

BOONSBORO KEEDYSVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Voting members present Austin Abraham, Chairperson; Terry Davis (B), Howard Long (B), Matt Hull (K), Barry Levey (K),

Members absent none

Others present Ken Lord, (K-alt), Pete Shumaker (B), Utilities Superintendent; Ethan Strickler (B), Boonsboro Town Planner; Brandon Sweeney (K-potential new alternate)
Amanda Wells, Recording Secretary

The meeting convened at 6:30 PM at Keedysville Town Hall

I. **Approval of minutes from December 11, 2019.**

Chairperson Abraham allowed a few minutes for reading the minutes. It was noted that the minutes had the date of December 12, 2019 but the meeting was held on December 11, 2019. Member Hull motioned that the minutes be approved with the amended date and Member Long provided the second. Motion carried 5-0 to accept.

II. **Status FY20 CIP and FY21 CIP Projects:**

- A. Update on Keedysville weir was provided by Utilities Superintendent Shumaker. Pictures of the progress were distributed for those in attendance to view. Superintendent Shumaker stated that the project was underway to repair the weir however wet conditions and nearly daily rain was complicating the repair efforts and likely would cause a delay. Town Planner Strickler suggested contacting MDE to receive a waiver to complete work after March 1, 2020 if the construction is not complete. Excavating Associates is the contractor that was awarded the bid. The cost of the project is \$100,484. Boonsboro Town Planner Strickler stated it was a fixed price contract and any change orders had to be approved. Member Long explained that a no interest 1-year loan was obtained to pay for the cost of repairs from CHIEF in the amount of \$150,000. Member Long also mentioned that legislative funding to cover the entire cost and/or a grant from MDE was being sought. Member Levey asked about the production of the spring and Superintendent Shumaker stated that currently the production is 145gpm. Member Davis asked about the turbidity and Superintendent Shumaker stated that the engineers who designed the repair took that into account and so far, there were no issues with turbidity. Over 1700 sandbags as well as several

layers of plastic are protecting the stream bed currently and the water flow was clear. Member Davis asked about the split between the two towns and chairperson Abraham stated that the repair costs would be calculated in the same manner as all capital projects which in recent years has been approximately 85% Boonsboro and 15% Keedysville.

- B. Park Well Replacement was discussed by Superintendent Shumaker. He stated that Philips had replaced the pump and the motor at the Shafer Park well with stainless steel propellers. This replacement has increased production by the Shafer Park well to 120gpm as opposed to the 60-70gpm that was being produced prior to replacement. Superintendent Shumaker said he estimated the cost of the repairs would be about \$10,000 but he did not have a bill yet. Philips also provided a quote for a new 10 inch well to replace the existing well. As discussed in prior meetings, a 12 inch well is not needed at this time. Town Planner Strickler stated that although MDE suggested a 12 inch well, only a negligible gain would be seen, and a 10 inch well was more than enough to handle potential growth. Member Hull asked if the pump and motor replacement could delay a new well being installed and Member Levey suggested to keep moving forward because it would take many months for the project to begin.
- C. Member Davis mentioned that he would like to see a new well at Shafer Park be included in the CIP. Town Planner Strickler stated that budgets had not been completed and that discussions were ongoing. Town Manager Mantello was absent from the meeting due to illness so further discussion of CIP was not possible.

III. **Water Rates:**

Member Levey commented that Keedysville water rates have been increasing each year due to a 5-year ordinance that was passed in 2016. Rate changes take effect January 1 of each year and are reflected on the March 31st billing. Keedysville new rates are as follows: \$8.10 per 1,000 gallons up to 15,000 gallons. For usage above 15,000 gallons, the rate is \$10.42 per 1,000. Member Long stated this is an extremely smart way to incrementally increase rates and in doing so, covers the increase in costs and materials. Member Long does not expect Boonsboro water rates to increase for the coming fiscal year.

IV. **Reports on 3 main tasks identified 5/16/18:**

A. **Unaccounted for water in Boonsboro**

- **Second quarter usage report**
- **Internal review of data collection**
- **Ultra-sonic metering at B plant and reservoir**

Chairperson Abraham reviewed the BK Water Usage chart for the prior quarter and discussed the six-month average. Boonsboro is averaging 30% water loss while Keedysville is averaging 14.8% loss. Chairperson Abraham noted that production has decreased overall. Chairperson Abraham mentioned the Water Loss Task Force that has

met several times to review internal data collection methods. Additionally, he mentioned a meeting that he attended with Boonsboro staff to discuss further testing to look for unaccounted for water. Superintendent Shumaker reported briefly about the ultrasonic meters that are installed at the Boonsboro plant and at the reservoir. The meter at the reservoir measures both inflow and outflow. He added that the reservoir is a lot more complex than what was originally thought. Design plans for both the reservoir and the water plants have been scanned and sent to Dawn Noll, a member of the University of New Mexico who had recently put on a seminar in Washington County, MD dealing with water loss. Chairperson Abraham mentioned 3 upcoming tests that will be conducted on the water system. The first test will be to monitor the inflow and outflow of the reservoir using the ultrasonic meter for one week to check for leaks in the reservoir. The second test will be a repeat of the 2018 test to determine in the late-night hours after midnight if there is water loss in the system. Major users of late-night water will have their meters read during this period (nursing home, AC&T, etc.) to calculate a more accurate loss rate. This test will occur with all sources off. The third test will also be a late night but with one source on (Keedysville) and the gallons pumped will be compared with water going into the reservoir. Superintendent Shumaker also mentioned a 2" line from the Warrenfeltz Spring to the reservoir that Public Works Superintendent Greg Huntzberry will be checking to ensure that it is capped off.

B. Water Capacity Status (annual report due in August each year)

Mid-year update

- Town Planner Strickler reported that no changes have been made and that an update will be given in August. Member Davis commented that lowering water loss numbers increases capacity and that needs to remain a focus.

C. System wide capacity agreement still on hold

V. New Business

Member Davis thanked everyone for attending the annual dinner at Bulls and Bears. Brandon Sweeney was introduced as a Keedysville town resident who has shown interest in joining the BKWAB for Keedysville.

VI. System operator's report

Superintendent Shumaker stated that all systems are working well. Member Davis commended Pete on his level of dedication and expertise. Member Long commented that Superintendent Shumaker saved the town from a dire emergency with his quick approach to temporarily repairing the weir.

VII. Public Comment None

Chairperson Abraham declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48p. The next meeting is May 13, 2020 at 6:30pm at Boonsboro Town Hall.

Submitted by Amanda Wells Administrative Assistant Town of Boonsboro