

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

April 21, 2003

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 21, 2003, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Lon Pepple, and Fred Wanger. Dick McLelland and Jerry Pittman were absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Mike Lawrence, Don Roberts, Earl Rausch, Terry McCauley, Wade Woodward, Joyce Johnson, Ken Allen, Stephen Ponder, and Steve Rowlett. Others in attendance were Deputy City Attorney Jason Kelley, Steve Hesse, Barbara Miller, E. J. Miller, Dan Brown, Jason Ingalls, James Hales, John Moore, and Mike Rowe. Chairman Moore called the meeting at 4:02 PM.

There was a motion by Wanger, second by Moore, to approve the March 24, 2003 Commission minutes, as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations. Roberts recognized the following individuals for loyal service to Rogers Water Utilities and the citizens of Rogers: Ken Allen, five years, Wade Woodward, 15 years, and Steve Rowlett, 20 years.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson gave the Commission a brief summary of the status of the several projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. Johnson said that the New Hope Road water and sewer relocations were under design, and that the state had not yet allowed any utility companies to relocate their facilities. Johnson said that the project would not likely get started until next year.

Continuing, Johnson said that the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the managers of the state drinking water revolving loan fund, had raised questions regarding technical aspects of the design and bid phase of the 8 million gallon ground storage tank and pump station. Johnson said that the staff had been pursuing the low cost money from ASWCC, but now thought the possibility of gaining funding from that source had gone away. Moore suggested the staff contact underwriters for a possible water revenue bond proposal.

Moore recognized Tom McAlister, Manager, Rogers Water Utilities. McAlister informed the Commission that USEPA had formally requested that Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality add the Illinois River and its tributaries to the state's 303 (d) list of impaired water bodies. The troubling effect of this was that the inclusion of the Illinois would eventually lead to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for total

phosphorus, equivalent to a loading cap, and a “no growth” status for much of northwest Arkansas. McAlister said that he would continue to talk to environmental lawyers to ascertain any legal options Rogers might have to prevent the TMDL from happening.

Moore recognized Dan Brown, P. E., of Crafton, Tull, and Associates. Brown said he represented the owner of a proposed car wash to be located at Woods Lane and Highway 62/102. He said that the RWU staff had requested that a gravity sewer main be extended to the site from Woods Lane Apartments, in Little Flock. Brown estimated the cost at about \$97,000, including engineering. He said that the sewer might be extended to serve other adjacent properties, and he asked the Commission to pay for half the cost of the off-site sewer extension. McAlister said he thought the prices were reasonable, and said this was the only feasible way to serve the property by gravity. There was a motion by Pepple, second by Wanger, to approve the cost split, up to \$50,000, provided the city approved the extension of services into another city. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Steve Hesse, P. E., Engineering Design Associates. Hesse represented Dave Covington, owner and developer of the proposed 69-lot Covington Trace Addition in Benton County, near Pleasant Ridge Road and Panorama Road. Hesse said he needed the Commission to approve the extension of water mains to serve the addition, so that the matter could be brought to the City Council. Some of the Commissioners expressed concern about the water system in the area. McAlister said that he thought the potential problem with high demand due to irrigation could be handled somewhat by limiting the number and size of meters that might be allowed. There was a motion by Wanger, second by Pepple, to recommend the water extensions to the city council for approval, provided the staff was satisfied with water conservation measures. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Jason Ingalls of Northstar Engineering. Ingalls represented the developer of Fieldstone Addition, Hales Brothers Development. Ingalls said that the RWU staff requested changes in his water and sewer plans that resulted in additional costs for the developer, i. e., deeper than required sewers and manholes for future expansion. He said that he and Mark Johnson had negotiated a cost of \$28,989.25, which he said his developer would approve. There was a motion by Pepple, second by Wanger, to approve the cost share as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mike Alexander, 2807 Seminole Court. Alexander said that he was interested in getting sanitary sewer service to his home, which is currently served by a septic tank. He said he had talked with RWU staff and some of his neighbors, and got the impression from his neighbors that they were generally in favor of getting sewer, but wanted to know how much it would cost. Pepple asked what is RWU’s policy? McAlister said that sanitary sewer was originally planned for the area, to be built from the 1998 sewer bond issue, but had been cut due to cost overruns and landowner resistance. Moore said that he was in favor of extending sewer provided all easements were donated, and that all landowners were committed to the project. He said one or two recalcitrant

landowners could reek havoc on a project. Earl Rausch, Design Engineer, estimated the cost at about \$143,000. Moore directed Alexander to work with RWU staff, in order to see what might be done.

Jack Gates, dba Rogers Septic Service, was not in attendance for his official denial appeal before the Commission. No action was taken on Gates' request.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson pointed out that the unaccounted-for water rate had dropped to 9% for the last twelve months, something that hasn't happened for several years. Wanger asked why the budget for tank inspection/maintenance had been exceeded? Don Roberts said that he had originally planned to have half of RWU tanks inspected this year, he had gotten a "good price" from a contractor, and had all of the main tanks in town cleaned and inspected.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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