

Utility Commission
November 7, 2022
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Vice Mayor Pase. 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 Council Member Smith, Commissioner Unsell and Shaffer, Commission Member Dewald, Town Manager Jeff Fleetwood, and Clerk of Council Vondell Spencer. Guests: Tom Bauer, Penny Glasgow, Howard Dickerson and Linda Morris.

Madam Chair Pase took a roll call for attendance to establish a quorum and all were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Dewald/Unsell) and carried to approve the October 4, 2022 minutes. Madam Chair Pase took a roll call vote and the motion was passed 4 Ayes 1 Abstain (Shaffer).

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business/Town Manager Report–

Town Mgr. Fleetwood explained a request for reallocation of funds for an unexpected valve replacement. The valve that needs to be replaced is located in front of the WTP and administration building. Also, this valve is used to shut the water tower off. T.K. Construction gave the Town an estimate of \$10,962.00. WTP Superintendent, Sophia Oberton, requested this reallocation of funds.

He further explained this reallocation of funds has been passed through the Chief of Finance, Heather Chandler, for the \$10,962.00 to be taken out of the contingency and utility fund. Then that money will be added to the capital outlay which will complete the project.

Vice Mayor Pase called for a motion to accept the reallocation of funds for a WTP valve replacement. A motion was made, seconded (Smith/Unsell) and carried by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported Mayor Jorden, Mayor Elect Bauer and himself met with Sussex County Officials and the topic of discussion was sewer and also business development. This meeting was very preliminary. They did schedule a follow-up meeting that is scheduled for November 16th to discuss sewer and business development. He said what they are seeking on the

sewer side are ideas specifically for the DE side and how the Town can obtain monies for the sewer main replacement project that has to be done.

He further reported the RFP for streets has gone out. The closing date is the first part of December. He further said it is a pretty intense paving proposal and we have to see where the pricing comes in, what money we have or if we need to do more.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood mentioned the WTP has been power-washed on the outside and all the steel has been painted on the outside. He asked that the Commission and attendees take the time to go in and take a look at the inside of the building.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood reported Mayor Jorden, Commissioner Shaffer, Director of Public Works, Robert Buck, Public Works Superintendent, Sophia Oberton and himself met with a vendor in reference to Underground Rehabilitation Cured-in-Place UV Curing Process (CIPP). He explained how it is done and said they witnessed a presentation of the process. He said there is more to follow on that.

He mentioned the WTP fiberglass windows that are in place do not look good in appearance and they are looking into having those replaced. The SCADA system is being installed at the WTP as well. He further mentioned that would give them information immediately which can be modified. This system is already installed at the WWTP.

Town Mr. Fleetwood commented the PAC tower behind the WTP that filters out the iron in the water is a huge eye sore. The PAC tower is next to have filters, vents and the outside cleaned. Also, it will be cleaned on the inside operation part.

He said Commissioner Shaffer and a bunch of young volunteers were at State Street Park Saturday. They have completed painting the fence around the Tot Lot. The playground equipment should be delivered there probably in the next week to two weeks and assembled. The new sign for State Street Park and Cpl. Heacock's memorial should be available soon. Town Mgr. Fleetwood commented what they would like to do is replace the grills that are beyond repair with new ones and then have a rededication to the park potentially sometime in December, early January.

Council Comments –

Madam Chair Pase thanked everybody. She described when she first started, she was working at MML when Howard Dickerson was in control of it. She said her intensions when she started the Utility Commission was to upgrade the WTP. Eventually the Town now has good water and there are more good things to come from the Utility Commission. She commented she appreciated all of the confidence and the friendships that they have made.

Commission Member Dewald congratulated Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith on their retirement from the Utility Commission and gave them brownies.

Commission Member Shaffer commented he was very impressed with the Underground Rehabilitation Cured-in-Place UV Curing Process presentation. It was very informative. It's not slip lining anymore its relining. He explained the fifty-year life. There would be a thinner wall reduction with the size of the sewer line, strength because it's fiberglass, very little disruption for the residents in case there has to be work done down there and how they could make repairs.

He said one of the things that they were pressing the vendor on was numbers. He further explained when you dig up a whole street and put all new pipe down your looking at \$150.00 per linear foot plus the cost of the roadway replacement. He further explained not having to replace a roadway and going this route would be \$77.00 per linear foot with a 50-year lifespan minimum. Also, to go through Town and not have to dig everything up unless it needs it was amazing. Town Mgr. Fleetwood gave his opinion.

Commissioner Shaffer suggested to Town Mgr. Fleetwood that Town Engineer, Josh Taylor, send this body a link that they can forward to everybody so they could check it out at their leisure and everybody will know what was in the presentation. Commission Member Dewald asked for clarity on the price for the cost per linear foot. Commissioner Shaffer clarified the cost for her.

Deputy Mayor Unsell mentioned to DE Mayor Elect Tom Bauer that this commission is losing two DE members. For the December 5th meeting that should be one his first tasks, getting those seats filled.

Council Member Smith said thank you for the memories and votes. It's been a good 12 years and he thought it was time to move on. He said he was going to pursue other things to do. The time that they spent together was good times and thanked them all.

Public Comments –

1. Howard Dickerson thanked Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith for their time and effort they put in on the Utility Commission. He said it is something that the first couple of years you don't really, really realize what is coming off and it takes a number of years to experience. He further said Vice Mayor Pase had over 28 years, a great many years. Council Member Smith has 12 years. It isn't something you get to sit on your first year; you are making decisions. Also, it takes a while to learn the water and sewer system in the Town and the amazing way it works or doesn't work at times.
2. Tom Bauer thanked Vice Mayor Pase and Council Member Smith for their time in their elected positions. He said he hoped they enjoyed their semiretirement. He is aware they are already retired they can just get more free time.

Adjournment

A motion was made, second (Smith/Unsell) and carried to adjourn. By roll call, the motion passed with 5 Ayes.

Clerk of Council

Vondell Spencer