

BOONSBORO KEEDYSVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Voting members present: Austin Abraham, Chairperson; Howard Long (B), Tony Nally (B), Matt Hull (K), Brandon Sweeney (K),

Members absent:

Others present, Ken Lord (K-Alt); Sarah Baker, (K-Alt); Paul Mantello, Boonsboro Town Manager; Lisa Riner, Keedysville Town Administrator; Pete Shumaker, Water and Wastewater Superintendent (B)

The meeting was convened at approximately 6:30 PM in the Boonsboro Town Hall second floor meeting room. On a motion by member Long and a second by member Sweeney the following minutes were approved 5-0: December 8, 2021; January 6, 13, 27, 2022.

Member Sweeney asked to speak to the Board. Reflecting on the Board's previous meeting he acknowledged that the meeting got a little tense. He stated it had not been his intention to come across as not wanting collaboration or to be suggesting the systems should be separated. He said his goal is to seek what is fair for both Towns. Alternate Lord spoke to the same topic echoing member Sweeney's remarks and emphasizing the importance of working together. Others on the board spoke up with similar sentiments.

The board reviewed the water rate schedules for both Towns, compared costs for customers using 12,000 per quarter, and compared water rates with other Washington County municipalities and the county. Chairperson Abraham stated that although the Water Advisory Board does not have a role in setting rates for Boonsboro and Keedysville, it is a part of the charge of the Board to annually review rates, and this is usually done in February.

The second quarter usage report prepared by Boonsboro staff was reviewed. Unaccounted for water in Boonsboro remains in the range of 30% for the first 6 months of the fiscal year. Unaccounted for water in Keedysville is higher than normal...27.4% in the second quarter...as a result of a large leak that was recently fixed. Town Administrator Riner stated there is still a leak at a meter that Keedysville needs to address. Superintendent Shumaker said he would take a look at the situation when he goes to Keedysville.

The board discussed the next steps for the draft consolidated agreement for the Towns. There was agreement the next step will be a discussion of the cost sharing formula in May with a presentation by members Sweeney and Nally of their review. If, at that time, there are no

more questions or edits the board would like to make, the draft may be forwarded to the mayors and councils for their review. The current feeling is that final adoption should wait until the Boonsboro reservoir project is complete and unaccounted-for water is reevaluated. This will provide a better picture of available water capacity to be shared between the Towns. Town Manager Mantello asked if the proposed cost-sharing for new sources should be re-examined in light of a desire to have redundancy for a water source going down. Chairperson Abraham said he would put this on the agenda for May.

Town Manager Mantello reported the Army Corp is making progress on the water resources/asset management study. Stormwater assets are basically complete, they are working on wastewater assets, and water assets will follow. Town Manager Mantello said he is working on a draft of an MOU for the Towns to share in the work products of the study.

There was a kick-off meeting with WRA on the high pressure situation north of the booster station. Town Manager Mantello and member Sweeney both attended. The initial report is that there are two problems: 1) the pressure in Crestview as a result of the elevation difference between that community and the reservoir resulting in water pressure around 130 psi, and 2) water hammer when the booster station kicks on. Superintendent Shumaker stated the booster station is controlled by the level in the elevated storage tank which may cycle once or twice a day. The next step will be engineering solutions from WRA.

Progress is being made on the radio meter reading system design. Town Manager Mantello reported the project is still exploring tower installation sites. The primary impetus for Boonsboro undertaking this project is to better track water loss by creating zones within the Boonsboro distribution system and installing water meters for each zone. In this way regular (even daily) comparisons can be made between customer usage within each zone and water pumped into each zone. Project completion is probably a year out.

Superintendent Shumaker reported that a Clay valve at the Keedysville plant had to be rebuilt, which was a \$7,000 repair. There have been electrical faults within the VFD's at the Boonsboro plant that have caused plant shutdowns with resulting call-outs. Superintendent Shumaker is working to address these issues.

Town Manager Mantello reported that he discussed the Warrenfeltz Spring and Park Well temperature differential situation with someone at Maryland Rural Water to see if there might be an engineering solution that would allow the use of the spring year around. The answer back was that warming the water from the spring was the solution, and that would be prohibitively expensive. It is hoped that the new larger Park well will provide much more available water to the system.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Submitted by: Austin Abraham, Chairperson