

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 16, 2009**

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, 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 February 16, 2009. **Mr. Bristol moved to approve the minutes as submitted, was seconded by Mr. Anthony and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in the banks was \$518,528.10.

Mr. Sipes stated that there were a couple of service lines that sprung leaks and a collapsed sewer line was replaced over the past month.

Mr. Sipes stated that during the snowstorm, power was lost at the lagoon. He said that during that time the transfer switch did not function and they found that there was a bad switch. Mr. Sipes stated that as a result there were three (3) pieces of lost equipment. He said that he replaced the equipment and Delmarva Power fixed the fuse on the pole that had blown.

Mr. Sipes stated that three (3) days after the storm and after the VFDs (Variable Frequency Drives) were installed, the fuse blew again. He said that again the transfer switch did not work and they may have lost the VFDs. He said that they cost \$600.00 per piece.

Mr. Sipes stated that he contacted Square D through the vendor to try to find out why the VFDs did not turn themselves off before they burnt out. He said that a safeguarding system against this was supposed to be in place. Mr. Sipes stated that before he replaced the parts again he wanted to have Square D in to look at the problem. In the meantime, soda ash was being added by hand during business hours.

Mr. Sipes stated that there was a handout from Water Sense, a program through the EPA. He said that Chestertown was asked to partner with the program which required entering into the agreement in the handout. Mr. Sipes asked if the Council would review the agreement and determine at what level they wanted to become involved. Mr. Sipes stated that there was more information on the program available on the internet. Mr. Sipes stated that if they partnered in the program they might have to have a display case. He said any further information that he found would be placed in the Council's mailboxes.

Mr. Stetson asked if there was an answer from Mr. Luchman regarding the water testing. Mr. Sipes stated that he has not received any correspondence to date.

Mr. Stetson stated that they received a letter from the Kent County Planning Commission regarding the Presswoods Extension (Lover's Lane) and asked if that involved the Council in any way. Mayor Bailey stated that the County would have to come before the Council for this and said that they have been debating this for years.

Mayor Bailey asked Mr. Ingersoll for clarification on the Lover's Lane subdivision. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the engineering plans for the sewer line were to be submitted for the Town's approval to insure that third parties could not hook-up to adjacent vacant properties. He said that there was a finite number of hook-ups that have been given to the County, intended to solve the problems of failing septic systems. Mr. Ingersoll stated that if the sewer line followed Lover's Lane, the entire other side of the road would be eligible to ask for hook-ups which the County does not have. Then these property owners could sue for the use of a publicly funded line.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that people have been paying a vacant lot waiting fee to the County Sanitary District for years and that was where these hookups came from. He had a computer run of those units and recently a vacant lot not on that list that had not paid the vacant lot fee had been approved by the Sanitary District.

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 7:45 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Bristoll and carried unanimously.

Submitted by:


Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey
Mayor