

**Utility Commission  
November 30, 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, Town Manager Bynum-King and Clerk of Council Fisher. Absent: Council Member Thompson.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commission Member Dickerson made a motion for the approval of the October, 2009 Utility Commission minutes. Commission Member Dewald seconded the motion which was passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

**Unfinished Business**

Tidewater Agreement Revisions

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that she had included, within the elected officials' mail packets, copies of the Tidewater Draft Interim Agreement revisions as discussed at last month's meeting. She said that she had not received any additional comments for revisions from either the Utility Commission or the Council.

She stated that upon receipt of the Town's revisions, Tidewater had a counter offer requesting the Commission's consideration pertaining to the transmission fees. Tidewater requested to delete Section 5A1 which stated they would be responsible for paying 50% of the transmission fees, within 6 months after executing the agreement. Tidewater proposed that instead of paying the transmission fees, the Town could assess them the out-of-town rates versus the in-town rates for the user rates.

After much discussion and consideration regarding the deletion of Section 5A1, the Commission wanted this section to be inserted back into the agreement. Commissioner Hodgins said that she would be more inclined to reduce the percentage of the transmission fees up front to 25%, but believed that the Town should not eliminate the cost all together. She also said that if we reduced the transmission agreement, she would also like to see the out of town user rate remain. It was the consensus of the other Commission Members.

However, Commission Member Dickerson said that it didn't matter, what the agreement read because he was not in favor of another agreement, when they haven't honored the first agreement. He believes this Agreement changes the spirit in which the Town originally intended.

Town Manager Bynum-King said in response to his comment, that circumstances and the current economy has a lot to do with the delay of proceeding with the first agreement. We do not have a lot of developers standing in line to get their projects underway, but when they do we need to have something in place that will allow us to execute the request without major delays.

Town Manager Bynum-King agreed that the Town does have an existing agreement with Tidewater, and there are provisions in that agreement as well as the interim agreement to safeguard the Town. Most importantly, the agreements do not bound The Town to anything unless development occurs, but we have to keep in mind that we have annexed several hundred

acres of land with the intent of serving them water and wastewater. Chairman Pase said that she thought the Town has done everything possible to protect the Town.

Town Manager Bynum-King said that she would submit these revisions back to Town Engineer Friedel and Mr. Bruce Patrick with Tidewater for their review and consideration

#### Media Filters Update

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that the bid that was submitted by Hopkins Construction for \$43,294.34 is the actual cost for the replacement of all three media filters. When we first looked at the replacement of the media filters, we were quoted a price of approximately \$50,000.00 per filter. She also said that Hopkins Construction was the company that installed the original media filters. With a lot of extensive research and discussion by the Engineers, they recommend that the Town accepts the bid as proposed by Hopkins Construction.

#### ***New Business***

##### Pine Street Pump Station

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that there have been several reoccurring issues with the pumps at the Pine Street Pump Station in previous years. It is recommended by the Director of Public Works and confirmed with the Town's Engineer that at least one of the pumps needs to be replaced soon rather than later. The Pine Street Pump Station pump replacement is critical due to the fact that it is the Town's central pump station. The cost of the replacement pump and the removal of the old pump will be approximately \$26,000.00 and will take about 10 weeks for it to be delivered and installed. The cost will be covered through the depreciation line item in the budget. She said that the two pumps that are at the Pump Station have been repaired numerous times during the past few years, the mechanisms inside are corroding and making it easier for the pumps to go into the failure mode. The Town has already spent \$11,000.00 having those pumps repaired and they are to the point where it would be cost effective to begin a pump replacement schedule.

Town Manager Bynum-King said that she has spoken with Public Works Director Reid and asked him to prepare an assessment of all the pumps, because to her knowledge all of the pumps are original pumps installed at the time of constructing the pump stations. The pumps are various size pumps for each station making it different to switch them out when we have to have one repaired. The pump assessments have been required for Fiscal Year 2011

#### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that Public Works Director Reid did report that there was a sewer issue on Second and Elizabeth Street and they had to jet the sewer lines. The upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Plant is going as scheduled, and are progressing very well.

#### **Adjournment**

Commission Member Dewald made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Commissioner Hodgins. That motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 absent.

Cindy Fisher  
Clerk of Council