

Stafford County Utilities Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2013

I. Call to order

Chairman Bill Tignor called to order the regular meeting of the Utilities Commission at the Stafford County Government Center on November 12, 2013 in the ABC Conference Room.

II. Roll call

Cheryl Giles conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Joyce Arndt, David Bohmke, John Harris, and Bill Tignor. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, Janet Spencer, Deidre Jett, and Cheryl Giles were present for the Utilities Department.

III. Public Presentations

Mr. Paul Waldowski of 8 Pickett Lane stated he would continue to fight for Stafford Meadows to become a part of the Capital Improvement Program. He believes residents of Stafford Meadows should receive a county water and sewer bill and not a fabricated water and sewer bill from their Homeowners Association.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The October 8, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

V. Commission Members' Comments

Ms. Arndt congratulated Mr. Bohmke on the election of Mrs. Bohmke to the Board of Supervisors.

VI. Director's Report

Mr. Critzer reported the following items:

- ❖ Staff is negotiating with AT&T about leasing space to place communication antennas on the Stone River Water Tank. The monthly lease payment would initially be \$2,850 and escalated by 3% each year after the first year. Once the agreement has been finalized, staff will ask the Commission to recommend the Board authorizes a public hearing. Staff has also received a request to allow communication antennas on the Moncure Water Tank.
- ❖ Bids are due on November 14th for the Austin Run Pump Station Replacement project.
- ❖ Bid specifications for the 342 and 480 waterlines for the Rocky Pen Run Water Treatment Facility will be sent to the Purchasing department within the week. Staff plans to present this item to the Commission at its December meeting.
- ❖ Staff is working on finalizing the permanent easement documents for the Celebrate Virginia Water Tank. Once they are signed, staff will bid out the tank construction.
- ❖ Bids are due for the Rocky Run Road Cul-de-sacs on December 5th.
- ❖ Well abandonments at Rocky Pen Run will go out for bid very soon. There are approximately 26 wells that will be abandoned.
- ❖ Staff will issue a Notice-to-Proceed to W. C. Spratt for the Ridge Pointe Stormwater Ponds very soon.
- ❖ Staff will solicit bids for Stream Restoration for the dam site and for the Fish Passage Blockage Removal very soon.

- ❖ A kick-off meeting for the Water and Sewer Master Plan Update was held. Staff expects the update to be completed in about seven months.
- ❖ The Commission's December 10th meeting needs to be rescheduled or held at a different location because neither the ABC Conference Room nor Board Chambers is available. Staff recommends the Commission considers rescheduling the meeting on December 12th because it would allow additional time to bring the recently bid projects to the Commission at its December meeting rather than waiting until the January meeting.

VII. Unfinished Business

Rocky Pen Run Project Financial Overview

Ms. Jett reported that at the October 15th Board of Supervisors meeting, staff presented the request to increase project costs for Rocky Pen Run Reservoir, Dam, and Water Treatment Facility. The Board approved all of the proposed increases. We have an increased project cost of an estimated \$139M; however we expect to have a potential savings of \$1,386,000 from mitigation, claims recovery, and liquidated damages. An expected \$5.5M net increase in the dam cost would bring the cost of the project up to \$137M.

Mr. Tignor suggested the Rocky Pen Run Expenditures Report reflect a breakdown of the potential savings.

In October, approximately \$2.2M was spent on the project. In November, \$5M is expected to be spent because some issues that needed to be resolved can now be paid.

Pump and Haul Program

Mr. Allen reported that after staff reviewed the proposals that were passed at last month's meeting in the pump and haul motion, staff had questions about how to handle the recommendations made by the pump and haul sub-committee. Staff would like to get direction on how to report those recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Allen stated that staff had questions about the following recommendations and would like to get the Commission's feedback on the issues.

1. Does the Commission want to retain the pump and haul for new applicants? Commission members agreed that the pump and haul program should be retained and available for new applicants.
2. Does the Commission want to set up a tiered rate schedule for new applicants? After discussing the fees that are associated with hooking up to sewer, members agreed to recommend to not encourage subsidizing pump and haul but to have a mechanism in place for hardship cases. Going forth, new applicants will be subsidized using a tiered rate schedule. Tank construction will not be subsidized. Connection charges will no longer be charged until the property is physically connected to the public sewer system.
3. Does the Commission want to transfer financial responsibility to the General Fund? A motion was made by Mr. Bohmke to recommend to the Board that costs associated

with pump and haul sewer service come from the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and passed with a 4-0 vote.

4. Does the Commission want to change the approval authority for non-residential, non-subsidized pump and haul sewer service to the County Administrator? The Commission recommended that the County Administrator should have approval authority for non-residential, non-subsidized pump and haul sewer service.
5. How does the Commission want to put the notice-to-record information regarding a failed drainfield on a particular property so that future purchasers would be aware of it? Commission members recommended the Health Department record the information about a failed drainfield and coordinate with Spotsylvania County with regards of how to proceed with the issue. This should be a legislative initiative from the County
6. Should the evaluation process for new applicants consist of a financial evaluation and/or a soil evaluation? Commission members recommended that a financial and a soil evaluation should be a part of the evaluation process.
7. Determine an appeal process for new applicants. Commission members recommended that if new facts or information emerge about a case where pump and haul initially has been denied by the Board, then the case could be appealed to the Board.

VIII. New Business

Authorize Contract for the Purchase of Ferric Sulfate for the Water Treatment Facilities

Ms. Spencer reported that a contract to purchase liquid ferric sulfate, which is a coagulant used at the water treatment facilities, went out for bid. Three bids were received. Kemira Water Solutions was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$232,000.

Mr. Harris made a motion to recommend approval of proposed resolution R13-374, which would award a contract to Kemira Water Solutions for the purchase of liquid ferric sulfate for use at County water treatment facilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bohmke and passed with a 4-0 vote.

Authorize Contract for the Purchase of Diffusers for the Aquia WWTF

Ms. Spencer reported that the diffusers are a component that allows the addition of oxygen to the liquids. They have a limited life-span and are not sufficient once they have reached the end of their life-span. The diffusers are a sole-source from Schrieber, Inc. and staff received a quote of \$148,946 for replacement and installation of the diffusers.

Mr. Bohmke inquired if the purchase of the diffusers was in the budget. Ms. Spencer responded that it is included in operational portion of the budget.

Mr. Harris made a motion to recommend approval of proposed resolution R13-375, which would award a contract to Schrieber, Inc. for the purchase of diffusers for the Aquia Wastewater Treatment Facility. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bohmke and passed with a 4-0 vote.

Consider a Low Pressure Sewer System for Parcel 29-66A

Mr. Allen reported that the owner of Tax Map Parcel 29-66A is requesting the use of a Low Pressure Sewer System (LPSS). The parcel is within the Urban Service Area. There is no planned pump station, gravity sewer system, or interceptor sewer that will serve this particular parcel. The only way the owner can develop this parcel is on a LPSS. The parcel meets the criteria established by the Board: that if no gravity sewer system is planned for the area, they would consider the use of a LPSS.

Mr. Harris asked why there were only a partial number of the lots requested for a LPSS instead of the entire subdivision. Mr. Allen responded that those that were not included in the request are at a higher elevation and can use the existing gravity sewer system.

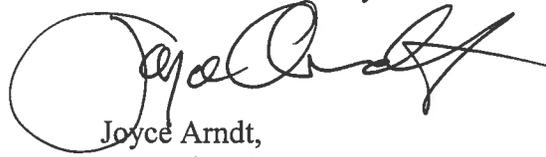
Mr. Tignor asked if each of the lots would have to have a generator. Mr. Allen responded that as part of the requirements for a LPSS, each lot would have to maintain a back-up power source.

Discussion ensued about the use and maintenance of grinder pumps. Following the discussion, Mr. Harris made a motion to not recommend approval of R13-376, which would consider the use of a LPSS for Tax Map Parcel 26-66A. Ms. Arndt seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 3-1 vote. Mr. Tignor was the opposing vote.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Tignor adjourned the meeting at 8:28PM.

Minutes submitted by:



Joyce Arndt,
Recording Secretary