

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

April 24, 2000

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission took place at 4:00 PM, Monday, April 24, 2000, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Present were Commissioners Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, Jerry Pittman, and Lon Pepple. Beck Scott was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, Earl Rausch, and Russell Moss. Others in attendance were Deputy City Attorney Jim Clark, Ellen Casey, Jean Benson, Tim Sorrey, Tom Sissom, and Dennis Almond. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

There was a motion by Pepple, second by McLelland, to approve the March minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Ms. Ellen Casey, a resident of Dodson Road. Ms. Casey asked about when they might expect water in front of the house? She said that the spring season had been very dry, and some of her neighbors already had to haul water. Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer, said that plans had been developed for the area of Dodson Road, Stoney Brook Road, Elk Road, Rainbow Road, and Northgate Road, and that easement documents were being prepared. He said that construction could not possibly start until June, and then it would be several more months until the project was finished, but said that it would be sometime this year this year (2000).

Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, recognized Russell Moss, Field Technician on the sewer rehabilitation team, for five years of dedicated service.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson. Johnson presented the Commission with several spreadsheets showing the status of the many projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. The 1998 sewer bond issue was currently paying for \$2.9 million in sewer improvements, with another \$3.5 estimated to be spent within the next 20 months. The 1998 water bond projects totaled \$1.565 million. Johnson said that the cost of water and sewer relocations for streets and highways was projected to total over \$1,782,000 in the foreseeable future. He also presented the Commission with a report showing actual water and sewer bond expenditures. There followed several questions about the status of various projects. The reports are attached hereto and by reference a part of these minutes.

Continuing, Johnson gave a brief history of the need for additional water storage. He said that McGoodwin, Williams, and Yates (MWY) had recommended an additional 15 million gallons as late as 1997. When the 1998 water bond issue was passed, a key component had been a six million-gallon ground storage tank and a pump station. Since that time, staff had learned that Beaver Water District (BWD) would not be able to refill the tank in the hot summer time when usage was at a peak. Johnson gave the Commission his best alternatives for storage along with cost estimates for each. Finally, Johnson recommended that, if the Commission desired to use some of the bond proceeds for water

storage, that the best alternative would be to build a large elevated tank similar to the one built in 1991 at 24th and Lilac. There followed a long discussion about the relative merits of building additional transmission lines from BWD. Johnson said that (MWY) was in the process of building a very detailed hydraulic model of the entire water system, from BWD to Bella Vista. He said that the model would help the decision-makers in BWD, Rogers, Bentonville, and Bella Vista decide what to do about transmission capacity and ownership. Finally, there was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to allow the Utilities to proceed with the design and bidding of another two million-gallon hydropillar, similar to the existing one. All in favor, the motion carried.

Moore recognized Tim Sorrey, P. E., of Sand Creek Engineering. Sorrey presented a bid tabulation sheet to the Commission for the twelve-inch water main proposed to be extended from Dixieland to S. 26th St., along Laurel Road in Lowell. Sorrey said that McClelland and Son Contractors was the apparent low bidder. The low bid was \$181,855, with engineering and construction inspection would put the total at \$195,184.84, Sorrey said. He said that the Commission had previously agreed to pay for half the cost, up to \$80,000. He suggested the Commission pay for “all the meters to serve people who gave easements”. McAlister questioned some of the costs assigned to putting in water services. Finally, there was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to pay for one-half the total cost, not to exceed \$97,574.42. All in favor, motion carried.

Mark Johnson brought the Commission up to speed with the Utilities’ efforts to help residents with costs associated with relocating their household sewer lines, in those areas where new sewers were being planned. Johnson said that the RWU staff had made an effort to get plumbers interested in the project, and had asked the contractors for Phases II, III and IV for prices to move the sewer service lines. Only Seven Valleys Construction of Cassville, Missouri, the Phase II and III contractor, had been responsive, in his opinion. Seven Valleys had given a firm price of \$350 per service. Johnson recommended that the Commission approve a change order for Seven Valleys for \$18,550 for Phase II and for \$29,750 for Phase III. He recommended that the Commission agree to share the cost with the residents of other phases of the work, up to \$500 maximum, based on actual costs. He noted that the most the Commission would pay for was \$400,000 total. There was a motion by Pittman, second by McLelland, to approve the change order as described with Seven Valleys, and to pay up to \$500 toward the cost of connecting to the sewer in other phases of the work, as long as the owner agreed to connect to the sewer when the service became available. Those choosing to wait would have to bear all the cost. All in favor, motion carried

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Controller for the Utilities. Johnson presented the March financial statements and the draft FY ’01 budget for the Water and Sewer Departments. She also told the Commission that the RWU employees’ health insurance contract would end on July 1. She said that several insurance brokers were busy trying to get price quotes, but no hard figures were expected until some time in May. She said that the employees’ claim history had been very high, and that a sizable premium increase could be expected.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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