

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

June 18, 2001

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, June 18, 2001, at the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners in attendance were Jerry Pittman, Donnie Moore, and Beck Scott. Lon Pepple and Dick McLelland were absent. Utilities staff present were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Earl Rausch, Mike Lawrence, Don Roberts, and Joyce Johnson. Others in attendance were Jim Clark, E. J. Miller, Kevin Thomas, George Robins, Lori Harrison-Stone, Mark Corbett, David Sbanotto, and Evelyn Geving. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the May 21, 2001 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Moore recognized Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet showing the current status of the many projects in which the Commission was involved. Pittman asked about the 1998 Sewer project denoted as Phase V? Johnson said that proposed project included the area around Lake Atalanta on the north and west sides. Due to the residents' universal animosity toward a public sewer main in the area, and due the high cost, the project had been "shelved" indefinitely, he said.

Moore asked Johnson about the status of the New Hope Road widening project? Johnson answered that the Highway Department had not completed their plans, and the City had not secured additional right-of-way, so the three or so miles of water line to be relocated would not happen for at least another year. He roughly estimated the cost at \$200,000 per mile of pipeline.

Pittman asked Johnson about the sewer project for Acres Escondidos? Johnson said that project was part of the project known as Phase VI-A, and was currently under contract to H. Epps Construction. The project engineer was Crafton, Tull, and Associates, he said. Moore said that the contractor was proceeding very slowly, and expressed concern that the sewer line would not be built and ready for use before winter. Johnson said that the contractor and engineer had been notified of these same concerns, and that the contract called for \$500 per day in liquidated damages, assuming the contract time had expired before the project was essentially complete.

Johnson reported to the Commission regarding bids for the Prairie Creek area water line project. He said that the project had been bid in three sections, Phases VI-A, VI-B, and VI-C. He said that one contractor, DECCO, had inadvertently switched bids on B and C, becoming the apparent low bid on Phase VI-C. The apparent low bidder on VI-B, Crowder Construction, did not bid on Phase VI-C since he thought he already had one section (VI-B). When the mistake was found, both Crowder and DECCO were notified. David Sbanotto of Crowder Construction brought his bid to the Commission meeting. Johnson opened the bid and read it aloud. Crowder's bid for VI-C was lower than DECCO's correct bid for VI-C. As for VI-A, Johnson said that he was hesitant about awarding the bid to the low bidder, Red Deer, Inc., due to their apparent lack of experience with large diameter (24-inch) pipe construction. Johnson asked the Commission for a week to sort out the mess with Crowder and DECCO, and to determine whether or not Red Deer's bid was "responsible". Pittman said he would be out of town next week. There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to call a special meeting for Wednesday, June 20, 2001, at noon, to award bids on the project. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Controller for the Utilities. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet showing the proposals for employee major medical insurance. The current carrier had proposed an approximate 60% rate increase. The only other proposal was from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, for a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO). Coverages were similar, she said, and the BC/BS rate was less than the rate the Utilities were paying now. There was a motion by Scott, second by Pittman, to approve the proposal from BC/BS. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore asked about the insurance coverage for retirees that was discussed at the last meeting? Johnson said that BC/BS would not cover anyone but full-time employees in groups under five hundred members. Moore suggested that Johnson find out about the health insurance offered by the State of Arkansas, and see if the insurance premiums might be paid for retirees indirectly through the state program. Johnson said that she would find out more and report back to the Commission.

Continuing, Joyce Johnson presented the Commission with a new draft FY '02 Budget proposal, incorporating the new health insurance premiums, as well as a few planned changes in personnel. There were a few questions about some of the items in the capital projects. Pittman asked Don Roberts, Superintendent of Field Operations, about the need to pave the yard of the maintenance facility? Roberts said that the gravel surface was a source for a lot of dust and dirt in the buildings. Pittman asked Mike Lawrence, Pollution Control Facility Manager, about the need for odor control at the treatment plant? Lawrence said that the cost would probably be much less than originally thought, since the plant personnel would probably do the installation. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Scott, to approve the FY '02 budget, as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Joyce Johnson presented the Commission with financial statements for May 2001. There were no exceptions to the statements. Johnson said that, since the next month's

financial statements were year-end statements, that the sheets would not be ready for the July 16 Commission meeting. The Commission said that she could present the June statements at the August meeting.

E. J. Miller, President, Prairie Creek POA, asked the Commission about the need to enforce the water conservation measure adopted by the Commission in May. He said that some people were watering every day, some during the daylight hours, and that he had no authority to make them comply. George Robbins, a Prairie Creek resident, said that he had been in touch with Bob Anderson regarding a neighbor that would not comply with the water conservation measure, and had been told that the matter was pending with Utilities officials. Pittman said that the Commission needed to adopt a policy allowing Utilities staff to enforce the water conservation measure. McAlister said that he would have a draft policy for consideration at the special called meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Sincerely,

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

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