

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

April 18, 2005

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 18, 2005. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Donna Warren, Jerry Pittman and Don Kendall. Lon Pepple was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staffers in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Mike Lawrence, Joyce Johnson, Stephen Ponder, Earl Rausch, Everett Balk, William Evans, and Tim House. Others in the audience were Jason Kelley, Bob Goodwin, Derrel Smith, John Easterling, Jan Skopecek, Earl Jenkins, John Keller, Mike Rowe, and Don Dailey. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

There was a motion by Pittman, second by Warren, to approve the minutes of the February meeting (the March meeting had been cancelled for lack of agenda items). All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson told the Commission that the Southeast Rogers water system improvements had started today, and that the new Old Wire Road Elementary School was anxiously awaiting water service. He noted that contract section two of the improvement project (East Pleasant Grove Road) was being held up by lack of rights-of-way the City was in the process of procuring for its street improvements. Johnson said that the contractor on Section two, Seven Valleys Construction, might be instructed to install the water main in the street instead.

Continuing, Johnson said that Contract Section Three of the SE Rogers Water System Improvement Project had been bid, and four bidders submitted bids. He said that the low bid was \$1,453,465, from Seven Valleys Construction of Cassville, MO. Johnson said that Seven Valleys was qualified and competent, and had done several jobs for RWU in the past. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Warren, to approve the low bid. All in favor, motion carried.

Pittman said that he had been contacted by a resident on S. 21 St., who complained that the recent sewer construction in his back yard had made it impossible to mow. Johnson said that he was aware of the problem, and that he would get the contractor, Journagan, to correct it.

Continuing, Johnson said that the 24th St. ground storage tank and pump station was essentially complete, with a few bugs to work out in the control system. He mentioned Horsebarn Road, and S. 26th St., and the City's plan to widen both. He said

that the area of Pinnacle Hills was underserved by sewer capacity, and additional sewers would need to be built.

Johnson presented the Commission with a drawing showing a proposed expansion to the existing RWU office building on S. 2nd St. He said that, after the February Commission meeting, the staff had met with John Mack, the architect with PB2 Architects, and rethought the earlier submission. Mack recommended expanding the current facility to the south, taking away the current employee parking lot, and moving the drive through to the east side of the building, with a drive through payment traffic entering from Pine St.

He said that this design would emphasize the public entrance on S. Second St., provide stacking for approximately thirty cars in the drive through, give the business office space to double its manpower contingent, give engineering to expand, all under one roof. The expansion as shown was about 6900 square feet, with significant remodeling in the existing office. The architect estimated the cost at about \$1 million.

There followed a lengthy question and answer session. Q: Why the change to one building? A: Did not feel comfortable with an exclusive engineering building, needed to address future space needs for other office functions.

Q: Will this be big enough?

A: This should last another fifteen to twenty years.

Q: Is there enough storage space?

A: Probably, if we get creative with our records storage systems.

Q: Will you be able to operate the office during the remodel?

A: Yes. We will have to go back to crowded conditions in the short term, though.

Q: What about parking? Will it be adequate?

A: there will be a net gain of 13 spaces, which should be adequate.

Q: Will RWU comply with the City's building regulations?

A: Yes.

Finally, More asked the question: Do we proceed on this design basis? The Commission agreed that the need was apparent, and instructed staff to proceed.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk gave a brief summary of the Project Facilitation section. He noted that a secretary had been hired to help with the flow of information and the storage of documents. Balk said that a casual telephone survey of a few in the design-build community had been conducted, and, as a result, his section was planning to develop a checklist, update RWU's standard specifications and drawings, and bringing engineers a few at a time into the pipe yard, to better acquaint them about our minimum requirements for pipe, fittings, etc.

Moore reminded the Commission of the situation that led to the formation of the Project Facilitation section, and praised staff for their efforts to improve the plan review/approval process. McAlister said that the dramatic increase in the number of plans

submitted for review had lead the staff to add another engineer, dedicating three engineers and a secretary for plan review and approval.

Moore recognized John Keller, P. E., Black and Veatch Engineers. Keller, the project engineer for the wastewater master planning study recently completed, said that he had been negotiating with staff for several months for a contract addendum that would allow his firm to start on the design of the necessary improvements to the existing wastewater plant to increase the capacity from 6.7 million gallons per day (MGD) to 14 MGD. He estimated that the project would cost about \$15.5 million. The proposed engineering contract would bring the project up to and include the bid award phase. The cost to perform all design services as well as procurement of required approval from all state and federal agencies, as well as securing funding from the state revolving loan fund (RLF) program, was \$1.655 million. After the bid award, the next contract addendum would be for construction inspection and project performance review, Keller said. With that, Keller recommended the contract addendum to the Commission for approval.

Moore asked what was different from the scope of services, and the wastewater master planning recommendations? McAlister said that the initial plant expansion would go to fourteen MGD rather than twelve MGD, and filters would be added. McAlister said that the filters were a response from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's proposed new, discharge permit. McAlister said that the contract did not include solids treatment and disposal, since RWU was awaiting action by the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA), which might start up a regional biosolids (sludge) effort.

Moore asked if there were anymore potential discharge requirements that might necessitate additional treatment and expense? McAlister said that the hot topic nationwide in wastewater treatment and disposal was endocrine disruptors, which were compounds formed by wastewater disinfection with chlorine gas. He said that the effluent filters would also allow the facility to move away from chlorine to another disinfectant, such as ultraviolet light. McAlister said that the current total phosphorus limit of 1 part per million (PPM), would probably be reduced as the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma continue their legal wrangling over the quality of the water in the Illinois River.

Pittman asked Mike Lawrence, Rogers Pollution Control Facility Manager, if he was satisfied with the efforts of Black and Veatch thus far? Lawrence said that he was.

Moore asked about odors? Lawrence said that odor complaints were few and far between, thankfully, but he said his goal was "no odor complaints". Keller said that the new inlet and head works facilities would have odor control capability. Finally, Pittman made a motion to approve the contract amendment provided the costs were approved by the RLF for funding. All in favor, motion carried.

Pittman asked Mark Johnson if a tank site had been selected on First Street? Johnson said that the future tank site would probably near Pleasant Ridge Road, on the

east side of Rogers. Pittman opined that land costs were going up, and it would be a good idea to tie up some property for a future tank site. Johnson agreed.

Moore recognized Jason Kelley, Deputy City Attorney. Kelley informed the Commission that he had been in contact with Mark Dossett, attorney for Benton County Water Authority (BCWA), regarding changes to the contract between RWU and BCWA. As of yet, the two attorneys were unable to schedule a time to meet and discuss a proposed contract, he said.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, CPA, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with financial sheets for February and March, confining her remarks to the March statements. She said that the growth in demand for water remained very flat, despite adding new customers continually. She opined that the low demand might be related to the most recent water rate increase (12%), effective in February. The financial sheets were accepted without comment.

Pittman asked Johnson who would replace Judy Bridges, retiring RWU Office Manager? Johnson said that seventeen-year RWU office veteran Michelle Williams was slated for the position. She said that she planned to hire a customer service person at the entry level.

McAlister said that RWU was having a dinner the night of April 28, at Prairie Creek Hickory House, to honor Judy Bridges for 26 years of dedicated service.

Pittman welcomed Don Kendall to the Commission. Kendall was appointed to fulfill Dick McLelland's unexpired term. Kendall's term is set to expire 2-1-06.

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom S. McAlister, Manager
Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

File: RWWSC minutes, 4-18-05