

Utility Commission
July 14, 2025
DELMAR TOWN HALL & VIA TELECONFERENCE

The regular scheduled meeting of the Delmar Utility Commission was called to order by Commissioner Cory Shaffer. This meeting is available to the public, in person seating and via teleconference. The phone number and access code have been provided to all the members as well as the public. In attendance was Commissioner Ronald Nembhard, Council Member Todd Lanier, and Commission Members Phillip Moore and Lori Dewald. Key Personnel: Town Mgr. Jeff Fleetwood, Public Works Director, Bob Buck, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Ron Bailey, and Clerk of Council, Vondell Spencer. Guests: Mayor Thomas Bauer, Commissioner Jacob Boothe, Derrick Craig, Janet Robinson, Mike Webster, and Matt Marine.

Commissioner Shaffer called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with five members present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded (Nembhard/Moore) and carried to approve the May 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Shaffer took a vote, and the motion was passed with 5 Ayes.

Unfinished Business –

None.

New Business–

Water Storage Tank Grant Application

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said he had conversations last week regarding potential grant funding for a new water tower. He further said he is of the opinion that the town will need an additional water tower on the DE side at the northeast quadrant off of Stage Rd. and Rt.13.

As far as the funding from the State of Delaware, last week the town did not receive the application for funding until Monday and it was due back by close of business on Friday. The application was completed and returned. The town is not going to receive the funding this fiscal year. The town has hopes of receiving the funding at the end of FY'26. The town would like to continue to move forward with the funding request for the water tower.

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Ron Bailey explained why the water tower will be necessary in the near future.

Commission Member Dewald asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood what kind of grant money will be available. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered the grant money would all be through DNREC. She further asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if there would be any caps on the grant money. He said we have requested \$3,000,000. A conversation ensued.

Commission Member Moore asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if water mains would have to be installed. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered no. The town would tie into existing infrastructure.

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said town staff is meeting on Wednesday with the people that will be developing the business park. One of the vendors that will be part of the business park is an electric battery storage company. He further said he is going to ask them for a piece of real estate to place the water tower. Tentatively they have agreed. Commissioner Shaffer asked Town Mgr. Fleetwood if that does not happen could the town use the potential school section. Town Mgr. Fleetwood answered yes.

Commissioner Shaffer called for a motion to approve a referral to the Mayor and Council and the Mayor and Commissioners. The motion was made/seconded (Dewald/Lanier) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Eastern Shore Gas and Rt.13

Town Mgr. Fleetwood said Eastern Shore Natural Gas is doing an upgrade down Rt.13 all the way north near Iron Hill Rd. Also, they will upgrade down Connelly Mill Rd. Town Mgr. Fleetwood further said last week the town was awarded roughly \$300,000 from MDE for lead and copper and \$300,000 from DNREC. A conversation ensued.

Status and Procurement of Backhoe for Public Works

Town Mgr. Fleetwood informed the commission PW has a 1984 model backhoe that needs to be replaced. Public Works Director, Bob Buck presented and explained a repair order amount for the 1984 model backhoe and a quote for a new 2025 John Deere 310 P Backhoe Loader 17B0T which is the closest model to what they have. A very lengthy conversation ensued.

Commissioner Shaffer called for a motion for approval of funds for a new backhoe to not exceed \$144,559. A motion was made/seconded (Nembhard/Moore) and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes.

Commission Comments –

Commissioners Nembhard and Shaffer, Council Member Lanier, and Commission Member Dewald had no comment.

- 1.) Commission Member Moore commented he did see one of the home builds. It was discussed about the renter's responsibility in the lead and copper rule so now it seems like the legal property owners are going to have some responsibility in doing that. He further commented he will try to keep his eye out for that because he is aware there are a lot of towns right now that are experiencing a lot of utility hardships. He said he is glad that Delmar is not experiencing that now.

Public Comments –

None.

Adjournment –

A motion was made, seconded (Lanier/Dewald) and carried to adjourn. The motion passed with 5 Ayes.

Submitted by:

Vondell Spencer
Clerk of Council