

**Middletown, Maryland**  
**Water & Sewer Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**June 22, 2023**

**Attendees:** Bruce Carbaugh, Daphne Gabb, Rich Gallagher, Jennifer Falcinelli, 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.

**SERCAP Rate Study** – attachment- 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** 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.

**PFAS PFOS Update** –The town is 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** – 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.

**Non-Residential Tap Fee Discussion** – This fee is currently based on residential tap fees and meter size, or fixture units. These methods are currently outdated. A rate study is required to develop a comprehensive non-residential tap fee program.

**6/22/23** waiting for rate study to be completed. After the rate study, a comprehensive non-residential tap fee program will need to be established. This is time sensitive as we have commercial development in the near future.

**Water and Sewer Capacity Update** – no changes. Near future the library and the Green Street Flats triplex housing unit will be using capacity and the Lands of Lancaster development next to Safeway.

**ENR/PER Update –6/22/23** To address the high cost of this project (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.

**I&I Cone Branch Basin** – The consultant is behind schedule. Some televising reports are available however still waiting for full report. At Caroline Dr. and Cone Branch Dr. there is a large inflow of water (approximately 6 gallons per minute) at the main and where laterals meet the main.

**6/22/23** – Consultant back cleaning and televising additional areas. Starting to look at remediation of what they find.

**Memar Appropriation Application** – A meeting was held by MDE with residents of Coblenz 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** – 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.

**South Church Street Sanitary Sewer** - County had to break a clog out of our sewer line, our equipment could not do it. Total cost to clear the root mass \$11,000 (no charge as yet from the county). 2 proposals to line the pipe due to the many cracks in this pipe. The Director of Public Works will make a recommendation on the bids to present to the town board. The low bid cost is \$24,200.

**6/22/23** -The town board approved this relining, awarded contract to Pleasant for a cost of \$ 24,200.00.

## **New Business**

**Monthly Water & Sewer Operating Report** - See the written report for May 2023. Leak on Schoolhouse and Main Street. Usage back down. Springs were 146,882 gpd and now 72,000 gpd as of 6/22. Under 100,000 gpd discharge at the West Sewer Plant, which indicated that the I&I remediation on west end of town was successful.

**Lead and Copper Sampling** – Begins in 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.

**Revised Lead & Copper Rule**– MDE requires specific spread sheets to use for reporting. Staff will be working on the October 2024 deadline.

**Outside Meter Site Locations** – 1200 meters still in the basement. Starting 2008 meters installed outside. Staff recommended to move 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.

**Frederick County Chemical Procurement and Bulk Storage** – for chemicals – Frederick is paying more for 3 chemicals than we are. For Chlorine, Frederick is paying \$1.15 gallon which is much less than we are paying for this chemical. However, we need to be able to accept bulk deliveries for caustic and chlorine. Exploring what we need to do for potential bulk delivery and cost savings.

**SERCAP Rate Study** - see above

**Reservoir Solar Array and MEA technical Assistance Grant** – Solar siting analysis, study the economics, 10 acres to work with near the water tank reservoir. Federal money available for solar array. Town Administer exploring options. MEA offers 0% interest loan for solar arrays.

**Spring Line Replacement Project and RMS Grant Application**- Already 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.

**Water Quarterly water usage** – recommended to review and audit unusually low water usage to verify meters are working properly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Falcinelli