

Utility Commission
August 1, 2022
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Council Member Smith. This meeting is available to the public, in person with limited seating and via teleconference. The phone number and access code for accessibility to the meeting for the general public is posted on the meeting agenda. In attendance were Vice Mayor Pase, Commissioner Unsell, Commission Member Dewald, Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer, WTP Superintendent Sophia Oberton and Acting Public Works Director Robert Buck. Guest: Penny Glasgow, Jessica Horton and Linda Morris.

Council Member Smith took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum and all were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Smith/Unsell) to the July 5, 2022 minutes as amended with a correction to page one second to the bottom paragraph, adding the word “and”. Council Member Smith took a roll call vote and the motion was passed with 4 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business –

Superintendent Oberton said the Town has been doing hydrant flushing, pressure testing and bagging inoperable hydrants. She further said Acting Director, Robert Buck, Town Mgr. Fleetwood and herself do have a plan of action to get inoperable hydrants fixed as quickly as possible.

Superintendent Oberton mentioned the Lead and Cooper Rule Revision is coming down the pipeline. She explained the Town will have to make a list of all the properties that have lead and copper pipes or fixtures in their homes. The plan is to make a list of the properties built before 1986 because that is the year the Lead and Cooper Rule went into effect. She further explained they already have the list on the public side and will acquire a list for the private side which will take cooperation from the residents. She further mentioned this is EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) mandated.

A copy of the summary for the Lead and Cooper Rule is attached.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood added there are roughly 264 hydrants between the two Towns. As of a week ago 29 hydrants were bagged. Last week one hydrant became operable; now there are 28

hydrants bagged. He further added Superintendent Oberton and DBF created a GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping of the pipes and fire hydrants to make the approach logical.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned he is aware there is concern from the citizens because the hydrants are bagged in front of their house which he understood. The good thing is before an emergency happens, we are now aware of which hydrants are operable and inoperable. He further mentioned in the next week or so we should have an idea of progress.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood noted the Lead and Cooper pipe testing is not being done because of the Town's water supply. The Town's water supply gets tested every three years. Superintendent Oberton added those tests are on the Town's website with the most recent newsletter. Town Mgr. Fleetwood further noted the total number of customers that we have in Town which are estimated at about 1,000 residents have to be a part of this testing because anything prior 1986 the assumption is there is lead and copper.

He said mandates from EPA are still ever changing. Commissioner Unsell asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if it would be simpler to go into the homes that are suspect and draw water? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered unfortunately the ruling from the EPA is sampling is not an option. Superintendent Oberton added the mandate required the Town to have the initial inventory by January 2024 and a plan by October 2024. Town Mgr. Fleetwood responded when they get a solid game plan and a better understanding from the EPA.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood further said Superintendent Oberton, Public Works Acting Director Robert Buck will come back to this Commission for approval to hire a temporary administration person to maintain this data. Vice Mayor Pase asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if the Fire Department has the 28 bagged hydrant's locations? Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered yes.

WTP Acting Director, Robert Buck explained when the FY23 Budget was planned he discussed a new utility body work truck. The prices increased more than initially budgeted. He further explained the Mayor and Council approved the utility body as well as a new small dump truck.

Mr. Buck expressed it is necessary to reallocate a small amount of money to purchase the utility body. He further expressed there is still money left over after the reallocation and then asked the Commission for their permission to take the remaining money and allow him to use the money for a utility body on a PW vehicle that already exists with a regular bed to utilize as another truck in the fleet?

He said the cost is close to what was budgeted in that account. A copy of the estimates from Meadow's Hydraulics were included in the Commission's mail packets, Chief of Finance Heather Chandler included the break downs for the left-over money in the Principal & Interest Payments line purchase for this Commission, Mayor and Council as well as the Mayor and Commissioners for what the budget reallocation would be.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood added Mr. Buck acquired his new pick-up. Mr. Buck said typically in the past the Town would use Hertrich's Fleet but they only had a one-week window open in August

to place an order and the vehicle would not be delivered until 2024. So, with further research a truck was located in Easton, MD and the Town acquired it two weeks ago.

Commission Member Dewald asked Mr. Buck if Meadow's Hydraulics is the only company in the region that can install a service body on the truck because if it is just them than there is no competition at all? Mr. Buck answered they tried to get a quote from Herschel Miller which failed to get back to us. The only response has been from Meadows Hydraulics.

Commissioner Unsell asked what the milage was on the truck that Mr. Buck was requesting the utility body for? Mr. Buck answered 70,000. Mr. Buck reminded the Commission the truck was driven by the previous PW Director Jerome Reid.

Commission Member Dewald inquired if Meadow's Hydraulics seen any problems installing the utility body on the truck Mr. Reid drove that has 70,000 miles. Mr. Buck responded no; pictures were taken of the truck outside, underneath where the bed is currently mounted onto the truck frame and their only stipulation from the technician was as long as there was no frame rust and there was none.

A motion was made/seconded (Dewald/Pase) and carried for the reallocation of \$5,876.41 for purchasing and installing a service body on an existing truck. Council Member Smith took a roll call vote, and the motion was passed, 4 Ayes.

Town Manager Report –

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reminded the Commission and public about the swearing in ceremony, for PFC Zachary Coco and PTLM Nicholas Snead. Friday, August 12th 9:00 a.m. at the training room at the PD.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported the Town did receive full funding for Phase I of the Maryland Sewer Main Replacement Project. This project will replace the terracotta pipes on Chestnut St., Pine St. and Pennsylvania Ave. The actual cost is \$2,800,000.00 million dollars. The Town received \$1,100,000.00 in grant funding, \$850,000 in a loan and \$850,000 in loan forgiveness. The APR on the loan is around 1%. The agreement has been signed to move forward.

He further reported Acting Director Robert Buck learned this morning the Town just bought another salt spreader. The Town has requested an agreement with MDOT and DelDot to purchase salt from them at their cost and only pay for what you purchase. The Town does not have to store the salt and the salt will stay dry.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned tomorrow he and Town staff are meeting with Steve Miller from Wicomico County Recs & Parks regarding the lease the Town has on the south end of Pennsylvania Ave. The lease indirectly affects the roads and everything around there.

Council Comments

Commissioner Unsell and Commission Member Dewald had no comment.

Vice Mayor Pase commented it sounds like things are moving. She said every report they receive from Town Mgr. Fleetwood they are up to date on everything and that's really nice.

Council Member Smith said he agreed with Vice Mayor Pase; with Town Mgr. Fleetwood onboard it's really helped him understand what's going on every day and he thinks we are moving the Town in the right direction. Town Mgr. Fleetwood added that Superintendent Oberton, PW Acting Director, Robert Buck and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer are an integral part of staff. He further added he is amazed what gets done with what assets and tools that we have. Town Mgr. Fleetwood commented these three employees sitting in here tonight have the true best interest for this Town on their mind.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made, second (Unsell/Dewald) and carried to adjourn. By roll call, the motion passed with 4 Ayes.

Clerk of Council