

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**January 20, 2014**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regular meeting at 4:00 PM on Monday, January 20, 2014, in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building. Present were Commissioners Don Kendall, Kathy McClure, Travis Greene and Jene' Huffman-Gilreath. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Joyce Johnson, Johnny Lunsford, William Evans, Jordan Waterhouse, Jennifer Lattin, Robert Moore, Vera Hall, Stephen Ponder, Brian Sartain and Earl Rausch. Others in attendance were City Attorney Ben Lipscomb, Deputy City Attorney Bonnie Bridges, and City Planner Derrel Smith. Chairman Don Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Announcements: Lipscomb introduced the new Deputy City Attorney Bonnie Bridges and Rausch introduced the new RWU Design Engineer Brian Sartain.

Chairman Kendall recognized Robert Moore, Plant Manager for the Rogers Pollution Control Facility. Moore presented a certificate and a gift to Earl Rausch, Interim Utility Superintendent, to commemorate fifteen years of service to RWU and the citizens of Rogers.

There was a motion by McClure, second by Greene to approve the minutes of the November 18 and the December 9, 2013 regular meetings as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the financial report for December 2013. The condensed financial statement shows that we had a \$59,000 loss in the water department in December compared to a \$26,000 loss the year before. We expect to have losses the next few months due to lower consumption during the winter months. The sewer department is doing quite well. There are several things that are helping the sewer department financial condition including paying off bonds early and having unfilled positions resulting in reduced salary costs. We are at midyear and the actual financial statements are looking better than budgets. Revenue in the water department is at 55% of budget and expenditures are at 50% of budget. In the sewer department, revenue is at 53% of budget and expenditures are at 48% of budget. Johnson asked if there were any questions. Greene asked about the miscellaneous sewer cash receipt item of \$86,000. Johnson replied that was for the collection of access and impact fees. There were no other questions.

Chairman Kendall recognized Earl Rausch, Interim Utility Superintendent for the Staff reports. In engineering, RJN is preparing the final report of the collection system monitoring. The results of the collection study will cause Rogers Water to focus rehabilitation to different areas of the city. Price Lane water and sewer construction is progressing well. Sartain, our new engineer, has been designing the relocation of a sewer line crossing of Turtle Creek. The sewer department discovered that the sewer line crossing had failed; they have temporarily repaired the crossing. We have requested informal bids (less than \$20,000) and Nabholz was the low bidder. Chairman Kendall asked what caused the sewer failure. Rausch stated erosion of the channel bottom caused the sewer line to be exposed and fail.

The pollution control report includes a year summary DMR report which shows good results. Moore stated that the sludge has all the criteria for Class A and we have submitted the letter to ADEQ requesting permission to sell or give away the sludge. We should receive a response in a couple of weeks and we will start looking for a permanent solution. Chairman Kendall asked how the sludge dryer was working. Moore stated everything is working just fine. In November, the dryer developed a small hole in a piece of machinery. We called Therma Flite and they had three men at our plant the next day making the repair. The six month warranty maintenance check is scheduled for February. Huffman-Gilreath asked how long the dryer will be out of service. Three to four days replied Moore. Greene asked how are we are storing the sludge. Moore stated we are bagging the sludge in 1 ton sacks. Greene asked how many tons per week are we producing. Moore stated we are producing two semi-truck trailers a week.

The water department had 13% unaccounted-for water in December. The sewer department had two manhole over flows and both were within the Belair Subdivision/Turtle Creek area. Rausch asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Rausch asked the Commission to select a different February meeting date since the Rogers Water Utilities office will be closed on February 17, 2014. Chairman Kendall selected February 24, 2014 for the next regular commission meeting.

Chairman Kendall recognized Stephen Ponder to discuss the bids on the Monte Ne Road Water and Sewer Main Relocation. Ponder stated on January 3, 2014, we received 5 bids for the Monte Ne Road South project. We recommend the contract be awarded to DECCO Contractors-Paving, Inc. with the low bid of \$612,010. There was a motion by Huffman-Gilreath, second by McClure, to approve the low bid from DECCO Contracting-Paving Inc. of \$612,010. Greene abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Kendall recognized Rausch, Interim Utility Superintendent. Rausch presented information on the Arkansas Water Quality Standards (Regulation 2) amended which has been sent to the State Legislative Committee. Moore will represent the Utility at the State House/Senate Public Health Committee Thursday, January 23, 2014, in Little Rock, AR. RWU and many other cities and utilities in North Arkansas will be represented for this standard being advanced out of committee. If the amended mineral values for Arkansas streams default to original regulation, the discharge quality of our wastewater plant would be drinking water

standards. Our treatment cost would increase substantially. Moore stated the mineral values are 40 chlorides, 40 sulfates and 100 TDS. Chairman Kendall asked is this because of the minerals. Moore stated it is the mineral values causing the issue. Huffman-Gilreath asked is the mineral issue EPA driven. Moore stated the mineral issue can be adopted by the state as long as the stream does not fall under 303D list as an impaired water way. If the amended mineral values do not pass, we will then fall under the EPA guidelines. We will be on the 303D stream list for minerals along with the phosphorus of which we are already under. Greene asked what the likelihood that this will happen is. Moore stated over one hundred streams will be on the 303D stream list. Rausch stated several chemical companies in South Arkansas want the amended regulation to stay in committee (default). Greene asked is this regulation realizable. Moore stated he is hoping ADEQ will give us higher mineral values in the future.

At 4:25 PM Chairman Kendall announced the Commission was going into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was called back to order at 4:51 PM. Chairman Kendall announced that the Commission was back from executive session. Chairman Kendall announced that no action was taken.

Chairman Kendall adjourned the meeting at 4:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Earl Rausch, Acting Secretary  
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission  
File: RWWSC minutes, 1-20-2014