

**OCEAN PINES SERVICE AREA
WATER AND WASTEWATER
Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

Present: **Water and Wastewater Advisory Board**
Fred Stiehl, Jim Spicknall, Jack Collins, Bob Kane
 Worcester County Public Works
Dallas Baker, Chris Clasing
 Worcester County Public Works - Water and Wastewater Division
Tony Fascelli, Gary Serman, Meg Etzler
 Worcester County Treasurer
Quinn Dittrich

Fred Stiehl called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Fred asked if there were any changes or additions to the October 24, 2024 minutes. Fred made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jim seconded the motion.

Water Production

- We began the well resiliency evaluation with a site visit by GMB engineers, Somerset Well Drilling and Lywood Electric. This stemmed from the multiple issues we had with the wells. The engineers and contractors will contact us with recommendations to avoid further issues.

Water Distribution (10/24/24 to present)

- Seventeen (17) new services; 36 leak repairs
- North water tower valve repair scheduled for December. We need to drain the tower before refill.
- Capital Projects – the large-scale radio read meters funding was approved, awaiting delivery. All touchpads will be replaced with radio read meters. They will be shipped as they become available, and we will be installing them as received.
- blue tubing will be ordered as needed

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- BRF rates – year to date: 2.36 for Nitrogen; 0.23 for phosphorus
- Storage lagoon permit – Property corners marked, gas company getting estimate from contractor to relocate main. We expect costs in mid-January.
- Belt Filter Design – 75% complete.
- The volume of sewage hauled from Riddle WWTP to the Pines: 9/1/24 through 11/2/24 was 2,718,000 gallons.
- Capital equipment – UV disinfection rehab installation installed and operational. Project completed.
- FY 25 Capital projects –
 1. Oxidation treatment tank cleaning – needs Commissioner approval. Scheduling for spring.
 2. The replacement mixer for the Flow Equalization Tank needs Commissioner approval. Dallas explained that any costs over \$25,000 need Commissioner approval.

Wastewater Collections System (10/24/24 – present)

- SSO's - none
- Household tanks replace: 4 (2 plastic, 0 fiberglass, 2 concrete)
- Smoke testing on hold. Mystic Harbor is completed. Will restart in the Pines
- Capital projects –
 1. Busch pumps are ordered as needed. Seeing a price increase.
 2. Fiberglass vacuum tanks are ordered as needed. Are looking at other vendors.
 3. Lift station T pump replacement – approved by the Commissioners and awaiting delivery.
 4. Receiving Tank Station I needs replaced – approved by Commissioners and awaiting delivery.

Construction Projects (Total EDUs)

- Triple Crown Phase II (3) – water & sewer is complete. Presently testing sewer force main. Water main still needs a complete bacteria test.
- Refuge at Windmill Creek (90) Starting construction on sewer in Phase 2. Force main has been tied directly to the River Run Pump Station.
- Gum Point Road (15 sewer) no change since the June meeting
- St Martins by the Bay (58 water) – 30% design was due 9/12/24. To date, no response from DBF.
- River Run Townhouses (56) no change since June meeting
- River Run Single Family Homes (38) waiting for Choptank to install electric to pump stations. All water and sewer construction is complete.

General Discussion

Fred raised the subject of upgrading the Riddle Farm WWTP or bringing the flow from Riddle Farm to the WWTP in Ocean Pines. Fred and Jack asked should we be looking into a feasibility study for this for the future. The pros and cons were broached with the Advisory Board members. Dallas shared the realities of attempting to do this, i.e., financial, logistical, time span, etc. involved.

Financial Update

Quinn shared the Balance Sheet, Income Statement and EDU allocations through December 9, 2024. Quinn answered inquiries and clarified figures. Discussion was held.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. This will be a two-hour budget meeting. The February meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. If needed two hours is allotted for the meeting.

With no further business Jim made the motion to adjourn. Jack seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Etzler
Administrative Assistant