

Utility Commission
August 31, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Council Member Pase. In attendance were Commission Members Dickerson and Dewald, Commissioner Hodgins, Council Member Thompson, Town Manager Bynum-King and Clerk of Council Fisher. Guests: Bill Brittingham.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Thompson made a motion to accept the July, 2009 Utility minutes as circulated. Commissioner Hodgins seconded the motion which passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Unfinished Business

Council Member Thompson followed on the progress status of replacing and installation of the three sand filters at the Water Treatment Plant. Town Manager Bynum-King responded that the filters are in a serious state of decline and in need of replacement, with that being said cost is a factor. The Water Operator has been maintaining the treatment level compliant with our permits. Council Member Thompson inquired about the overall cost to replace the filters. Town Manager Bynum-King stated that based on estimates the cost would be somewhere around \$43,000.00 per filter. She advised the Commission that all three filters needed to be replaced during the same time frame. Council Member Thompson suggested that this matter is in need of urgent attention due to the nature of the filters condition as well as preventative measures to eliminate the risk of further damages or problems as a result of the deteriorated filters.

Council Member Pase made a motion to remove the existing Water Treatment Plant Media Filters, contract to have three new replacements installed and the Town Manager will assess the budget to determine how the project cost will be covered. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion which passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that there has not been an update on the proposed request from Tidewater Agreement for temporary utility service. Also, the Town is still trying to resolve reimbursement for expenses incurred on the Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Project mishap that occurred during the installation of the light fixture casing.

New Business

Town Manager Bynum-King gave an update to the BNR/ENR upgrades by reporting that the contract was for 335 calendar days with 71 days already passed as of August 25, 2009. In those 71 days, there was a lot of mobilization of equipment and site location done and that the concrete walls have been poured on the surge tank. The first payment draw of \$244,800.00 has been paid, and the second progress meeting will be held this Tuesday, August September 1, 2009.

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that Public Works Department is replacing the sewer lateral which connects Thirsty's to our central sewer system. Their original line was damaged during the construction of the Bank of Delmarva. Thirsty's is paying for all the equipment, materials, supplies and any necessary engineering services and the Town is providing the labor.

She also reported that Public Works Department also located and repaired a water line break on W. Jewell Street.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that in February, the Town had submitted pre applications to DNREC for our priority water and wastewater projects. Submittals from last year were placed on a priority list for this year. She said the Town fell just below the cut off line to receive stimulus funding however we are still number 7 on the list for the States low interest loan program, which comes available in December of this year. She also reported that DNREC had contacted her to inform the Town that additional loan funds became available because one of the other municipalities (Milford) withdrew their projects. As a result of the available funds we were next in line to move up or add some of our other priority projects that did not make the State original priority funding list. Town Manager Bynum-King stated that she advised the State that she would seek direction from the Utility Commission before declining or making a commitment.

Commission Member Dickerson said that we already have several projects on the States priority list, and he didn't know how we could take on additional loan funds for additional project without knowing how we would repay the debt. He felt that we should not be assigned the funds, especially if there is other Towns with projects that could use the funds and the ability repay the debt.

The consensus of the Utility Commission agreed with Commission Member Dickerson's perspective on the matter.

Public Comments

Delmar resident Bill Brittingham reported that the new lights on Pennsylvania Avenue are not working. Town Manager Bynum-King stated that the Town has completed all the necessary paperwork for the electric company to set up the lighting account. She said that is was her understanding that the power could not be turned on until DP&L inspected the electrical work performed by the State to ensure all their standards were met. She would follow up with the Community Development Coordinator to ensure the lighting was connected before the 150th celebration.

Resident Bill Brittingham complained about the drainage issues on Lincoln Avenue, which he express he felt was directly related to the construction of the Country Meadows Apartment. He said that the heavy rains caused several streets including Lincoln Avenue to be flooded and Public Works did not come out and place barricades up to stop people from riding down the streets until after the water subsided. He asked if Public Works would at least begin placing the barricades down when the street were flood to prevent people from having their basements.

He continued speaking of different drainage sites and locations, especially on the Delaware side. Town Manager Bynum-King stated that at one time she was aware of a major drainage problem on Lincoln Avenue that was corrected several years ago, when the previous Public Works Director had the crew to do ditch work between Lincoln Avenue and Delaware Avenue. She said that one elderly gentleman that lived on the street sent a thank you letter saying that the first

time in nearly 20 years his yard did not flood after a heavy rain. She was under the impression, since she had not heard anything else since, that for the most part, the concern had been taken care of. She said that she would follow-up with Public Works Director Reid about this matter.

Adjournment

Commission member Dewald made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Commissioner Hodgins. The motion passed with 5 ayes and 0 absent.

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council