

TANEYTOWN WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Tuesday, September 15 2015

Committee In Attendance:

Diane Foster, Mayor Pro Tem, Committee Chair

Jackie Jones

Joe Vigliotti, Councilman

Barbara Cook

In Absence:

Gail Wilson

Meeting convened at 10:00 AM in City Council Chambers Conference Room.

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Foster revealed that three of the four action items in the *Initial Actions Project* were passed by the City Council at the September 14, 2015, regular council meeting. The committee was congratulated on its efforts. The committee then moved into member reports.

Gail Wilson was absent, but Foster noted that she was awaiting word on grants to assist homeowners. Councilman Don Frazier noted that he believed Wilson's efforts were important for citizen efforts at conservation, and that the pursuit of such grants was germane to the committee's efforts.

Barbara Cook then presented her report. She noted she had a meeting for Friday set with City Treasurer Bobbi-Jo Fout. She also distributed a handout to the committee which called for compensation for homeowners given estimated water bill readings. Councilman Joe Vigliotti agreed and noted that the idea was important, and that he and many others have suggested compensation for these citizens as well. It was suggested that perhaps these citizens could be assessed the rates in place when their battery meters failed. Foster noted that such assessments would be labor-intensive for the front office. Jackie Jones noted that volunteers could help handle these assessments. Cook also stated that she thought the multiyear Davenport projection for water and sewer rates should be reexamined. Cook went on to say that it was important the city follow up on micro grid systems to continue to cut costs where possible. Frazier agreed, noting that being energy independent of the mainstream grid was important in emergency situations.

Frazier then moved into his report. He noted that approximately 80% of his questions regarding the city's financial state had been answered, but that new questions had also arisen. Foster explained that if the strategic plan (Councilman Frazier's project) for the reduction of water and sewer rates was not completed by the final committee meeting, it could be presented to the Mayor and Council at a later date (independent of the committee's final report). Foster reiterated that the work of the Water and Sewer Committee would end on September 29, 2015 and a final report issued to Mayor and Council in October, 2015.

Vigliotti then moved into his report. He noted he had been laying out the basic framework for the final report. He noted that a very rough draft of the report would be presented at the committee's next meeting. He also expressed his gratitude and compliments to the committee for their diligence and hard work, as well as the success so far.

Jones then moved into her report. She addressed the issue of selling graywater. She noted that certain state regulations would have to be met, and that any water stored for more than twenty-four hours would have to be enclosed. She wondered whether the town would have enough water to sell to make it worth the town's time. Frazier noted that smaller companies, such as C.J. Miller, as well as companies within Taneytown city limits, would make the sale of water cost-effective.

Comments were then taken from the audience. Carl Ebaugh noted that landlords who have complained of not knowing that bills were being estimated need to pay attention to their water bills.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Vigliotti
Taneytown Water and Sewer Committee Recording Secretary
Taneytown City Councilman