

The News



of Cumberland County

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

MHA votes to change electric resource provider

By Jim Cook Jr.

jcook@sjnewsco.com

MILLVILLE — The Millville Housing Authority voted Tuesday evening to change their energy resource provider from Atlantic City Electric to Viridian.

“The finality is up in the air right now,” said Paul Dice, executive director of the Millville Housing Authority. “We will evaluate it for approximately six months. It’s not long-term, but our intention is to save on the electric bills.”

Dice said that Atlantic City Electric gives the city two charges currently, one for the electricity and one for the delivery.

“Right now, we’re with Atlantic City electric and we’ll continue to have them deliver the electricity,” Dice said. “But we will purchase our electric from Viridian rather than getting that also through Atlantic City Electric.”

After using their broker, Salmon Ventures, to gather quotes from Constallation New Energy, Direct Energy, Integrys, and Liberty Power, the MDC decided to gather their own information from Viridian.

Their information proved to be the lowest

quote of all.

They will enter into the contract and evaluate the quality and pricing for half a year and explore the condition with a variable rate contract, instead of locking into a fixed rate.

“If our experience with them reflects their own history, we will come in with less than what a flat rate would be,” Dice said.

This will affect housing in Riverview West, Riverview East, Jaycee Plaza, Ceder View Court, Ferguson Court, Holly Berry Court, Maurice View Plaza, and some scattered housing.

“If things go the way we hope, we could save up to \$88,000, but that remains to be seen,” Dice said. “But I’ve heard it swing between \$18,000 and \$88,000. This information will all be revealed in the future.”

The residents of the MHA’s low-income facilities probably won’t notice that the MHA has changed providers, Dice said.

“They will begin to notice it if we are able to use this as an opportunity to save so that we can put money back into the buildings to help maintain, enhance and improve them,” Dice said.