

Municipal Electric Power Association of Virginia
July 21, 2016 Charlottesville
Minutes

- I. MEPAV President, A.K. Briele, called the meeting to order. Also present were:
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| Mark Bly, Franklin | Kimberly Pollard, VML |
| Mike Stover, Culpeper | Tom Dick, Legislative Liaison |
| Durwin Joyce, Martinsville | Joe Waltz, Front Royal |
| Gregory Disher, Danville | Lynn Short, Va Tech |
| Scotty Whitt, Radford | |
- II. Kimberly Pollard, executive secretary-treasurer, reported that as of July 14, 2016, the association has \$45,758.12 in the checking account and \$115,000 in the LGIP for a total of \$160,758.12 in available funds. Tom explained his overage for lobbying expenses. He invoiced the current year for a month or two of last fiscal year. Kimberly said that she would shift the columns on the budget to include the new fiscal year for the next meeting.
- III. Lynn Short made a motion, seconded by Mark Bly, to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2016 meeting in Virginia Beach. Motion carried.
- IV. New Business
- A. Conference discussion – Tom mentioned that Ron Jefferson and Bill Murray were back for a second year in a row. We could have them for 2017 if members are interested. Dominion said that they'd sponsor again in 2017 for \$2500. Cyber security is an option for a topic for 2017 that didn't get much traction for 2016. Kimberly said she always tries to reach a good balance between speakers and time for folks to network. Members commented that they think it's a good mix. Kimberly asked if it might be worth it to have Don come and give an update on what has happened with Bristol since the last conference. It's something we can consider.
- B. Mutual Aid Agreements – Kimberly handed out a sheet of members who she has received information from on their mutual aid agreements. She said the the document is only as good as the information that is provided. Kimberly will send Greg Disher a copy of the document to fill in. Mark Bly received an article on the federal effort to expand solar power to communities. The pay back will be through property taxes. He wanted to make everyone aware of it and Franklin has done this for one community to date.
- V. Legislative Report – Tom handed out a residential utility rates sheet and commented on it. A General Assembly subcommittee will look at net metering and solar power. A meeting was held on June 8th and Tom will email the document to everyone since it's so long – 24 pages. Net metering requirements were done by the SCC. MEPAV isn't at the table for that.

These requirements don't apply to MEPAV since we are exempt from that chapter of the code. Tom doesn't want the MEPAV localities to be outlier on this issue, to keep us out of hot water. Wireless Communications Infrastructure Act bill was carried over to 2017. The General Assembly established a workgroup to look at these issues. July 12th is their last meeting. Sprint has tried this at a national level. Verizon wasn't behind the bill being introduced. Sprint wants to be able to site and approve areas for certain towers and cap what can be charged. Co-ops reached an agreement with Comcast. Pole attachment rate was \$21 but could add on other charges such as survey charges and surveying what use is on the pole. Tom spoke at the public comment period at the June meeting. Verizon thought that they could work with the FCC language. VML/VACo asked that this study be extended out but others felt that there has been plenty of time to address the issues before the start of the 2017 General Assembly. No fee is set for attachments, and parties are allowed to negotiate. Sept 15th is the timeframe to present the final draft, compromised bill, and it will be presented to the group. Local utilities need to be able to say where it's okay for others to attach to a utility pole. Tom has talked to the electric co-ops about this issue. Co-ops don't want FCC language in the Virginia code. Language in the bill will give access to wireless industry to have access to any right of way. Dominion and APCo are aware of this. APPA is having a conference call next Tuesday to talk about what is going on around the country on this wireless attachment issue. Tom will be on the call. It's possible that there won't be an agreement to come out of this workgroup. However, that won't prevent Sprint or other groups from introducing their own bill. Tom also handed out an article from the RTD about recent storm damage to Richmond.

- VI. Old business – A.K. Briele has been in touch with Leilani Todd, Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium (VEWC), who came to talk about workforce development at the 2015 MEPAV conference. VEWC is working on programs to get energy groups into the education system. Brunswick and Cumberland are doing a program now. Community colleges are offering classes as well as a lineman school offered somewhere else in the state. This program is also working with Veterans to help get them jobs. The minutes of their meetings are on their website if anyone wants to look. <http://www.vewc.org/> Front Royal has used two of these students, and Joe Waltz said they have been top notch.
- VII. E&O committee report
Durwin is looking for a fall host. If anyone is interested in hosting around the Oct-Nov timeframe, please get in touch with him. He would like to send something out around the first of August if possible.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Pollard
Executive Secretary-Treasurer