Middletown, Maryland
Water & Sewer Committee
Minutes
July 26, 2023

Attendees: Bruce Carbaugh (via Lifesize), Mark Carney, Jennifer Falcinelli, David Lake, Paul Mantello, Carolyn Spehr

Old Business

CPI or other index tied to annual rate increase

Discussion about an annual rate increase that would be appropriate. Tying this to the CPI is not reflective of W&S industry/chemical uses, but is better than nothing. Town Administrator recommended to wait for rate study and then make recommendations.

7/26/23 Update – waiting for results of rate study. Mark Carney requested the Town Board to take action on the suggestions made to the Board.

PFAS/PFOS Update- (history) The town has joined a mass tort law suit against companies that created the problem. The town board voted to have Bruce Poole represent the town in this PFAS law suit.

6/22/23 Update – Dupont and 3M settled the PFAS law suit. Determining how to distribute money.

Updated PFAS testing of well 22 and well 23. **Well 23** is PFBS 4.15 and 5.08 ppt and PFOS is 6.22 and 5.82 ppt. Well 23 is a 22 gpm well. **Well 22** - PFBS 4.35 and 3.97ppt. We will apply for Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Association in January for PFAS remediation. Federal government pays for mandatory PFAS testing 2024.

7/26/23 Update. Memar wells have PFAS in them. They only tested 3 wells and the results are 2.15, 10, 26. They need to test the 4th. They did not do the three

separate samples per MDE protocol. They need 3 samples per well and need to test the 4th well. Consultant's responsibility to get this done correctly. The town will not accept anything but the MDE protocol. Also need to do EPA testing which is paid for.

PFAS Lawsuit – requesting more testing of our wells. Will investigate. Disbursements by 2024

Water and Sewer Capacity Update – Will be adjusted shortly for Green Street Development and the Library.

ENR/PER Update –6/22/23 (history) To address the high cost of the WWTP upgrade (approximately 30 million dollars) the town hired a lobbyist to find funding from the state and federal government. The Bay Restoration Fee (BRF) will pay approximately 66% of the cost which would leave 10-15 million dollars for the town to fund. The town is talking to state and federal elected officials and the Secretaries of Maryland state departments in an attempt to find more grant funding for this project. After design is complete the town will apply for construction money from BRF in January 2024. The current recommended plant is a Membrane Bio Reactor (MBR). This type of plant will require additional shifts to run the plant, increasing operation costs. Going to visit MBR plant in Westover, MD, on July 11, 2023.

7/26/23 Update-Budget Estimates attached. Staff toured the ECI WWTP near Princess Anne on July 11. Summary attached. They ran 1 shift with 4 operators. Filters are supposed to be replaced every 10 years at approximately $100,000. Can lock in a price for the first replacement.

Supposed to get the first draft of the PER next week. RKK should present a Present Worth Analysis in their report that will show the capital costs and O&M costs.

East Plant is Biolac technology. MDE changed the discharge limits from 10 to 3.8 which makes meeting these limits much more difficult to meet with the technology we have. The Biolac system, could possibly be expanded, but would have to put something behind it for BOD. Need more real estate to do this. This is not the recommended way, has a lot of problems. Main driver of the upgraded plant project is the lagoon. It was indicated by MDE, at the time of the West

WWTP 2020 permit renewal, that they will not renew the permit for the lagoon in 2025. Now have tighter discharge limits at the East plant along with treating an additional 250,000 gpd from the West plant.

Discussion had about adding reclaimed water into drinking water due to the new technology that cleans waste water to drinking water standards. That would be a town board decision due to the controversial nature of this.

County Executive coming to tour the plants. Trying to get the County delegation to tour the plants. Also, federal elected officials. We invited the MDE Secretary to visit also. Our consultant spoke with the deputy secretary. Will need letters of support for campaign for funds.

Suggestion made for structuring a warranty based on the life of the membranes. Present worth analysis on all plant options 20 year period. Burgess wants answers to why we can't use the existing Biolac and build a new process train. The town needs to be responsible in meeting the new standards, use the present worth analysis and define how the Town is going to afford to do this. Paul spoke with MDE engineer Colleen about what is the future of the lagoon and permitting for the lagoon. 2020 permit discussion the lagoon would not live past 2025, the MDE then pulled that date back. Other discussions about water reuse and the possibility of integrating water treatment for reuse.

I&I Cone Branch Basin Update – Contractor returned to clean and televise areas missed in the first visit discussion. Consultant still reviewing the recent televised areas. Town had MAU excavate and replace a major leak in the gravity sewer Cone /Branch Drive on 7/19/2023. Got rid of a lot of I&I. Will be paving Cone Branch.

Memar Appropriation Application – (history) A meeting was held by MDE with residents of Coblentz Road. MDE requested the town to justify the use of 250 gallon per day (gpd) per unit. The Consultant and DPW submitted a letter defending the use of 250 gpd that included the need for reserve capacity, unregulated contaminants (PFAS) concerns and MDE stating systems should be able to function with their best well out of service. The supplemental information letter was submitted May 22, 2023. Memar's wells are currently being sampled for PFAS and will be tested again during the 60-day test.

6/22/23 Update–Memar made the application for water appropriation. MDE is asking to justify the request for 250 gpd which is our policy. Meeting with the developers last week, will continue to pursue 250 gpd allocation to build reserve capacity for our system. MDE's approved allocation for Frederick County is a single-family dwelling with 3 bedrooms uses a planning number 216 gpd. The Director of Public Works sent our old consent agreement with MDE from 2004 telling us to use 250 gpd and 325 gpd MMU for planning purposes. We are trying to do what they told us to do in 2004.

7/26/23 Update -Staff directed the hydrogeologist to amend the application to request 130 gpd/unit. The consultant is awaiting the final PFOS/PFAS testing but has Preliminary Results with detection (see above under PFAS for results). This application needs to have final PFOS/PFAS testing complete prior to MDE appropriation. Question regarding the annexation agreement that states 6 wells connected to the system and 4 wells are being discusses. Need clarification: The last 2 wells are not included in the appropriation application. There is no pumping or test data on them. MDE will require a longterm 60 day test on each group of 2 wells. At that time the wells will be sampled again for PFAS.

South Church Street lining proposals – approved by board – contract awarded - 4-6 weeks out.

SERCAP Rate Study – (history) The town administrator and director of public works explained the need for a rate study that reviews the town's rates and tap fees as an objective and justifiable recommendation of what should be charged. This study is also needed to develop a non-residential tap fee policy/rate.

Recommendation – Water & Sewer (W&S) rate study to be performed by Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP). There is no charge for this service other than a possible support letter for the organization.

6/22/23 -**update** -Approved by the town board, Jean Holloway with SERCAP is working with us on this study. We are in the process of completing a data request. Will also be doing audit of usage and customer data.

7/26/23 – update – Proposed to Jean to come to town hall to work upon all the data she needs to collect. Coming Tuesday afternoon to work on this. First draft expected in September. She will provide a presentation.

Spring line Replacement Project & RMC Grant Application – (history) Received 250,000 bond bill from Delegate Pippy to replace a portion of the spring line from the well field to I-70 – that is where we experience the most leaks. Letter of intent to Rural Maryland Corporation to apply for additional funds. Max amount available is $250,000 based on matching and state money – applied for $150,000. Application due July 13, 2023. Fast turnaround. 2/3 of spring line is 1893 cast iron. 1930 spring line branches off to Coxey Brown.

7/26/23 update- need to complete grant documents to proceed.

Outside meter vault relocations - (history) – 1200 meters still in the basement. Starting in 2008 the meters are installed at the curb. Staff recommended to move indoor meters outside for liability for leaks. $1500 per meter to move it outside. Would cost over a million dollars to move these meters to the curb. Continue on the agenda, investigate this issue further with more information including costs and potential insurance specific for leaks.

7/26/23 Update - create a policy to handle any leaks from indoor meter water leaks. Per LGIT, should always work through LGIT and not pay for repairs directly. Staff will create this policy. Continue to move meters to curbs during road construction.

Lead and Copper Sampling June 2023 – (history) Began June 2023, Town is on a 3-year reduced sampling cycle with a minimum of 21 sample sites. We don't have any lead connections or goosenecks left in the town of Middletown. We must sample homes built between 1983 to 1989 which include Creamery Row, Caroline Drive, Eastern Circle. There are 35 potential houses to sample and sampling must be complete by September 2023. Lead goosenecks are not considered lead service lines. Creamery Row falls into this testing requirements.

7/26/23 Update - 3 samples left to reach the 20 required

New Business

Monthly W&S Operating Report - see attached Linden Blvd waterline complete. Approximately 28 meters moved to the curb. Town staff did 14 valves on Cone Branch Drive. Lead & Copper. Bruce found some incorrect billing for W&S on some commercial meters and is correcting and addressing with property o

Recommendation: Need to have at least an annual audit of W&S billing for accuracy. Should make a policy for this to be done.

Middletown Water Conservation Public Alert System – review, original document and 2019 revised document attached.

Updates

1. Remove – A code status change will be announced in the Citizen Newspaper.
2. Add and/or to all critical factors
3. Change the governor declares a drought emergency to the state of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Falcinelli