

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members Harrison C. Bristoll, Jr., Mauritz Stetson, Gibson Anthony and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Utilities Commission meeting of October 19, 2009. **Mr. Bristoll moved to approve the minutes as presented, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in banks was \$936,569.84.

Mr. Sipes stated that the force main at the main pump station ruptured. He said that two (2) employees found the break, but most of the spill never made it to the Radcliffe Creek. Mr. Sipes stated that the pumper trucks were on site within four (4) hours of the time the spill was discovered.

Mr. Sipes stated that containment was built around the leak area so the sewage could be pumped to the lagoon.

Mr. Sipes stated that the bills from the pumper trucks total \$42,000.00 to date. He said that the pumper trucks were on site from the time the leak was discovered and around the clock for several days after that. No local septage haulers responded to his call.

Mr. Sipes stated that the failure in the line was caused by swamp gas in the wetlands area. He said that the leak was at the furthest point from the river in the wetlands. Mr. Sipes said that they excavated to keep the flow coming towards the bank and hauled from there to the lagoon. Mr. Sipes stated that two (2) large 8" pumps were on site the same day and a ¼ mile of pipe was installed to carry the flow. Mr. Sipes stated that Bramble was on site and working within hours of the spill.

Mr. Sipes stated that they tried to repair the existing force main but because of the deterioration from the swamp gas and the pipe not being buried deep, there were too many holes to repair. Mr. Sipes stated that when the first hole was fixed, another rupture was discovered 3' away. He said that this happened once more and they stopped repairs and began a sustained by-pass operation.

Mr. Sipes stated that a horizontal drilling company was on-site after the third rupture fusing pipes together that ran from the pump station to the area where the pipe was installed across the stream. He said that that full by-pass and containment was in place by the first day after the leak was discovered.

Mr. Sipes stated that for permanent repair a horizontal bore was drilled and pipe was installed under the river and under the swamp. He said that in order to match the volume

and carrying capacity they had to go from a 12" pipe to a 16" pipe. He said that the actual inside diameter of the pipe was only ¾" different from the original pipe. He said that the pipe had a much thicker wall and it was installed and operating within a week after the leak was discovered.

Mr. Sipes stated that everyone he called, with the exception of the local haulers, responded immediately and did exactly what they were supposed to do. He said that he was very thankful to them and wanted to say it publicly, but he would also call and thank them personally.

Mr. Sipes stated that the leak was bad, but it could have been much worse. He said that he did not think that there could have been a better response than what was received. He said that the pumper truck haulers were on site within a few hours and the Godwin Pumps that delivered all the equipment for the by-pass pumping and the contractor were great.

Mr. Sipes stated that the pipe that was installed was an HDPE (High Density Polyethylene Pipe). He said that this was similar to a culvert pipe and was solid but flexible and was fused together. Mr. Sipes stated that the lifespan of the pipe was at least 100 years and was chemical resistant. Mr. Sipes stated that he called U.S. Pipe, who manufactured the pipes, and found that the only thing that would affect the pipe was sunlight, but since the pipe was buried 21' deep, it would not be a problem.

Mr. Sipes stated that the temporary pipe went down the bank from the pump station and followed the creek (as plastic pipe floats). He said that this way they did not have to go through the wetlands.

Mr. Sipes stated that the bills were coming in now but he did not have an estimate of how much it would cost for all of the work.

Mayor Bailey asked if there was any fallout from the State of Maryland. Mr. Sipes stated that the State was impressed with the response time and speed of which the spill was contained. He said that there were two (2) inspectors on site the day after the spill and by that time there was full containment.

Mr. Anthony asked if there was a sense of how much spill they were able to capture. Mr. Sipes stated that he could estimate what was lost based on flow meter readings of what should have come into the plant. He said that what they had to report was how much spill entered the wetland area. Mr. Sipes stated that he could estimate what was recovered and what was spilled, but those numbers were not as reliable as what they would get from the flow meter reading.

Mr. Sipes stated that two (2) areas were missed (Washington Park and Waldo Drive) when they paved and the patches would be repaired sometime next week.

There being no further business, **Mr. Bristol moved to pay the bills as presented, 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. Bristoll and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor