

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
January 17, 2024
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, January 17, 2024, 4:00PM in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street. The delay was due to City offices being closed for a snow day on 1/16/24.

Present were Commissioners Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, and Jerry Carmichael. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Jerry Roegner, Johnny Lunsford, Todd Beaver, Dana Daniel, Brian Sartain, Aaron Short, Brandon Ives, Jered Sigmon and Brent Dobler. Robert Frazier from the Frazier Law Firm was in attendance as well.

Chairman Farmer was absent, so the remaining Commissioners named Commissioner Greene as the Acting Chairman. Acting Chairman Greene then called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM, then called for an action on the minutes from the December 18, 2023, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve the December 18, 2023, minutes, and Commissioner Carmichael seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Greene then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the financial reports. After congratulatory applause by the Commissioners, he went on to introduce himself to the Commission and give a summary of his journey to RWU. He then presented the financial reports. Billed revenue in the Water department for December 2023 was up 15.30% from December 2022. Water consumption was up 10.89% from December 2022. A profit of \$481,000 was reported for December 2023. A profit of \$120,000 was reported for December of 2022. Revenues increased by \$497,000. Expenses increased by \$136,000. Jered went on to explain that the large revenue increase was due to RWU posting a \$260,000 adjustment for interest income that had not been tried up since March of 2023 when interest rates were very low. Fiscal YTD collections for impact and access fee revenue for FY24 are \$408,600. This compares to YTD fees of \$312,400 in FY23 and \$477,200 in FY22. Year to date profit is more than the prior year by \$403,000.

The Sewer department billed revenue for the month of December 2023 is up 16.50% from December of 2022. Sewer consumption was up 11.53% from December 2022. The Sewer department reported a profit of \$614,000 for December 2023. A profit of \$336,000 was reported for December 2022. Revenues increased by \$559,000. Expenses increased by \$281,000. Jered went on to explain that the large revenue increase was due to RWU posting a \$380,000 adjustment for interest income that had not been tried up since March of 2023 when interest rates were very low. Fiscal YTD collections of impact and access fee revenue for FY24 are \$787,000. This compares to YTD access and impact fee revenue of \$527,030 in FY23 and \$834,300 in FY22. Year to date profit is more than the prior year by \$456,000 less the ANRC grant funds. If these funds are included, YTD profit is \$2,930,000.

Total restricted and unrestricted funds are \$50.3 million for December 2023. This is an overall increase of \$4.4 million from December 2022. Water funds increased by approximately \$2,300,000 and Sewer funds increased by \$2,050,000. \$8.8 million of the \$50.3 million total funds are restricted for specific use such as debt service, meter deposits, access and impact fees, and depreciation.

Chairman Greene then recognized Brian Sartain to present the Engineering Reports. Mr. Sartain went over the December plan review in CityWorks. The Pointe at Rogers is one of the

larger projects that RWU is currently reviewing. Warren Park is still in the conceptual phase and will be RWU's first participation in a sewer study collaboration with a developer. This type of mutually beneficial collaboration was approved at an earlier Commission meeting. The S 28th Place roundabout project is nearing ARDOT approval and will be out for bid soon. The JB Hunt roundabout is essentially complete. The Uptown and Oak Street projects are almost complete. The Poplar and 13th Steet project will be ongoing for several months. Brian then showed a map of the Pinnacle Golf Course sanitary sewer upsizing project to give the Commissioners an update on the progress of the contractor. Bursting equipment is scheduled to be delivered next week and pipe is onsite. Brian then showed a video of pipe-bursting to the Commissioners and answered a few technical questions about the process. Brian then gave an update on the RPCF Solids Handling project and how we intend to meet all ANRC timelines to receive the grant monies. Brian presented the 50% drawings and elevations showing the building and the placement of the new drying equipment and design of the renovated maintenance building. Brian then went on to demonstrate the methodology RWU is using to generate the EPA required service line material inventory list for every RWU service line. RWU has reduced the roughly 37,000 water services in place to approximately 4,800 services that will still require verification of the service line material. RWU has utilized dates of installation, Benton County records, and all other available resources including bringing in retired employees to look at maps and determine what materials were used in these services. Brian then showed GIS maps to show what areas still require investigation. Brian recognized the teams that are working on this project including Brandon Ives, our GIS expert who was in attendance.

Chairman Greene then recognized Todd Beaver to present the Rogers Pollution Control Facility reports. Todd went over the DMR's, no issues to report. The industrial pre-treatment program surcharges were higher than normal, no reasons given, and we will keep an eye on them. The FOG program inspections continue to go well. The team is full, and training has begun. The RPCF is currently behind on solids production. Todd elaborated on the mechanical issues. Todd reached out to Springdale Water Utilities to see if they could accept and dry some of our solids to get "caught up". The DEQ has been informed and has given its approval. Todd mentioned that we have received a tax exemption on the Solids Handling Project. The plant treated 281MG in December 2023, treating approximately 18 MG from i&i. These flows included 2.5" of rain over 9 events. In December 2022 the plant treated 355MG which would indicate a reduction in i&i of roughly 74MG even with saturated ground. Too early to tell, but so far, it looks like a huge improvement. Todd called out the overall effort of RWU to keep focusing on the reduction of i&i.

Chairman Greene then recognized Johnny Lunsford to present the operations report. Johnny shared the presentation that both he and Garver gave at a Denver water loss conference they were invited to. He stated that we would not be in this position without the dedication of the field employees. Johnny gave a high-level synopsis of how RWU has installed acoustic detectors throughout certain portions of the RWU service area. He gave a brief description of the technology and software involved and how these leaks are found and ultimately repaired. We have learned that water leaks are very hard to detect, not only out around the lake in rural areas, but also in town. This was unexpected, but due to this finding, we will continue to install across the entire system. Another benefit is that we can make much better data-driven decisions on which water mains to replace. He then shared some of the AWWA water loss calculators to show where RWU stands in relation to other utilities.

Chairman Greene then recognized Brent Dobler to present Resolution No. 24-01, AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT FOR PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Dobler explained that this

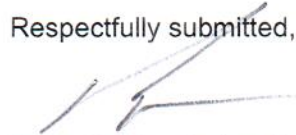
was simply a renewal, and we are very pleased with our current service provider. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve Resolution No 24-01, AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT FOR PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, Commissioner Carmichael seconded the motion. All in favor, 3-0, Resolution 24-01 passes.

Chairman Greene recognized Dobler to present Resolution 24-02, DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR DEPOSITORIES FOR THE ROGERS WATERWORKS AND SEWER COMMISSION AND THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Dobler explained that this Resolution will add Jered Sigmon, Rogers Water Utilities new controller to the list of Designated Authorized Signatories. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to pass Resolution 24-02, DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR DEPOSITORIES FOR THE ROGERS WATERWORKS AND SEWER COMMISSION AND THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, 3-0, Resolution 24-02 passes.

Chairman Greene then recognized Robert Frazier to present Resolution No. 24-03, A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CERTAIN LITIGATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Frazier stated that the Commission and RWU are parties to the Three Flags litigation that is proceeding to the pleadings and discovery stage. There is a need to appoint an organizational representative to review, approve, and verify under oath the contents of various pleadings, motions, briefs, discovery responses, and other documents on behalf of the Commission and RWU. He stated that he would recommend Mr. Dobler to be this organizational representative for the Commission and RWU. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-03; A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CERTAIN LITIGATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, 3-0, Resolution No. 24-03 passed.

With no further items on the Agenda, Chairman Greene adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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