

Stafford County Utilities Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2019

Board of Supervisors Chambers

1300 Courthouse Road

Stafford, VA 22554

A. Call to Order

Vice Chairman, Mr. Bill Tignor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Moses Boulden, Sr., Mickey Kwiatkowski, William Tignor

Members Absent: Joyce Arndt, Kenton Carson, Alan Glzman, Michael Makee

Staff Present: Jason Towery, Trenton Funkhouser, Jon Brindle

C. Approval of the Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, no formal vote was taken. However, members present expressed approval of the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no changes or corrections.

D. Presentations by the Public

There were no presentations by the public.

E. Reports by Commission Members

There were no reports by Commission members.

F. Director's Report

Mr. Towery noted that the Utilities Fund was in a healthy position with a continued growth trend of 3% although consumption dropped by 1% due to excessive amounts of rain in the last month. He reviewed delinquencies (\$584,397.11), Ms. Kwiatkowski asked for the number of delinquent accounts included in that amount and about intercepting tax refunds to recoup delinquent taxes. Mr. Towery agreed saying that was done through the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Towery updated the Commission members on items being brought before the Board of Supervisors at its meeting scheduled for August 20, 2019, including authorization for a new non-subsidized pump and haul agreement for 518 White Oak Road. Mr. Tignor inquired if it was an existing pump and haul or a new service. Mr. Towery confirmed that it was a new request.

A second item on the Board's August 20, 2019 meeting agenda, authorization for a low pressure sewer system on TMP 38-105, was discussed by Mr. Funkhouser later in the meeting.

Mr. Towery provided a construction project update including:

- The Falls Run Force Main would be complete 1 ½ to 2 years after the project went to bid.
- Due to errors in the bid document, bids were cancelled on the Lower Accokeek Pump Station and re-bidding was targeted for late August with hopes of bringing it to the Board of Supervisors at its 9/17/19 meeting to award the contract.
- The contractor is revising his requested timeline on the Claiborne Run Parallel Force Main, Phase 1, due to weather and change orders.
- Unsuitable backfill material required the use of recycled concrete in some areas of the Wayside Sewer 18" upgrade. The contractor is working with the Stone River HOA to obtain one more easement.
- VDOT is permitting the Ferry Farm waterline replacement under that travel-way. Lines are being replaced that are 50+ years old; about 5 miles in total will be replaced, one small project at a time.
- The construction estimate to retrofit the spillway at Abel Lake is \$3.6 Million; O'Brien and Gere are producing the drawings.

Mr. Towery gave personnel updates including introducing Mr. Jon Brindle, the County's relatively new Pre-Treatment Coordinator, a position that the Board approved last year. He said that the County made an offer to a Public Information Officer, which was approved by the Board in this year's budget. This position would be responsible for reporting critical information to the public including water main breaks, etc. Mr. Towery introduced Marcia Hollenberger, the new Administrative Manager for the Department of Public Works noting that Ms.

Hollenberger had been the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors for the past 10 years. Mr. Towery said that the position of Construction Project Manager has been reclassified to Capital Improvements Manager and will work with Bryon Counsell and with the project managers on Utilities capital projects. Mr. Towery told the Commission members that Julie Elliott, Enterprise Fund Manager, turned in her notice and accepted a job with Spotsylvania County, which was closer to her home and advancement in her career. Jason Pauley's last day would be August 2, 2019. He said he was excited about the candidates and was in the second round of interviews and hoped to have an announcement soon. Brian Green retired from Plant Manager at Little Falls Run; Joe Graninger was Acting Plant Manager but he was retiring in the fall. Mr. Graninger's position has been filled but the position of Plant Manager had to be re-advertised. Mr. Towery noted that there were also openings for mechanics and water/sewer operators.

## G. New Business

### 1. Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) and Pre-Treatment Update – presented by Jon Brindle:

Mr. Brindle introduced himself and spoke about his prior position in Culpeper and noted that prior to his being hired by Stafford County, the wastewater treatment plants managed FOG and pre-treatment issues in the County. Mr. Brindle spoke about new state requirements for the Aquia Wastewater Treatment Facility including a pollutant mitigation program. Ms. Kwiatkowski asked if this program was state-wide. Mr. Brindle replied that it was based on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Potomac River and would include Alexandria, Arlington, and Quantico among other localities. He spoke about Little Falls Run and an ongoing investigation of the amount of high suspended solids saying that staff was working backwards to find the source. He spoke about the recent purchase of a second CCTV truck and its benefit in FOG monitoring in the County. There were two stages to FOG control; what to do with the grease once it is in the system, and switching from reactive to preventative measures. Ms. Kwiatkowski asked about pinpointing specific users/abusers. Mr. Brindle replied that the CCTV trucks and Vac trucks could be sent in; she also asked if there were any penalties if a location was caught more than once. Mr. Tignor asked if the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) included disposal of FOG in its inspections or permits. Mr. Brindle replied, “Unfortunately not.” He said he had a list of VDH inspection sites and was hoping to schedule a ride-along with its inspector. VDH, he said, was primarily concerned with food preparation and storage and they would not be involved in FOG unless it caused an overflow situation. Mr. Towery said that DEQ mandates FOG and pre-treatment and the County would work with them closely on enforcement issues; he said there was authority out there for County enforcement.

Mr. Brindle noted two violations that were issued including the McDonald’s on Route 17 (in June) and the Pizza Hut on Route 1 (in May). He said they were required to implement best management practices to achieve compliance; both had excessive FOG buildup on isolated lines; McDonald’s had only been open one year but Pizza Hut was a repeat offender. He said that the County Attorney’s Office had concerns about the nature of the County’s enforcement program. The County Attorney’s Office is currently short-staffed but once a new full-time attorney is on board, they will work with Mr. Brindle closely on a monitoring and enforcement policy for the County.

Ms. Kwiatkowski noted the line in the policy regarding elimination of garbage disposals and food grinders. Mr. Brindle said that oil and grease in food placed in disposals can cause blockages. She asked if some places intentionally poured grease down the drain. Mr. Brindle said that some places ignore the regulations but others are ignorant of standard

procedures, which include having grease interceptors and baffles on septic tanks that are pumped regularly.

Ms. Kwiatkowski asked about places in the County to dispose of grease and Mr. Brindle said there were no places to dispose of large amounts but there were two in the area for residential use. Mr. Tignor asked about the residential impact and Mr. Brindle said it was significant and residential outreach was on the agenda as a first step in the FOG prevention program. He spoke about other localities prevention programs including Prince William County, Fairfax County, and the Town of Culpeper and talked about next steps including developing fees and fines for violations, recouping field costs, and establishing best management practices. Mr. Brindle is working with Community Engagement on website development with FOG information for both residential and commercial and training opportunities for commercial/restaurant staff that may be required by the County for certification if it is incorporated in the County's prevention program.

Ms. Kwiatkowski asked if this problem was isolated in areas with an abundance of restaurants or was it split throughout the County. Mr. Brindle said that it was split. Mr. Tignor asked if in the case of McDonald's and Pizza Hut, would the County be reimbursed for the cost of remediation of the problem. Mr. Brindle said that there was nothing in place now for the County to recoup its costs but he was hoping to get an idea from the Utilities Commission members on how aggressively they wished to pursue these violations. Ms. Kwiatkowski said the Prince William County violation was \$1000 and she thought that was a good, substantial fine that would make local restaurants think twice. She asked if fines and reimbursement could be added to the water bill. Mr. Towery said that it could potentially be handled that way. Mr. Tignor spoke about handling this on an individual basis and his not wanting to penalize others who were not in violation.

Mr. Towery said that the policy would be brought back to the Utilities Commission for feedback when it was finalized and after the County Attorney had reviewed the proposed program; that tonight's presentation was just an introduction.

2. Consider the Use of a Low Pressure Sewer System on TMP 38-105 – presented by Trent Funkhouser:

Mr. Funkhouser said this was presented for information only due to lack of a quorum and that the request fit into the County's criteria; the property is in the County's Transfer of Development Rights receiving area; there were no plans for the County to install public water and/or sewer in the area and the low pressure sewer system would be installed solely

at the property owner's expense, there would be no cost to the County. Mr. Towery said that it was a formality to request approval by the Utilities Commission. Mr. Tignor said it did not make sense to hold this up for lack of a quorum and asked Mr. Funkhouser to convey to the Board of Supervisors that the members present were in favor of the application, which was consistent with County policy and would be installed at no cost to the County.

H. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

I. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jason D. Towery, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

JDT/mch