

## Dec 2, 2015 LGA Monthly Meeting Minutes (Approved)

The meeting began at 9:30 AM. The President, Bill Heflin, called the meeting to order and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then called for a moment of silence. In attendance were VP Mozine Lowe, Bill Lindenmuth, Clarence Drumgoole, Jeff Dowhan, Wally Sayko, Carol Warfel, John Cataldo, Al Potter, Tony Moran, Don Carson, Executive Director Moira Underwood and Jack Saunders. One member of the press, Jenny Gray, was in attendance from the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald.

The forty-one persons in the audience introduced themselves.

Moira Underwood introduced Trey West, a representative of Verizon Wireless for the Eastern Carolina Region who was substituting at the last minute for the planned speaker who was ill. He started with several comments regarding recent tower coverage in the area. He stated that the new tower is about 280 feet tall and is specifically directed to support of the 4G LTE telephones (including the two most recent i phones and androids which have enabling technology. Once fully operational those with the compatible equipment will enjoy a better experience. He then asked how everyone enjoyed their current service. There were numerous comments regarding the need for improved coverage and service by Verizon wireless customers.

Some questions provided further explanation. If compatible phones (non 4G LTE) are not currently in use by Verizon customers they will need to upgrade to get the benefit of the new towers. Geography (hills, dips, etc.) effects performance – boosting power output may not be a solution. Audience commented that there is space for many more towers. It was confirmed that there are backup generators to power the tower but it was unknown as to how long the generator had fuel for.

Mr. West said he would work to present a plan for how concerns will be addressed including coverage maps and service reliability as it is a business base issue. Not easy just to add to any tower since some towers are exclusive. There was a member that called for a motion to have the LGA work to cause Verizon to have a baseline capabilities assessment completed and reported back to the Jan 6 LGA meeting.

Mr. West explained it would be a corporate decision as to what could actually be done. A more extensive analysis is needed to identify issues and potential solutions. There was a suggestion to ask if Verizon would come back for an update in January. (No real commitment.)

There is a system capacity/bandwidth problem at times of high utilization such as summer weekends where all service pretty much becomes limited. This could be seen as a public safety issue since the ability to communicate with 911 or any emergency services may be severely limited. The use of cellular phones for emergency communication is not reliable. Landline phone connections need to be used for contacting emergency services. The discussion was wrapped up and Moira noted there was no AT&T representative available at this time.

Moira then introduced Jodie Dowhan substituting for Shannon McCallister of John 3:16 to wrap up the annual Toy drive. She thanked everyone for their contributions that will be used to

support 157 families. Help is needed at the Center to wrap gifts on Dec 15-17. Volunteers can call 586-1800 to sign up to help.

Bill Heflin ended the program presentation period and went into the business portion of the meeting. He asked for a motion to accept the November Secretary report prepared by Don Carson. Al Potter motioned to approve and Carol Warfel seconded and the motion was approved.

The Treasurer's Report as of Nov 24 was approved.

Tony Moran gave a membership report noting that at the end of November we have almost 2100 members. He highlighted the opportunity for sponsor/new member discounted memberships and urged members to use the services of business members.

Bill asked if there were other issues or concerns and several members spoke up.

One member was very concerned that the lake level is no longer managed as it was before the last two years. He suggested a letter go from the LGA to the USA Corps of Engineers at Kerr Lake to let them know about the concerns of property owners on Lake Gaston due to the damage caused by high water. Another suggested that there be a program prepared to document the roles of the Corps, Dominion and FERC in controlling permissible levels and what is acceptable and over what periods of the year.

Clarence Powell (a former Dominion Gaston Dam employee) addressed experiences with dealing with temporary overflow storage from Kerr in Lake Gaston in the past. Another person voiced the option that as many people as possible complain to the Corps and Dominion so they understand the damage and inconvenience as a result of high water (over 200.5 feet).

Another member asked about information to have no wake buoys placed.

Bill encouraged interested attendees to participate in meetings of the Environmental and Government Relations Committees to participate in representing the residents of the lake.

Al Potter made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded and passed. The meeting ended at 11:20 AM.

Reported by the very temporary Secretary for this Dec 2 meeting, Jack D. Saunders, Director Northampton County (1 of 2)