

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 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 June 15, 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 \$574,638.51.

Mr. Sipes stated that he was asked to get information on the chemical contamination at Velsicol (now Genovique). He said that he obtained a copy of the consent order from the court and provided copies of that to the Council. Mr. Sipes stated that the document was vague but said that an action plan should be implemented for monitoring and testing, which to date has not been made public.

Mr. Sipes stated that he filed for information under the Freedom of Information Act so that he could see what exactly took place at the site. He said that once he reviewed the documents he would report back to the Council on his findings.

Mr. Stetson asked if the chemicals would be different than the MTBE that was discussed at a previous meeting. Mr. Sipes stated that they did use different chemicals, but the testing would be the same. He said that to date there have not been any contaminants found.

Mr. Sipes stated that when the filters were installed at the Chestertown Water Treatment Plant he requested that no plastic be used. He said that plastic laterals were used, and at the time he was told that there would not be a problem with them and that was what they used. He said that the laterals are broken and they were in the process of rebuilding them. Mr. Sipes stated that the filter manufacturer does have something other than plastic to replace the laterals.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Street Crew and the Utilities Department teamed up to correct the water problem at Horsey Lane. He said that it was groundwater from a spring.

Mr. Sipes stated that the CCR was complete and posted on the town website.

Mr. Sipes stated that the DMRQA (Quality Control) was also complete. He said that this ensured that any laboratory procedures done were accurate and came in at an accepted range.

Mr. Sipes stated that the disinfection bi-product monitoring was done and a waiver was requested from the EPA for future testing. He said that testing was done in other ways at the site.

Ms. Alice Macnow was in the audience and asked what chemicals were found at Velsicol. Mr. Peter Heck stated that he thought that it was phosphorous. Mr. Sipes stated that discharge permits in Maryland and nationally were done through site investigation. He said that he had to review the paperwork to get more details. He said that any information he finds would be made available to the public.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he wanted to discuss the MTBE Agreement at this meeting and authorize the Mayor to sign the documents.

Mr. Sipes stated that MTBE was an additive in gasoline, its intended purpose to oxygenate gasoline and reduce air pollution. He said that they found that it got into drinking water and could travel long ways in a short time. Mr. Sipes stated that the levels in Chestertown of MTBE were residual levels but have not changed greatly since MTBE is no longer being used.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Town relies on its deeper aquifers which do not have MTBE in it. He said that the shallow wells were only used during high use periods, but even then the MTBE levels are safe.

Mr. Sipes stated that the EPA only requires the State to implement action levels, which were developed because of taste and odor. He said that the action level does not relate to health effects.

Mr. Sipes stated that the Town MTBE levels were going down but that was because the Town has incurred additional expenses to make that happen. He said that the Town had shallow wells but they were not included for use in future plans.

Mr. Sipes stated that the MTBE Agreement provided the Town with an avenue to recover some of the expenses to provide clean and safe drinking water in the future, in addition to reimbursing some of the costs that have been incurred because of MTBE. Mr. Sipes stated that lawsuits of this nature have been filed across the country against the manufacturer of the MTBE.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that approval was given to enter into the MTBE Agreement at the last meeting.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there were a couple of solar power purchase proposals received for the lagoon property. He said that he spoke to one of the representatives but would like Mr. Sipes to comment.

Mayor Bailey stated that the wastewater treatment plant was such a high energy use she thought that solar panels should be something that they could look to in the future to cut back usage.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the proposals were to build the solar panels and then the Town would have to purchase the energy for 20-years. Mr. Stetson stated that he disagreed with buying the electric if Town land was being used free of charge.

Mr. Sipes stated that he did not solicit either company that came to him. He said that the companies both represented themselves as having already talked with the Town regarding the solar panels. He said that they made it seem that they were to work out a proposal requested from the Town.

Mr. Sipes stated that in speaking with these companies there were different things that could be done. One was a combination of solar and wind power. He said that there was a high spot at the lagoon where there always seemed to be wind.

Mr. Sipes stated that the typical arrangement would be to provide a 20-year lease on the land and agree to buy the electricity from the provider for that same timeframe. He said that the representatives would not get into specifics as to what happened after the 20-year timeframe.

Mr. Sipes stated that he understood that there was grant money and tax incentives for investors that would cover some of the cost of the equipment and installation but he did not think it was available to municipalities.

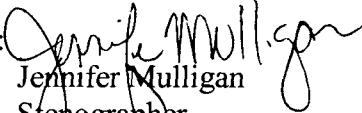
Mr. Sipes stated that water and wastewater in Chestertown has always been run as a non-profit and electric could be done that same way, although it would require different training. He said that there should be no reason why the Town could not operate this type of system as well as an outside source could.

Mayor Bailey stated that she contacted the energy section of the State of Maryland and she was waiting for information on alternative energy sources for wastewater treatment plants. She said that she would forward that information to Mr. Sipes.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a Maryland program for funding and thought that they should look into that. The Council agreed.

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 8:00 p.m., was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor