

**Utility Commission
July 1, 2019**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Vice Mayor Pase. In attendance were Commission Member Dewald, Council Member Smith, Deputy Mayor Unsell and Town Manager Bynum- King.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Dewald indicated that on the next to the last sentence on the first page of June's minutes, a comma should be placed after the words Gillis Gilkerson.

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the June Utility minutes as amended. Deputy Mayor Unsell seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and 0 absent.

Unfinished Business

Grove Street Water Main Project

Town Manager Bynum-King reported that the Grove Street Water Main Project is progressing. There have been quite a few challenges for the contractors. The project should have been completed by the first of this month but due to some unforeseen issues along with weather conditions, they have asked for a 15 day extension, which was granted.

Today, the Public Works staff put out Boil Water notices to all businesses on Pennsylvania Avenue from State Street to Grove Street and to the residents on Grove Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Second Street. The contractors cut through a live water main; the construction plans showed that the main was abandoned. It was also discovered that the valve to isolate the line was not working. As the contractors were working to cap the live water main, the trench was filling with water and caused a cross contamination with the potable water, which is required by law to be tested. The incident was reported to the Office of Drinking Water who imposed the Boil Water notices. Notices were issued to every business and resident in the affected area. The Boil Water Notice is in effect until 3:00 p.m. on July 3, 2019. Town Manager Bynum-King said that when speaking to the Town's engineer, the probability of the Town's drinking water having bacteria is slim to none, mainly because the main was pressurized. The water was flowing out of the main instead of into the main.

Vice Mayor Pase asked about using the ice from her ice maker. It was suggested that the ice, if it had been produced prior to today, July 1, 2019 should be alright. But any ice made during the July 1, 2019 through July 3, 2019 period should be thrown out. It was also suggested that she turn off her ice machine during this time.

New Business

Town Manager Bynum-King stated that a few months ago, she reported that the North Stage Road Water and Sewer Main Extension Project went out for bid. This was to extend water and sewer to all of the highway regional areas fronting Rt. 13 to include the Perdue Agribusiness site.

The Town received three bids, which were extremely higher than the engineers' estimated cost for the project.

Town Manager Bynum-King advised that she and the Town Engineer, Josh Taylor, did an assessment of the project to determine ways in which the scope of work could be modified without compromising the intent of the project. She reminded the Commission that the Town received funding from the State of Delaware as well as Sussex County along with what was budgeted for this project from the Town. Mr. Taylor performed some value engineering and reviewed each bidder's unit pricing and determined the lowest bidders bid could be reduced below the Town budget without compromising the scope of the project. The original bid price was lowered to \$449,015.45; which is under the Town's budget for the project. The project can now move forward with a favorable recommendation to accept the adjusted bid from the Utility Commission.

Council Member Smith made a motion for recommendation to the Mayor and Council to approve the bid of \$449,015.45 for the Water and Sewer Main Extension Project on North Stage Road to serve the Highway Regional areas along Rt. 13. Deputy Mayor Unsell seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and 0 absent.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Bynum-King stated that she and the Waste Water staff worked with Town Engineer Jason Loar in preparing comments on the draft revisions on the existing wastewater treatment plant. The comments were due by June 27th and have been forwarded to the State.

She also reported that the Public Works staff has had to deal with water main breaks in 3 different locations. One was on W. East Street, one on E. East Street, both of which the staff was able to repair. The Director of Public Works, on Saturday, responded to a water main break on Maryland Avenue. He was working on it until 6:00 p.m. and had to get an outside service to do the repair.

Commission Comments

Commission Member Dewald wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Adjournment

After hearing no public comments, Commission Member Dewald made a motion for adjournment. Deputy Mayor Unsell seconded the motion which passed with 4 ayes and 0 absent.

Submitted by:

Cindy Fisher
Clerk of Council