

UTILITIES COMMISSION
September 9, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on September 9, 2008, in the Stafford County Board Chambers in the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Rick Carroll, Bob Hunt, Patricia Kurpiel, Wendy Surman, Bill Tignor and Clarence Young. Steve Crosby, Dale Allen and Susan Fitzgibbon were present for the Utilities Department.

1. **Public Presentations** – There were no public presentations.

2. **Widewater Area Water and Sewer Master Plan: Public Hearing**

Bob Hunt introduced the Public Hearing regarding the proposed removal of the Widewater Area from the Water and Sewer Master Plan and called for comments. No comments were provided by the public.

Clarence Young made a motion that the Utility Commission recommends to the BOS the repeal of the Widewater Area from the Water & Sewer Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Patricia Kurpiel. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Approval of Minutes** - Minutes for the July 2008 meeting were approved as written.

4. **Request for Pump & Haul Services: 51 Deshields Lane** - Dale Allen made the presentation regarding the property at 51 Deshields Lane. The property currently has a failing drainfield and the owner has applied for pump and haul services. The original design of the house located on the property included only three bedrooms; however, the house has since been expanded to include five bedrooms – most likely contributing to the failure of the septic system. Due to operation of the system at a higher level of occupancy than that for which it was originally designed, staff believes that the cause of failure may be self-inflicted and recommends that the Utility Commission recommend to the BOS that the applicant's request for pump and haul be denied.

The property owner was present at the meeting and spoke regarding the problem he has encountered. The property had already been expanded when he purchased it several years earlier. He was aware that the basement had a water/septic problem and he had hired a plumber to try to fix it. As it turned out, the problem was more significant than he had anticipated, which resulted in his application for pump and haul services.

Wendy Surman asked staff if the property would qualify if it were still being operated as a three bedroom. Dale Allen indicated that, if that were the case, it should qualify. Patricia Kurpiel indicated that although the problem does appear to be self-inflicted, the solution may be to convert the home back to three bedrooms and then seek approval. Rick Carroll asked if the home was within the urban service area, to which Dale Allen responded that it is. Bill Tignor asked if there was a well on the property, to which Dale confirmed that there is.

Patricia Kurpiel made a motion to recommend to the BOS that they deny the owner's request for pump and haul, as the problem was self-inflicted and most likely caused by the expansion of the home from a three bedroom to a five bedroom. Bill Tignor seconded the motion.

During the discussion that followed, Wendy Surman requested that verbiage be included in the background report indicating that if the family revised the number of bedrooms in their home from five back to three, then they could qualify for a septic and drainfield system permit to install a new system.

The motion to recommend denial of the request for pump and haul services passed unanimously.

5. Capital Improvement Program – Dale Allen presented the proposed Capital Improvement Plan, which included changes to various projected program expenditures. Overall, the value of the CIP is close to what was presented in January; however, projected increases for specific projects including the Rocky Pen reservoir and the Nutrient Removal Upgrades at the wastewater treatment facilities were offset by planned reductions in projects related to the Water System rehabilitation program and the deletion of a Water Treatment facility upgrade that was originally thought may be needed to meet new regulations. (Preliminary source water test results have indicated that the upgrades to the existing plant will not be necessary.)

Wendy Surman requested a copy of the differences between this CIP version and the January version.

6. Director's Report – Steve Crosby provided an update on the Director search. Candidates have been provided by the search firm (Springstead) and have been narrowed down to a select group. Interviews are expected to begin in the upcoming month.

7. Commission Members Comments – Rick Carroll asked if any information had been provided regarding the advantages/disadvantages of operating as a Water and Sewer Authority. Information was distributed following the last meeting and staff agreed to send Mr. Carroll another copy.

Patricia Kurpiel requested that this issue be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Commission members asked if staff is checking for any new docks being built on the reservoir. Staff replied that checks are done on a regular basis and no new docks have been reported.

Bill Tignor inquired as to the status of the Reservoirs. Staff indicated that the reservoirs were full.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Tignor
Recording Secretary