

Open Work Session

Application for Water and/or Sewer Request for Amendments to the Wicomico County Water and Sewer Plan

December 18, 2018

Mr. Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works, came before Council and reported that he received an amendment request from the Town of Fruitland for their water system. He said their Water and Sewer Master Plan, which he believes was updated in 2015, shows them pulling out of the Columbia aquifer, and they want to switch that to a deeper aquifer, the Manokin, to help reduce the chances of getting the TCE contamination they recently experienced out in the Morris Mill region. He said they are also increasing the capacity out of that well.

Mr. Baker said the process for these amendments has been revised on the State level. He explained, the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) likes to see a draft copy before they go to Council, but Council requested he also send the draft to Council, which is what they are seeing now. He said MDE then returns comments to the County, the County then submits for the formal approval of these amendments, and then they get submitted to MDE for formal approval. He clarified, Council is looking at just a draft version of this, and the County has received comments back from MDE already, and they are in support of the amendment.

Mr. Dodd asked if the representatives from Fruitland knew this was going to be on the Agenda today, and he was wondering why nobody from Fruitland is here today, to which Mr. Baker responded, the Agenda is published, and this is pretty straightforward. He said, typically, if something is controversial, or if it is something that requires a little more explanation, he will reach out to Fruitland, or whatever municipality submitted the application, but this was pretty straightforward. He explained, they want to use a deeper well, and they want to pump more water out of it. He said an example is Sharptown where what happened was a little more complex, so he asked them to step in and provide an explanation. He clarified, again, this is straightforward.

Mr. Cannon asked what the water quality is in that aquifer, to which Mr. Baker responded, the TCE contamination they experienced was that contamination would sink down into the water supply, and, by going deeper, the Manokin aquifer is confined with a clay layer above it that would prevent that contamination from getting into it. Mr. Cannon clarified, he phrased his question wrong, and he was not concerned about contamination because he is sure that is safe, but he was just curious as far as the quality of the water as far as iron, to which Mr. Baker responded, they outlined what they are going to have to do to treat the water, which will be chlorination, fluoride, iron removal, and some pH adjustments, so they will have to address those things with their filters and processes. Mr. Cannon said he just did not know if that was any different from what they are doing currently.

Mr. Baker said MDE supports the draft, and this will come back before Council, but he does not need a vote right now. He said he will prepare the formal package to come before Council, and then it will get sent to MDE for final approval. There was no further discussion.

Signatures on next page


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John T. Cannon, President



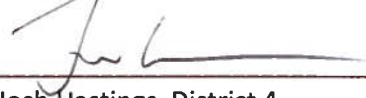
Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3



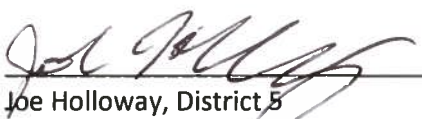
Ernest F. Davis, District 1




Marc Kilmer, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator