

Town of Onancock
Town Council & Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee Joint Work Session
September 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Robert Bloxom, Joy Marino, Catherine Krause, Ray Burger, Maphis Oswald and Matt Spuck were present. All members were present, and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Work Session:

Mayor Fosque outlined the structure of the work session. The purpose of this meeting was for Town Council to have an opportunity to give input into the Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee's scope of work. Mayor Fosque asked council what questions they would like answered by the committee.

Councilmember Bloxom explained that the committee's purpose is to delve into the underlying analysis of the project and that certain things will be discussed directly with Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) and are beyond the scope of this committee.

Councilmember Spuck asked the following questions of the committee.

1. How would a stand-alone Water Department look for the town, should the HRSD partnership go into place?
2. How would specific capital assets remain on the town's books?
3. Would the town need to carry forward the depreciation and have it factored in the town's annual budget?
4. Can we review the long debt by department in our audit as opposed to the combined view we see now?
5. How will the town's long-term obligation look in the town's annual audit?

Councilmember Oswald concurred with Councilmember Spuck's interest in seeing the debt broken down by department. Councilmember Oswald asked the following question.

6. What is the deciding factor for Onancock residents? Is this potential partnership a benefit to Onancock residents?

Councilmember Burger stated that he had no specific questions to ask the committee at this time but also wants to see the potential benefits for Onancock residents.

Mayor Fosque asked the following questions.

7. What will it take for the town, in terms of rates, to retain ownership of the plant?
8. What are the potential policy changes at the state level that could also put additional financial burdens on the town?
9. What are costs associated with repairs to the collection system?

Councilmember Bloxom stated the town needs to be clear on what the rates will need to be for the coming capital expenses.

Councilmember Krause shared that this project has a lot of intricate elements associated with it. Councilmember Krause stated that the bottom line is, what will it cost our residents to turn their faucets on?

Councilmember Marino thanked Councilmember Bloxom and the members of the Steering Committee for all the work they will be putting in to this project. Councilmember Marino highlighted one of Councilmember Bloxom's scope of work questions which stated that the committee should check in with other localities that have recently underwent this process with HRSD. Councilmember Marino also mentioned that HRSD should start looking into climate change, how will they deal with those changes?

Mayor Fosque opened up the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Mr. Jeffrey Barrett, North Street, said that the residents need to see what the future rates and increases will look like from both HRSD and the town.

Councilmember Bloxom also explained that Town Council will need to come up with a budget for the committee so that they can hire professional consultants to review some of the more complex questions. Councilmember Bloxom also shared that Mrs. Fiege will get committee meeting notices out once a schedule has been decided on.

Mr. Eric Dodge, Steering Committee Member, wants to understand the exact rate that HRSD is proposing.

Mr. Duke Shannahan, Steering Committee Member, asked if HRSD's \$80.00 charge is set in stone.

Councilmember Oswald stated that HRSD's minimum of 6,000 gallons for \$80.00 does not help those that aim for water conservation.

Councilmember Marino stated that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation should be involved in this project as well.

Councilmember Spuck asked about our current staffing. Will they become HRSD employees if this partnership happens?

Mrs. Janet Rochester, King Street, asked about the timeline for this project. Mrs. Rochester also expressed her concern over the projects impact on the environment, with more significant water outflow, will shore line erosion increase?

Mr. Glenn Smith, Market Street, asked that the HRSD presentation be made available on the town's website. Mr. Smith also suggested that the town hire an attorney works with municipalities to negotiate on our behalf. Councilmember Bloxom shared that this request is beyond the scope of this committee. Mayor Fosque explained that it would need to be up to council in regards to hiring an attorney.

Mr. Steven Johnsen, Ames Street, shared that the counties will probably petition the courts sometime in November and HSRD will be meeting with the Accomack and Northampton Board of Supervisors in September.

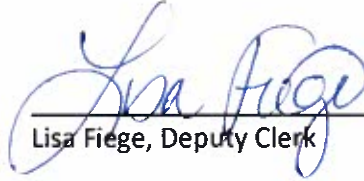
Adjourn:

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk