

At the recess meeting of the Giles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 6:30 PM in the Giles High School Auditorium, 125 Wenonah Avenue, Pearisburg, the following were present:

Barbara Hobbs	Chair (Central District)
Scott Dunn	Vice Chair (Western District)
Richard McCoy	At-Large Supervisor
Larry Jay Williams	Eastern District
Paul "Chappy" Baker	At-Large Supervisor
Chris McKlarney	County Administrator
Richard Chidester	County Attorney
Jenny Clay McCoy	Interim Board Secretary

#### **CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION**

Ms. Hobbs called the meeting to order. Mr. McKlarney offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Hobbs announced the format in which the meeting would be conducted. Ms. Hobbs stated that the Board of Supervisors will receive written question regarding the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, she noted that duplicate questions would not be asked.

#### **MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE, LLC PRESENTATION**

Ms. Hobbs directed the Mountain Valley representatives to begin their presentation. Mr. Chris Sherman with NextEra Energy introduced himself and his colleague from EQT, Maurice Royster. Referencing slide, Mr. Sherman explained that this presentation is a brief overview of the project, noting that the project is in its infancy and will be a couple of year process. Referring to slide three Mr. Sherman discussed the reasons for the proposed pipeline. One reason being the demand for natural gas from the supply sector; and the second for the corresponding demand for natural gas in the market. As noted in the presentation, there has been an increased use of natural gas due to the abundant supply, the cleanliness, and operationally it is more flexible for such things as manufacturing needs, residential home heating needs, etc. Mr. Sherman stated that from a Geo Political perspective there is an effort to bring the nation's energy production to a level that makes the United States more self-sufficient. Lastly he refers to the potential for local economic benefits from increased access to natural gas. Mr. Sherman explained that Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP) is a joint venture of EQT Corporation and NextEra Energy; EQT is majority owner of the joint venture and an EQT affiliate company will operate the Mountain Valley Pipeline. He provided a brief summary of each company (see slide 4).

Referring to slide five Mr. Sherman advises that the pipeline is proposed to be approximately 300 miles long. He pointed out that the route proposed today will likely have alterations and will probably not be the same route when permit applications are made. The pipeline will be 42" in diameter which has been decided on because of the demand in the market. There will be four compressor stations, three in West Virginia and one in Virginia. The line begins in Wetzel County, WV and will terminate at the Chatham area of Pittsylvania, VA. The current capacity is 2 Bcf/day (billion cubic feet). Mr. Sherman advised that in terms of commitments, a project such as this is financed based upon the economics of the specific project. Firm commitments from suppliers are identified through a process of "open season"; this process

has been closed and sufficient interest has been identified. He adds that this process has ended and they are now in the more formal commercial stages where they are starting to lock down the commitments. The approximate cost of the line is \$3.5 billion; however the final price will be determined by the final route that is chosen. With regard to the route in Giles County, Mr. Sherman stated that there is approximately 19 miles with about 110 parcels of property affected. He says that unless they do not have accurate mailing information, then all affected property owners should have received a letter. Referring to the letters, Mr. Sherman states that the right of way is approximately 70 – 75 feet and they expect that they will need an additional 30 – 50 feet in some areas for construction access. At present they are identifying a 300 foot corridor to allow them the ability to survey a greater amount of property and then make better refinements.

Referencing the sixth slide, Mr. Sherman discussed the proposed project schedule. He stated that the project would be permitted from an environmental perspective under a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has primary jurisdiction over U.S. interstate natural gas pipeline projects. The project will be reviewed by other state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and each state's environmental protection agencies. MVP entered FERC pre-filing in October 2014. Meetings with stakeholders are ongoing and began October 2014 as well. Mr. Sherman elaborated stating that they have been meeting on a one-one level with certain organizations and public officials to inform them; as well as going to each county and doing public presentations. MVP will be having open houses in each community along the route December 2014 – January 2015. Giles County's meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at the Community Center gymnasium from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The entire meeting schedule and other information are located on the website at [mountainvalleypipeline.info](http://mountainvalleypipeline.info). Mr. Sherman discussed the format of the Community Open Houses, stating that subject matter experts will be present. In the spring of 2015 FERC will hold Public Scoping Meetings as part of the NEPA process. At these meetings oral public testimony is given; as well MVP will submit written testimony that guides FERC in ultimately drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After the public scoping the draft EIS will be released, FERC will have further meetings to allow public comment on the draft EIS before releasing a final EIS. Mr. Sherman stated that around fall 2015 MVP will submit a formal FERC application. Approximately a year from that submittal the final EIS will be released and anticipate FERC issuing a certificate of public necessity. If MVP is successful construction is targeted to begin December 2016. The construction window is two years with a targeted in-service around the fourth quarter 2018.

Coordinating agencies in the NEPA review, while not comprehensive, is listed on slide seven. Slide eight addresses Mountain Valley's focus on safety. Mr. Sherman stated that safety incidents are as unacceptable to them as they are the public. He reported that a project such as this is predicated upon the value of bringing natural gas to the market for both residential and industrial use. It is recognized that it has to be done in the safest manner possible and a natural gas interstate pipeline is the safest manner to ship natural gas. Mr. Sherman said that the initial focus on safety was during the assembly and construction of the pipeline. As shown on slide eight, steel pipe is fabricated and inspected at a mill, they are covered with an epoxy coating that is to prevent corrosion and abrasion and intended to last for the life of the pipe, approximately 75 years. Mr. Sherman further explained the construction of the pipe. [In audible question from the audience] Ms. Hobbs advised the attendees that questions would

be asked at the end of the presentation. Mr. Sherman continued, discussing the pipeline operation. There is 24 hour-a-day monitoring that determines the pressure of the gas and the quantity and quality. There is physical right-of-way monitoring and the remote controlled shutoff valves are monitored 24 hours-a-day. MVP educates local authorities about pipeline operations and emergency response procedures.

A map showing the interstate natural gas infrastructure system is located on slide nine. Mr. Sherman explained that there are four primary steps in construction as shown on slide ten. First step is clearing, grading, and trenching. The pipe is buried a minimum of three to four feet down. The pipe segments are strung and welded together. Once they are strung together the epoxy coating is applied and inspect. The pipe is then inserted and backfilled; and the property restored as close to possible to its preconstruction status. Slide eleven addresses the required compliance with federal and state environmental laws during construction. All environmental controls are specified in the final Environmental Impact Statement. Engineering controls during construction are for erosion and sediment control, spill prevention, and monitoring. Also on site during construction is environmental management. In closing, Mr. Sherman reminded that the project was in the very early stages and they do not have all of the answers they will eventually have. He is of the opinion that a significant amount of information will be disseminated during the open house process. At present, Mountain Valley's purpose is to inform the public and to give them an overview. Mr. Sherman concluded the presentation.

Ms. Hobbs opened the floor to Supervisor questions beginning with Mr. Baker. Mr. Baker asked why this specific route was chosen, pointing out that this being a federal project, why was federal property not considered as an alternative to disturbing private property. Mr. Sherman answered by saying that the preliminary route has been identified through a desktop method, via computer, without knowledge of what is on the ground. It is done largely with the intent of getting from one point to another. Mountain Valley was looking to go from the Equitrans system into the Transco system at substation 165. He explained that once the company is on the ground they will be able to work with landowners and identify the sensitive areas. Mr. Sherman advised that, "the process is intended to the greatest extent possible to mitigate that and ultimately what the permitting process is intended to do is to make the route as benign as possible, recognizing that it will never fully benign to every person when it affects your property." Mr. Baker further stated his frustration with the route and how it affected Giles County property owners. Mr. Sherman stated that there is a greatly likelihood that there will be refinements to the route. Mr. Baker stated that he would appreciate rerouting the line onto more government property be considered.

Supervisor McCoy addressed Mr. Sherman's statement that sufficient interest had been identified in the project to move forward and that in the future, specific commitments would be obtained. Mr. Sherman responded by advising that MVP has a business development team that is presently making contact with county's throughout the route. Mr. McCoy asked if that sufficient interest was for heavily populated areas on the east coast or for export outside of the country. Mr. Sherman said that there is significant interest along the east coast. Adding that Mountain Valley's interest in developing this project is to serve those markets, it is not their intent to export gas. However, because their role is only the pipe, if a company wanted to put gas on there and federal regulations allowed them to take it out of the country they could do so. MVP can't prevent foreign exportation from happening. Mr. McCoy questioned if

Mountain Valley has in the past or is willing to work with localities to produce surety bonds or something comparable to handle the devastating cost of any incident if it occurred. Mr. Sherman stated that bonding is a requirement of the permits. Mr. McCoy had no further questions.

Supervisor Williams questioned why the routing was the way that it was. Mr. Sherman stated that there were some specific waterbodies and the Appalachian Trail that they were trying to avoid. Mr. Williams pointed out that the line practically parallels the New River Valley through Giles County and feels that it is important that it be considered. Mr. Williams next questioned why there were areas of the National Forest that the line was on and other areas of the National Forest that were avoided, but went through the heavily populated areas of Pembroke and Ripplemead and the historic area of Newport. Mr. Sherman advised that he has been made aware of the discussions about Newport and it is being looked into. He added that those are the type of cultural resources that MVP needs to know more about and are trying to identify those. He states that those sites will be impactful on the route. Mr. Williams asked if there will be a compressor station in Giles County. Mr. Sherman said that he did not know and it would ultimately depend on the design of the line; there will be one in Virginia, but he is uncertain of the location. Mr. Williams then asked if there would be a tap for Giles County that could be used if ever needed. Mr. Sherman stated that they are attempting to identify that demand and aggregate customers. He added that it is in the best interest of MVP commercially to have as much gas taken off of this line in as many places as possible. The tap doesn't have to be in place from the beginning, it can be tapped later if demand develops. Mr. Williams asked what the projected gas loss was for this line. Mr. Sherman said that there was zero projected loss. Supervisor Dunn asked what loss was allowed by law. Mr. Sherman was unsure, but said it was minimal. He said that the design of the modern day pipes are fully sealed, so no loss is acceptable to Mountain Valley. Mr. Williams also questioned what MVP would do to protect the County if there was a catastrophic incident. Mr. Sherman stated that they work with first responders to ensure that everyone is adequately trained. Mr. Williams asked specifically if Mountain Valley would work with Giles County Emergency Services to guarantee that the County could handle an incident. Mr. Sherman said yes.

Supervisor Dunn stated that he had received information showing that the route affected approximately 144 Giles County Property owners, with an assessed value of \$16.2 million. He asked Mr. Sherman how much depreciation in land value would the owners experience if this line was to be on their land or in close proximity. Mr. Sherman stated that, "The industry experience is that there is no material degradation of the value of the land." He added that the purpose of the compensation for the easement is to compensate for the use of the property. In the instance of tax revenue, the net tax effect to the County is an increase in taxation. Mr. Dunn asked if Mr. Sherman's company had ever put in a line similar to the terrain in Giles County; and if so, where at? Mr. Sherman stated that Mountain Valley's preliminary assessment of the geological conditions in Giles County do not make it unique to other parts of the country. Mr. Dunn asked if there had been any type of preliminary core testing along the route. Mr. Sherman stated not at present, adding that they have flagged to the greatest extent possible the center route, and then MVP will start the actual environmental study in 2015. Mr. Sherman added that proximity to cultural resources, schools, highly populated areas, etc. will be taken into consideration when finalizing the route.

Supervisor Chair Hobbs asked if it was costly to make a connection after the line is constructed, versus at the initial installation. Mr. Sherman stated that it would be more expensive to do it after the pipe is in operation; the cost to do that is a very wide range. Ms. Hobbs asked Mr. Sherman to give her a specific, approximate range. Mr. Sherman said that on the low end it is in the hundreds of thousands and on the upper end it could be as much as \$5 million. Ms. Hobbs stated that she is not a proponent of eminent domain if it used to bully for profit. She asked, if more than fifty-percent of the property owners that would be affected opposed the line, would Mountain Valley use eminent domain to utilize those properties? Mr. Sherman said that historically, the amount of eminent domain is between two and three percent and that amount are due to being unable to identify the property owner. He stated that he could not make a commitment on the number, but said that it could be a number persuasive to the permitting authorities. Ms. Hobbs asked if the permitting procedure required a reserve fund. Mr. Sherman stated that it requires bonding and insurance, and then the permitting authority looks at the financial capabilities of both companies and the partnerships. Ms. Hobbs asked what happened to the pipes that are in the ground when the supply is diminished and there is no longer gas to transport. Mr. Sherman stated that that will be determined by the agencies. He explained that there are instances where pipelines are removed, but there are also instances where they are retired in place so that the property is not disturbed again. He emphasized that the pipes will not be used for another purpose without going through another permitting process. Ms. Hobbs pointed out that there is more than one company wanting to install gas lines in Virginia. She asked if it was because there is a glut of natural gas in some areas which has driven the price down, so it is better to get it either on the east coast where there isn't as much, or export it where the demand is greater and pay more. Ms. Hobbs asked if the bottom line was driving the pipeline. Fundamentally, Mr. Sherman said, the purpose of the pipeline is to move the abundant supply to market; with the greatest demand being industrial and the expansion in residential. Ms. Hobbs had no further questions; she asked if there were any Planning Commission members in attendance that had questions – there were none.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Hobbs directed Mr. McKlamey to begin with the written questions submitted by the public.

### **Question 1: How much do landowners get per foot for use of their land and right of way?**

Mr. Sherman stated that the right of way is determined by the market value and the area used. The second calculation is based upon the use of the property. For example, if there is an interruption in agriculture activities, the landowner is compensated for that interruption as well.

### **Question 2: The current route of the pipeline through Giles County takes it through the greater Newport Historic District and the Newport Community Park and Playground, do you consider this to be an ideal path for the pipeline?**

Mr. Sherman said that he appreciated the cultural value of those natural resources and it his opinion that that area will be an assessment that will be considered in the route. However, he cannot commit to route changes.

**Question 3:** *Will agreements with landowners affected include arbitration clauses to settle any disputes/financial damage with the pipeline company, thereby preventing the ability of said landowner(s) to sue for damages?*

Mr. Sherman didn't believe that that is a typical clause. However, if there is a part of an easement agreement that the landowner is dissatisfied with, it is a topic of negotiation.

**Question 4:** *Are you prepared to make formal commitments to fully adhere to both the letter of and spirit of the law and mitigate all potential risk and loss, especially related to property values and the long term impact and risk of many forms of pollution and the "blast zone", in the form of fair and just compensation, in full and in advance, to the rightful property owners? And if not, are you at least prepared to make a commitment to support a request for a jury trial should such disputes be required?*

Mr. Sherman stated that MVP was committed to following the letter of the law. With regard to the jury trial, Mr. Sherman said that it was beyond the scope of his expertise.

**Question 5:** *Will you be able to co-locate directly under the AEP power line or only beside the AEP right of way? Will you be able to cross from one side to another under the power line?*

Mr. Sherman advised that there is no physical limitation in the industry, and the industry has no limitations on locating under or adjacent to transmission lines. The federal permitting policy encourages co-locating, in this case it would likely be adjacent to rather than underneath.

**Question 6:** *Is there a published list of property owners who's land/property is affected/passed through or close to in Giles County?*

Mr. Sherman said that there was not a public list.

**Question 7:** *With the current proposed route, where will the compressor stations be located?*

At present there are three in West Virginia and one in Virginia. Mr. Sherman stated that it is ultimately determined by the design of the line, which is influenced by the final route. He estimates that there could be one between 25 – 30 miles from the state line.

**Question 8:** *Having an "MVP 109" marker 176 feet from my house, what does this mean?*

Mr. Sherman did not know for certainty, but stated that it could possibly be part of the 300 foot center corridor that is being evaluated.

**Question 9:** *If the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway impacted your decision in Floyd, why wouldn't the Appalachian Trail, the scenic highway (Route 42), the Cascades, Mountain Lake, the New River, the Newport Greater Historic District, and others prevent you from considering this proposed route?*

Mr. Sherman said that there is nothing that would prevent them; they look at the totality of the line so it is difficult to consider just segments. However, as they are becoming aware of cultural and natural resources, there is potential for refinements.

**Question 10:** *Why not consider shorter routes, such as: east across Pennsylvania or north to Lake Erie?*

Mr. Sherman said that he could not speak to those specifically.

**Question 11:** *What are the most important factors in choosing a route for the line, and which of those factors were instrumental in the decision to locate the line along its current route through Giles County?*

Mr. Sherman stated that the primary concerns are densely populated areas, cultural resources, and avoiding environmentally sensitive areas.

*Can the line be routed through National Forest?*

Mr. Sherman simply said yes.

**Question 12:** *What is the most up to date route through Giles County?*

Mr. Sherman advised that the most up to date route is on their website and the maps are now on the granular parcel level; but again said that it is an extremely preliminary route.

An audience member interrupted to say that the online map showed the line going through houses. Mr. Sherman responded by stating that those mistakes are being identified and there will be refinements.

**Question 13:** *There are three pipelines proposed to cross Virginia. If all three are built, will there still be twenty years' worth of gas committed to this specific line? Will other lines affect the Mountain Valley line location in any way?*

Mr. Sherman stated that they will not affect the location because they are interconnecting at different points and Mountain Valley does not have any concerns about the supply or the demand for the commercial integrity of the line.

**Question 14:** *According to FERC's Guidelines for Reporting on Cultural Resource Investigations for Pipeline Projects: "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission prefers that projects avoid historic properties, wherever possible." Can you explain why you chose a preferred pipeline route that crosses two of the three National Register of Historic Places listed rural historic districts in Southwest Virginia?*

Mr. Sherman said because the route had not been refined with those particular resources in mind.

**Question 15:** *Do you know how many listed rural historic properties are in the corridor or immediately adjacent to?*

Mr. Sherman advised that they do not, but they are conducting a historical assessment and the results will be made public as required by the permitting process.

**Question 16:** *On November 30, 2014, the Company has a draft Resource Report due to FERC that includes a summary of alternatives. What steps will you take to ensure that this report includes alternatives that avoid the rural historic districts? If none, why?*

Mr. Sherman stated that based upon the information that they have, the alternatives will come out.

**Question 17:** *In addition to being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Sinking Creek Covered Bridge in Newport is the symbol of the Village of Newport. Do you know how close to the Bridge the proposed pipeline corridor is located?*

Mr. Sherman said that he did not, but he has visited the area and will be giving that information to their GIS staff.

**Question 18:** *Why did you withdraw from the County of Floyd?*

Mr. Sherman explained that it was based on a route refinement to avoid sensitive areas (ex. Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail).

**Question 19:** *Will local people have the first choice in the work on the pipeline?*

Mr. Sherman stated that it was Mountain Valley's policy to source the greatest amount possible locally. However, there are portions of the pipeline that are specialized construction.

**Question 20:** *How will this pipeline benefit the residents of Giles County?*

Mr. Sherman indicated that the residents could be benefited in two primary ways. One being jobs, the other is the availability of low cost energy. As well the potential expansion of industry that has accessibility to natural gas is an economic benefit.

**Question 21:** *Has the pipeline route been considered in conjunction with possible Interstate 73 route through Giles County?*

Mr. Sherman said yes, in a preliminary nature.

**Question 22:** *Are you aware that FHA will not approve loans for landowners within the blast zone of a pipeline? Will you compensate landowners within the blast zone to take this into consideration?*

Mr. Sherman stated that he was not aware of whether or not FHA will not approve loans. Each property is valued and assessed for impact individually. Mr. Sherman said that it was a hypothetical question that was hard to answer in detail.

**Question 23:** *If a well is compromised during construction as a result of blasting, will MVP compensate the homeowner's?*

Mr. Sherman stated they would.

**Question 24:** *What is the largest diameter pipeline that you have built? What is the longest pipeline that you have built? Have you built a pipeline through mountain terrain like ours?*

Mr. Sherman said that the largest that they have built collectively is thirty inches and there is a 300 mile line under development now. Mr. Royster answered, stating that they have done so through eastern Kentucky and western Pennsylvania.

**Question 25:** *What experience have you had installing and maintaining a pipeline across major interstates such as Interstates 64 and 81, and major rivers such as the New River?*

Mr. Royster explained that they are familiar with this; the existing 900 miles of pipeline in place do go over interstates, across rivers, etc.

**Question 26:** *You say cut off valves occur every 15 miles. How quickly can they be turned off? Is it done so manually or by computer?*

Mr. Royster stated that it is done by computer in a control room in Pittsburgh; and the time it takes to shut a valve down is approximately 10 – 13 minutes. He added that valves in populated areas are closer than 15 miles.

**Question 27:** *Please explain in detail how epoxy coatings block water transport and prevent corrosion for 75 years?*



Mr. Sherman said that he could not explain in engineering detail, but it is the design of the product.

**Question 28:** *Is it true that FERC is not a federal agency, but a private entity that is licensed by the U.S. Department of Energy to issue permits, largely funded by the American Petroleum Institute and American Natural Gas Association, chaired in part by former oil and gas representatives and has in its history never denied a permit?*

Mr. Sherman advised that FERC is a government agency and its members are appointed by the President. He explained that FERC is multifaceted and has the ability and have denied permits, as well as alter projects.

**Question 29:** *Could you explain how you carry out construction in the areas where the pipeline crosses waterways? How much disruption to the waterway is there during construction?*

Mr. Sherman explained that typically in a waterway a pipe is directionally drilled, allowing for no disruption to the waterway.

**Question 30:** *Since this pipeline is proposed to run adjacent to high voltage power lines, what do you know about the research that has been done with regard to the effect of electromagnetic fields on the integrity of the pipeline?*

Mr. Sherman responded that the research demonstrates that there is no impact. There is a cathodic protection on the pipe and if there is unusual activity in the area it will be taken into consideration when finalizing the route.

**Question 31:** *Given the extreme weight of construction equipment, who is going to pay for likely damages to roads, particularly secondary roads? Is it true much of the equipment is as heavy as 65 tons?*

Mr. Sherman advised that MVP is responsible and deal with the Department of Transportation to get proper licenses. He does not know the exact weight of the construction equipment.

**Question 32:** *How much blasting is required in karst terrain to create large enough corridors, up to 11 feet deep, to place large pipes? How far does the shock from the blasts travel. How does EQT compensate nearby homeowners for damages from blasting?*

Mr. Sherman stated that blasting is a last resort. In difficult areas they try mechanical efforts to break up the area. If that is unsuccessful then blasting is used only enough to break up the area. He added that the surrounding impact is approximately 10 feet from that area. Mr. Sherman said that if they break it, they fix it.

**Question 33:** *Where does the water come from and go to that is used for pressure testing the line?*

Mr. Sherman said that it varies from project and that a source has not been identified for this project.

**Question 34:** *Given the extreme rocky terrain and geography in Giles County, how will you possibly keep extreme erosion from taking place and silt out of roadways and waterways?*

Mr. Sherman explained that erosion barriers are used; adding that the preliminary geological assessment of the area does not indicate that this area is unique.

**Question 35:** *Given that spraying is your preference for maintaining the easement, how do you propose to mitigate the damage done to organic farming operations of stakeholders and adjacent property owners?*

Mr. Sherman advised that spraying is Mountain Valley's less preferred means of maintaining. He stated that they do not typically spray unless they are required to do so to control an invasive species, etc. He added that the requirements placed on MVP will vary by jurisdiction.

**Question 36:** *In light of the catastrophic nature of a large gas pipe line, what if any training and equipment will your company supply to local fire departments?*

Mr. Sherman explained that MVP deals with all the public safety officials and provide training; as well, they work with communities on equipment needs.

**Question 37:** *Since Giles County was the site of the most intense earthquake in the State of Virginia and the second largest earthquake in the eastern United States in the past 200 years, what precautions and safety measures are being put in place to prevent future seismic disturbance?*

Mr. Sherman stated that seismic activities are considered an outside source when relating to a pipeline. He stated that pipe are designed to withstand seismic activity; however if there is an area that is more sensitive than extra measures are taken (ex. adding padding to the line, etc.)

**Question 38:** *Will landowners be able to continue to farm the land over the pipeline and can you utilize tractors and heavy equipment over the pipelines?*

Mr. Sherman said yes. Generally there are only two restrictions, planting trees that have a deep root system and the other is building a structure on a right of way.

**Question 39:** *What is the company's safety record and number of accidents?*

Mr. Royster stated that within the EQT Corporation they have had no serious incidents related to the pipelines.

**Question 40:** *What protections will be afforded to cattle during the construction phase?*

Mr. Sherman said that the company would incur the cost of moving livestock.

**Question 41:** *The proposed pipeline route brings its adjacent to or very close to three significant caves in the Newport area. These caves are used by local and national cave clubs and students from major universities in the southeast for recreation, research, and training. What physical damage will excavation and blasting so close to these caves cause and what safety and environmental issues would a gas leakage pose for future use of the these caves?*

Mr. Sherman said that the broadest answer is that it can't have any effect. If it is found that there are caves in the area that could be damaged by construction then they will be unable to locate any of the line in that area.

**Question 42:** *After a project is finished and a landowner has an issue such as a sinkhole on the land you have disturbed, what will you do?*

Mr. Sherman advised that the company would have to repair instances like that.

Question 43: *How will you cross the creeks and streams, specifically Big Stoney, Little Stoney, and Sinking Creek?*

Mr. Sherman responded: "By directional drill."

Question 44: *Will MVP pay for any damages that occur to my home and well from blasting for the pipeline and any damages from the pipeline after completion, leaks, explosions?*

Mr. Sherman said that MVP is responsible for anything that they disrupt or disturb or break. He advised that special attention was given to wells. If there is a well within 150 feet, they take base line readings before construction, and then continuously monitor.

Question 45: *How close to a homeowner's well and home can you place your pipeline according to regulations?*

Mr. Sherman stated that the regulations don't have a limit, but the effort is to avoid structures.

Question 46: *What is the volume that the line will transport? Are you willing to pay a royalty based on volume?*

Mr. Sherman advised that it was 2.5 million cubic feet a day. Mountain Valley doesn't own the gas so it will be up to the owner to pay any fees and royalties.

Question 47: *Isn't it true that the blast zone for a 42 inch pipe under 1,400 PSI is 2,000 feet? Is it true that the Veterans Administration and FHA refuse to finance any purchase of real estate if it lines within the blast zone?*

Responding to the first part of the question, Mr. Sherman stated that any number like that can't be determined until the design and the pressure of the pipe is known. He added that once that number is determined that it will be made public. He is not aware of any financing restrictions through the VA or FHA.

Question 48: *What is your insurance coverage in the event of a gas line explosion?*

Mr. Sherman said that it will be dictated in the permit.

Question 49: *What regulations must the pipeline follow to ensure safe distribution of the natural gas?*

Mr. Sherman explained that the permitting and construction of the pipeline is overseen by FERC, but once it is in operation it is the Department of Transportation that monitors the maintenance of the pipe.

Question 50: *Are there other alternatives by natural gas producers, other than this line, to transport their gas to the same location?*

Mr. Sherman said that there are other natural gas lines. He added that the constraints in the transmission create the need for additional lines, as well as product demand.

Question 51: *What is the blast zone in the event of an accident with this pipeline?*

Mr. Sherman again stated that this is a number that will be determined after the design of the line has been determined.

Question 52: *Can you elaborate on how the pipeline is monitored?*

Mr. Royster advised that the pipeline itself will be monitored electronically out of Pittsburgh. There will be devices that will allow MVP to know what is going on inside the pipeline all the

time, allowing them to know if there is a problem. Shut-off valves will be placed periodically along the route and will be electronically controlled.

Question 53: *What are you doing, and be specific, to ensure that there is no impact to the scenic and recreational resources (ex. Appalachian Trail, Cascades, National Forest, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife, etc.)?*

Mr. Sherman responded that the greatest specificity with that is for MVP to gather information to allow them to design a route that has the least amount of impact on those resources.

Question 54: *How will you address line placement where endangered species live (ex. endangered bird and mammal species)?*

Mr. Sherman explained that that is a fairly lengthy process. They conduct species surveys to do baseline assessments of the species in the area of the pipeline.

Question 55: *How many wells has MVP had to replace/re-drill for landowners?*

Mr. Royster said that was something that EQT deals with on a regular basis. Their philosophy is if they break it, they fix it. Mr. Royster did not know the specific number of private landowner wells that have had to be replaced, but he believes it to be a small number.

Question 56: *How do you deal with acid sulfate soils and shrink swell clays?*

Mr. Sherman stated that any corrosion or outside influences on the well is protected by the epoxy coating; and if the area is determined to have unique characteristics then extra measures would be taken.

Question 57: *Is there additional compensation to those located within a certain radius to compressor stations?*

Mr. Sherman advised that properties where compressor stations are located are purchased instead of easements. It is unusual for someone that has not been directly affected to be compensated.

Question 58: *Most large users in the area, such as Celanese and Virginia Tech have already and/or have plans to upgrade. Can you specifically give examples of economic benefits?*

Mr. Sherman stated that the economic benefits lie in the opportunities for growth.

Question 59: *I work at a small, high-tech materials company in the Wheatland EcoPark near one of the proposed pipeline routes. There have been many documented pipeline explosions. Should there be an explosion here, does Giles County have the emergency response infrastructure capable of saving our employees and the students and teachers at Eastern Elementary Middle School next door?*

Mr. Sherman again said that training would be provided.

## **RECESS**

With no further written questions and the crowd becoming disorderly, Ms. Hobbs thanked the attendees and called a ten minute recess. Ms. Hobbs reconvened the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2014. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

**Mr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

#### **PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

**Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate \$1,108,497.69 for payment of warrants dated November 20, 2014. Second by Mr. Baker.**

Discussion – Mr. McKlarney advised Mr. Williams that the increase in the cell phone bill was for the purchase of new devices.

**Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

#### **SCHOOL BOARD APPROPRIATION**

**Mr. Baker moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$2,160,084 for the school board for December, 2014. Second by Mr. McCoy. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Dunn.**

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATION**

**Mr. McCoy moved to appropriate funds in the amount of \$200,000 for Social Services and \$100,000 for CSA for December, 2014. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Dunn.**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Members discussed the need and process for appointment of the Board of Equalization.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Williams informed the members of information from the VACo conference that he had recently attended.

#### **MOUNTAIN VALLEY RESOLUTION**

Mr. McCoy stated that he had an issue with the pipeline route. He asked if the Board would be agreeable to Mr. Chidester drafting a resolution opposing the proposed route for the following reasons: the route goes within one-half miles of the Cascades, it goes through the Newport Historic District, it is close to the covered bridge, as well as Eastern Elementary Middle School. Mr. McCoy said that the current proposed route is unacceptable. Mr. McCoy asked that the resolution be provided to the Board at their next meeting.

**Mr. McCoy moved to have the County Attorney draft a resolution in opposition of the proposed Mountain Valley Gas Line due to its close proximity to the Newport Historic District, the Cascade Falls, the covered bridge, and Eastern Elementary Middle School. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

## **DECEMBER BOARD MEETING**

**Mr. McCoy moved to change the regular December meeting to December 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

Discussion – Ms. Hobbs stated that there will only be one meeting in December unless there is an emergency. Mr. Chidester advised the Board that they may have to relocate their meetings in 2015 due to the courts schedule.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. McCoy moved to go into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code 2.2-3711, A(30) Contracts. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

**Mr. McCoy moved to certify that in the closed session just concluded, the Board discussed nothing except the matters specifically identified in the motion to convene and lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously by roll call vote – Voting YES: Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker, Mr. Dunn.**

## **PURCHASING POLICY**

**Mr. Williams moved to approve the Giles County Purchasing Policy as proposed. Second by Mr. Baker. Approved unanimously (5-0). Voting YES: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Williams, Ms. Hobbs, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Baker.**

## **ADJOURN**

No further business was introduced, Ms. Hobbs adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom, 120 North Main Street, Pearisburg, Virginia.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk