

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 18, 2007**

Mayor Margo G. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council Members Harrison C. Bristoll, Jr., Whaland Clark and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, and Jennifer Stead, Stenographer.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2007. **Mr. Bristoll moved to approve the minutes as submitted, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in the banks was \$ 644,961.27.

Mr. Sipes stated that an old water main split along the seam at Maple Avenue and Queen Street. Mr. Sipes stated that the Commission worked through the night and work went on through the next day until the problem was fixed. Mr. Sipes stated that no house at any time lost use of their water, although some lost pressure. Mr. Sipes thanked the State Highway Administration, Bramble, and Chestertown Police Department for their assistance.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Utilities Commission had advertised in the Kent County News for an operator for the past four (4) weeks with limited success. He said he would like to accept applications for another two (2) weeks. However, if there was not an applicant that met the criteria he would like to downgrade the position to a utility worker and re-advertise.

Mr. Sipes stated that the County Health Department advised the Utilities Commission that they were no longer performing the monthly coliform tests. He said he hired an outside lab to perform the monthly tests.

Mr. Sipes stated that the sewer mapping was 75% complete. He said that as they were working they came upon some broken manhole covers which were replaced. He said there was one near the Cater Walk on Washington Avenue that would be replaced, but would be done after work hours because they would have to cut the street to reset the steel frame. The road would be closed during that time. He said that the special order manholes would be delivered this week and installed shortly thereafter.

Mr. Sipes stated that they were setting up for the Radcliffe Pump Station bypass. He said that there would be a test run on June 14. Mr. Sipes stated that they would be in place for approximately two weeks and if there were any problems he and the contractors would be called through a satellite service to respond.

Mayor Bailey asked Mr. Ingersoll to review a letter received from the County. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Council had been given a copy of a May 15, 2007 letter from the Kent County Commissioners, the Kent County Health Department and the Chester River

Association. Mr. Ingersoll read the letter into the record, which requested the service area for Quaker Neck be extended and to allow them the use of six (6) additional sewer allocations to eliminate a proposed "package" sewer plant in the district and rid the environment of seventeen (17) failed septic systems.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the district has been extended by the County with the approval of the State Department of the Environment (MDE). He said that there were seventeen (17) failed sewer systems in the expanded County district.

Mayor Bailey stated that at an April meeting with the County, MDE, Health Department and River Keeper, there was a discussion of a package system allowed by MDE. She said that the package system was quite expensive and if not maintained properly could send pollutants into the river. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Chester River Keeper was adamantly opposed to package systems.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he asked MDE if the Town could be forced to allow hook-ups to failing septic systems, to which he was told yes. However, the State was not forcing the Town to allow hook-ups in this instance.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he would suggest allowing the additional allocations once all the remaining allocations previously given the County are on-line. Mr. Ingersoll stated when the Town granted allocations to the County it was up to the County to see how they were used. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he thought the allocations already given by the Town should be used first. They were granted to cure failing septic systems when the original lines were built.

Mayor Bailey stated that it was essential that the line not run down the middle of Quaker Neck Road (making it legally assessable to the other side of the road where open fields existed) and should be in the language granting the additional six (6) allocations. Mayor Bailey stated that there should be a caveat that the six (6) allocations will not be given until all others are in use and on-line.

**Mr. Clark moved to allow the additional six (6) allocations at the time all other allocations previously granted to the County are in use and on-line, and that the lines not be run where they could be demanded by others in the future. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

There being no further business, **Mr. Clark moved for payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:

  
Jennifer Stead  
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey  
Mayor