

Two citizens speak against county funding to fight Dominion project

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—After weeks of residents speaking out against Dominion Power's \$30 million plan to put massive towers across the Rappahannock River, two citizens last week asked county supervisors not to spend taxpayer money to fight the utility company.

Lancaster planning commission chairman David Jones, who last week resigned as vice mayor of White Stone because he now lives in Tappahannock, said he can't argue the "pluses or minuses" of the project, but is opposed to any county financial support.

"The 23 people working for me mainly want power and a job," said the co-owner of Connemara Construction in White Stone. "Send (county attorney James) Cornwell (to the SCC hearings), but don't fund them."

Jones was accompanied by several of his employees.

"I don't care about the towers, but

I don't want taxpayer money to go toward funding the fight," said Howard Keiser.

Charlie Costello, an active supporter of the anti-towers efforts and leader of the organization Friends of Lancaster, said, "Reliability of the electricity is not an issue. We all want reliable electricity."

Last month, supervisors turned down a request by George Bott to help fund the fight. Bott based the request on the fact that the project conflicts with the county's comprehensive plan to preserve the rural character, heritage and natural resources by controlling the character of development. However, supervisors unanimously authorized the county attorney to participate in the SCC hearing, which took place last week. (See related story).

In other business, supervisors:

- Authorized Fillmore A. McNeal to expand Brookvale Mini-Storage at 10436 Mary Ball Road, Brookvale.
- Accepted the abstract of votes from the November 3 General Election.