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Rappahannock Record

The lower Northern Neck's most complete news source since 1916

75¢ Volume 98 No. 44

Thursday, August 13, 2015

www.rrecord.com

Middlesex adds support for underwater power lines

by Larry Chowning

SALUDA—The Middlesex board of supervisors voted August 4 to support Lancaster County officials who want Dominion Virginia Power to place power lines beside the Robert O. Norris Bridge underwater and out of sight.

Dominion has received a permit from Virginia Marine Resources (VMRC) to place power lines across the Rappahannock River on 11 new 120- to 180-foot high towers 100-feet east of the bridge.

During a public comment session at the Mid-

dlesex board meeting, several Lancaster County public officials urged supervisors to join them in an effort to stop Dominion from installing the overhead lines.

VMRC approved the permit on July 28 to install the towers, and all state delegates from the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula have supported the proposal.

Harmony Village board member Jack Miller questioned whether the “horse was not already out of the barn.” Since VMRC has already approved the permit is there any hope of changing the situation?” he asked.

George Bott of Lancaster said that although local state representatives had supported Dominion Power’s permit to install new lines across the river they did not endorse overhead lines.

“This leaves us some wiggle room to go back to our delegates and ask for a change,” said Bott.

Carl Smith of Lancaster said it is not too late because “we the people have the power to stop this. If we all join together and make our voices heard, the power of the people is greater than Dominion Power.”

Miller asked, “Then where do we go with this? It has been approved b VMRC. What is next?”

Lancaster county administrator Frank Pleva said it will take “legal and political” action to stop Dominion Power. Pleva urged Middlesex supervisors to pass a resolution in support of underwater lines and to contact their delegates.

Miller made the motion to have Middlesex County administrator Matt Walker draft a resolution in support of Lancaster’s request and Saluda District representative Pete Mansfield seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to support “our sister county,” as stated by Miller in his motion.