

April 3, 2018

**Working Session – 6:00 PM**

*A Joint Working Session of the Caroline County Commissioners and the Denton Town Council was called to order by Mayor McNinch and President Porter at 6:00 PM on this date at the Denton Town Hall.*

**In Attendance:**

*Town Council: Mayor McNinch, Councilman Branson, Councilman Lister and Councilwoman Wilson were present. Councilman Johnson was absent.*

*Caroline County Commissioners: President Larry Porter, Commissioner Levensgood and Commissioner Franklin.*

*Delegate Jeff Ghrist was also in attendance, along with Mr. Bunky Luffman, the Governor's Eastern Shore Intergovernmental Representative.*

*Several Staff members from each agency were in attendance.*

**Discussion:**

**PILOT Agreement – Eastern Shore Energy**

*The Caroline County Commissioners and the Denton Town Council met to discuss the Power Plant that would like to locate in Denton. The developer, Eastern Shore Energy, has requested to enter into Payment In Lieu of Tax Agreements (PILOT) with each agency.*

*President Porter explained the proposed power plant is a significant project and that entering into a tax agreement is new to the County. President Porter shared that the County is prepared to have Sage Policy Group, LLC. complete a study to evaluate the various factors related to this project, and to determine what a fair PILOT would be. The Commissioners would like for the Developer to commit to cover the cost of the Study, which is \$20K. The Commissioners feel that everyone owes this to the Citizens to do their due diligence and to consider a fair PILOT Agreement.*

*Mayor McNinch shared she supports having a study completed, and agrees it is important for the Citizens to make sure that any PILOT Agreement represents a fair value. The Town has been working with Delegate Ghrist and Senator Hershey to have special legislation adopted to allow the Town to enter into PILOT Agreements. Mayor McNinch thanked the Commissioners for their support on the legislative amendment.*

*Councilman Lister inquired if the County has reached out to the State to see if the information is already available. The Town has obtained a lot of the information, but he too wants a fair tax.*

*Delegate Ghrist suggested contacting the Energy Commerce to see if they already have the information available, or could they help gather the information, or could they possibly help financially with the study.*

*The Mayor stated that the Town would like to work in conjunction with the County to ensure they make the best decision for the community, Town and the County.*

*Everyone agreed to have Sage Group amend their proposal to include conducting a study for both the Town and the County, and to draft a letter to Eastern Shore Energy, as a follow up to this meeting, regarding the Town and County working together.*

**2018-9**

*The County Attorney was asked to contact Sage Group to modify their proposal for the Town to be included in the Study.*

*The Attorney was asked to draft a follow up letter regarding the Joint Scope of Work. This letter will be circulated to both the Town Council and the County Commissioners for review.*

*With no further discussion, the Joint Working Session was closed at 6:42 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen L. Monteith  
Clerk-Treasurer*