

To: BOS, Northampton County

23 Sep 13

Public Hearing: SOUTHERN NODE COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER TAX DISTRICT

I oppose this proposal for two reasons.

1. It will incur PSA debt that every property owner will have to pay for the benefit of very few property owners who said "Yes" to the survey.

You are contemplating adding debt that will be borne by everyone in the County for the benefit of less than a half dozen property owners. That will also create a yet unknown monthly financial burden of sewer costs on citizens who, if you are willing to look carefully, can ill afford them. It will also incur costs for many properties that are not even developed and which cost the County nothing in services such as the cotton fields north of Parsons Circle. This is not even reasonable, much less fair.

2. You are expanding the previously approved commercial area and planning county sewer lines with no input from the Planning Commission. Do your Staff members have the expertise in rural planning that your Planning Commissioners receive when they complete their certification requirements? That expertise has not been demonstrated by your actions.

You hired an Economic Development Director and neither you nor he has been successful promoting the unused existing properties in and around Cape Charles that currently have BOTH water and sewer capability. There is currently enough room in the town to support several businesses, just between the vacant food markets and the former industrial park. The BOS never followed up on several businesses that were given special approvals through zoning concessions to locate here, such as Lincoln Renewal Energy, and the Parsons Circle Hampton Inn and the promises for 200 jobs in the Cheriton KMC site.

You and the PSA are ignoring a real sewage need for three facilities that DO serve ALL the citizens of the County. Heritage Hall, Fresenius dialysis center, and the Community Services Board will all need sewer facilities as Riverside vacates Nassawadox. Solving that need was voted unanimously to be the highest priority of the PSA when it was formed. That vote still stands and the need remains. Time is rapidly approaching when Riverside will no longer support these facilities and operate its polluting sewage plant for the benefit of those outside its business model.

Gentlemen, if you are going to meet privately with potential new businesses, you have an obligation to the citizens of this county to explain that if the proponents want the support of county residents, they need to be straightforward and market themselves to us rather than confine their ideas to you behind closed doors. You are giving the impression of pursuing a path of secrecy. That path will result in animosity and lack of support for your endeavors. As elected officials, you have an obligation in a timely manner to be straightforward with all county citizens and to use your appointed committee that is qualified to give you advice based on principles used by the entire Commonwealth.

-R. Meyers, Exmore