

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2008**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council Members Harrison C. Bristol, Jr. Gibson Anthony, Mauritz Stetson and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2008. **Mr. Bristol 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 \$377,647.35.

Mr. Sipes stated that a new riding mower was purchased for the water plant at the price of \$3,000.00. He said that a riding mower was needed because there were many small areas to cut around and the riding mower would handle the hillside nicely.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Town contracted with Maryland Environmental Services to perform a GPS mapping of the Town sewer. He said that MES has been paid in full for their services and he thought that the map would be delivered within the next two (2) weeks.

Mr. Sipes stated that a new employee was hired and he was working out well so far. He said that they were waiting for his background check as was required by Homeland Security. He said that his operations were limited to direct supervision at this time.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Lagoon project has not been closed out because the contractor has not made any progress on punch list items. He said that the contractors were supposed to be setting up a schedule that would be delivered to him, but that has been for the last four (4) months. Mr. Stetson asked if this interfered with the State of Maryland in any way. Mr. Sipes stated that at this time the Town was not under any pressure from the State. However, he said that that the Town has not been released from the Consent Order, but no enforcement action has been taken. Mr. Sipes stated that the Town was told that there was no intention of taking enforcement action but there was nothing in writing.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Lagoon was exceeding all expectations for removal of pollutants, including nutrients to the Bay. He said that they were less than 1 part per million on total nitrogen, which was 25% of the goal of 4 milligrams per liter.

Mr. Sipes stated that the controls at the water plant were updated and the project was completed and operating perfectly. Mr. Sipes stated that MTBE in the shallows wells had dropped in concentration by having the controls installed. He said that the controls allowed the department to utilize the deep well pumps as the primary source and only call

for shallow well pumps if the deep pumps could not keep up. Mr. Sipes stated that MTBE is only present in two of the shallow wells.

Mayor Bailey stated that the Chester River Association had a Riverkeeper's Almanac and the results of the 2007 Chester River Report Card were presented in this issue. She said that the river estuary ranked a "D" with non-tidal creeks with the watershed receiving a "C". The CRA reported that the numbers should get better because of the upgrade to the Lagoon, which according to the newsletter, "has had a rapid and positive impact from a quality of the wastewater discharge into the Chester River. For example, levels of phosphorus are now averaging .2 milligrams per liter down from 4.5 milligrams. Ammonia is registering at .1 milligram versus 15 milligrams, and nitrogen is down to 3 milligrams per liter from upwards of 25 milligrams. As the process is fine-tuned, Town officials expect a total nitrogen number of less than 2 milligrams".

Mr. Sipes stated that at the time those numbers were provided to the CRA they were accurate, but they were even better now. He said that total nitrogen, which included organic nitrogen, ammonia, and nitrate levels, were at less than 1 part million.

Mayor Bailey thanked Mr. Sipes for his all of his work.

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

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.

Submitted by:


Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey
Mayor