

MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS OF POOLESVILLE
January 4, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order. Commissioner Halbrook, Dickerson, Stump and Klobukowski were in attendance, as well as Town Manager Yost.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Klobukowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Holiday Lighting Awards Event coordinator Cathy Bupp and Jennifer Singh announced the following winners:

Townhouses - Frances Bass (19554 Fisher Avenue) and Frank & Judy Holt (17674 Kohlhoss Road)

Traditional - Dorothy & John Brady (16910 Hoskinson Rd) and Tom & Elizabeth Evans (17717 Elgin Rd)

Contemporary - Ted & Tanya Zoerner (17313 Chiswell Rd) and Paul & Chrissy Harney (17421 Collier Way)

Business - Kettler Forlines Homes

Commissioner Halbrook announced that the coalition against drug use in schools and community would be having a meeting on January 13th at JPMS.

OPEN FORUM:

Drinking Water Notice - Scientist Consultant Kathy Mihm opened the discussion with a presentation identifying the natural occurring radionuclides often found in drinking water, typically very low levels and not of health concern. She discussed EPA standards and the recent results reported for 2 of Poolesville's wells. Although 2 of the wells showed elevated levels, the analytical methods and laboratory quality control was at question. Both wells were taken offline immediately and new samples were sent to a specialized lab. One of the wells had already been cleared by the Maryland Department of the Environment to return to service since the sample results were in compliance with EPA standards.

Below are questions from the audience:

Question: How long have we had this problem?

Answer: Legislation was passed in 2000 requiring community drinking water systems to test. We have always been in compliance until the recent results, which are being questioned due to laboratory quality control concerns.

Question: Does the suspect well serve my neighborhood directly?

Answer: The Town's water system is a "loop" system, which means that all of the wells pump to fill up the water tower then feeds the Town. So, it is a mix.

Question: If the results were over the standard in June, why was it not a violation at that time?

Answer: EPA regulations require quarterly samples and they are averaged over 4 consecutive quarters. The reason is that the measurement in picocuries per liter is measuring 1 trillionth of one gram, which has built in error margins.

Question: What type of results have we had in the past?

Answer: We have always been in compliance, but had results close to the standard in 2006-2007 timeframe for wells 7, 9 & 10.

Question: What makes you suspect the lab results?

Answer: Having a past history of results that are fairly consistent and in compliance, then receive a result that is 3 times the norm is not indicative a slow moving groundwater system. Also, the individual isotopes that make up the broad net alpha test do not add up the reported total result. The samples were held by the lab and not analyzed for 2 weeks, which typically it is 48 hours.

Question: Are there treatment systems for this and do you plan on installing them?

Answer: In 2007, the Town became the first municipality in Maryland to install a treatment system. Wells 7, 9 & 10 were outfitted with alpha emitter absorption media filters and radon removal units. Several wells are currently in design for radon removal units.

Question: Have you retested the wells?

Answer: The wells were retested. Well 8 results were in compliance and the MDE has cleared it for service. We are still waiting on the results from Brightwell. The well will remain offline until it is cleared by the MDE.

Question: How can the water system operate with 2 wells offline?

Answer: Many years ago, the Town planned and implemented redundant wells in each watershed to ensure an adequate water supply in the event several wells were adversely impacted and had to be taken offline. As the Town grows, the same process is in place.

Question: What is the range of variability in the testing?

Answer: About 20%

Question: Why were samples not taken during the first quarter as indicated by the notice?

Answer: We have experienced a high turn-over in water department supervisors over the past several years. While they did pull samples, the chain of custody sheet was not correctly filled out for all the proper testing.

Question: Have we had problems with this laboratory in the past?

Answer: Recently a "split" sample was taken from wells 7 & 9 and as they should have been exactly the same, one tested at 45 units and the other as non detectable. This summer, we had a similar issue with a new proposed well in which a sample was sent to a specialized lab in New Jersey, which had a significantly different result.

Question: Are we going to continue to use this lab?

Answer: We have just been notified by the MDE that the specialized laboratory in New Jersey is certified so we will be sending samples to them from now on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Klobukowski moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Halbrook. Motion carried 3-0-2, with Commissioners Dickerson and Stump abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 005-15 - Prohibition of Trucks on Certain Roads.

Manager Yost introduced the proposed legislation. The resolution would create the following: All thru trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 20,000 pounds or more shall be prohibited from the use of Westerly Avenue from Hughes Road to West Willard Road.

Resident Mike Douglass spoke in favor of the ordinance and requested another speed hump near the West Willard end of Westerly Avenue.

Local businessman and farmer Bill Jamison asked if there was a way that farm grain trucks could still use if a parade or bike race was underway.

Manager Yost explained that the law would be all inclusive and would be enforced by the Montgomery County Police.

Commissioner Dickerson motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Klobukowski. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Stump reported that the Planning Commission had met on the December 14th and recommended approval of 2 Special Exception applications.

PARKS BOARD

Commissioner Halbrook reported that the Board was set to meet on the 6th.

Events

Commissioner Dickerson reported that the Holiday Lighting Events Committee would be meeting on Wednesday to discuss the event.

School Liaison

Commissioner Klobukowski reported that he will be testifying at the MCPS operating budget hearings.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Yost reported that he would be meeting with County Officials on February 14th to discuss the impacts of the Wynne case.

He also met with reps from Potomac Edison to improve the lighting at the crosswalks near Whalen Commons and at the intersection of Wootton Avenue and Fisher Avenue.

Delegate Miller called regarding the Commissioner's request to improve signage and visibility of the crosswalks near Whalen Commons. A SHA report and proposal will be forthcoming.

Next meeting the auditors will present the annual report and Van Eperen would be presenting this year's marketing success and next year's plans.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Klobukowski made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Stump. Motion passed 5-0.