

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING**  
**APRIL 20, 2009**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council Members Harrison C. Bristoll, Jr. Gibson Anthony, Mauritz Stetson and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, Bob 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 March 16, 2009. **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 \$528,743.81.

Mr. Sipes stated that there were no pending leaks, although they were investigating what was occurring on Horsey Lane. He said that he did not know where the water was coming from and suspected a natural spring.

Mr. Stetson asked if there was a jump in usage for the Horsey Lane area. Mr. Sipes stated that the usage was on a steady decline but a small leak like this would not be noticed.

Mr. Sipes stated that he had a spring pop up when he was working for the County in Fairlee. He said that there was a lot of iron in this water which was why he thought it was a spring.

Mr. Sipes stated that two of the Utilities employees passed the classification for operator for the wastewater plant. He said that he would like to get approval for a pay scale for three (3) categories which would consist of Utility Worker, Operator I, and Operator II. He said that Operator I would hold certification for either water or wastewater and Operator II would hold both water and wastewater. Mr. Sipes stated that the tests take a lot of studying on off hours and then a professional exam administered by the State.

Mr. Stetson asked Mr. Sipes to compile pay scales from other counties and municipalities. Mr. Sipes stated that he supply the Council with that information.

Mr. Sipes stated that the since the upgrade, the processes that have to be followed took both time to learn and certifications from the State.

Mr. Sipes stated that at the last meeting he mentioned a problem that he was having at the lagoon and said he contacted Square D to fix it. Mr. Sipes stated that Square D recommended installation of two (2) metal oxide baristors, which acted as additional surge suppression to keep the equipment functioning. He said that he installed one but was hesitant to install the second. He said that he would prefer to see how the first one performed in case it would be lost again.

Mr. Sipes stated that he gave the Council information on the Water Sense program through the EPA. He said that he would like to sign up for the base program and then expand in the future if they so choose. Mr. Sipes stated that this was a partnership between the government and the suppliers and vendors that manufacture the equipment. The Council agreed.

Mr. Stetson asked if there was an answer from Mr. Luchman regarding the extra testing required for the lagoon, which would in essence double the budget for lab testing. Mr. Sipes stated that Mr. Luchman responded to the Mayor, Mr. Ingersoll, and Mr. Wayne Morris, but not to him by saying that the permit limits and frequency of testing were instituted by COMAR. He said that there was no explanation given in the letter.

Mr. Stetson asked who the ultimate boss of Mr. Luchman was. Mayor Bailey stated that was Secretary Sherry Wilson and said that she has been asked for comment, but has not responded to that request. Mayor Bailey stated that she would follow-up with Secretary Wilson.

**Mr. Anthony moved that the Mayor forward a letter to Secretary Wilson with copies to the federal government regarding the extra testing requirements for the lagoon thereby doubling the budget for testing, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Anthony asked if Chestertown should be concerned about ground water contamination due to the problems that were occurring at Genovique in Worton. Mayor Bailey stated that the Chester River Association was looking into that matter and said that she would ask CRA to come to the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. Sipes stated that geothermal technology was great but in close proximity to the water plant could become a source of contamination. He said that there were no instances of that in Chestertown but it has happened in other places. Mr. Sipes stated that groundwater close to the water plant and any drilling down into the aquifers is a possible source of contamination. Mayor Bailey asked for information on this that she could read about. Mr. Sipes stated that he would supply her with information.

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

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

Submitted by:   
Jennifer Mulligan  
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey  
Mayor