

## **Minutes of Water Commission of Harpers Ferry January 20, 2021 7 pm**

**Water Commission members:** Laurel Drake (recording), Bill Robinson (chair), Christy Huddle.  
Others Present: Barbara Humes (TC liaison), Chris Styer, Angie Cummings, Colin Stine, Laura Clark (from Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Foundation), Mr. Tom Fardon (resident of Bolivar)

### **Call to order**

### **Election of officers**

Christy nominated Bill Robinson to be Water Commission chairperson, seconded by Laurel. Bill was voted to be chairperson in a unanimous vote. Laurel agreed to take minutes.

**Approval of Minutes:** no new minutes were approved.

### **Water Clerk Report**

Angie Cummings, Water Clerk, reported that there were 4 terminations of service, of which three had been turned back on. One customer was terminating service and moving out. For the January billing, about half of the customers' usage was estimated due to snow covering the meters.

### **Water Works Chief Operator Report**

Leaks and repairs - Chris Styer reported that a major water leak was fixed on West Ridge St. Shawn Veney is planning on going to Elkins, WV, for training and to take the Water Operator I exam. Chris Spanos is now the construction foreman.

We have applied for a grant to add a petroleum distillates sensor to our sensors in Elk Run. These sensors have readings taken automatically and sent to a website that is monitored. We have tentative word that we would be awarded this grant to be able to get these sensors (grant from WV Dept. of Health and Human Services).

### **Water fountain proposal for Lower Town**

Laura Clark from the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Foundation made a presentation on a proposal to install a water fountain/water bottle filling station near the top of the stairs in Lower Town. She said that the Foundation could finance the construction of this fountain by funds from its Go-Fund-Me account from the fire in 2015. The cost of upkeep and water used would be borne by the town. Christy will work with Laura Clark on this.

### **Request by Tom Fardon for meter for water only service at 1168 W Washington Street:**

Mr. Fardon requested to have a meter and water (but no sewer) connected to a shed on his property. He said that a frost-free faucet would serve. Chris Styer will prepare a proposal.

### **Financials**

FY22 budget: The budget was reviewed but approval was tabled to a later date.

### **Source Water Protection**

Colin Stine is a volunteer with the Water Advisory Committee from the Jefferson County Commission. Mr. Stine made a presentation about a proposed groundwater survey in Jefferson County that would be conducted by USGS and would cost \$400K. He said it was approved but not funded by the Jefferson County Development Authority in April of 2020. It is a 3 year study that would divide Jefferson County in 60 grid squares with one sampling point in each square from a spring or a well. The purpose of the study would be to determine the types and locations of contaminants and look at the water quality as well as how deep and how old the water is. The results can help inform on which parts might need protection or remediation/restoration. He asks if we would write a letter to JCC and/or JCDA in support of this project.

Citing WV code 6-9A-4(b)(2)(A) and matters arising from compensation of public employees, we entered Executive Session.

**Water System Improvement Project** - Discussion on the project is postponed until the Jan. 25 Special Water Commission meeting.

**Staffing and Commission**

There was a motion from Christy to change the payscale for Water Plant workers starting on March 1, contingent on approval of the revised fiscal year budget on Jan. 25 and seconded by Bill. The motion carried.

**Adjournment**