

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**February 27, 2006**

## **Minutes**

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, February 27, 2006, in the Rogers City Administration Building. Present were Commissioners Don Kendall, Donnie Moore, Jerry Pittman, and Donna Warren. Lon Pepple was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Earl Rausch, Mike Lawrence, Stephen Ponder, and Tim House. Others at the meeting were Ben Lipscomb, City Attorney, Laurie Harrison, John Henley, Jr., Jeff Jech, Eric Farmer, Dan Ferguson, Jan Skopecek, and Mary McFerron. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Warren, to approve the minutes of the January Commission meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Pittman asked if the staff was putting together a policy regarding sewer service lines. McAlister answered in the affirmative.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a short report detailing the status of the several construction projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. He said that the contractor on the Mt. Hebron Road/Wallis Road/Champions Drive water main project was ready to start laying pipe. Warren asked if those residents on wells on W. Pleasant Grove Road near Ridgecrest Meadows would be able to get water service from this project. Johnson said that the project would not go down that street, but it could happen, if directed to do so by the Commission. What was the time frame for the project? Pittman asked. The project should be essentially complete by the end of June, Earl Rausch, Design Engineer, said.

Continuing, Johnson addressed the sewer line relocation project at I 540/Perry Road interchange. Johnson said that the plans were complete, and bids were solicited. Two bids were received: Seven Valleys Construction, \$5.272 million, and Rosetta Construction, \$3,949,951. Johnson said that his estimated cost was \$3.588 million. Johnson said that the project was going to be very difficult to construct due to the depth of the excavation, rock (blasting), groundwater, and short contract period for construction. He said that the state highway department planned to bid the actual interchange project in March, and start work by June 1. Therefore, the sewer relocation work in the highway right-of-way must be essentially complete by June 1, Johnson said. He said that, since the interchange project was "for the City of Rogers", there would be no reimbursement for any of the costs associated with the relocation, forthcoming from the state highway department.

There followed many questions regarding the bids. Why was the engineer's estimate of cost so far off? "I blew it", came the reply. What about change orders? Pittman asked. Johnson said that there should be none, since the contingencies were covered in the contract. Warren asked about the extreme difference in prices for rock excavation. Johnson said that the low bidder, Rosetta, was not concerned about the rock excavation. Moore asked about the impact on the Utilities' capital improvement plan (CIP). Finally, there was a motion by Pittman, second by Warren, to approve the low bid from Rosetta Construction. All in favor, motion carried. Moore asked the staff to update the CIP and bring it to the Commission at the next meeting.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a contract proposal from Pipeline Analysis, LLC, of Dallas Texas. Johnson said that the firm smoke tested the "Blossomway" drainage last year and reported to the Commission. In the report, Jim Forbes, President of Pipeline Analysis, recommended that approximately 15,000 feet of sewer mains in the basin be cleaned and televised to determine what, if any, rehabilitation activities were required. Pipeline Analysis was offering to clean, televise the subject mains, and to deliver a report, for \$36,927.80, Johnson said. Warren asked if we needed to have the study done now. Johnson replied that the project was somewhat time sensitive, since the work would need to be done during dry weather. Kendall motioned, second by Pittman, to approve the proposed contract with Pipeline Analysis. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk presented the Commission with a short report regarding the activities of his section over the last month. He said that his staff had received 108 plan sets for review, and that the staff had conducted nineteen predesign meetings. Balk said that, since the first of the year, plans were being reviewed in ten working days or less. He said that his staff had been working as time permitted on a custom-made database that would track projects through submission, review, approval, and construction. Balk introduced Tim House, RWU Review Engineer, who presented a short Power Point presentation on the database, which he described as work in progress.

Moore asked how long has the earliest plan set been waiting for review. Balk said that all plans were being reviewed in at least two weeks, although some projects had been knocking around the Utilities for months, since Engineers sometimes took a long time to respond to RWU comments, or failed to adequately address Utility comments. Moore said that he had heard "good things" about the progress in making the process of plan review and approval more user-friendly, and praised the efforts of the staff.

Moore recognized Jeff Jech of Farris Insurance Company of Springdale. Jech was the only respondent to an advertisement for property insurance bids. Jech said that premiums were down slightly from the previous year. The cost to insure RWU against property damage was set at \$33,178, Jech said. There was a motion by Warren, second by Kendall, to approve the bid from Farris Insurance Company. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Ben Lipscomb, City Attorney. Lipscomb presented the Commission with Resolution 06-03, which effectively raised the maximum purchasing level from \$10,000 to \$20,000, without the requirements of competitive bidding. Lipscomb said that the legislature had raised the limit at their last session, and this resolution would bring the Utilities' purchasing policies in line with state code. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Kendall, to approve the resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Jan Skopecek, Executive Director of the Northwest Arkansas Home Builders Association. Skopecek said that the builders were asking a lot of questions regarding the new "impact fees" that will take effect on April 1. She asked for a written policy on how the new fees would be charged. McAlister said that the only policy or guideline that existed was the Resolution No. 05-05, which was available on the RWU website. Skopecek said that the resolution was vague on specifics. Moore said that the staff would produce a policy soon.

McAlister noted that the March meeting conflicted with spring break week, and asked if the meeting might be moved back one week to March 27. There were no objections.

Moore asked Mike Lawrence, Pollution Control Facility Manager, how things were at the treatment plant. Lawrence said that the plant was running good, and that the engineers were on schedule with the design for the plant expansion. Lawrence said that total flow to the plant had actually decreased over the past few months, due to a lack of precipitation. He said that total phosphorus in the effluent was averaging about 0.6 mg/L.

McAlister said that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality had issued a new discharge permit to the Rogers Pollution Control Facility, effective 1-31-06. McAlister said that the permit included a seven-day average maximum Total Phosphorus level of 2 mg/L, which was never agreed to when the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas reached their accord in 2003. Therefore, McAlister said he asked the Utilities' Little Rock attorney to file a "friendly lawsuit", asking that the seven-day maximum average limit be stayed until the new wastewater treatment plant was complete and online. He said that ADEQ had already agreed to the request.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom S. McAlister, Acting Secretary  
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

File: RWWSC minutes, 2-27-06

