

Commissioners reach agreement on Marley Run sewage plant

Friday, May 14, 2010

On Tuesday, Calvert commissioners unanimously approved an agreement between the county and Calvert LLC, a development company owned by Marrick Properties, regarding planned improvements to the Marley Run Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The agreement stipulated that Marrick will ultimately pay for the upgrades and any associated costs, including bond interest, engineering services, inspection fees and access road improvements, but not before the county pays an upfront cost of \$2.2 million.

Current estimates place Marrick's total obligation at \$3.47 million, but that could increase depending on future change orders, county attorney Emanuel Demedis said. Marrick's deadline for complete reimbursement is 15 years.

Marrick will pay back the county through a series of semi-annual payments prior to the issuance of use and occupancy permits for homes within the subdivision. Of the subdivision's 158 lots, 102 are undeveloped, Demedis said.

The county-owned plant services Marrick's Marley Run subdivision but has never been in compliance with its state discharge permit. A similar plant has been proposed for a planned shopping center in Dunkirk, and nearby residents have voiced concerns partially due to past problems at the Marley Run facility.

Commissioner Linda Kelley (R) was concerned over the lack of state monitoring in the past. But Public Works Director Terry Carlson assured the commissioners that the Maryland Department of the Environment plans to ramp up its efforts.

"They're really on top of this one," Carlson said. "There's new people there, they're interested. They're gung-ho people. They'll be here, believe me."

Commissioner Jerry Clark (R) was direct with his expectations.

"We own this system, so this better work," he said.

"Is there a message in there, Commissioner Clark?" Kelley asked.

"I got that message," Carlson said.

Commissioner Wilson Parran (D) said while it was the state's responsibility to monitor the plant, the county had every opportunity to raise a red flag about its own facility.

"There should be some accountability on both sides," Parran said.

The commissioners then awarded the \$2.2 million construction contract to J.L.W. Associates of Leonardtown.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Granted a request from State's Attorney Laura Martin to create a new position in her office for an assistant state's attorney whose primary responsibility will be crimes against senior citizens. The position had already been approved for the FY2011 budget, but the attorney has been working pro-bono since last October and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office offered to pay the person's salary and benefits beginning May 24 until July 1, when the 2011 fiscal year begins. The commissioners approved a \$8,163 budget transfer from the sheriff's office to the State's Attorney's Office.
- Awarded a contract to Royale Dining Services of Dunkirk to provide food and beverage machines at the new Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince

- Awarded a \$37,788 contract to Advanced Facility System Group of Columbia for a year's worth of custodial services at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick.
- Awarded a \$17,340 contract to Communications Engineering of Newington, Va., for equipment that will allow the Emergency Operations Center to display multiple images on computer monitors simultaneously.
- Awarded a one-year contract to Keepin It Cool LLC of Waldorf for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration installation and repair services at county facilities on an as-needed basis.
- Voted unanimously to appoint Mark Fisher and David Butler to the Calvert Marine Museum Board of Governors.
- Recognized eight Calvert Middle School seventh graders as winners of the Agriculture Week Poster Contest. For the past couple years, county seventh-grade students have been invited to participate in the contest by creating ag-related posters, from which a grand-prize winner is selected and featured in the annual Calvert County Fair book. Calvert Middle was the only school to participate this year.

Hannah Couto took home the grand prize while Ashley Jahed was named first prize winner and Cassidy McDowell won second prize. Megan Elliot, Brittany Purcell, Tiffany Bearns, Mignon Kim and Andrea Kelsor all won third-place prizes.

Agricultural Commission Chairperson Debbie Jones also presented the commissioners with spring baskets to kick off the 2010 farmer's market season.

- Proclaimed May Historic Preservation Month and May 10-17 Respect for Law Week.

