

**MINUTES
UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2005**

Mayor Margo G. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members Whaland Clark, Harrison C. Bristoll, Jr., Mabel Mumford-Pautz and James R. Johnson, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Joan Merryman, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting of November 21, 2005. **Mr. Bristoll moved to approve the minutes as presented, was seconded by Mr. Clark and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in the banks was \$470,685.20.

Mr. Sipes stated that all of the road patches in Town were complete.

Mr. Sipes stated that the pump on Flatland Road by the detention center was pulled because there was a hole in the steel casing. He said that they were trying to repair it.

Mr. Sipes stated that a partition was installed at the water plant around the distribution pumps to dampen the noise for the people working in the building.

Mr. Sipes stated that the new filters were operational and start-up began earlier in the day. He said that if the bacterial analysis returned favorably the filters would go on-line.

Mr. Sipes stated that a budget item was added to construction costs for safety equipment.

Mr. Sipes stated that if there were any emergencies over the holidays he could be reached at 410-810-0357 or 911.

Mayor Bailey read the minutes for the bid opening for the wastewater treatment plant. She said that two sealed bids were received. The first bid was from Bearing Construction, Inc. with a total bid price of \$8,955,000.00. The second bid was from Allen A. Myers Company with a total bid price of \$8,087,500.00. The bids were reviewed by the engineers, who had estimated the project would cost to be \$5.5 million.

Mayor Bailey stated that materials have increased in cost dramatically and the cost of steel has doubled since Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he did not foresee a drop in pricing anytime soon. He added that he called MDE to see if the DNR portion of the 100% ENR grant could be applied to the increase. He said that he thought any further discussions of the areas of great expense should be with the low bidder.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that if the bid were awarded there would be a \$3.7 million debt for the Town's share, which was eligible for .4% financing. He said that he would get the actual amortizations costs of borrowing that money from MDE. Mr. Ingersoll stated that

grant money was needed for this project and State elected officials should be contacted for help.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the high bidder should receive their bond back.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would contact State officials as this work had to be done. Mr. Ingersoll stated that everyone in Town was already paying the flush tax and he thought it should be applied to this project.

Mr. Bristoll moved to reject the bid from Bearing Construction, Inc. of Sudlersville, Maryland, was seconded by Mr. Clark and carried unanimously.

Mr. Ingersoll asked for authorization to discuss the bids with the low bidder. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to allow Mr. Ingersoll to work with the pending bidder with no authorization to award the bid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey read a letter from Mr. Holden Rogers of Calvert Street commending Mr. Sipes for his work on Thanksgiving night when a tree fell and an electric wire was down. Mr. Rogers wrote that this scope of work was not a Utilities matter, but Mr. Sipes stayed on site until it was resolved.

There being no further business, **Mr. Clark made a motion to pay bills, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously.

Submitted by:


Jennifer Stead
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey
Mayor