

UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 14, 2009

7:00 p.m.

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on April 14, 2009, in the Board Chambers in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Rick Carroll, Lloyd Chittum, Patricia Kurpiel, and Bill Tignor. Harry Critzer, Dale Allen, and Susan Fitzgibbon were present for the Utilities Department.

1. **Public Presentations** – There were no public presentations.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes for the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved as written.
3. **Review of Water & Sewer Availability and User Fees** – Susan Fitzgibbon, the Utilities Financial Manager, reviewed an analysis of the Utilities Department 5-year financial targets and the corresponding “Proposed” rate changes.

For Availability Fees, it was recommended that the Water Availability rate be increased from \$5,600 to \$6,900 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). (The proposal also recommended that the monthly “Demand Fee” be increased by \$0.70 for water service and \$0.80 for sewer service to help fund a portion of debt service associated with upgrades to the water distribution system and the wastewater treatment facilities. Without increments to the “Demand Fee”, the Availability Fees would need to be increased to \$7,300 and \$3,800 respectively.)

For Sewer User Fees, it was proposed that the rates be increased by 8%, plus a \$0.80 increment to the “Demand Fee”.

	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Administrative Fee	\$1.85	\$2.00
Demand Fee	\$5.49	\$6.73
Usage Fee	\$3.91	\$4.22

For Water User Fees, it was proposed that the rates be increased by 8%, plus a \$0.70 increment to the “Demand Fee”. (The Residential high-volume rate of \$23.55 and the Irrigation/Bulk/Construction/Hydrant rate of \$13.00 were unchanged.)

	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Administrative Fee	\$1.74	\$1.88
Demand Fee	\$1.77	\$2.61

Residential & Apt. Usage Fees: (charged per 1,000 gallons)

Usage Band (gallons)	Current Rates	Proposed Rate
0-4,999	\$1.86	\$2.01
5,000-8,999	\$2.82	\$3.05
9,000-12,999	\$5.51	\$5.95
13,000-25,999*	\$7.85	\$8.48
26,000 and over **	\$23.55	\$23.55

*proposed rate band expanded to include usage up to 25,999 gallons (current rate band includes usage up to 20,000)

**proposed rate band changed to 26,000 gallons and above

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Irrigation, Bulk, Construction or Hydrant Meters:

	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
All Usage	\$13.00	\$13.00

Non-Residential:

	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
All Usage	\$2.83	\$3.17

After some discussion, Lloyd Chittum made a motion to hold a public hearing to recommend amending availability, water and sewer user fees. The motion was seconded by Bill Tignor and passed with a 4-0 vote.

4. Water Hookups Outside the USA – Dale Allen presented the background to proposed ordinance O09-26. This ordinance originated at the March 3, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting when the Board referred Mr. Woodson’s proposal to delete mandatory requirements for public water use outside of the Urban Service Area to the Utilities Commission. This requirement is contained in paragraph c of section 25-71. At the March 10, 2009 meeting, the Commission voted 5-2 to recommend to the Board that paragraph c not be deleted. The Board responded by forming a subcommittee of Mr. Woodson and Mr. Brito to draft changes to section 25-71. The resulting proposed O09-26 was referred to the Utilities Commission for a public hearing at the April 7, 2009 Board meeting. The Commission voted 4-0 to schedule a public hearing at the May meeting.

5. Utilities Director’s Report – Harry Critzer reported the following items:

- The County applied for stimulus funds for three wastewater projects, but failed to get on the list of 25 recommended projects.
- A public hearing would be held on April 29, 2009 at 7:00pm regarding the environmental assessment for Aquia WWTF nutrient reduction upgrades and the requirements of the Virginia Revolving Loan Fund.
- Staff would be soliciting proposals for upgrades to our water telemetry system to improve reliability and security.
- A proposal would be presented to the Rappahannock River Conservation Easement to locate new 30” water transmission lines from Rocky Pen Run Water Treatment Facility to the 342 pressure zone within the conservation easement on Thursday, April 16 at 10:00a.m.

6. Commission Members Comments – Patricia Kurpiel commented she attended the Potomac Round Table meeting and suggested Stafford County consider mitigation credits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Tignor,
Recording Secretary