred to as "the Town", party of the first part, and The County of Patrick, Virginia, a Virginia political subdivision, hereinafter referred to as "Owner", party of the second part.

WHEREAS, Owner owns a certain tract or parcel of land situated within the Town, partially bounded by Rucker Street and Slusher Street, and known as "the County parking lot"; and

WHEREAS, the Town proposed to conduct an event on May 20, 2006, namely "the Strawberry Festival", at which Festival the public will be invited to park their vehicles in said parking lot; and

WHEREAS, Owner has agreed to allow the public to park such vehicles on Owner's said property during said Festival on the condition that the Town assume all liability for such event, and that the Town indemnify Owner from all such liability;

NOW, THEREFORE, that for and in consideration of Owner's allowance of public parking of vehicles on Owner's property during the Strawberry Festival, the Town hereby agrees to save, defend, keep harmless, and indemnify Owner, its heirs, successors, and assigns, of and from any and all loss, damage, cost, charge, liability, and exposure, including court costs and attorney's fees, arising out of the attendance and/or participation by the public at the strawberry Festival on May 20, 2006.

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**IX. Review of Insurance Renewal Relating to Patrick County Jail Inmates: The County Administrator noted that for the past several years, the County has purchased health insurance for jail inmates to reduce medical costs for same. She advised that the insurance policy is up for renewal and presented the Board with**

information from Anthem, which is the current insurance provider for jail inmates. Mr. Large stated that he would like for the Board to submit a letter to the General Assembly requesting that jail inmates fund their own medical costs. Mr. Foley advised that the Board should discuss this issue with the County Attorney. Mr. Large stated that due to time constraints, the Board would need to approve an insurance policy for the upcoming year and in the interim, the Board should research the possibility of reverting medical costs to jail inmates.

On motion by H. Danny Foley, Sr., seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried, the Board does hereby approve the renewal of an agreement with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide medically necessary health care services for the Patrick County Jail inmates, effective June 1, 2006.

Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large

Voting Nay: None

Temporarily Absent: Young

X. Update of Proposed 2006-2007 County Budget / General Assembly Funding: The County Administrator stated that the Draft 2006-2007 Budget has only gone to the Budget Committee at the request of same. The Chairman stated that he does not want to address the budget until the Committee is ready to discuss it with the full Board. Mrs. Handy advised that a budget must be approved by June 30, 2006, a public hearing must be held seven days prior to its adoption, and the hearing must be advertised seven days prior to same.

XI. Meeting Schedule: An adjourned meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> commencing at 1:00 p.m. The regular meeting for the month of June is scheduled for Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00 p.m. and the work session will be held on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> commencing at 10:00 a.m.

**On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by H. Danny Foley, Sr. and carried, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; real property [Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; prospective business matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(5), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; legal matters [Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended]; and annexation issues [Section 15.2-2907(D), 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended].**

**Voting Aye: Martin, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

**Temporarily Absent: Young**

**Mr. Young joined the meeting during executive session.**

**On motion by Crystal P. Harris, seconded by David G. Young and carried, the Board reconvened into regular session, based upon the following:**

**WHEREAS, the Patrick County Board of Supervisors has convened an Executive Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and**

**WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law,**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Patrick County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies.**

**Voting Aye: Martin, Young, Foley, Harris, and Large**

**Voting Nay: None**

On motion by David G. Young, seconded by Crystal P. Harris and carried, the Board does hereby direct the Patrick County Economic Development Office to submit an application to the Tobacco Indemnification Commission in the amount of \$10,000 for the Mayo River Rail to Trail Project and authorizes a contribution of \$2,000 in local funding for same.

Voting Aye: Martin, Young, Foley, Harris, and Large

Voting Nay: None

**XII Discussion of Proposed Windmill Farm:** The Board held a brief discussion regarding the proposed windmill farm in Patrick County. The County Administrator presented the Board with a study conducted by the Central Shenandoah Planning District when windmill farms became an issue in Highland County. She advised that the document is the most neutral study her office could find.

**XIII Further Discussion of Proposed 2006-2007 County Budget:** The Board continued discussion of the Proposed 2006-2007 County Budget. Mr. Young inquired about voice-over Internet long distance for local government offices. Mr. Large suggested wireless DSL Internet service. Mr. Young advised that the Office of Emergency Services is very rapidly wearing out the Ford Excursion vehicle by driving it daily. He noted that the vehicle is needed to pull the HazMat trailer. He stated that a used car, such as a Chevrolet Cavalier, would be more economical for the County. Mr. Large stated that the Emergency Services Coordinator advised that the Excursion, which uses diesel fuel, got more miles per gallon than the County's Chevrolet Blazer and that his office would need a vehicle no smaller than the Blazer to carry equipment. The Chairman stated that Mr. Hudson is not a first responder; therefore, he would have time to pick up the needed equipment during an emergency. He stated that when the time comes to replace the Excursion, the County would have to purchase same. Mr. Foley suggested that Mr. Hudson show the Board what equipment he must carry with him on a regular basis. Mr. Young noted that maintenance and tires for the Excursion are very expensive. He also suggested creating a fee schedule at the Transfer Station for household waste. He noted that the Board had requested a complete list of inventory of the Parks and Recreation Department; however, it has not been received. Mrs. Harris stated that

**the County should keep a complete inventory of all of its vehicles and equipment. Mrs. Handy advised that the Sheriff requested an opportunity to meet with the Budget Committee.**

**The Board recessed for thirty-six minutes.**

**The Board reconvened into regular session.**

**The Chairman opened the Public Input Session to receive public comment regarding a proposed windmill project in Patrick County.**

**This day came Matt Heck, Larry Fisher, and Christian Hutter, Representatives for Community Energy (CEI), to give a power point presentation regarding windmill farms, with a packet of information from same filed with the papers of the Board.**

**Christian Hutter advised that Community Energy has not held meetings with the Board during closed session; however, the firm has met each Board member but no presentations were given to same. He stated that towers that are constructed by Community Energy produce two megawatts of power. He advised that towers are approximately 256 feet tall and each of the three blades are 143 feet long, which equals an overall height of approximately 400 feet. He stated that depending on wind speed, the rotational speed of a turbine is nine to nineteen revolutions per minute. He noted that once a turbine is up and running, the amount of ground space occupied by the operation is one acre, which includes the roads that are constructed for servicing same. Mr. Hutter stated that a wind turbine of this size would generate enough electricity to supply approximately six hundred homes, which translates to 1,500 to 1,800 people depending on population and average home size. He advised that Community Energy is in the process of determining if a wind energy project is feasible in Patrick County. He stated that the company is interested in the wind speed 150 to 400 feet above the ground. Mr. Hutter advised that Community Energy has met with property owners recently and some property owners are for the project, some want additional information, and some are totally against same. He stated that the company is in a fact-gathering stage and is approximately one year away from knowing if a project is possible in**

Patrick County. He advised that if a project is possible in this area, construction could begin in 2008.

Mr. Fisher gave a brief summary of Community Energy's history. He advised that Community Energy links the producers of green energy with consumers who want green energy such as Penn State, the U.S. Army, and many residential customers. He stated that there are 80,000 residential customers signed up through CEI to purchase green energy from their local power supplier. He stated, "We think Patrick County would be privileged to be a supplier of green energy to the people that want to buy it." He advised that property owners with wind turbines on their land would benefit from same. He stated that a project of 50 megawatts, which would equal about twenty-five turbines, at \$2,500 per megawatt per year would put \$125,000 a year into the hands of the property owners involved. He advised that there would also be an undetermined amount of revenue to the local government. Mr. Fisher stated that wind turbine projects create employment opportunities and there are no emissions from same.

Mr. Heck addressed several frequently asked questions. He stated that wind energy does not cause any global warming, air, or mercury pollution, no mining or extraction is involved in the production of wind energy, and there is no waste. He advised that there are habitat impacts, which the wind energy industry takes very seriously. He stated that there are habitat impacts with every source of electricity production. Mr. Heck reported that out of every 10,000 birds that are killed, 1,000 are killed by house cats and less than one bird is killed by wind turbines. He advised that there is no consistent negative impact on property values. He stated that the Chief Assessor for Summerset County said that he had not seen any property devaluation in that County in regards to wind turbines. Mr. Heck reported that the Tucker County Development Authority Executive Director, Robert Burns, stated that the community has built an informational kiosk regarding the windmills because of the large number of tourists who want to see them. Mr. Heck encouraged the Board and residents to contact the Economic Development Directors in the localities that have windmills and ask what effects they have had on the community. He stated that the typical setback for a turbine from a home is 1,000 feet, which "takes care of" the audible noise from same. He quoted a gentleman from the United Kingdom, who worked with the British Wind Energy

Association and studied the issue of low-frequency noise, and concluded that there are no affects from infrasound produced by turbines. He stated that a collaborative group of people, who are interested in wind energy and are supported by the State Energy Office, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the U.S. Government, have offered to travel to Patrick County to educate the public and decision makers about wind energy in Virginia.

Blanco Midkiff spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He expressed concern regarding the possible decrease in real estate values and the removal of the turbines if the company endures financial difficulty and goes out of business. He stated that wind turbines would stick out like a “sore thumb”.

Marcia Ardissonne spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She advised that from an environmental standpoint, she wanted to support the proposed project; however, she feels that windmills would be detrimental to the beauty of the County.

Randy Ardissonne spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He presented a model comparing a 1,600 square foot house, a 70’ tree, and a 330’ wind turbine. He asked the Board to do what is right for Patrick County when they make a decision regarding this issue.

June Day spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She addressed recent fears of losing the beautiful mountains to fire. She advised that wind turbines would have a negative affect on the County’s tourism industry.

Kerry Hilton spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He advised that his neighbor in the Meadows of Dan community would not invest any additional money in the property due to the possible construction of same. He noted that the tax values in that area of the County has increased 500% - 700%.

Gloria Hilton spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She expressed concern regarding noise and the danger to wildlife that could result from same.

Robert Gore addressed the Board regarding the construction of

windmill farms in Patrick County. He noted that he did not “have a dog in this fight.” He advised that the Board made somewhat of an economic statement by stating that they do not want to take away property owners’ rights by condemning land for private interests. He stated that in some regards, denying a landowner the option to lease his property infringes upon the landowner’s rights. He noted that the windmill company advised that if the construction of the proposed windmills is not feasible, the project would not be completed. Mr. Gore stated that the County and its citizens have an obligation to promote “green energy.” He advised that if the energy that is produced from the proposed windmills is in the grid that supplies energy to this area, Patrick County could receive energy from same. He noted that in the future, residents would be able to choose their own power supplier. He advised that he would not want a wind turbine in his backyard; however, individuals cannot support alternative energy sources and refuse to participate in creating same. Mr. Gore noted that many citizens believe that the wind turbines would scar the County and advised that failing to reseed timbered land scars the County, as well.

Michael Sutphin addressed the Board regarding his concern for the rights of the property owners. He advised that it is his belief that a group of people is banding together to try to tell private property owners what they can and cannot do with their property. He stated, “I don’t believe my personal preference has the right to trump that of the personal property owners’ decisions and their personal preferences”.

Jeannie Eutsler spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She expressed her concern regarding inoperable wind turbines, such as how long they would be inoperable and who would repair same. She stated that she has not heard or seen any headlines regarding the effectiveness of wind turbines in the United States. Ms. Eutsler inquired about the affects that wind turbines may have on people and livestock.

James W. Gregson addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He advised that he was “sitting on the rail”; however, he is falling over towards pro-windmills. Mr. Gregson noted the environmental hazards that are produced from the use of coal to generate energy.

Johnny Lambert spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill

farms in Patrick County. He noted the loss of jobs in the area and advised that wind turbines would be detrimental to the County's landscape, its tourism efforts, and land values.

Deborah Quesinberry spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She advised that the County must consider environmental protection and the impact wind turbines may have on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Ms. Quesinberry noted that the use of solar energy was not discussed during the company's presentation.

Richard Kreh addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He stated, "I enthusiastically and passionately support the creation of fan farms in Patrick County for generating electricity. Its just absolutely mind boggling to think that we could be on the forefront of this new energy source that is green and clean". He advised that citizens must "step up to the plate" and make some commitment to the predicament the world is in. He stated that far too much fossil fuel and coal is burned. He advised that the burning of fossil fuel produces more habitat destruction than windmills. Mr. Kreh stated that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Eric V. Johnson spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He advised that the proposed windmills threaten Patrick County's scenery and wildlife. He stated that windmills are "eyesores" and would have a negative affect on land values.

Ron Meadows spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He stated, "I have a little puppy that is in this fight" because he, along with every citizen in the County, will see the windmills. He stated that windmills are much cleaner than coal and gasoline and asked that the Board review this issue to determine the benefits for the County. Mr. Meadows stated that the windmill company is not "sitting still"; they are conducting studies and preparing for the potential project. He advised the Board to ask any company that is considering locating in Patrick County who controls the safety factors and the construction of any kind of tower or pipeline. He stated that wildlife, homes, and the scenery must be protected.

Carroll Wood spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms

in Patrick County. He noted the Danville Power Plant in Patrick County, which does not produce energy for Patrick County residents. He advised that most responsible sawmillers in the County reseed the land that they timber. He asked the Board to think long and hard before they “give away what little we have left”.

Sara Jordan spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She advised that windmills cause a physical conditioned known as turbine syndrome. Ms. Jordan reported that two-thirds of the economic value of wind projects comes from federal tax benefits.

Katie Eutsler spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She expressed concerns regarding negative health affects, inefficiency of the windmills, and devastating affects on wildlife. She advised that windmills would detract from the beauty of the native trees and hinder the tourism industry in the County.

Kay Horton Eutsler spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She read information regarding the negative affect that windmills produce on the environment, wildlife, and land values.

Ted Greer addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He advised the Board of questions that should be asked of wind energy companies looking to locate in Patrick County. He noted that transmission lines must be installed in addition to the windmills.

Tiffany Worthington addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She stated that she does not know if she is pro or con windmills. She advised that there are a lot of questions that need to be asked regarding the issue.

Ann McConnell spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She read a press release from Kansas Congressman Miller regarding same. She advised that localities that are faced with the decision to allow or prohibit the construction of windmills should proceed slowly. Ms. McConnell stated that in most cases, the prime motive to construct windmills is to receive tax breaks and incentives, which has a negative effect on taxpayers. She noted the high cost of transmitting the energy due to the inefficiency of the turbines.

Corky Maynor spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill

farms in Patrick County. He advised that windmills would become obsolete in the near future. He asked if the County wants to leave the clean up / removal of the windmills to our children. Mr. Maynor stated that it is his understanding that Community Energy is a subsidiary of a Spanish company, which makes him very uncomfortable. He noted that if another public input session were held regarding this matter, the Board would be well advised to hold it at night so that the public could attend same.

R.G. Harris addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He advised that he does not yet have enough information to make an intelligent decision regarding this issue. He stated that because he owns property on Bull Mountain, which is a potential site for windmills, he would appreciate the opportunity to participate in making the decision to allow or prohibit windmills.

Bob McDuffie addressed the Board regarding the possible construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He noted that he owns property on Bull Mountain and advised that windmills are not the answer to the energy problem; however, they are a part of it. He stated that the County must make a sensible decision regarding same.

Cindy Courter spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. She expressed concern regarding the inefficiency of wind turbines, the lack of needed wind speed, danger to wildlife, and the negative effects on the landscape. Ms. Courter recommended the adoption of a ridge law similar to the law in North Carolina.

Scott Eutsler spoke in opposition to the construction of windmill farms in Patrick County. He stated that Mr. Hutter, Community Energy Representative, advised that 2 megawatts of wind energy could produce power for 600 homes. He stated that according to his calculations based on 12,000 kilowatt hour usage by the average American home, 437 homes could be served by 2 megawatts of wind energy. Mr. Eutsler advised that windmills are not a reliable source of energy. He stated, "We are not going to reduce our dependency on foreign oil by instituting wind". He noted that green energy is essential for this planet. Mr. Eutsler advised that energy must be consumed as it is produced and that wind turbines only produce energy when they are turning. He stated that because windmill companies

cannot depend on wind energy, they must have a “spinning reserve”, which is made up of energy that is produced using coal, natural gas, etc. He stated, “It’s a great concept. It’s something I would embrace if it worked. I cannot because it doesn’t”.

The Chairman thanked everyone in attendance for voicing his or her opinion. Mr. Young stated that the audience had been a very courteous group during the public input session.

Mr. Fisher noted that Community Energy is bonded; there must be a provision to decommission a windmill if it is not needed. He advised that windmills do not turn into “rusting hawks” overnight and that it takes twenty years for a company to get “their investment out of it”. Mrs. Harris advised that the Board would be forwarding a list of the public’s questions to Community Energy in the near future and requesting answers for same. The Chairman closed the public input session and advised that the public is welcome to stay after the meeting to converse with representatives from Community Energy.

**Ordered that the Board be adjourned until June 5, 2006 at 1:00p.m.**

**Work notes prepared and submitted by**

**Mary Beth Roberson, Assistant to the County Administrator**