

10/21/14

**From:** Viehe, Kathy E  
**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2014 11:32 AM  
**To:** citycomm  
**Cc:** Jones, Nona C; Walton, J. Lewis; Blackburn, Russ D.  
**Subject:** GRU Governance and APPA Workshop

Mayor and Commissioners,

Given the upcoming topic of governance at the March 20 City Commission meeting, I wanted to provide you with an update of our research into a speaker from American Public Power Association (APPA) as requested by the Commission. Staff contacted the APPA to provide a resource on public power governance at a future workshop. APPA offers extensive training and facilitation that can span several days at a base cost of \$4,000 per day. Recognizing the challenge of both time and expense, we have developed an outline for your consideration. Our recommendation is a one-day (4-8 hour) session with APPA's Executive Consultant Dr. Jeff Tarbert.

Dr. Tarbert served as senior vice president for the last 12 years. He has bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in political science and higher education administration from Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio and George Washington University, Washington, D.C., where he previously served as an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education. Dr. Tarbert is the former mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, and previously served two terms as chairman of the Falls Church School Board. He also served as chair of the board of the Northern Virginia Community College.

#### Draft Outline

- The evolution and definition of governance
- The fiduciary duties and policy responsibilities of public power governing bodies
- Characteristics of high performance governing boards
- Key indicators and metrics for evaluating the governing board itself
- Steps necessary to assure the board's plan and actions are mission focused, customer driven and address the value of community ownership of the utility
- Areas for consideration and options for the utility's future: operations/reliability, competitiveness, delivering value to customers, and the business and governance models most likely to achieve success
- An examination of the current governance needs and challenges facing the utility industry, the major issues that are likely to impact the utility and its governing body in the next 3-5 years, and the various options for the most effective structure of GRU's governance
- An in-depth discussion of the various authorities that are exercised through public power governance, as well as the types of governance structures (city commission or council, independent board or authority, municipal corporation, a hybrid model or other) that are most likely to result in the successful, long-term operation of GRU

Alternatively, depending on the March 20 discussions, you could skip the outline above and simply have Dr. Tarbert serve as a facilitator to help in your future deliberations on governance.

Once you determine what you would like to do, we will work with Mr. Tarbert to schedule. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards and Happy Friday.

Kathy

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