

**CARROLL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MINUTES OF UTILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

February 23, 2017

Carroll County Government Office Building

225 N. Center Street, Rm. 003

Westminster Maryland 21157-5194

7 pm.

Attendees: *Council:* Michael Wilmore, Steve Miller, Ellen Dix, and William Wantz

County Staff: Gary Dye, Wanda Brandenburg, Jeff Topper

Guest: Mr. Donnie Nott, Director of Public Works for Town of Manchester

Meeting opened by Mr. Wilmore. Steve Miller introduced Mr. Nott to the Board as a guest.

Reports

Minutes from meeting of 11/17/16: Minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting were presented. The Council, on motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dix, and carried by Mr. Wilmore and Mr. Wantz, voted to adopt the minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting.

Council members' status:

- a. **Freedom Area business community:** Update 2/23/17 – As of this date no new volunteers have come forward to serve on the Council for the Freedom District.
- b. **Bark Hill:** A representative is still needed for this service area.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Community Investment Plan (CIP) Budgets:

- a. **Water and Sewer study – Updated 2/23/17** –The initial 4 month period for flow monitoring ended on January 26, 2017. Due to lack of significant rain events to monitor flows, the flow metering has been extended for a 3 month period through April. A progress meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2017.
- b. **Freedom WWTP ENR upgrade project – Updated 2/23/17** – Payments to date total \$19.3 million. Project is roughly 87.5% complete. Approximately 225 days remain on the contract. MDE is requiring an Influent Restriction and Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) to be completed prior to final determination of the permit. This refers to Industrial Dischargers definitions and requirements of the permit. The County wanted reference to “all industrial users” versus “significant industrial users”. MDE revised some of the wording but indicated “all industrial users” has to remain in several places of the permit. Industrial user/discharger is regulated under the Clean Water Act and is much broader in scope than the “significant industrial user/discharger” definition. These regulations could possibly require much more work on BOU part that we are not staffed to handle.
- c. **Hampstead WWTP ENR upgrade project – Updated 2/23/17** – Split permits are being processed for a tentative determination by MDE and a public hearing is being set up for a public comment regarding the tentative determination. The meeting will be held at the North Carroll Senior Center and is tentatively scheduled for April 10th at 6 pm. A notice will be posted in the newspaper about the meeting date. The County still does not have a signed agreement with the Piney Run Association of Baltimore County. We had requested MDE to not publish the tentative

determination until we had a signed agreement by the Baltimore County residents; however, we can no longer delay the tentative determination of the permits and are moving forward with MDE. MDE is pushing to get the permits published.

- d. **Lower Beckleysville Road Line update – Updated 2/23/17** – Phase II final plans and documents were delayed due to review process, design changes and easement acquisition. This is out to bid and closes on March 8th. The Notice to Proceed will be issued by May 15th. There was a meeting with BGE due to a conflict with a BGE gas main. BGE will relocate the gas line. Originally planned to get through Cole farm before planting season in late spring. Per revised schedule work on Cole farm will begin September 1, 2017.
- e. **Westminster Septage Facility upgrade project – Updated 2/23/17** – The County received the 100% plans on the project. The City is working on getting the permits and is at least 6-8 months away from start of construction. This will allow the Landfill time to cap the cells and expand the leachate pond in preparation of the shutdown of the Septage facility during construction. The County anticipates a 30% reduction in leachate from work at the landfill. Septage from the honey dippers continues to increase. Septage rates are expected to increase from the construction costs expenses to be passed on to the haulers. They are currently paying \$0.65 per gallon. A 3rd blower was requested by the City of Westminster to be installed for backup should one or both blowers break down. BOU has decided to wait and re-evaluate the need after the completion of the ENR upgrade.
- f. **Sykesville (MD 851) Streetscape Project – Updated 2/23/17** – Due to cuts in fuel taxes, State funding for this project has been cut. It looks like this project is cut from the State Highway budget but we have not heard anything about the project lately.
- g. **Asset Management System project – Updated 2/23/17** – There were a few delays in getting the system up and running due to staff turnover, Engineer and staff turn-around time with gathering data and getting the configuration done for the system. A meeting was held on January 30, 2107 to get back on track. Training is scheduled for March 14, 2017 and we anticipate going live on April 1st.
- h. **Relief Sewer 2, 4, 6 & 10 – Updated 2/23/17 - Relief Sewer #10** (Sykesville Interceptor) The preliminary engineering design went for concurrence before the Commissioners on January 26, 2017. We are moving forward with the next phase of design for the new pump station, force main and gravity sewer. This will eliminate a problematic section of Relief Sewer #10 between the railroad tracks and the South Branch of the Patapsco River. **RS #4** is to replace about 2,050 ft. of sewer main that parallel's to Snowdens Creek Road. All County comments are in. The Army Corp of Engineers Waterway permit was approved. **Relief #6** is to replace approximately 2,200 feet of an existing 12-inch pipe with a 16-inch pipe south of MD 32 to Piney Ridge Parkway. Currently waiting on the sewer study and model completion for recommendations. **Relief Sewer #2** – This project addresses I&I (inflow and infiltration) issues along Sunset Drive and the Carroll Highlands Pump Station. Pleasants Construction was awarded the bid to line the sewer. Lining is currently underway and approximately 1800 ft. of sewer pipe is to be lined.
- i. **Water & Sewer Specs – Updated 2/23/17** – This was submitted as a Capital Project for FY18 to hire an outside firm for assistance in completing this project. If approved, the Utilities Engineer will assist on the project. Won't know if the project is approved until the public hearing is held on the budget in May and then adopted.
- j. **Raincliffe Well Rehabilitation – Updated 2/23/17** – Plans were submittal to MDE in February for the construction permit. The well will need to be retested for production after rehabilitation takes place. It is anticipated the yield volume will not be as great as the first time the well was on-line. Mrs. Dix had asked when will residents would see a decrease in their bills due to new well coming back into production. Mr. Dye stated the plan is to bring more wells into production to reduce the amount of raw water being purchased from the City of Baltimore. However, there are still operating costs involved with bringing new wells on-line. A reduction may not be the

outcome residents will see but keeping rate increases at a minimum to avoid the annual 9-12% increases the City of Baltimore passes along to the County for raw water and in turn on to residents is the goal. The County is currently working on trying to negotiate with the City for issuing a credit for approximately 150,000 gpd of fresh water being put back into the lake daily from the water plant through the treatment process. This could help significantly reduce the operating budget expenses for the purchase of raw water if approved. Agreements for the purchase of water between other Counties and the City of Baltimore are being looked at as well.

k. **MacBeth Way Water Looping & Frank Brown Trail Project – Updated 2/23/17** – The water line portion is complete and in service. Recreation and Parks is to finish the trail portion this spring.

l. **Homeland Condominium Private Fire Hydrants – Updated 2/23/17** - Flushing was completed on October 26, 2016. Mrs. Dix said the black stuff has returned and the hydrants may need to be flushed quarterly as opposed to semi-annually. She is going to check with representatives of Winifred Manor and Nell's Acres to see if they are having the same issues.

III. **Springfield wells and Piney Run Reservoir – Updated 2/23/17** – A Capital Project was submitted this year to bring 5 existing monitoring wells into production as additional sources of water supply for the Freedom District. We will have to wait to see if it gets approved in May.

IV. **Bartholow Tank Rehabilitation – Updated 2/25/16** - Pittsburg Paint & Tower cleaned and inspected the tank. The inside will need to be painted. CDM is working on a feasibility study for putting the tank back on line with a booster pump mixer.

V. **Warfield Subdivision – Updated 2/23/17** - Water and sewer is now the BOU's responsibility. We have not seen any plan submittal since the concept plan was received. A Commissioner meeting is scheduled for March 1st. Mr. Dye was not aware of the topic of discussion for the meeting. The County cannot upgrade the sewer lines until the property is transferred to the County. This is schedule to take place on June 17, 2017.

VI. **Proposed CIP Project for 2018-2024 – Updated 2/23/17** - Capital budgets were submitted for FY18-24. O&M budgets were submitted in December 2016. Agencies will meet with the Board of Commissioners to review budgets in March. The public hearing will be held in May and the budgets will be adopted at the end of May.

VII. **County/Town/Municipality Utilities Group – Updated 2/23/17** - Steve Miller brought this up again at the Town Managers group meeting in February. He had hopes that more municipalities would attend the UAC meeting.

VIII. **Sykesville MD 26 Widening & Road Improvement Project – Updated 2/23/17** - The design of this state project was changed due to MDE storm water management comments/requirements and now impacts approximately 800 ft. of 12-inch water distribution main. The Utilities Engineer, Storm water Management Engineer and Gary Dye met to review the plans. They came up with 2 possible revisions that would reduce or eliminate impacts to the waterline. State Highway (SHA) submitted revised plans and the only impact is to relocate a fire hydrant that will be moved back about 20 ft. thereby eliminating the need to relocate the water line. An easement is required from a company called Tobacco Tech and paperwork is currently being processed. Mrs. Dix asked if there was a plan to have public water/sewer on the South side of Liberty Road. Mr. Dye said not at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

I. **UAC By-laws** - The UAC Council by-laws were handed out to members and a review of the by-laws warranted some changes to be made. Revisions will be made and presented to members for approval and adoption. Mr. Dye had asked Council members how they thought the meetings have been going and whether or not they were beneficial since inception of the Council. Mr. Wilmore, Mrs. Dix and

Mr. Miller all stated they thought it was beneficial to have the meetings. There haven't been any recent complaints from residents to address as in the past. Mr. Wantz being new has only had the opportunity to attend two meetings but felt it was a good idea to continue as well.

- II. **Discussion on Future Council Topics** – Mr. Dye made several suggestions about how to present the future meetings. They could be handled in the same fashion as currently being done or guest speakers could be brought in to talk about specific topics, new products, technology or services available to Utilities that Council members might have an interest in. In addition, Council members could invite guest speakers as well. Mr. Wilmore recommended that the Commissioners contact the County Administrators directly in getting more participation. Mr. Miller suggested creating a newsletter style update that could be available on-line. Mr. Topper is on other committees and stated they are having similar issues.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2017 at 7 pm in Room 003. This is subject to change.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cc: *Council Members*
Jeffrey Castonguay, Director of Public Works
Jeffrey Topper, Deputy Director of Public Works
Robert Burk, Comptroller
Thomas S. Devilbiss, Director, Land Use, Planning & Development
Stephanie Krome, Budget Analyst, Department of Management & Budget
Jenny Hobbs, Financial Analyst, Department of the Comptroller
Ted Zaleski, Director, Management & Budget
Utilities Advisory Council File

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