

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LAVALE SANITARY COMMISSION
APRIL 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Commissioners of the LaVale Sanitary Commission was held at the Commission's office in LaVale, Maryland on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 9:00 AM.

Chairman Gehauf, Commissioner George, Hensel, Deffenbaugh, and Young were in attendance. Director of Operations Wendt and Supervisor Brodie were also in attendance.

Chairman Gehauf called the meeting to order and stated the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2021 had been mailed to the Commissioners. Commissioner Hensel moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Deffenbaugh seconded and it was unanimously carried.

Chairman Gehauf asked Mr. Brodie for his maintenance report. Mr. Brodie stated that a new employee had been hired. Nick Duvall was hired to fill the vacancy left by Bob O'Brien.

Mr. Brodie reported on sewer issues addressed by Commission personnel over the last month. Brodie stated that a service line had blocked at 13521 Old Cresaptown Road.

Mr. Brodie presented the Commission with pictures of issues at the Route 36 pump station. He stated the ragging issues were increasing. Discussion followed concerning the issue.

Mr. Brodie then reported on an issue at the manhole behind Buffalo Wild Wings. He stated there was only one house into the manhole and he was not sure if the house was even occupied. He stated it may be a lack of flow issue with the manhole.

Mr. Brodie then reported on a main break caused by a recent house fire. He stated that the fire personnel had created a water hammer within the Commissions system that split the eight-inch main for approximately six feet. Mr. Brodie provided pictures of the break. Mr. Wendt started fire department had used 30,000 gallons to extinguish the blaze, but the leak had caused a 100,000-gallon loss. Mr. Brodie stated the repairs caused the closure of two major businesses as well as numerous households being without drinking water. Discussion followed concerning the issue, Commissioner Hensel suggested a meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss the problem.

Mr. Brodie then reported on a service line break in Ashley Heights. He stated the leak was in the driveway of a house and had been repaired by Commission personnel. He stated that restoration of the driveway was scheduled.

Mr. Wendt then presented the Commission with copies of the Water, Sewer, and Revenue reports for March 2021.

During February 2021, lost water was 72, 986 gallons per day.

During March 2021, lost water was 45,388 gallons per day.

Zone 1 Lost	0	Gallons per day
Zone 3 Lost	5,637	Gallons per day
Zone 5 Lost	10,146	Gallons per day
Zone 6 Lost	12,463	Gallons per day
Zone 8 Lost	0	Gallons per day

Zone 2 Lost	19,648	Gallons per day
Zone 4 Lost	4,992	Gallons per day
Zone 5A Lost	688	Gallons per day
Zone 7 Lost	50	Gallons per day

Discussion continued concerning the reports. Commissioner Young questioned the cost associated with the water produced at Red Hill. He asked if Mr. Wendt could prepare a cost analysis for the Commission water.

Under the heading of Communications, Mr. Wendt updated the Commission on the bond refinancing. He stated the loan had closed on April 1, 2021. He stated loan closing had gone with no issues. He stated the refinancing was a lot of work but should save the Commission money over the life of the loan. Discussion followed concerning the refinancing.

Mr. Wendt then briefed the Commission on several meetings that had been held concerning the Consent Decree. He stated that LaVale, Frostburg, Allegany County and Cumberland had been meeting to discuss the possible extension of the existing decree. He then stated the four entities had met with multiple representatives of MDE about the issue. He stated the response from MDE was less than favorable so a meeting was scheduled with Aqua Law to determine if they could help with the renegotiation of the decree. Mr. Wendt stated he was impressed with the presentation from Aqua Law and would recommend the Commission retain their services for any Consent Decree negotiations. Discussion followed concerning the need to reopen negotiations and how the Commission should proceed.

Mr. Wendt then presented the Commission with a copy of the response from the USDA concerning the funding for the Winchester Road Water Project. He stated the package had changed from 75% grant/25% loan to 100% loan. He stated the USDA was willing to start the loan process if the Commission desired. Commissioner George stated the Commission could not afford a \$4,500.000.00 loan at this time. Mr. Wendt stated he would relay that to the USDA.

Chairman Gehauf moved the public meeting be closed. Commissioner Deffenbaugh seconded and it was unanimously carried. The public meeting was closed at 10:00 AM.

Dave Gehauf
Chairman

Jeanne Deffenbaugh
Secretary-Treasurer