

Town of Perryville
Water and Sewer Informational Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2021 6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting Room

Attendance: Mayor: Matthew Roath, Commissioners: Michelle Linkey, Robert Taylor, Timothy Snelling, Christina Aldridge, Assistant Town Administrator: Cathy McCardell, Finance Director: Debra Laubach, Water and Wastewater Superintendent: George Smith, Public Works Supervisor: Aaron Ashford, Billing Clerk: Tara Blevins, Town Clerk: Jackie Sample.

Remote Public Attendance: Al Wein, Amanda Lehr, Jessica Park, Leonard O'Malley, Robert Ashby, Ryan Davis, Margaret Barrow, Scott Gentile, Walter Hynson, Jackie Weih, Kevin Strock, Kim Jenkins, Julie Wills, Robert Nitz, Thomas Howell, Connie Warren, Dan Wills, Rachel Deaner, Tamatha Raines, Latricia Green, Rebecca Astifan, Steve Pearson, Sheila Malatesta, Gary Hughey, Holly Merchant, Jane Bellmyer, Julie Rachel, Julie Smith, David McCarver, Cynthia Howard, Lonnie Warren, Melissa Davidson, Steven Lull, Carolyn Brown, Dianne Barrack, Elaine Christopher, Harold Riale, Raymond Adcock, Chris Rogers, Mary Smith

The June 22, 2021, Water and Sewer Informational Meeting was called to order by Mayor Roath at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of June 22, 2021, Water and Sewer Informational Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to approve the June 22, 2021; agenda as written **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Mayor Roath stated that this is meant to be an informational meeting put together by staff and our Water and Sewer Commissioner to provide a presentation to answer some of the questions that have been asked concerning water and sewer. He is going to turn it over to Commissioner Taylor, who is the Water and Sewer Commissioner.

Commissioner Taylor introduced himself, he has been the Water and Sewer Commissioner for the last two years for Perryville. He gave an overview of what he was going to be presenting tonight. He will talk a little about the history of Perryville's Water and Sewer system, some of the water quality issues in Town, different options that Perryville may have had in the past, talk about Great Wolf Lodge a little, and water bills and some of the increases that people have seen.

Commissioner Taylor stated that the Water and Wastewater Plants are about 40 years old. About 15 years ago, both the Water and Wastewater Plants were updated. The previous Water Plant was a mixed media sand filtration plant that no longer would meet MDE regulations or capacity. The new plant is a membrane filtration system allowing better control over the quality of water and for expanded capacity to provide for growth of the Town. There are four slots for membranes to be installed but we only installed two of them 15 years ago. We currently produce 400,000-500,000 gallons of water a day, we have the capacity to go up to a million gallons a day, which is the same as our water permit. In the future if we need to increase capacity we have the two empty slots for membranes, to increase from two membranes to four membrane trains for

additional use for growth in the Water Plant. The Wastewater Plant is an Enhanced Nutrient Removal System. The Water and Wastewater Superintendent, George Smith, is here tonight and had stated that he would be willing to give tours of the plants for those that would be interested in the operations of the plants in groups of 10 at a time based on staffing schedules. Six years ago, before Mr. Smith was hired, the Town was having difficulty meeting MDE requirements for drinking water quality of treated wastewater released into Mill Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The Town was being periodically fined by MDE as a result and falling behind on maintenance and not run as well. Perryville hired Water Superintendent George Smith six years ago, who is a certified Water/Wastewater Superintendent and a certified trainer in Water/Wastewater for the State of Maryland, with over 40 years of experience. The overall quality of the water has improved over the last six years with Mr. Smith's implementation of maintenance schedules and plans for all equipment at both plants. The plant is running much more efficiently and better than it was six years ago. At this point we have a spare part for about everything in the plant so that if something in the plant fails, we can replace it right away ourselves. We have two Water Towers in Town, one at the Casino, which has a million-gallon capacity, and Pilot Tower which has a ½ million-gallon capacity.

It was brought to the attention with staff that the audio was lost for those that were attending remotely and they could not hear from the part about Commissioner Taylor talking about events from six years ago, the system had to be rebooted. Commissioner Taylor repeated the portion of his presentation that the audio had been lost on.

Commissioner Taylor stated that they generate water taken from the Susquehanna River over on Frenchtown Road, near St. Marks Church Road is where the Water Plant is located, when we make clean water at the plant it is pumped into the million-gallon tower by the casino, that tower then feeds the ½ million-gallon tower next to the Pilot, which then feeds by gravity the rest of the residential areas in Town.

Audio was lost again and had to be rebooted.

Commissioner Taylor stated that in 2017 Superintendent George Smith initiated an upgrade of both water towers. They were taken offline, and power washed, which had not been done since constructed. All of the equipment was inspected and a hatch at the casino tower was discovered to have been broken and open to the elements for an unknown period of time, which has been fixed. A mixer and ventilation system were installed in both towers allowing TTHM to release from the water and be vented from the tank. TTHM can build up in water when it gets too hot, when the tanks heat up that chemical can become present in the water, the mixer allows that chemical to release from the water and into the air of the tank and then be ventilated to the outside. The quality of the drinking water has significantly improved in the last six years and the water and wastewater plants do multiple daily tests of the quality of the drinking water as well as the levels of permissible contaminants in the wastewater discharge. The Town provides annual testing reports to residents of the Town and MDE. In years 2016-2018, Perryville was in compliance with all categories except organic compound. The violation of these compounds was less than 2% over the threshold in all years. In 2019 we were in full compliance with zero violations. Thanks to the work of the wastewater plant crew, Perryville has qualified for, and

received a \$60,000 grant from MDE five of the last six years by meeting wastewater effluent nutrient removal limits. The Town has received a grant from MDE to build a denitrification plant, to greatly increase our ability to meet the nutrient removal limits in the future. MDE is paying for 90% of the construction of the plant which will cost \$900,000 to build. Each quarter on your billing you see a \$15 flush tax that Maryland MDE charges, which is specifically for MDE to pay for projects such as this, for sewer plants on the bay that need assistance in removing nutrients outflow from our sewer plants into the bay. He has seen the water when it leaves the plant and goes to the water tower, and it is clear and the highest quality possible.

There have been some issues In Town with discoloration of the water when it comes out of the faucets, it has happened in his neighborhood. The water mains have positive pressure flow and if there is a crack in the water main it does not receive infiltration into the water main, it pushes it out. A lot of the water mains in Town are extremely old, that may have to be replaced in the future and can cause discoloration, in the old downtown area, Aiken Avenue and side streets. Another issue that causes discoloration issues is dead end lines, which are in Rustic Court and Beacon Point because those lines end at the end of the neighborhood where the water does not continually flow through them removing sediment from the lines. If they do not get sufficient flushing, then sediment can build up and you can get discolored water. If that happens you need to let the town know so that they can come out and do extra flushing of the fire hydrants in your area. The towers are sampled monthly for clarity and quality.

In the FY2017 budget we did not have money set aside for major infrastructure repairs. In the last three budget years we have added money to the budget for infrastructure repairs. This money has been used to scope and identify cracked or damaged pipes and make repairs. Infiltration and inflow are an issue that affects the Wastewater Plant, it does not affect the water you get in the taps but is a significant issue that is facing the Town, because the Town must comply with an MS4 permit that we have five years to come into compliance with. We must make sure that when it rains most of that rainwater goes into a storm system that goes into the bay not into our sewer system so that we are then treating rainwater. The first problem is it would overload the plant causing overflows in the plant causing us to be fined and is costing the Town money to treat water that we would otherwise not have to treat. We have been getting infrastructure money to remediate some of the infiltration and inflow into the Town.

He has been asked in the past why we have not paid a third party to supply water to us or just have wells instead of these expensive plants to run. The three options that we would have would be a well, using Charlestown as an example since they have a well. They do not have a Water Plant where they draw water from the Bay or the Susquehanna River, treat it and then distribute it to the homes. With a well you can add a little chlorine and send it out, you do not have to do much to it. Charlestown has far fewer customers and we would not be able to get a permit large enough to draw that much water from the aquifer to supply the amount of water needed to supply Perryville now, in addition to that the groundwater in Perryville is not necessarily the best water. We have been trying to get a line from the Town water supply to Fire Station 16 which is up near the highway, because they have drilled two wells, both of which have gone bad because the quality of the water there and we would have that problem in the Town as well if we were to drill wells, plus we would not be able to get enough. Another

possibility is a third-party vendor who would take away our ability to control our water prices and the vendor could raise prices without our consent and Perryville would not have control over the quality of the water, it would be in the hands of the third party, such as Artesian. Using another vendor would likely cost as much, if not more than running our own plant. If we bought it from Artesian, then they would probably have to bring it from their plant in Port Deposit. Their plant in Port Deposit is currently making about 100,000 gallons of water a day and we are currently making around 400,000 to 500,000 gallons of water a day. They would have to dramatically increase the size and capacity of their Port Deposit plant in order to supply us with water and the cost of that upgrade would certainly be passed along to Perryville through the cost of our water prices and would likely be more expensive than the plant that we have already paid for 15 years ago and are operating now. Perryville currently has a permit to draw water from the Susquehanna River and can draw up to a million gallons of water a day and is more cost effective than buying from a vendor and there is a greater ability to control quality and allows for room to grow.

Great Wolf Lodge coming in will put additional demands on our water system, both the water generating system and the sewer system, they are requesting 180,000 gallons a day, which will bring us up to about 600,000 gallons a day of usage, which we still have the capacity to do. At some point we will have to look at putting in the other two membrane trains so that we have four instead of two to increase capacity. Additionally, the Great Wolf Lodge project will require a sewer infrastructure upgrade which will cost \$6.5 million and will be taken out of this year's budget, however, Great Wolf Lodge has paid \$5.99 million in connection fees for the upgrade and the Town is paying the remaining cost of about a half a million dollars. The upgrade will allow up to another dozen businesses to open at Chesapeake Overlook, which will start coming in as soon as Great Wolf breaks ground. Every new business that would be coming to Chesapeake Overlook that wants to connect to our water system will be paying connection fees to offset the Town's cost of the upgrade, potentially in the amount of \$200,000 to \$300,000 each, so we will quickly pay off and start being profitable on the \$500,000 cost of the sewer upgrade. Each new business will bring in tax revenue to the Town and will be paying their water and sewer costs for water and sewer that the businesses use from the Town.

Regarding the Water and Sewer rates, in 2017, Perryville commissioned a water and sewer rate study from the Maryland Center for Environmental Training. The study in 2017 recommended a rate increase to cover the rising costs, inflation, and future growth needs. In 2018, the board voted for a three-year increase, starting in the FY2018 budget. This included a 2% increase in water fees and 3% increase in sewer fees annually from 2018 to the current FY budget, 2018 was the last time that the board voted to raise the water and sewer rates. In June of 2020, Perryville commissioned a new water and sewer rate study from the Maryland Center for Environmental Training. The study recommended an additional rate increase of 9% for water, and 8% for sewer in 2020, then an additional 3% for water and 15% for sewer fees annually for the next three years. During the creation of the FY 2021 budget, the board declined to impose a new rate increase. They determined that with careful budgeting and use of local impact funds from the casino, we can avoid a rate hike in the current fiscal year. The goal is to keep rates where they are until additional development in the Chesapeake Overlook area and with Great Wolf Lodge and two residential developments that are coming in, one being 82 houses in the

Cedar Corner and another 20 houses or so on Charles Street, bringing new revenue streams to offset future costs to continue to avoid rate increases.

One of the problems that people have been complaining about is increases in the water bills outside of the annual rate increases. There are three main reasons that this can occur. The first one is leaks, if you get a water bill that is dramatically different from the last quarter, you should contact the Town immediately. Public Works can check for leaks in the mains leading to your house. Any leak on the street side of the meter is the responsibility of the Town. Any leak between the meter and the property is the responsibility of the homeowner. The old meters were mechanical only and were inaccurate and will slow down over time, telling the Town that you are using less and less water over time. The Town has invested in new electronic meters, which are more accurate and lowers the operating cost for the Town. They can be read from a truck with a piece of equipment, and they would not slow down, they will measure accurately for the life of the meter if it is functioning properly. If the Town replaces your old-style meter and your water bill increases dramatically with the installation of the new meter, it is not because we are charging you more, it is because it is accurately reading your water use, instead of a smaller amount because your old meter had slowed down and was not giving accurate readings.

In 2018 a problem was discovered with the billing software used to generate the bills. Many residents were being billed the minimum every quarter, regardless of how much water was used. Many were paying less than the minimum which was happening for many years. Perryville worked with the software manufacturer to address the billing issues and are currently all resolved. The impact was that many of the Town residents were not paying for the correct amount of water they were consuming, causing the Town to subsidize their water. In this years budget for this year the Water Plant has a budget of 1.623 million dollars and the Sewer Plant has a budget of 9.4 million dollars, however, 6.6 million of that is the infrastructure upgrade, 6 million of which is being paid by Great Wolf Lodge, and \$900,000 is the denitrification plant that we are going to install, and 90% of that will be paid by MDE, bringing the total down to 1.9 million for the Sewer Plant.

Mayor Roath thanked him for the informative presentation and asked the other board members if they had any questions, while we have the staff present to ask any questions on regard to that presentation.

Commissioner Aldridge had heard that Station 16's water supply from the well was contaminated due to the road salt from the State Highway.

Commissioner Taylor responded that this was part of it, but also the groundwater here is not the best is his understanding.

Commissioner Linkey also believes that they had to drill down a ridiculous amount to get anything at all.

Mayor Roath asked Ms. Laubach to give a brief overview of the financial dynamics of the Water and Sewer Plants and explain that it not meant to be a profit maker.

Ms. Laubach explained that she had done an analysis of the last four years including the current year. She broke out the revenue that we received from normal services, such as service charges, connection fees, shut off fees, etc., and compared those with our normal operating expenses. She did not include Capital projects, such as the sewer expansion project, and the denitrification project, just the normal types of replacements and repairs that we would have for operation of both plants. She also took out the revenue that we have coming in from the Local Impact Funds, and each year we allocate the total amount that comes in from the casino. It gets broken out to the three different funds, the general fund, the water, and the sewer funds depending on the greatest need at that time. Each year we have a sizeable loss when you take that into account for operating both plants, if it were not for the local impact, we would really have an issue with paying just the normal operating expenses of those two plants.

Commissioner Linkey wanted to again restate the fact that the Water and Sewer fund is not a money-making venture. The money that we receive from our bills and what we pay for our water and sewer to run the plants, as far as infrastructure and building things and road maintenance, that is a totally separate account.

Ms. Laubach concurred with that and responded that the water and sewer fees as they stand now are not self-sufficient, they need the Local Impact inflow to operate at a break-even point.

Commissioner Snelling inquired if we still have households with the old meters.

Aaron Ashford, the Public Works Supervisor responded, and gave further explanation of the meters and the replacement process. Mr. Ashford responded that one of their issues involved with replacing the meters is that years ago the meters were put inside of residence, which made little sense because we must arrange with the resident to get inside of their house to access our meter to address any issues. He had asked Tara what percentage of meters had been replaced and she was going to check on that for him tomorrow. We have been making a big effort to get the meters with issues replaced, at this point there have not been that many that have slowed down significantly. With the new meters up to 45 days of data can be stored to perform a data log if someone requests it feeling that there may be an issue with their water bill.

Commissioner Snelling inquired if he had an estimate of a percentage of meters that have been replaced.

Mayor Roath inquired if we are over 50%.

Mr. Ashford responded that if he had to guess it may be close to 50%, the last couple of years they have spent between \$60,000-\$70,000 in purchasing meters. With COVID that put us behind quite a bit with putting them in people's houses. Moving forward within the next couple of weeks we will look to start swapping out the outside meters, then start with the ones that are inside as people allow us to get to.

Mayor Roath explained that the reasoning for trying to get a percentage is so that those that are listening in on this meeting are aware of what is to come, that there are possibly over 50% of the residents in our Town that need to have upgrades.

Mr. Ashford responded that it is a lot, he would have to look into that for a more accurate amount, he responded that Beacon Point and a lot of the downtown area's meters are inside. The new meters now read to a much lower rate, not to catch the water and bill you, but to catch a small leak before it becomes a big leak. The new meters send signals, track data, and detect leaks, making it less likely for human error.

Mayor Roath asked Ms. Blevins if there is a certain percentage if we have a household that has a certain percentage higher from one quarter to the next that we use to reach out to them if we see an issue, would it need to be 50% higher than the previous quarter or 25%, is there a red flag number.

Ms. Blevins responded that it depends, if it is a new meter, it will tell us if there is a leak, if it is an old meter, then we have to go and do a re-read of the meter.

Commissioner Linkey thanked the staff involved with the various aspects of the water and sewer billing and reading process.

Mayor Roath commented that the main complaint seems to be the cost per customer of the water. He inquired if we have comparisons when it comes down to our minimums on our rates with similar systems.

Commissioner Taylor explained that we are slightly above Havre De Grace, much higher than Elkton, partly due to economy of scale, having a much larger customer base, and believe the plants have been operating longer than ours, and have paid off a lot of their debt from the upgrade. Perryville is a small Town with a robust plant to take care of.

George Smith responded that as we get more users it should start lowering everyone's cost per say.

Mayor Roath inquired if we would potentially start seeing some relief after our initial investment and the Town debts are getting closer to getting paid.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Smith if he knows how many years in debt service we have.

Mr. Smith responded that typically what happens is you are signing 20- and 30-year notes to finance the building itself and by the time you down to the end of the payment, the filters need an upgrade again, which every Municipality faces.

Commissioner Taylor believes the opportunities for controlling costs and lowering water bills for everyone would be as the Town grows and bring in customers like Great Wolf and

customers in the Chesapeake Overlook area and more housing in the Cedar Corner vicinity and grow our customer base and the economy of scale should lower our per customer cost. He does not believe that we have done a financial analysis on how much those things coming in would lower the cost, but that is the goal.

Commissioner Linkey responded that we have been putting money aside so that when we do pay for the new filters and other things so that when the time comes it will not be a big drain on everything.

Mr. Smith commented that we looked five years down the road on what capital improvements need to be made between the two plants and try to budget that each year over the five-year period, so when you get there and need it the money is there. Mr. Smith commented that another thing that drives up the cost is that every year the EPA and MDE come up with more regulations requiring more stringent treatment and tremendous increase in testing. This year alone the toxicity testing went up \$18,000 because of regulatory protocol changes.

Commissioner Linkey stated that we also have MS4 to deal with, that is beyond our control.

Mr. Smith commented that one of the biggest bills is the electricity cost, we can control the kilowatt hours that we use and the peak demand for those kilowatt hours, but we cannot control what the utility company charges us. The finance department looks into that every year looking for third party resources to keep that rate in line. The biggest line items are electricity and chemicals, and regulatory testing.

Mayor Roath asked Commissioner Taylor to continue with his response to the question about the minimum rates in comparison to others.

Commissioner Taylor responded that our minimum is 3,000 gallons, Havre De Grace has no minimum, Elkton has a 9,000-gallon minimum, and Aberdeen has a 3,000-gallon minimum as well, and North East has a 5,000-gallon minimum.

Mayor Roath asked if the commissioners had any other question, Commissioner Taylor responded that there appears to be some questions from people who are on-line.

Mrs. McCardell stated that a resident on-line inquired why we were in violation again, based on the CCR report that was distributed.

Commissioner Taylor responded that TTHM builds up in chlorinated water when it heats up and we have mixers in the tank that helps release the TTHM into the air in the tank, with fans that ventilate it outside. The Pilot tank that still appears to not be sufficient when it gets really hot still builds up TTHM in the tank. The remediation for that is to insert a spray system in the tank which will aerate the water by spraying it into the air within the tank, which is about a \$120,000 upgrade that is not in this year's budget, so that is the next step to try to fix that.

Mayor Roath asked if we get fined for that.

Mr. Smith responded that we were close to getting a fine six years ago because of failing multiple quarters over multiple years, and we are back in compliance, it has always been one quarter in the summer ones that we struggle with. He is hoping that we will not be fined.

Mayor Roath asked if the residents were in any danger with the water itself, to which Mr. Smith responded they were not.

Mrs. McCardell had another question from a resident inquiring why we test the water tower for clarity if that is the first point after filtration.

Mr. Smith responded that it is to make sure that we are not having any scaling problems inside the tower, or corrosion happening.

Mrs. McCardell stated that we are being asked if there was to be a fine, if we knew how much it would be for the non-compliance.

Mr. Smith did not know what that would be, because we have not been fined before for that.

Another resident questioned whether the water bills were going to be lowered.

Commissioner Taylor responded that at this point the water bills are as low as we can get them to still maintain the plants. Hopefully when we start building up the Town that will lower the costs, but he cannot make promises as to when or how much.

Mayor Roath responded that we are going to do everything that we can to do that by finding good partners coming into Town that we can work with to raise the scale to spread out the costs and see some relief when it comes down to that, unfortunately, it may not be happening for a couple of years.

Another resident inquired who you can check with to see what kind of meter you have.

Mrs. McCardell responded that you would be able to call Town Hall and talk to Tara who could assist with that.

Another person questioned if the rates are based on meter usage how by adding new users in the Chesapeake Overlook area in and homes off Cedar Corner Road would change the bills.

Commissioner Taylor responded that we buy chemicals to treat the water both at the point of bringing it in from the river and when we lead it out, which is one of the big costs. The more of something that you buy, the less it would cost you, you can get discounts by buying in bulk. As we have more customers, we can leverage that economy of scale to lower the prices.

Commissioner Taylor pointed out that the Perryville Wastewater Plant treats the water from the VA, so when the VA flushes their toilets and puts water down the drain it comes through the Perryville Wastewater plant. The Town has a significant I&I problem with rainwater getting into the sewer system, so when we have a significant rain event, we can double our inflow. The VA has a much smaller amount of people than the Town does, and their inflow increases about as much as the Town's does, sometimes more. We have been working with the VA to get them to fix their I&I problem. Every gallon of water that we treat has a cost and the VA pays us to treat their water, but when we get an inflow from the VA as big as the inflow from the Town on a rain event that can cause problems. Last year the SBR tanks overflowed due to a three-to-four-inch rain event occurring within three to four hours and all of the water coming in from the Town and the additional water coming in from the VA and we ended up having to pay a small fine to MDE for that. Fixing I&I in the Town and having the VA fix theirs will cause those things to not happen as much anymore, and we would not have to treat the rainwater that would otherwise run into the bay.

Another question was why do we not have fluoride in our water.

Commissioner Taylor stated that the decision was made by the board many years ago to not put fluoride in the water.

Commissioner Linkey responded that it had come up several times and one of the reasons was that it would add a significant amount of money to the water bill.

Mrs. McCardell responded that there were also health concern issues.

Commissioner Linkey responded that there are a lot of people that cannot tolerate fluoride in the water.

Mr. Smith responded that years ago adding fluoride was beneficial, but in today's world a lot of products that you use in your mouth have fluoride in it, including your dentist giving you a fluoride treatment, and too much fluoride is not a good thing. His thought is that about 50% of the residents would want it and the other 50% would not.

The next question was if there is a schedule to replace the old water mains that are causing discoloration, specifically Aiken Avenue.

Commissioner Taylor responded that would be a question for DPW, but he does not think we have that schedule.

Mayor Roath commented that the questions seem to come down to whether we have a schedule, or are we just being reactive, when it comes to these issues.

Mr. Ashford responded that he would not say reactive, we perform scheduled flushing's, which is proactive, Aiken Avenue was just replaced in 1996. He responded that there is not an

actual schedule, but it is something that we look into when we are made aware of an issue and what can be done to resolve it, sometimes there is a disturbance caused by someone doing something that we did not know about.

Another question was regarding a Town Meeting from a few years ago involving this issue where the initial water allotment was spoke about. Perryville gives one of the lowest initial allotments. The former Mayor stated that Perryville used to give 12,000 gallons for the initial allotment then lowered it to 3,000 gallons, which is a huge difference. They question why the Town cannot go more in the middle to about 5,000 gallons, feeling that this is where most of the large water bills are coming from.

Commissioner Taylor was not sure of that, the minimum gallons were set long before he came into office.

Commissioner Linkey responded that the initial reasoning for that was for the people that are by themselves and would not be meeting a higher minimum, so they would not have to pay for a higher minimum that you would not be using.

Commissioner Taylor also made note that if you look at Charlestown, Rising Sun, Havre De Grace, and Aberdeen, most of them have higher minimums, but they also have higher rates per thousand gallons over the minimum and we have one of the lowest rates per thousand gallons over the minimum of the Town's compared.

Another resident inquired why the VA does not have their own system, and if that is a possibility in the future, we are getting fined for their inflow does the VA reimburse us.

Commissioner Taylor responded that the VA pays us for the water that we treat. The VA does not have their own plant because that is how the Town and the VA worked it out.

Commissioner Linkey responded that the VA does have a Water Plant.

Mrs. McCardell stated that there was a statement on-line that children need fluoride.

Commissioner Linkey responded that her son could not have fluoride because it made him sick, not all children can have that.

Another resident questioned whether it was a standard in other Town's to have fluoride in their water.

Commissioner Taylor responded that it depends on the community, some choose to have it, and some choose not to have it.

Commissioner Linkey thinks that in Elkton, if you get the water from the Delaware side it is non-fluoride, and if you get it from the Elkton side it had fluoride in it, or vice versa.

Another person on-line commented that she was shocked when she moved here four years ago, and her kid's new dentist prescribed fluoride tablets because Perryville water did not have it. It seems like it is pretty important for families, perhaps it can be looked into again.

Commissioner Taylor responded again that doing this would increase the cost of the water bills to our customers and probably half of the Town does not want it and the other half does. As our superintendent commented there are a lot of products that can be used to get the fluoride into the kids mouths through toothpaste, mouthwash, and the dentist. He believes that if you do not want fluoride and we put fluoride in the water, then you will get fluoride in your house and thinks that will make a lot of people angry and cost a lot more.

The question was asked again if the VA reimbursed us for the fines for the inflow, to which Commissioner Taylor responded that they do not.

Mayor Roath thinks that this went well and thanked Commissioner Taylor for a fantastic job on the presentation and the staff for being here to answer those questions.

Mrs. McCardell stated that we just got two more questions.

Mayor Roath commented that he will allow two more questions, and that will be it.

The question was, if we draw from the Susquehanna, how much does the sediment effect the plant.

Mr. Smith responded that it depends on what the Conowingo Dam is doing. During periods of normal flow and normal generation of the dam and no rain events, the turbidity or sediment that you are referring to is low. If we get into severe storms where a tremendous amount of water is released and the press gates are opened you can see the river looks like chocolate milk, which increases our cost, we have to add more chemicals and slow the plant down, producing the same amount of water takes more time, so the river has a direct effect.

Commissioner Taylor once again suggested people that are interested to schedule a tour of the Water or Wastewater Plant when staffing is available to guide you.

Another resident commented that it may be helpful to develop a spreadsheet to compare the costs of water to the local towns in the area to include the cost per minimum and the cost per thousand gallons over the minimum, possibly use an example the monthly usage of 5,000 gallons.

A resident asked to announce again how they can schedule a tour of the plants.

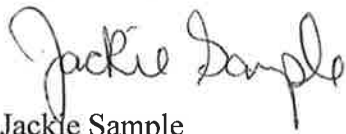
Commissioner Taylor responded to call Town Hall, and they will coordinate with the Water and Wastewater Superintendents schedule to get that done.

Mayor Roath inquired if we could put something on-line about that, to which Mrs.

McCardell responded that we could since you are looking for a group of 10 people at a time.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Linkey to adjourn the June 15th 2021 Work Session, (meant to be June 22, 2021 Work Session) at 7:41 p.m. to a closed session under General Provisions Article §3-305(b) [] (1) To discuss: (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction, (ii) any other matter that affects one or more specific individuals. To discuss the Town Administrator vacancy after a 5-minute break. **All in Favor: Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Sample".

Jackie Sample
Perryville Town Clerk.

TOWN OF PERRYVILLE
FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
(FROM OPEN MEETINGS MANUAL - APPENDIX C)

Location: Town Hall Mtg. Room Date: 6/22/2021 Time: 7:41 pm
Motion By: Taylor Seconded By: Linkey

VOTE TO CLOSE SESSION:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Roath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Linkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Snelling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Aldridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

General Provisions Article §3-305(b):

☒ (1) To discuss:

(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or

(ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

☐ (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of an individual with respect to a matter that is not related to public business;

☐ (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition;

☐ (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;

☐ (5) To consider the investment of public funds;

☐ (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;

☐ (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice;

☐ (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;

☐ (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;

☐ (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including:

(i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and

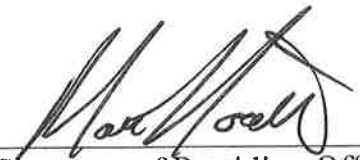
(ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;

☐ (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;

- ☐ (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- ☐ (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- ☐ (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASON FOR CLOSING AND THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

To discuss further the Town Administrator vacancy and process to fill the position.


Signature of Presiding Officer