

**MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
ST. MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION
MAY 28, 2015**

The regular session portion of the meeting commenced at 3:04 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Willing, Russell, Barthelme, Gaskin, Mummaugh, and Thompson. MetCom staff in attendance included Ichniowski, Cullins, Shick, Elberti, Meiser, Spalding, Edwards, and Comeau-Stanley. Others present included Dick Myers (*The BayNet*) and Steve Chadwick.

Chairman Willing welcomed everyone and performed a review of the meeting agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Agenda, as presented. Commissioner Barthelme seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Thompson posed questions to staff regarding the Laboratory Services Contract bid included under the Consent Agenda, which received only one response, although seven (7) bids were distributed. Ms. Meiser advised that there were two bids received, however one bid was determined to be non-responsible. Additional discussion ensued amongst the group on the potential reasons that other contractors did not submit bids and staff cited testing specifications and requirements, bonding requirements, and perhaps not being able to bid below the existing contractor pricing as just a few reasons.

Commissioner Russell moved to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, and to hereby approve all matters contained upon the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting, as amended, with minor typographical corrections. Commissioner Barthelme seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting, as amended, with minor typographical corrections. Commissioner Barthelme seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1. Commissioner Gaskin abstained, as she was not in attendance at the April 23, 2015 meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Update: Final presentation of FY 2016 Capital Improvement Budget and FY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC)

Mr. Ichniowski announced that on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, staff made the final presentation of MetCom's FY 2016 Capital Improvement Budget, and FY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan to the CSMC for their approval. Mr. Ichniowski noted that a copy of the FY 2016 Operating Budget was provided for their information and following some questions on the Operating Budget and

Capital Improvement Budget and Plan, specifically Charlotte Hall Project and the St. Clements Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant, the CSMC granted their approval. Mr. Ichniowski made mention of the meeting held this week with the Health Department (HD) and Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) to further discuss the St. Clements Shores Treatment Plant and to comply with the CSMC request to determine those properties in failure. Mr. Ichniowski indicated that the HD is going to gather data and provide us with a report, at which time, more discussion would occur amongst the MetCom Board and the CSMC to determine how best to proceed. Brief discussion ensued amongst Mr. Ichniowski and Board members on funding for connections to our system and the potential for the collection of benefit assessments annually through the County's tax bill, similar to the methods used in Baltimore, if the authority was granted through legislative measures. Mr. Ichniowski indicated that this would be a good topic for discussion at the next Board Retreat as well as the next Joint Meeting with the CSMC.

CHIEF OF FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

A. Wastewater Pumping Station Chopper Pumps Purchase

In Mr. Sullivan's absence, Mr. Spalding, Maintenance Superintendent, advised that over the last several years, macerators have been installed to combat foreign debris, particularly disposable/flushable wipes, from damaging the pumps and clogging pipes in our system. Mr. Spalding indicated that because eight (8) wastewater stations either do not have enough room in the wet wells to fit macerators or wet wells that have more than one influent line, they have been targeted for chopper pumps, noting that two (2) would be installed at each station. Mr. Spalding fielded questions from Board members on the award to multiple bidders, based on price and ease of installation, and provided details related to the Planter's Court Station.

Commissioner Russell moved that the Commission accept and approve the procurement of sixteen (16) Chopper Pumps, for a total cost of \$102,094.00, as follows:

- (1) Four (4) Chopper Pumps to be purchased from Ames, Inc. of Columbia, Maryland, for the total price of \$22,000.00, as submitted in their quote dated May 7, 2015; and**
- (2) Twelve (12) Chopper Pumps to be purchase from Fluid Solutions, Inc., of Westminster, Maryland, for the total price of \$80,094.00, as submitted in their quote dated May 7, 2015.**

Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Willing suggested that, as has been discussed in the past, additional consideration be given to initiating a public information campaign to discourage the public from flushing wipes and shop rags, in an attempt to reduce the problem. Brief discussion ensued amongst the group on the subject.

Ms. Meiser addressed Chairman Willing and requested a thirty-second adjournment either prior to or immediately following Commission Members Time, to allow her to speak with him briefly.

Chairman Willing asked Board members to take a few minutes to look over the Executive Session minutes.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Commissioner Russell moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of April 23, 2015, as presented. Commissioner Mummaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1. Commissioner Gaskin abstained, as she was not in attendance at the April 23, 2015 meeting.

Chairman Willing called for a brief recess at 3:33 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:34 p.m.

Chairman Willing noted that an audience guest, Mr. Steve Chadwick, has requested to address the Board, although no advance request was made or brief provided to the Board. Mr. Chadwick took the podium, indicating that he is a resident of Rosebank, near the St. Clements Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant (SCS WWTP). Mr. Chadwick advised that he has a failing septic system and has not been provided many options to correct the situation. Mr. Chadwick thanked Mr. Ichniowski for his and staff's role in providing a great deal of information to the newly elected County Commissioners, so that this matter can receive attention. Mr. Chadwick provided additional details regarding his property and advised that a mound system would not work and the Health Department recommended a connection to MetCom's system.

Mr. Chadwick advised that his intent today was to allow all the Board members to put a face to a name and to seek out their continued help and support in adjudicating the situation. Some discussion ensued amongst the group, to include some historic background of the property, the neighborhood, and the system built by the Ricketts Brothers, as well as the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) constraints, specifically MetCom's Discharge Permit requirements for the SCS WWTP. Mr. Ichniowski provided a brief update on a category change, noting that Mr. Shire of LUGM advised him yesterday that if a change to Rural Environmental Concern (RES) should occur, that could be done administratively and would not require a public hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Russell moved to go into Executive Session at 3:43 p.m. to discuss Pending Litigation Strategy. Commissioner Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting reconvened at 3:48 p.m.

Commissioner Russell moved to proceed with the pending litigation, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' TIME

Commissioner Mummaugh asked if St. Clements Shores WWTP is upgraded, would we be required to have the same nitrogen reduction as Marlay-Taylor. Mr. Ichniowski advised that if we upgrade SCS WWTP to include new properties and new growth areas, more than likely we would have to

increase the level of treatment from the current ground discharge level of 13 mg. per liter to a BNR process, which is 8 Mg. per liter, or an ENR process, which is 4 Mg. per liter. Mr. Ichniowski further advised that we would have to find sufficient land area to dispose of the effluent and lastly, we need to determine what area is actually going to be served, which he indicated is a County Land Use issue. Following additional discussion on the matter, Mr. Ichniowski summarized the issues we face currently and various matters to consider with a potential expansion of the plant.

Commissioner Barthelme questions the health issues related to Mr. Chadwick's failing system and Mr. Ichniowski advised that if unable to connect to a sewer line, the Health Department would require the installation of a holding tank, which should be pumped regularly. Ms. Meiser made brief mention of the periodic reporting requirement associated with the installation and use of a holding tank. For the benefit of the Board members, Mr. Ichniowski performed a brief overview of the property owner costs associated with connection to the Sewer System, beyond MetCom connection fees. Brief discussion ensued amongst the ground on mound systems.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Commissioner Russell moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:59 p.m. Commissioner Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**



Laura Comeau-Stanley, Corporate Secretary