

CARROLL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES OF UTILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 7, 2013
Carroll County Government Office Building
225 N. Center Street, Rm. 003
Westminster, Maryland 21157-5194
7 p.m.

Attendees: *Council:* Michael Wilmore, Chair; Ellen Dix, Kevin Hann, Steven Miller

County Staff: Jeff Topper, Joe Barrington, Tom Devilbiss, Robin Hooper, Penny Gist

Reports

Minutes from meeting of ~~5/10/12~~ 11/15/12: The minutes of the 11/15/12 meeting were approved as distributed by electronic mail on January 30, 2013. The Council, on motion of Mr. Wilmore, seconded by Mr. Hann, and carried; (Mrs. Dix and Mr. Miller voted “Aye”) approved the minutes of the 11/15/12 meeting.

Master Plan Updates/Revisions: *Bramble Hills service area and well* – Mr. Barrington relayed that right-of-way plats have been drawn. Attorneys are putting together final wording regarding the physical transfer. Then the construction project will go out for bid. The City will take over 100% once hook-up is completed, which is projected to be by the end of the calendar year.

Old Business

Freedom District Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade Status: County staff and Maryland Environmental Service (MES) attended GMB Associate’s presentation. The 30% drawings were received a few days ago. MES, Maryland Department of the Environment and staff have 10 working days to review these drawings. The 50% drawings are due 5/10/13. MES believes we are going to meet that schedule.

Asset Management – Geographic Information System (GIS) Status: This is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2014. By the end of 2013, staff should have a generic understanding of where assets are. MD Rtes. 32 and 26 are being used as the divider lines. Currently we are in the 3rd quarter, the northeast corner. Staff has looked into purchasing from Agile Assets. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a utilities module needs to be drafted and sent out. Once the program is purchased, updates, upgrades, support and maintenance is required. Mr. Wilmore asked if other counties have been asked about their asset management. Anne Arundel and Howard have been.

Town of Sykesville Water Pipe Replacement Status: The water pipe that requires replacement runs from the Howard County line as Main Street, intersects with Spout Hill Road, where it turns into Springfield Avenue, and continues on to Cooper Drive. As-built drawings are being reviewed to determine the types of pipe used. Water and Sewer lines are budgeted for replacement in 2018. The Town of Sykesville, their engineer, State Highway Administration (SHA) representatives and Delegate Krebs met for discussion. They reviewed the video showing metal deterioration of the pipe. The responsibilities of the Town, SHA and the County need to be determined. The next meeting is scheduled for the middle of May.

Discussion ensued by staff and the Council. The railroad berm was removed which is allowing stormwater to flow into the storm drain systems. That water becomes subsurface groundwater. When sanitary sewer pipe is installed, it's 10 to 15' deep and water pipe is 8 to 10'. Re-pavement over the area makes area over the pipe deeper. Initially, the pipe is laid in stone bed for movement allowance and stability. Over time the groundwater causes settlement and collapse. Mr. Hann noted that cast iron is susceptible to temperature. Mrs. Dix asked if the cast iron pipe is deteriorating from the inside. Mr. Barrington said it isn't. Chemicals can leach away at the pipe somewhat. The pipe may look good, but it doesn't actually have the strength as when it was first installed. Mr. Hann asked about the pH level. Mr. Barrington noted a corrosion inhibitor is used.

Bylaws: The 3rd draft of the bylaws was distributed to the Council. The Council decided on the wording in the 2nd draft. The bylaws document was signed by the Chair, Mr. Wilmore. The document will be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners' Office, the Council and applicable County staff.

Council members' status:

- a. **Freedom Area business community:** A representative is still needed. Verification is still needed if a representative can be sought from the Hampstead area business community. Mrs. Dix will ask Delegate Krebs to post a notice in the South Carroll newsletter.
- b. **Bark Hill/Pleasant Valley/Bramble Hills Area:** A representative is still needed.

Stormwater Management Fee Assessment: Tom Devilbiss, Deputy Director of Land Use, Planning and Development, gave an overview of this. A law was passed that larger jurisdictions near Baltimore develop a fund and program by 7/1/13. A County work group comprised of Environmental Advisory Council, Farm Bureau, Water Resource Coordination Council and Cities of Westminster and Taneytown representatives are developing a proposal for the Board of County Commissioners' review. The County must stay in compliance with the funding portion of the permit.

New Business

Citizen Concerns: Ms. Dix noted that some concerns from the South Carroll area are forthcoming. When they are received, she will forward these via email to Mr. Topper and Mr. Barrington.

Septic Bill (SB 236), Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012: A news release dated 2/1/13 was distributed to the Council. Legislation has been introduced to "repeal specified provisions of the septic bill relating to the adoption of specified growth tier designations, repeal a prohibition against the sale or development of specified land unless specified documentation is provided to the Maryland Department of the Environment and repeal the requirement that under specified circumstances a local jurisdiction alter the contents of its master plan." The Board of County Commissioners wanted residents to have the opportunity to testify for repeal of the bill to protect their property values and rights.

Mr. Devilbiss noted this is a major land use issue that needs to be dealt with in public process. About ½ of the jurisdictions in Maryland have tiered maps. The Board of County Commissioners decided not to take any action related to tier mapping at this time. Therefore, only minor subdivision outside planned water and sewer service areas are allowed. The definition of minor subdivision was changed to 7 lots. We are in compliance with the law. We can map tiers in the future, but cannot put major subdivisions in Tier 4.

Bureau of Utilities Fiscal Year 2014 Community Investment Plan and Operating

Budgets: Mrs. Hooper distributed and explained information regarding the Bureau of Utilities Fiscal Year 2014 Community Investment Plan and Operating Budgets. After discussion, the Council, on motion of Mr. Hann, seconded by Mrs. Dix, and carried; (Mr. Miller and Mr. Wilmore voted “Aye”) endorsed the Community Investment Plan Budget; and on motion of Mr. Wilmore, seconded by Mrs. Dix, and carried; (Mr. Hann and Mr. Miller voted “Aye”) endorsed the Operating Budget.

Piney Run Lake: Mrs. Dix brought up for discussion the history of the County’s consideration of using Piney Run Lake as an alternative water source. She feels education of the residents is important in making this a possibility. Mr. Wilmore requested to review agreements relative to the County using the Baltimore City water supply.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2013.

Note: Originally scheduled meeting for February 28, ~~2012~~ 2013 postponed due to completed budget information not being available.

- cc: *Council Members*
Thomas J. Rio, Director of Public Works
Jeffrey Topper, Deputy Director of Public Works
Joe Barrington, Utilities Operations Manager
Robert Burk, Comptroller
Thomas S. Devilbiss, Deputy Director, Land Use, Planning & Development
Robin Hooper, Budget Analyst, Department of Management & Budget
Jenny Hobbs, Financial Analyst, Department of the Comptroller
Steve Powell, Chief of Staff, Board of County Commissioners
Utilities Advisory Council File

Handouts: 3rd Draft 3/7/13 Utilities Advisory Council Bylaws – for discussion, Article VII
News Release 2/1/13: “Opportunity to Testify for Repeal of Septic Bill (SB 236)
Bureau of Utilities Fiscal Year 2014 Community Investment Plan Budget and Operating Budget
\\ccnas\homeuser\pgist\FORMS\UTILITIES\Utilities Advisory Council Minutes\3-7-13final.doc