

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

May 20, 2002

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, May 20, 2002, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners in attendance were Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, Fred Wanger, and Lon Pepple. Jerry Pittman was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Mike Lawrence, Don Roberts, Stephen Ponder, and Earl Rausch. Present in the audience were E. J. Miller, Jerry Kelso, Jim Clark, Mike Charlton, Steve Baugher, Gary Carnahan, Jeff Smith, Dorothy Shelton, Gerald Fox, H. F. McClellan, Kevin Thomas, and Kirstan Conley. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

There was a motion by Pepple, Second by Wanger, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2002 Commission meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet detailing the status of the projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. He said that the contractor working on the project known as Phase VI-A sewer project was out of time; however, progress was being made, and since this was the second contractor on the job, he was reluctant to be combative with the contractor. Johnson said that the Phase VIII sewer project was about one third done with one easement left to obtain.

Continuing, Johnson said that the large water project known as Phase III was in progress and going well. He said that the Pleasant Grove Road water line was fully in service, lacking only minor cleanup. Johnson said that the design of the pump station and ground storage tank at N. 23rd St. and Lilac was continuing. He noted that a meeting was planned with beaver Water District and City of Benotnville officials to discuss the proposed buy out of the existing transmission mains. Johnson said that the water and sewer extensions to serve the proposed airport fire station and control tower would be bid next month (June 2002).

Chairman Moore recognized Shawki Al-Mahdoun, P. E., Northstar Engineering. Shawki said that he represented a landowner and a developer that wanted to build a subdivision on approximately 50 acres lying completely within the city limits of Little Flock, north of Rolling Oaks subdivision. He said that the owner wanted water and sewer services from the City of Rogers, but Benton County Rural Water District No. 1 claimed the property as its service area. Shawki said that the owner would try to do an Act 779

deannexation/annexation from Little Flock into Rogers, but needed to know if the Commission would offer sewer service to the property, without providing water service.

McLelland asked McAlister if the Commission had ever done this before? McAlister said that there were a few homes and a church on wells that were connected to the sewer system. McAlister said that collecting sewer use fees on such installations were problematic, since the water could not be disconnected for nonpayment. He said that Rogers water service should be a prerequisite for sewer service. Jim Clark, Deputy City Attorney, said that that the Commission could be sued if it tried to serve the property, since the property was protected from municipal encroachment under federal law. Moore told Shawki that the Commission would serve the property with water and sewer service, if the property were released from the rural water district, and annexed by the City of Rogers.

Moore recognized Jerry Kelso, P. E., Crafton and Tull Engineering. Kelso said that he represented Charles Reaves, developer of Shadow Valley Golf and Country Club. He indicated that water and sewer services for the first phase were practically finished. He said the developer had done some additional work at the behest of the Rogers Water Utilities staff, in order to take an existing lift station off line, and extend a water main to the owner's property line. According to Kelso, that work was worth an additional \$57,480.33. McAlister said that the costs were reasonable, and agreed that the work had been done as requested by RWU staff. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Wanger, to approve the payment to Reaves as requested by Kelso. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Earl Rausch, P. E., Design Engineer for RWU. Rausch presented the Commission with a map showing the area of Rogers south of Garret Road and west of Bellview Road. Rausch said that he had been contacted by Cooper Homes, who was investigating the costs to build a large PUD subdivision in the area. The was with gravity sewer service, Rausch said. There were already two lift stations in the area, and the PUD would would require another one, he said. Rausch recommended that the small subdivision sewer lift stations be combined into one regional lift station, to be built at the south end of the service territory boundary, and thereby open over one thousand acres to gravity sewer service. Rausch said the regional lift station and force main would cost about \$1.1 million. Rausch said that the cost for the lift station-force main could be assigned to developers in the drainage basin on a per acre basis or a per living unit basis.

McAlister said that, previously on such projects, the Commission would upsize facilities to meet its needs, and the developer would pay for that part of the cost needed for their own development. Developers that came along later benefitted from the initial infrastructure capital outlays paid for by the initial developer and/or the Commission, he said. McAlister asked Gary Carnahan, P. E., Cooper Communities, if his proposed PUD project would be feasible if fees such as described by Rausch were implemented? Carnahan said that his developer would be happy to pay his fair share, on a per acre basis. Rausch said that, if high density developments, such as apartment complexes, were going to be built, that the lift station would be bigger and more expensive. Mark Johnson said

that, while Rausch's estimate of cost was probably close, he thought the developer's contribution should be based on actual costs.

Carnahan said he thought Rausch's estimate was probably correct, and said he just needed to know his developer's fees, so that he could advise him accordingly. McLelland said he liked the concept of building a regional lift station and charging back the cost to developers. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pepple, to allow the engineering staff at RWU to proceed with the necessary design work, in order to finalize developer fees for the regional lift station/force main. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mike Lawrence, Rogers Pollution Control Facility Plant Manager. Lawrence explained that the wastewater treatment plant built in 1988 and expanded in 1998 was designed to biologically remove phosphorous, an algal nutrient, even though there were no phosphorous discharge permit limits then or now. He said that Rogers' contribution of phosphorous to Osage Creek has declined almost 83%. Last year, 2001, Lawrence said that the level of phosphorous in the effluent had averaged about 0.87 mg/l. He said that operational changes, irrigation with effluent, and chemical addition had made the reduction in phosphorous possible. He said that, two years ago when the discharge permit was renewed, he had expected a phosphorous limit but it was not forthcoming.

Now, considering all the controversy with the state of Oklahoma over phosphorous in the Illinois River, Lawrence suggested that it would be prudent to investigate the ability of the current wastewater treatment plant to reduce phosphorus. To that end, he wanted to purchase and install equipment that would provide instantaneous information on effluent phosphorous. Lawrence said that the plant already had the capability to add alum to the effluent, further reducing the level of phosphorous. How much? Someone asked. The equipment would cost about \$8300 to purchase and install, he said.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, CPA, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with current financial sheets as well as a draft copy of the Utilities' FY '03 budget proposal. Pepple asked for a "head count" and a copy of the proposed raises for Utilities employees for next year. Johnson said that she would welcome questions and comments about the budget proposal.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet showing the costs and coverage options for RWU employee major medical insurance. The only proposal was from BlueCross/Blue Shield. Johnson reported that the premium increase (13%) was less than expected for the same coverage. She said that very recently she had been given by BC/BS a proposal if RWU employees were to be insured with the City of Rogers employees in 2003. This proposal was much less than even the current premiums, Johnson said. McAlister said that RWU used to be in the same group as the City employees, but had split about 13 years ago. Now, options for employee health insurance coverage were severely limited, and RWU needed to be apart of a bigger group. The Commission agreed that it would be best if handled by the City, Moore said that he

would contact Mayor Pro-Tempore Jack McHaney about the possibility of joining the City.

Moore recognized Tom McAlister, RWU Manager, who gave a slide show on NACA, Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority. He said that Rogers and Springdale had had several meetings regarding the cooperative effort to dispose of municipal biosolids, or sludge. These meetings were progressing before the move by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to assign 0.037 mg/l total phosphorous limit to the Illinois River. McAlister said that it had been erroneously reported in various circles that NACA had been manufactured solely in order to litigate the phosphorous issue. He said that Rogers and Springdale had passed the necessary ordinances to establish NACA, and that NACA could deal with any issue involving solid waste (such as biosolids or wastewater) that they could successfully contract. McAlister said that NACA could contract the operations of treatment plants, sludge disposal facilities, and laboratories. He said that NACA could take advantage of economies of scale and save the cities of NWA money.

McLelland said that he liked the presentation, and instructed McAlister to show it to all the civic organizations. Moore said that the presentation should emphasize the protection of the White River at least as much as the Illinois River.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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