

# **BOONSBORO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

The Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission (BMUC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, in the Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman Meeting Chambers. Participants included Chairperson Stu Mullendore and Commission Members Ken Eshbaugh, Bobby Mose, and Colin Shanaberger. Also in attendance were Mayor and Council Liaison Anthony Nally, Town Manager Paul Mantello, W/WW Superintendent Pete Shumaker, Public Works Superintendent Greg Huntzberry, and guest Eric Kitchen from the Water Loss Task Force and JR Hawkins, Engineer. Member Dave Wade was absent.

Chairperson Stu Mullendore called the meeting to order at 5:58pm.

There were no public comments.

The minutes from the August 18 meeting were reviewed as there was no meeting held in September. Member Eshbaugh made a motion to approve the minutes with Member Shanaberger providing the second. The motion carried 4-0 unanimously.

Mayor and Council Liaison Anthony Nally reviewed the most recent Treasurers Report. Member Eshbaugh questioned why the report was not included in the packet. Town Manager Mantello and Mayor and Council Liaison Nally stated that due to the Mayor and Council Meeting being changed, the information was not available for printing, but that it would be included in the packet for the November meeting. Member Eshbaugh motioned to approve the treasurers report with Member Shanaberger again providing the second. The motion unanimously carried 4-0.

Guest Kitchen updated members and guests on the current water loss numbers. He shared that he wanted to get back to Town Hall to look at numbers in November. Town Manager Mantello added that W/WW Superintendent Shumaker had conducted wet well testing, and water was not leaking.

Regarding the Reservoir Preliminary Engineering Report, Town Manager Mantello optimistically shared that he feels confident the Federal Government will provide one million dollars to help fund the project, the State will provide an additional million, and the county will also hopefully contribute a million to the project. He shared that a funding request letter would be sent to the County Commissioners. The request would come after a meeting with county administration that Mayor Long will attend. Town Manager Mantello went over a detailed proposal from WRA reviewing cost estimates. Guest Engineer JR Hawkins stated that he felt Option #2, or the pre-cast walls would be the best system for the town of Boonsboro. He shared that this is what Middletown had constructed and they are pleased. There was much discussion about if there is enough ground at the current site, the types of soil and pre-construction site work that would need to be completed, as well as other aspects of the design. The consensus of the group was to move forward and allow the geological studies to be completed in order to make the most informed decision, however Option #2 seems to be the best with the information that is currently available.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the WWTP Dewatering Facility Project. He shared that a formal procurement process would be opened up for construction of the buildings. Guest Hawkins shared a few ideas about the how to write the request for proposal to keep costs at a minimum. Member Eshbaugh

questioned if water and sewer lines had been previously run to the area discussed for placement at the WWTP site? He shared that he does not want that infrastructure to go unused if it is already on site. W/WW Superintendent Shumaker told the group that the current pumps will likely need to be replaced as well.

Route 34 Pump Station Lid Replacement is almost complete. W/WW Superintendent Shumaker stated he had the concrete in the lid poured and finished and he was just waiting for it to cure before it is lifted into place. He said he will work in conjunction with Public Works Superintendent Huntzberry to complete the project.

Town Manager Mantello recapped the 2021 Tree Giveaway. In all, almost five hundred trees were planted on public and private land. These plantings should provide the town with four acres of MSR stormwater credit. The town needs to have twenty-three credits in the next 5 years. A pre-application meeting was held at the Wastewater treatment plant to finalize the design for the wetland area that is being constructed there. The work should begin in the Spring of 2022.

Asset Management team had a meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Town Manager Mantello shared that He and other town staff, along with an Environmental Commission volunteer had met to discuss the new software that will be used to aid in the process which is being done in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers. Guest Hawkins suggested renaming all the manholes so they can be easily identified in the system.

BHS Sports Field Irrigation Project Update was discussed next. Town Manager Mantello stated that the Superintendent has agreed to open the procurement process again for an irrigation well. The Board of Education representatives will work closely with town Staff to see this process through.

Town Manager Mantello discussed rescheduling the joint meeting between the BMUC and the Planning Commission. After much discussion, it was decided that a joint meeting did not need to occur and if something seemed of grave importance, a special session could be called. Mayor and Council Liaison Nally stated that he would try to attend the meetings.

There were several topics introduced under the heading of New Business. The first topic discussed was the grant award that is received from MDE Operations & Maintenance. W/WW Superintendent Shumaker does an exemplary job keeping emissions from the WWTP to a minimum. Due to the fact that the numbers remained so low, the Town of Boonsboro was awarded an additional \$8,000 in grant money, bring the total to around \$38,000.

Town Manager Mantello also discussed the 2021 AWWA Operator of the Year Award that was awarded to Public Works Superintendent Greg Huntzberry. He was recognized for his diligence during the pandemic for maintaining a clean distribution system.

MRWA Stormwater Protection Project of the Year was awarded to the Town of Boonsboro for source water protection. The town has a good plan in place to ensure that groundwater is protected.

Leak Survey bids were reviewed next. Town Manager Mantello shared the bids and opened up discussion. He shared that he had spoken to references for American Leak Detection, and they were favorable. Member Shanaberger made a motion to approve the bid and Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The motion unanimously carried 4-0.

W/WW Superintendent shared the bids for the trash pump. After discussion, the group decided to go with the local representative and the Xylembid. Member Shanaberger made the motion to approve, and Member Mose provided the second. The motion was unanimously approved 4-0.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the Advanced Metering Infrastructure upgrade. This is a two-part process. The first is to have towers installed with gateways to read meters automatically. The second is to have the system put into zones with master meters to monitor for leaks in the system as a whole. Town Manager Mantello addressed the concerns from the group about the cost. He shared that he is working with Harry Dodson, our Core and Main representative to do a demonstration so that the town does not pay for something that will not work. Member Shanaberger shared that the town has spent money to upgrade the meters but is not utilizing all the functions they have. Guest Hawkins shared that this technology pays for itself and that implementation in small steps is still beneficial. Mayor and Council Liaison Nally said he needed more information and better numbers before he could take this to the Mayor and Council meeting to request funding. Town Staff will work on his requests.

Public Works Superintendent Huntzberry shared that he would like to purchase a sewer camera with money left over from a previous grant. This camera will aid public works in sewer back-ups and in general maintenance of lines. The cost of the camera is right around \$10,000, with \$5,000 of grant money to be used. Member Eshbaugh made a motion to purchase the camera and Member Shanaberger provided the second. The motion carried 4-0 in a unanimous vote.

Under Systems Report, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker stated that a \$4,000 pump repair was needed. Other than that, he shared everything was in good working condition. Member Eshbaugh asked if any of the American Rescue Plan Act money was going to be used to purchase upgraded pumps at the plants. Town Manager Mantello stated that no money had been designated yet. Mayor and Council Liaison Nally asked that formal funding requests need to be put into writing so that it could be reviewed by the Mayor and Council.

On the public works side, Superintendent Huntzberry briefly shared an update about the massive water leak on Maple Avenue and Kinsey Heights. He stated that the lines were not properly marked in the area where the contractor was working and because of that, they were drilled through by a contractor working for Comcast. No further details were provided.

Town Manager Mantello stated he did not have anything else to discuss.

Member Shanaberger made a motion to adjourn, and Member Mose provided the second. All were in favor and the meter was adjourned at 8:17.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Wells Administrative Assistant.