

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2012**

Mayor Margo Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members James R. Gatto, Linda Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Utilities Commission meeting of July 16, 2012. **Mr. Gatto stated that he would like more elaboration on the issue of Richard Drive requiring a geologist, but otherwise moved to approve the minutes as submitted, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sipes stated that one of the problems on Richard Drive was that the soil was not "bedded" to fill the voids. He said that there was a depressed ring on Richard Drive and to find out what was causing it, the Town may want to have a geologist do a bore hole.

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in banks was \$1,035,520.20.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to pay the bills as presented, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sipes stated that a pipe blew apart at the pump station. He said that it was due to a failed valve but both check valves have now been replaced.

Mr. Sipes stated that there was a large bill from Gillespie for restocked crusher run and sand.

Mr. Sipes stated that Well #9 on Horsey Lane failed on August 3, 2012. He said that Iron is in the well beginning at 30' and continuing to approximately 250'. Mr. Sipes stated that normal operating for that well is 230'. He said at 250' the pump was running dry within 2-minutes. Mr. Sipes stated that a well-driller was called in for tests and evaluation at the cost of \$1,800.00.

Mr. Sipes stated that the capacity on the well went from 1.59 to 0.45 or from 400-gallons per minute to 80-gallons per minute. He said that the well usually operates at 300-gallons per minute.

Mr. Sipes stated that he mentioned to the well-driller that the hospital had injected 6000-lbs of carbon dioxide into the aquifer. He said that the well driller suspected that this was the cause of the failure of the well.

Mr. Sipes stated that he collected samples, using a BART test, to see if there was iron bacteria or anaerobic bacteria in the well as they were both cons of injecting carbon

dioxide into the aquifer. He said that tests were positive for both iron bacteria and anaerobic bacteria.

Mr. Sipes stated that a letter was written a couple months back to MDE warning that this could be a consequence of what was done by MDE without notification to the Town. Mr. Sipes read sections of MDE's shutdown report and said that this was something of which they were aware. Mr. Sipes stated that none of the negative aspects of oxygen injection were listed in the report.

Mr. Sipes stated that currently Well #9 was out of service. He said that pricing to fix it was at \$17,000.00 to oversee the project and identify the source. It was an additional \$27,500.00 for the rehabilitation of the well. Mr. Sipes stated that he would like to get at least three (3) quotes before moving forward. Mr. Sipes stated that he would also like to sample all wells on the same day so that he had a snapshot of all the wells and the extent of the problem.

Mr. Sipes stated that what he needed was to have Well #9 redeveloped; he had to find out what happened to Well #9, and; he wanted to test all the wells to find out if iron bacteria or anaerobic bacteria are present.

Mr. Sipes stated that there was not a public hearing to alert the residents that this testing was taking place and said that the process should have been much more transparent. He said that MDE should be questioned as to why that was. Mr. Sipes stated that the Town had certain things that they could do to protect their well fields. He said that if it was in the Town's power, he thought the hospital should be ordered to start their system back up.

Mr. Sipes stated that Mr. Barroll should be consulted, but he first needed an overall assessment. Mr. Gatto stated that the Town should hire an outside consultant as in-house expertise could be questioned. The Council agreed. Mr. Sipes stated that he was trying to get at least three (3) quotes.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Hospital and/or MDE should be told to start the remediation wells back up immediately.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to authorize Mayor Bailey to sign any documents necessary to have the hospital restart the remediation wells, with copies to MDE, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.

Ms. Kuiper asked the age of Well #9. Mr. Sipes stated that it was 6-years old and cost over \$300,000.00 to install.

Mr. Sipes stated that public notice should have been given to the residents before any testing was done. He said that we need to take for granted that the wells are protected, as that is the job of many people in the State of Maryland. He said that anytime someone does something intentionally in the aquifer, everyone that uses the water should be

notified. He said none of the citizens or the municipality on the Aquia aquifer were contacted. He said that if this is how the process works, the process should be changed.

Mr. Sipes stated that the drinking water in Town is not being impacted by Well #9. He said that all wells are being closely monitored. Mr. Sipes stated that the Town both pre and post chlorinates the water against iron, noting that it was not a health hazard only caused rust colored stains.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the final documents for arbitration were still being worked on by Mr. Baroll. He said that he hoped it would be done for the next meeting.

There being no further business, **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor