

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

Minutes

April 17, 2006

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 17, 2006, in the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Jerry Pittman, Donna Warren, Don Kendall, and Lon Pepple. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Mike Lawrence, William Evans, Luanne Diffin, Robert Moore, Paul Burns, Keith Carpenter, Stephen Ponder, Everett Balk, Earl Rausch, and Ken Wooden. Others in attendance were Chris Griffin, Lori Harrison-Stone, Eric Haussermann, Don Ferguson, Rob Suski, Andrew Rundell, and Kevin Isola. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Moore recognized Luanne Diffin, Laboratory Director for RWU. Diffin presented Paul Burns, Environmental Services Analyst, with a plaque and a gift for ten years of service to RWU.

Moore recognized William Evans, Superintendent of Field Operations. Evans recognized Keith Carpenter, Field Operations Technician II, for five years of service, and Curtis Young, Systems Analyst, for twenty years of service to RWU.

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

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, RWU Engineer. Johnson gave the Commission a brief report on the several jobs in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. He said the Mount Hebron/Wallis Road/Champions Drive 24-inch water main project was progressing with minimal complaints from the motoring public. He noted that a resident on Stratsman Lane called because he did not care for the traffic to be routed on his street.

Continuing, Johnson said that the contractor for the Interstate 540/Perry Road sewer relocation job was making good progress. He said that the sixty-inch casing across the highway was being accomplished by tunneling instead of boring, which saved the Commission a considerable amount of money.

Johnson said that the S. First St. water and sewer relocation contractor was being held up on the north side of New Hope Road while the City of Rogers decided weather or not to delay the street widening project. He said that the Honeysuckle Drive sewer extension was about 90% complete. Johnson said that he had met with the City's consultant for the widening of west Pleasant Grove Road, to discuss the planned 24-inch water line following the same route.

Continuing, Johnson said that the developer of Edinborough Addition in Lowell had been asked to build an off-site water main on Concord Road to close a hydraulic loop, and had complied. Now, the developer was seeking reimbursement of \$39,694.02. Johnson said that the costs were reasonable, and he recommended the request to the Commission.

Moore asked if bids were taken. Johnson said that private developers rarely took formal bids, but negotiated the price with contractors. Moore asked if the expenditure might require a resolution waiving competitive bidding, in order to meet the state law. Chris Griffin, Deputy City Attorney, asked if the Commission had approved the reimbursement request earlier. Johnson said, "No". McAlister said that, in order to be safe, the motion to approve the expenditure should include a waiver of competitive bidding requirements.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Kendall, to waive the requirements of competitive bidding and pay the developer \$39,694.02, upon completion and acceptance of the project. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk presented the Commission with a brief report detailing the work of his section. He noted that the March numbers seemed down from the last reporting period because there were only 14 working days in the last period (since the last Commission meeting). Balk said that all plan submittals were being reviewed within ten working days.

Moore recognized Mike Lawrence, Rogers Pollution Control Facility Manager. Lawrence reminded the Commission of the immediate need to change the method of disposal of biosolids or sludge. The current method of land disposal, in use since 1988, was no longer an option due to recent changes in state law and the build up of phosphorus in the fields adjacent to the plant. Now, odors were becoming a problem with the neighbors, Lawrence said. He said that the sludge would have to be dewatered, at minimum, and trucked to a landfill licensed to take sludge.

Lawrence said that he and his staff had contacted several contract dewatering firms and found a centrifuge for rent from SWECO. The rental was \$16,283 per month for a 24-inch machine. Additionally, he said the dewatered sludge would need to be transported to a landfill. Several haulers were contacted, and the best price was from Waste Management of Arkansas for \$220 per load transportation and \$25 per wet ton tipping fee. Lawrence estimated the cost per year to dewater all the biosolids and haul to the landfill to be about \$500,000. Lawrence called this recommendation a short-term fix for the problem. He said his long-term goal would be to install "permanent dewatering and drying or burning", which would virtually eliminate the need to go to a landfill, drastically reducing operations costs.

Pepple asked if the rental of the machine could be used to reduce the purchase price. Lawrence said that the company had said they would sell the centrifuge for less, depending on how long it remained in use. However, the machine was not the optimum size for its intended, long-term use. Would the centrifuge solve the odor problems? Moore asked. Lawrence said that it should help a lot. How soon could the new disposal

scheme be “up and running”? Someone asked. “About two weeks”, came the reply. Finally, there was a motion from Warren, second by Kendall, to approve Resolution Nos. 06-03 and 06-04, which waived the requirements of competitive bidding and awarded a contract to SWECO for a year’s worth of centrifuge rental, and to Waste Management of Arkansas for hauling and tipping fees, respectively. All in favor, motion carried.

Lawrence concluded that he would continue to investigate the permanent sludge disposal solution and come back with a recommendation at a later date. He acknowledged that Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA) was investigating some on the same things on a regional basis, but he remained convinced that drying or burning on-site was the least expensive, long-term option for Rogers. Moore praised the work of the RPCF staff, saying they had the best interests of the City of Rogers in mind at all times.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with the March 2006 financial statements. She noted the new “schedule of funds” which tracked the Utilities’ investments. Johnson said that the budget process had started for FY ’07.

Moore asked if the first payment had been made to Bentonville, for the purchase of that City’s interest in the existing water transmission mains. “Yes”, came the answer. How much? “About \$1.8 million, she said. Pittman asked if there was a rebate from Beaver Water District. “No rebate this year”, came the reply.

McAlister said that the next Commission meeting was set for May 15. Moore said he would not be able to attend. Pittman suggested moving the meeting back a week so Moore could weigh in on the budget. Moore said that the budget drafts should get to the Commission a couple of weeks prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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