

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**November 12, 2008**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Stafford County Utilities Commission met for its regular meeting on November 12, 2008, in the Stafford County Board Room within the Stafford County Administration Center. Commission members present were Rick Carroll, Lloyd Chittum, Bob Hunt, Patricia Kurpiel, Wendy Surman, Bill Tignor and Clarence Young. Steve Crosby, Harry Critzer, Dale Allen and Susan Fitzgibbon were present for the Utilities Department.

**1. Reconsideration of Conservation Rates: Public Hearing**

Mr. Hunt introduced the Public Hearing regarding the reconsideration of the Conservation rates. The Utilities Financial Manager (Ms. Fitzgibbon) presented an overview of the rates, the measured impacts, customer notification and the potential impacts of changing the effective date

**2. Public Presentations**

Comments regarding the conservation rates were provided by two citizens, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Beckford. Mr. Williamson was concerned about his wife's home-based business that uses 30,000 to 40,000 gallons per month and was adversely affected by the new "conservation rate". He asked that the home-based business not be charged the conservation rate. Mr. Beckford mentioned that he had installed a few thousand dollars worth of landscaping and had since received a water bill in the range of \$300. He stated that he didn't think that a conservation rate should be charged when Stafford County is not currently experiencing drought conditions.

After discussing the two situations described above, a motion was made by Mr. Tignor recommending that the effective date of the "conservation rate" not be changed. Mr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1-1. (Mr. Chittum voted "no", Ms. Surman abstained.)

A motion was made by Ms. Kurpiel to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Mr. Williamson be offered a water rate of \$7.85 per thousand gallon for usage in excess of 20,000 gallons, effective July 1, 2008. This recommendation was to apply only to Mr. Williamson and would not apply to any subsequent owner of the property or business.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Carroll voted "no".)

Ms. Surman stated that there needs to be a process whereby anyone applying for a home-based business should be made aware of the difference between the business and residential water rates. Mr. Crosby suggested that this be addressed by staff with the Code Administration Department and the BZA.

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

#### **4. Operating as a Water and Sewer Authority Discussion**

As a follow-up to an item mentioned at the September meeting, the commission discussed the pros and cons of operating as an advisory committee vs. a water and sewer authority. As no immediate need for a change to the structure of the commission was identified, the commission agreed to indefinitely table this item.

#### **5. Director's Report:**

Steve Crosby gave a brief update on the progress of the Regional Water Agreement being negotiated between Stafford, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. The agreement essentially allows for any of the jurisdictions to sell water to another jurisdiction during drought or emergency conditions. The agreement, which is currently being reviewed by the lawyers, outlines parameters regarding the amount that will be charged between jurisdictions.

Steve Crosby also provided an update on the Director search, indicating that the new director would be announced by the end of November.

#### **6. Commission Members Comments:**

Ms. Kurpiel inquired about the fourteen pending lawsuits associated with the drain field ordinance and suggested that there may be an opportunity to save some legal expense by clarifying the interpretation of the ordinance.

#### **7. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Tignor  
Recording Secretary