

CARROLL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES OF UTILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL
August 22, 2013
Carroll County Government Office Building
225 N. Center Street, The Reagan Room (Rm. 003)
Westminster, Maryland 21157-5194
7 p.m.

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

County Staff: Jeff Topper, Ken Donovan, Rizwan Ahmed, Tom Devilbiss, Penny Gist

Ken Donovan, Bureau Chief of Utilities, was introduced to the Council. Joe Barrington's title is now Utilities Operations Manager.

Reports

Minutes from meeting of 3/7/13: The minutes of the 3/7/13 meeting were approved as distributed by electronic mail on April 19, 2013. The Council, on motion of Mr. Wilmore, seconded by Mrs. Dix, and carried; (Mr. Hann and Mr. Miller voted "Aye") approved the minutes of the 3/7/13 meeting.

Master Plan Updates/Revisions: *Bramble Hills service area and well* – Mr. Donovan noted that the County is currently responsible for the water quality in this area. The City of Westminster will take over the entire responsibility for the system once they connect the existing customers to the City's new piping. The design for the plant is under review by the Maryland Department of the Environment and once approved the piping can be installed. The County has processed legal paper work to transfer water rights and easements to the City and it should be in the final stages of being recorded. Westminster expects that the community could be hooked up within a year.

Old Business

Freedom District Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade Status: Mr. Topper reported that a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners is forthcoming. The 90% drawings were due in August, but now they are due the end of September. The State of Maryland wants to see Carroll County demonstrating a commitment for future capacity increase. By increasing the depth of the ditches in the upgrade we will have demonstrated that commitment. This project needs to be fully operational in January of 2017. The permitted discharge of the plant is and will be 3.5 mgd (County 2.6 mgd, State 0.9 mgd). Mr. Wilmore referred to the CIP plan where it's noted a cost of \$1.5 million for deeper reactors. Mr. Hann supports the need to increase plant capacity for South Carroll. He noted that Hampstead needs additional capacity for growth. Mr. Wilmore referred to the CIP again, regarding the Hampstead Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent chillers project. Mr. Topper noted that JMT, the engineering consultant, completed the study but the project will not be implemented at this time. The County is operating the WWTP per a consent agreement. Temperature limits have to be tracked and reported as part of this agreement.

Asset Management – Geographic Information System (GIS) Status: Mr. Donovan reported that he will be meeting with the Bureau of Engineering Chief and staff to review

asset locating in the Sykesville area. Currently, field surveys and data conversion into CADD files is on-going.

Town of Sykesville Water Pipe Replacement Status: Mr. Donovan reported that Mr. Barrington has been attending previous meetings regarding this. The responsibilities of the Town, State Highway Administration and the County are being determined. Carroll County needs to write a letter to SHA regarding the design for street scape. Commissioner Howard is leading the effort to expedite the design concept and schedule. Mr. Donovan is trying to locate assets (pipes, manholes, old sewer systems, etc.) with the assistance of Bob Bond, Wilson T. Ballard Company. They are looking at old as-built drawings. Few records before 1965 have been found so far. Water and sewer lines are budgeted for replacement in 2018, but Mr. Donovan wants to suggest that re-lining of the pipes is more cost efficient.

Council members' status: Terms for Mr. Hann, (Hampstead) and Mr. Wilmore (Freedom) expire on 12/31/13. They are both interested in continuing for another term.

- a. **Freedom Area business community:** A representative is still needed. Mrs. Dix spoke with business owners during a recent event in the Freedom area. She will speak with Sykesville's Town Manager at their next council meeting.
- 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 update on the status of this. Previously, a law was passed that larger jurisdictions near Baltimore develop a fund and fee by 7/1/13. The primary purpose of the fund and fees are to offset stormwater management mitigation projects. A County work group comprised of the Environmental Advisory Council, Farm Bureau, Water Resource Coordination Council and Cities of Westminster and Taneytown representatives developed a fee structure for the Board of County Commissioners' review. The Commissioners adopted a resolution (Resolution No. 888-2013A-D on 6/27/13. The fund was adopted, the fee was not. The Stormwater Fund Resolution document can be viewed on the County's web page at www.ccgovernment.carr.org.

Mr. Wilmore asked about funding for TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) requirements. Mr. Devilbiss noted there is money budgeted for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance.

Piney Run Lake: At the 3/7/13 meeting, Mrs. Dix brought up for discussion the history of the County's consideration of using Piney Run Lake as an alternative water source. Tom Devilbiss gave an overview of Piney Run Lake's history and current water resources program. Mr. Wilmore asked if the County is maintaining the pipes previously installed for the Hollenberry Lane water project, near Obrecht Road. The pipe in Hollenberry Lane was installed in anticipation of the construction of a water treatment plant. It is now part of the Freedom water system. Valve work is occurring now on the Piney Run Dam. Gates were fixed. Staff is evaluating what to do in the future regarding vandalism.

Mrs. Dix asked what the draw is from Liberty Reservoir – 2.0 mgd; and is there any draw from Piney Run – no, Piney Run is not on-line. The current State appropriation for Piney Run is a withdrawal of 3.3 mgd with a minimum release of 1 mgd.

Mrs. Dix noted that in the 1990's, people from outside sources convinced residents to not use the lake as a water source. No one from the County came to South Carroll to talk about it. The pipe installed in Hollenberry Lane for County water usage is still there; how much more is needed? Discussion ensued regarding the various conditions of the lake; algae (no one allowed to go onto the lake), sediment (study done which showed no problems) and nutrient problems. Mr. Wilmore asked if there was a TMDL credit for that – no. Mr. Devilbiss stated

the County is working on management practices now. A current concern is that the reservoir is maturing, which often results in decreasing water quality. Mr. Hann believes the County should pursue development of Piney Run Lake as a water supply. Mrs. Dix wants to speak with the Town of Sykesville about it.

New Business

Baltimore City water agreements – July 3, 1968 and February 16, 2005: At the 3/7/13 meeting, Mr. Wilmore requested to review agreements relative to the County using the Baltimore City water supply. Copies of the agreements dated 7/3/68 and 2/16/05 were distributed to the Council. Mrs. Dix stated the County is paying for raw water and that Howard County is paying for filtered water. Mr. Hann asked if the County is obligated to get water from Baltimore City. Mr. Topper stated yes. Mr. Donovan stated the County is heavily invested because they have a water treatment plant at Liberty Reservoir. Mr. Devilbiss explained that in the 1930's Baltimore City acquired from the Maryland legislature, water rights to the Patapsco and its tributaries to Baltimore City. Therefore, any surface water appropriations in the Patapsco River watershed in Carroll Country must be vetted through Baltimore City.

Bureau of Utilities Community Investment Plan Budget – Ten Year CIP: Mr. Topper noted that staff is meeting to discuss and create a ten year CIP program. Currently there is a six year program. The group is reviewing existing and new projects, whether the budget is sufficient, and how the projects affect rates. Mr. Hann asked how the project list is created. Input from departments, field operations and asset management data is used. Mr. Hann stated the County is to be commended for the program currently in place.

Water Quality Reports for 2012: The Bureau of Utilities 2012 Annual Water Quality Reports for the following areas were distributed for the Council members' information: Freedom District, Pleasant Valley, Bark Hill and Bramble Hills.

Francis Scott Key High School – is the County transporting wastewater to Union Bridge?: Mrs. Dix asked for this agenda item to be discussed. Mrs. Dix asked when they were building Francis Scott Key High School if there was an issue with the property lines, so that they had to haul the wastewater to the Town of Union Bridge. Mr. Donovan recalls there was an issue with the Board of Education and Maryland Department of the Environment permitting process so that the required piping could not be installed; this made it necessary to transport wastewater to be treated in Union Bridge. Mrs. Dix asked if County trucks haul wastewater from Westminster Septage Plant to the landfill. The City of Westminster hauls sludge to the landfill from the Westminster Septage Plant.

Freedom Water Treatment Plant – output, conservation's effect on repaying loan: Mrs. Dix asked for this agenda item to be discussed. Mr. Topper gave information to the Council regarding Freedom Water Treatment Plant's loan and debt. There have been no late payments and the County has not defaulted on the loan. Conservation has had no effect on the debt. Rates have gone up because of conservation. Mr. Topper spoke regarding rate information. Rate information can be viewed on the Bureau of Utilities webpage.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2013.

Note: Originally scheduled meeting for April 25, 2013 was cancelled due to one council member not being available and limited new business.

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: Baltimore City water agreements July 3, 1968 & February 16, 2005

Bureau of Utilities Water Quality Reports for 2012

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