

# **BOONSBORO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, July 21, 2021**

The Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission (BMUC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday July 21, 2021, in the Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman Meeting Chambers. Participants included Chairperson Stu Mullendore and Commission Members Ken Eshbaugh, Bobby Mose, and Colin Shanaberger and Dave Wade. 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.

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

There were no public comments.

The minutes from the June 17, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Member Wade made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor and Council Liaison Anthony Nally reviewed the most recent Treasurers Report. Member Wade made a motion to accept the report and Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Under Old Business, guest Eric Kitchen provided a Water Loss Task force update. He mentioned the test of the wet wells that W/WW Superintendent Shumaker had mentioned in previous meetings had still not been completed due to the ongoing workload at the wastewater treatment plant. Guest Kitchen also commended town staff for the efficiency in repairing a leak that he discovered at the end of his property. Guest Kitchen raised the question that part of the water loss issues could be from these lines breaking around town and the water not surfacing. Additionally, he stated that he would like to take another look at meter readings in the fall. Regarding Asset Management, he deferred to Town Manager Mantello. Town Manager Mantello shared a letter that he sent requesting government funding for the reservoir replacement project, through Representative Trone and Senator Van Hollen's offices. He also shared that he had been in contact with other federal agencies including FEMA (grant application), USDA Rural Development, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Regarding the WWTP Expanded Chemical Storage project, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker told the group the project is wrapping up. He was just waiting for the final inspection. Town Manager shared photos with the group. The tanks when full will hold 30,000

pounds of chemicals and will save the town thousands of dollars in chemical fees, decreasing the price from around \$.38 per pound down to around \$.17. Additionally, instead of purchasing every twenty-five days, it will be about twice a year.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the Fee Schedule and Application for Developer Use of Water and Wastewater Model. He shared an \$86.25 fee for use of the water model and a \$147.25 for use of the wastewater model. These fees will be charged per tap and are based on the current availability of 1,280 total taps. Town Manager Mantello also discussed the updating of the current fee schedule to be more streamlined. He stated that Town Planner Reilley Stanley is currently working on updating this schedule.

Public Works Superintendent Greg Huntzberry stated that the Ultrasonic meter was installed on Stouffer Avenue in the Graystone subdivision to monitor the water usage in that neighborhood. This is the same meter that was previously installed in the Crestview neighborhood to monitor usage. Guest Kitchen asked what area would be investigated next and it was decided that the Route 40 extension line would be a good place to test in the future.

Town Manager Mantello shared in great detail about the Asset Inventory System. The estimate from the Army Corp of Engineers is \$79,630.00. The total cost to the town would be half that amount. Town Staff would need to continue training with the software. Council Member Liaison Nally shared that this will be an excellent tool for determining the towns budget each year. There was discussion about an intern doing some of the work. Chairperson Mullendore stated that a student from HCC or one of the University Systems of Maryland may be a good fit to assist with this project. Asset Management will bring the town to a pro-active position instead of from always working from a reactive one. Town Manager Mantello shared that he feels the town should hire an engineer and use the funds from development to pay the salary. Guest Eric Kitchen shared that he thought another call to Dawn Noll was needed to discuss this topic in greater detail.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the BHS Irrigation Well. He stated that he had reached out to the USDA to inquire if there was any engineering assistance, they could offer through one of their rural programs, specifically through the soil conservation program. He sent the procurement documents from WCPS. Member Shanaberger reintroduced the idea of a special rate for this irrigation water as well as a cap on how much water could be used for the field. Member Eshbaugh shared his concerns with the water pressure in Kinsey Heights and how if an irrigation system was installed behind the middle school, the water pressure level for residents in that neighborhood would be negatively impacted.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the WWTP Sludge Dewatering Press Project. He shared with the group the results from the two pilot tests. There was some discussion about the smaller press diameter and if it would be able to keep up with the demand of future growth. No decision was made as to which bid to accept because the town is still waiting on a formal proposal for the rotary press. Under the Design Agreement, Town Manager Mantello shared

that he had reached out to Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, and the language that he was concerned about regarding a prime contractor. Town Manager Mantello feels strongly that the contract is solid, and a meeting is planned at town hall in the new future. Chairperson Mullendore made a motion to move the project forward and Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Mantello shared the current numbers for the Fall Tree planting event. For every 100 trees that are planted the town will receive 1 acre of MS4 permitting. By 2023 the town has to mitigate 30 acres. The Department of Natural Resources Reforestation program wants to plant in the fall or early spring on town owned land. This will provide several additional acres of credit for mitigation. A third program, a wetland creation on the grounds of the wastewater treatment plant is also in the pipeline. This will require use of approximately 7 acres of the town farm but will provide around 30 acres of mitigation credit. Water and Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker questioned about mosquitos

Under Systems Report, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker stated that everything was running well on the water side while the sewer side continues to have issues. He is having problems with the generator and the control panel. He also informed the commission members that he is still waiting for parts to arrive for the intermediate pumps. He suggested that back up pump be purchased in the event of a power failure.

On the public works side, Superintendent Huntzberry shared that all manholes have been rehabbed. He also discussed the need to reduce the pressure on the water line from Keedysville to Boonsboro because meters keep blowing out from the high pressure. Town Manager Mantello suggested a call to WRA to discuss this.

In the Town Manager Report, Town Manager Mantello discussed the ongoing issue with Waltz Plumbing and town resident Wiles. The debt owed was reduced to \$150.00. The group decided that cutting the losses at this point is the correct decision for the town. Also, this brings to light the need for updated meter technology that would have possibly detected this leak when it first occurred.

Member Eshbaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Mose provided the second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Wells Administrative Assistant.