

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

August 21, 2006

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, August 21, 2006, in the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Don Kendall, Donna Warren, and Jerry Pittman. Lon Pepple was absent. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Earl Rausch, Everett Balk, Stephen Ponder, Tim House, William Evans, and Mike Lawrence. Others in attendance were Mike Lindsey, Laurie Harrison-Stone, Evie Blad, Drew Van Winkle, and David Todd. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:58 PM.

There was a motion by Warren, second by Kendall, to approve the July minutes as submitted. Warren, Kendall, and Moore said, "Aye". Pittman abstained. Motion carried.

Mark Johnson, Utilities Engineer, recognized Stephen Ponder, Design Engineer, for five years of faithful service to Rogers Water Utilities.

Continuing, Johnson gave the Commission a brief report regarding the several projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. He said that the Mt. Hebron water transmission line was complete. Johnson said that the Perry Road/I 540 interchange sewer relocation was finished. Johnson said that the water and sewer relocations for S. First St. were also complete.

Moore asked when the construction on New Hope Road would be done. Johnson said that he did not know for sure, but he had attended a meeting earlier that indicated that the highway work west of s. 26th St. was nearing completion (except for the bridge). He said that that much work was left to do on the east end of the project. Johnson said that the Utilities had hired a contractor to perform final adjustments to valve boxes and meter boxes when the highway contractor was finished.

Continuing, Johnson presented the Commission with a new, updated, Water Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The plan listed several major projects, estimated costs, and estimated completion dates. All totaled, the CIP listed over \$44 million in capital costs over the next 10 years.

There followed some questions regarding the list of projects and relative priorities. Moore asked about the proposed transmission main from a remote pump station to be constructed by Beaver Water District. Johnson said that Beaver Water District appeared to be very serious about the project, and its engineers were investigating various pipeline routes and locations. How long would the two existing transmission lines from Beaver last (once Bentonville built its own transmission main and detached from the system)? Someone asked. Johnson said that, depending on which population

projection you might believe, the transmission mains would be adequate until around the year 2022.

Pittman asked about water line replacements. Johnson said that there were many areas of the City that were underserved for fire protection, and that the water system needed to be replaced with larger water mains. Pittman asked which of the four water tanks listed on the CIP was the highest priority. Johnson said that another elevated tank at S.24th St at Lilac was probably the highest priority.

Moore recognized Everett Balk, Project Facilitation Engineer. Balk presented the Commission with short synopsis of the work being performed by his section. He noted that one engineer in his section had submitted his resignation. Balk said that he preferred to wait to hire another engineer for a few weeks, to see if the remaining engineers could keep up with the workload.

Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, expressed his appreciation for the work of Earl Rausch, the head of construction inspection for Rogers Water Utilities. He said that Rausch and his inspectors had been able to do more inspections with fewer personnel by streamlining their work procedures. He also noted that Rausch had most of the work on rewriting the construction specifications.

Moore introduced proposed resolution No. 07-01. McAlister said that the resolution expressed the desire of the Commission to City Council to issue \$15.38 million in bonds to help pay for capital improvements. He said that the resolution also recommended the Resolution of Intent to the Council. The Resolution of Intent would allow the Rogers Water Utilities to pay itself back out of bond proceeds for expenses incurred before the closing of the loan. McAlister said that the proposed bond would yield \$15 million in the construction fund, of which almost \$6 million would be paid to Bentonville for the purchase of that city's interest in the two transmission mains from Beaver Water District. The balance would be spent over the next three years. Mike Lindsay of Morgan Keegan, the bond underwriter, said that the Commission could expect the bond to close around November 1st. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Warren, to approve resolution No. 07-01. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized David Todd of CEI Engineering. Todd presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for the water and sewer improvements for Horsebarn Road and Stoney Brook Road. Todd recounted that the water system improvements were part of a larger project to move increased amounts of water to the area, while the sewer extension was a 12-inch main to serve the proposed commercial development on S. 52nd St. Todd said that the low bidder was Crossland Heavy, for \$1,327,136.10. He said that, based on the cost sharing proposal previously agreed to by the Commission and the developers benefiting from the project, that the Commission's share of the cost would be \$652,788.30. The balance, \$674,347.80, would be the developer's to cost share. Todd said that Crossland was a "good" contractor, and he recommended the bid to the Commission. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Kendall, to approve the bid from

Crossland Heavy, conditioned on the receipt of signed contracts from the developers to pay their share. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore said that the Commission needed to find legal counsel, since the Commission would no longer be represented by the City Attorney's office. Kendall said that the Commission should seek applicants and interview the best-qualified lawyers. McAlister said that he would advertise and distribute any résumé's received.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with financial sheets for July. She noted that water sales were flat compared to last year, but she also noted there were fewer billing days this July. There were no exceptions taken to the financials.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

File: RWWSC minutes, 8-21-06