

**September 14, 2010**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION  
September 14, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on September 14, 2010, in the Board Chambers in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Steven Apicella, Rick Carroll, Lloyd Chittum, Bob Gibbons, Bill Tignor and Clarence Young. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Mike Smith and Cheryl Giles were present for the Utilities Department.

Public Hearing – Mr. Critzer presented Proposed Ordinance O10-50, which proposes to amend the current water conservation rate. The amendment consists of reducing the current \$23.55 rate for all residential usage of 26,000 gallons or more to \$13.00 per thousand gallons. Mr. Critzer stated the Board of Supervisors directed that a public hearing be held for proposed ordinance O10-50 and that the Commission provide its recommendation on the proposed ordinance.

Chairman Lloyd Chittum opened the public hearing for public comments. No comments were provided by the public.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the current water conservation rate and for adding an additional tier to the residential rate structure. Mr. Apicella made a motion to adopt proposed ordinance O10-50 and to seek the authority to explore adding an additional tier to the residential billing structure to further promote water conservation. The motion was seconded by Bob Gibbons. The motion was tied with a 3-3 vote, with opposing votes from Lloyd Chittum, Bill Tignor and Clarence Young. The commission was unable to reach a majority vote. Mr. Critzer was asked to convey the Commission's discussion to the Board.

Public Presentations – Paul Waldowski commented about his disappointment in the water and sewer charges provided by the management company for the Stafford Meadows subdivision.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes for the August 10, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Commission Members' Comments – Mr. Carroll inquired about the type of water and sewer rates the Stafford Meadows subdivision receives. Mr. Critzer responded the management company receives non-residential rates for water and sewer service. Mr. Tignor inquired if other residents of the Stafford Meadows subdivision have shown interest in the County maintaining the water and sewer lines. Mr. Critzer responded that the management company has approached staff about maintaining the lines. Mr. Young commented that he would contact Mr. Waldowski to determine if other residents have similar concerns about the water and sewer service provided by the management company.

Mr. Gibbons inquired about the following items:

- Clarification as to who would be responsible for the cost of developing infrastructure for areas outside of the UDAs;
- Legislation's assessment of the land size and growth for Stafford County; and
- The safe yield amount of water that can be produced at the Rocky Pen Run Treatment facility during a drought.

Director's Report – Mr. Critzer reported the following items:

- ♣ Reservoir levels and water use restrictions have been placed on the County's website.
- ♣ The Board directed that a credit be applied to customer's October bill equivalent to the 3% rate increase that was on the July bills for usage in June. The credit will cost about \$67,000 in return revenue and \$1,200 for programming the software to determine the credit amounts.
- ♣ The Board also directed that letters be mailed to applicants who completed a water availability application prior to July 1, 2010 notifying them of a grace period to pay the former \$5,600 availability rate. There were 233 applications and the potential lost revenue, if all 233 applicants responded, would be \$359,000.
- ♣ A public hearing is scheduled to be held September 21st to consider condemnation and quick-take of easements for the Falls Run Sewer Interceptor Project.
- ♣ VDOT will close Brooke Road during mid-January to replace the bridge over Potomac Creek.
- ♣ Odor control chemical will be fed directly at the Falls Run Pump Station to determine its effectiveness in

controlling the odor. Also, engineers have been asked to proceed with bid specifications for an odor control system.

**New Business:**

Eligibility for Pump and Haul Service for 19 Lorenzo Drive – Dale Allen provided background information about the property located at 19 Lorenzo Drive. Mr. Allen reported the drainfield had failed and the issue is whether the construction of a garage on an existing drainfield constitutes a self-inflicted problem. The owners are requesting approval for subsidized pump and haul services. Staff requests the commission's recommendation to determine the eligibility of the property for subsidized pump and haul.

Following discussion about the criteria for subsidized and non-subsidized service, Mr. Tignor made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the problem was not self-inflicted by the homeowners, since the garage was built by a previous owner and the applicant had no knowledge of the situation at the time of the purchase. The motion was seconded by Mr. Young and passed with a 4-2 vote. Mr. Apicella and Mr. Carroll were the opposing votes.

Mr. Apicella requested the pump and haul topic be added to the agenda at a later date for discussion.

Mr. Chittum requested receiving the agenda package a week prior to the meeting so that information could be thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Carroll informed staff that the Board of Supervisors is planning a visit to the Rocky Pen Run Reservoir site.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Tignor,  
Recording Secretary