

BOONSBORO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 20, 2021

The Boonsboro Municipal Utilities Commission (BMUC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2021 in the Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman Meeting Chambers. Participants included Acting Vice 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 guests Eric Kitchen from the Water Loss Task Force and JR Hawkins, Engineer for Middletown.

Assistant Chairperson Stu Mullendore called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00pm.

There were no public comments.

The minutes from the April 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Member Eshbaugh motioned to approve the minutes and Member Mose provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Under Old Business, guest Eric Kitchen provided a Water Loss Task force update. He discussed the leak at the reservoir extensively. The ultra-sonic meter, the resistivity test and the dive all confirmed the reservoir is in fact leaking. The group viewed video from the dive which Mayor Long was able to arrange with County Commissioner Wagner free of charge. The divers were from the Frederick County dive team. They completed a survey of the reservoir and found significant damage to a boot, several tears in the lining, and structural issues with the sidewall. Town Manager Mantello had shared in the last meeting that there was a possibility the Army Corps of Engineers could help with the reservoir replacement, however he recently was told that this was not possible. He did state however that FEMA may be able to provide assistance, including a temporary holding tank to the town if the reservoir needs to be drained. The consensus of the group was that pursuing replacement of the reservoir was the end game, but the town will seek prices for: a short-term fix in the repair, a long-term fix in the replacement of the liner and the cover and the best solution, construction of a new split-tank reservoir. Town Manager Mantello shared with the group that Senator Corderman is visiting on Monday and will take a tour of the town. Town Manager Mantello also shared that he hopes to be able to obtain state funding and/or grant funding for the full cost of the reservoir replacement. Assistant Chair Mullendore stressed that a comparative cost analysis is important for the

taxpayers of Boonsboro. Guest Hawkins added the construction for the split-tank reservoir in Middletown cost 3.3 million dollars.

Superintendent Huntzberry discussed Collections System Rehabilitation Project Phase II. He stated that the town has enough grant money to compete 75 linear feet of the manholes that need epoxy coated. In total, 250 feet needs to be completed. Member Eshbaugh asked what the cost is to finish? Town Manager Mantello answered quoting \$400 per vertical linear foot. Council Liaison Nally asked if the town could reapply for the same grant to assist in completing the project. Town Manager Mantello stated that, yes, additional ARC grant funds could be applied for, but Phase III will require additional survey and camera work of the collection system before additional pipe lining can be identified. The cost of a new survey will be \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Regarding the WWTP Expanded Chemical Storage project, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker told the group the footers were poured on Wednesday morning and that he hoped to start laying block Thursday morning.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the BHS Irrigation Well. He stated that he simply did not have the time to pursue this project at this time. The Board of Education is unwilling to put in any legwork to get the engineering completed. Guest Hawkins shared that in Middletown prior to the turf field being installed, the town capped the amount of water the school could use to irrigate the field. He suggested contacting a landscape architect to determine the amount of water needed to keep the field green, as well as the best time to water the field for optimal saturation and to present the figures to the school in the hope that they will move forward with the well. Assistant Chair Mullendore shared that he had been working on this project for 5 years and that he wanted to see it through. He asked that the annual usage be presented at the next meeting and a plan be drafted to present to the Board of Education.

Town Manager Mantello discussed the WWTP Sludge Dewatering Press Project. He shared that an RFP was published for the building and that a pre-construction meeting would take place on June 7 at 10am. All bids are due on June 14. He stated that he felt WRA would put in a bid as well as CDM, the builder of the WWTP.

The discussion then moved to the Draft APFO Amendment. Town Manager Mantello shared the draft of the proposal with the group. Member Eshbaugh made a motion to send the revised agreement to the Mayor and Council for approval and Member Mose provided the second. The motion carried.

In New Business, Town Manager Mantello discussed the revisions to the Water and Wastewater Models provided by WRA. It was decided that a special meeting should be held to discuss the revisions. The Mayor and Council, and members of the Boonsboro Keedysville Water Advisory Board will be invited to attend the presentation by members of the staff at WRA. The group agreed to meet on June 2, 2021 at 6:00pm. It was strongly advised that all members review the original model and the revisions as to be well informed at the meeting.

Guest Eric Kitchen discussed the WTP Wet Well Electrical Resistivity Leak Test potential. He shared that the cost was much higher than expected to perform the tests. Water and Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker said that he will perform a test next week to see if he can visually see signs of leakage in the wet wells. He will not allow water to enter the wet wells and monitor for a drop in the water level.

The next item discussed was the Rent-to-Own Agreement for the ultrasonic meter with SebaKMT. The agreement would allow the town to either rent or buy the ultrasonic meter that the town has been demoing for the last year and a half. The cost per meter is \$20,000. Member Shanaberger stated the meter is a particularly good tool to help determine leaks. Guest Hawkins stated compared to what the town is losing annually in unaccounted for water revenue, the cost is minimal. Member Shanaberger made a motion to move forward with the renting of the meter. Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The motion passed unopposed.

Filling the vacancy for the Chair and discussion of new candidates for the Commission was discussed next. Assistant Chair Mullendore agreed to become Interim chair with a motion made by Member Eshbaugh and a second provided by Member Mose. The Commission Members agreed to talk individually to community members to gauge interest. No one has currently expressed interest to the Town Manager to fill the vacant position. Town Manager Mantello stated the position is advertised in multiple locations, including the Town website and social media accounts. Member Eshbaugh stated he felt \$10.00 per meeting was too low and asked Council Liaison Nally to discuss with the Mayor and Council increasing that payment, citing that minimum wage per hour in MD was almost \$12.00 per hour and the meetings take a least two hours per month.

The BKWAB meeting from May 12th was discussed. Town Manager Mantello shared some history about the Advisory Board and discussed in detail the draft of the proposed new agreement Advisory Board Chairman Austin Abraham has been working on. Town Manager Mantello after much discussion from the group regarding the effectiveness and necessity of this board stated that there will be a day when Keedysville will just be a customer of Boonsboro. Member Shanaberger shared he felt that idea needed to be included in the language of the agreement. Guest Hawkins shared his thoughts that Boonsboro perhaps needed to take a more aggressive stance in the negotiating of the new agreement. Guest Eric Kitchen stated that he felt the representatives for Boonsboro should come from the BMUC like they did when he served on the BMUC. Having BMUC representatives at the BKWAB meetings would ensure that the Town of Boonsboro's best interests are sought and by someone who has knowledge of current town policies and business.

Under Systems Report, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shumaker stated that everything was running well on the water side while the sewer side continued to have nagging problems that required repair over the last month. On the public works side, Superintendent Huntzberry shared that two water leaks had been repaired in town in the last month. Town Manager Mantello shared several photos from the Streambank Stabilization project. He shared with the

group that the town saved around \$20,000 by completing the work in house instead of having a contractor complete the work. Member Shanaberger thanked both Superintendents (and their crews) for their dedication to the town and for their willingness to take on such extensive projects. He also shared that town residents should be made aware of their work as well as the savings associated with it.

Acting Interim Chair Mullendore made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Eshbaugh provided the second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Wells Administrative Assistant.