

October 18, 2004

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission

Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, Monday, October 18, 2004, in the Council Chambers at the Rogers City Administration Building. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, and Jerry Pittman. Commissioners Lon Pepple and Fred Wanger were absent. Others in attendance were Rogers Water Utilities staff Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Mike Lawrence, William Evans, Everett Balk, Stephen Ponder, Earl Rausch, and Robert Moore. Others in attendance were Jason Kelley, Mike Rowe, John Moore, Jason Ingalls, John Keller, Brie Zickefoose, Ed Kobylinski, and Earl Jenkins. Chairman Moore declared a quorum, and called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

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

Moore recognized William Evans, Superintendent of Field Operations. Evans presented Tim Jacobs, Assistant Superintendent, with a Certificate of Appreciation for fifteen years of service to Rogers Water Utilities.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet detailing the status of the several projects in which the Commission had a financial interest. He said that the ground storage tank/pump station contractor would be finished this month. Johnson noted that the New Hope Road utilities relocations were on going. He also noted that the Pleasant Grove Road water line project was all but finished, waiting only for the road contractor to set final grades.

Pittman asked Johnson how he felt about the adequacy of the water mains being installed the growth areas of Rogers. Johnson said that it was a difficult question to answer, since growth was continuing so rapidly for such a protracted period of time, it was difficult to judge how large water and sewer facilities needed to be. He pointed out several areas in town where the issue of water delivery was being addressed by the Commission, and there were other areas where the “fix” to inadequate facilities for high end growth would be much more difficult and expensive.

Moore wanted to know about the adequacy of the sewer system in the “growth area”. Johnson said that the new areas were mostly outside the drainage basin to the wastewater plant, and pump stations were indicated. He said that, depending on the movement of the Rogers/Lowell service boundary, and the plans of developer Charles Reaves, who owned several hundred acres east of Highway 112, the City of Rogers could not serve much additional acreage.

Pittman brought up the idea of additional water storage tanks, and the need to obtain additional land while it might be purchased at a “reasonable” price. The rest of the Commission agreed, and instructed the staff to work on the problem.

Moore asked Johnson if the City ever redid their plans based on the needs of RWU and their facilities relocations. Johnson said that usually the City did not alter its design to accommodate the water/sewer facilities relocations, unless a serious design flaw was detected. He noted that the City was not under any compunction to change its plans, however.

Johnson presented the Commission with a sketch of a proposed engineering building to house present and future engineering staff for Rogers Water Utilities. His drawing showed a 90’ by 55’ building located just south of the RWU office building, where the present “engineering annex” was located. He said that he could probably fit up to five additional personnel into a cubicle farm configuration, with a few walled offices and a meeting room, for about \$36/square foot. He said that he needed the space so that he could hire additional personnel that were needed immediately, in order to effectively deal with growth issues.

There were several comments from the Commission regarding the proposed building. Would it be big enough? What about storage issues? Might there not be a second floor for storage? Johnson said that a second floor might work, but there were structural issues that would drive the cost upward. McAlister asked if the Commission might name an architect, since state law would require one. McLelland said that that was a decision to be made by staff. Finally, Pittman moved, second by McLelland, to allow the staff to proceed with the project, with final approval to be made by the Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager. McAlister said that the proposed eight million dollar bond issue to pay for water system improvements was proceeding. He showed the Commission two, twenty-year bond scenarios submitted by the underwriter, Morgan Keegan. McLelland said he thought that a twenty-five year bond, loaded on the front end, might suit the needs of RWU better, since additional bond issues would come up, and there should be some way to pay for them. Pittman recommended that Dick McLelland speak with Jim Fowler of Morgan Keegan, in order to determine the best alternative for RWU. A special Commission meeting date was tentatively set for November 2, in order to approve the sale of the bonds, prior to the passage of the bond ordinance.

Moore recognized Jason Kelley, Deputy City Attorney. Kelley said that he had several telephone conversations with Glenn Kelley (no relation), attorney for Benton County Rural Water District, regarding the release of part of its claimed water service area being developed as Camden Way Addition. Unfortunately, the draft settlement agreement was not available at the time of the meeting. He said that the settlement

agreement between RWU and BCRWD No. 1 should be ready for review by the November Commission meeting.

Moore recognized William Evans again. Evans presented the Commission with a bid tabulation for three replacement vehicles. Bob Maloney Ford was the low bidder on all three vehicles. Evans said that these were budgeted items. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the low bids for all three trucks. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Jason Ingalls of Northstar Engineering. Ingalls, representing Rick Buck and Darrow Garner, said that Prairie Creek Development desired to extend a water main into Benton County to serve 34 lots in Topflight No. 6 Addition. Pittman asked Mark Johnson if there were any problems with the request. Johnson said that there was adequate water supply for domestic use, but that irrigation demand should be curtailed as much as possible. McAlister recommended that the water extension be approved, with two conditions: 1. The addition must be limited to 34 five-eighths-inch meters, and 2. The City Council would have to approve the extension. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the extension subject to the conditions listed above. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized John Keller, P. E., Black and Veatch Engineering. Keller presented the Commission with draft copies of the Rogers Water Utilities Sewer Master Planning Study. Keller introduced others from his company: Earl Jenkins, P. E., Ed Kobylinski, P. E., and Brie Zickefoose, P. E. He said that Black and Veatch contracted to provide a sewer master plan last January. Keller said that his firm did a facilities audit, projected future flow rates, looked at the future regulations concerning the disposal of wastewater and sludge, critiqued the potential of effluent reuse and the possibility of using a regional wastewater treatment plant. Then, Keller said, his firm made some recommendations regarding necessary improvements, time frames for construction, and the cost of the improvements.

Keller presented the Commission with a Power Point presentation showing the data on population growth. He said that the average daily usage was 123 gallons/person/day. He estimated that the sewer population in 2025 would be about 115,000, and would require a wastewater treatment plant large enough to treat about 12 million gallons per day (mgd). Keller said that recent state regulations regarding soil phosphorus indices in watersheds with excess nutrients would effectively prohibit the practice of disposing sludge by land application. He said his recommendation was to dewater and dry the sludge, and have it hauled out of the region.

Keller summarized his findings on odor control, disinfection options, water reuse, and the “regional concept” of disposal of wastewater. He said that certain areas of the plant generate odors that could be controlled through the use of activated carbon. He said that there seemed to be little interest in the area for the use of reclaimed effluent, since the industrial discharges were located several miles distant from the treatment plant, and potential agriculture sites might soon be urbanized. Keller opined that the cost to

transport wastewater to a regional facility west of Cave Springs would cost up to \$19 million more than expansion at the present site, and take much more time, time Rogers could ill afford to lose, given the fact that the current facility was at its design flow now.

Continuing, Keller laid out a plan for two treatment plant expansions. Phase 1, which should start as soon as possible, would add an additional “treatment train”, rework the existing treatment trains, upgrade solids handling, rework the plant pumps station and headworks, add odor control and ultraviolet effluent disinfection, for about \$33 million. Phase 2 would add another treatment train in 10 to 12 years, for about \$17 million.

There were several questions about sludge handling and composting. Someone asked if the dried sludge could be marketed outside the region. Keller said that the sludge drier manufactures typically agreed to take all the dried sludge produced, for set period of time. The Commission thanked Keller and his associates for their good work, and accepted the report without comment.

There was a lengthy discussion about the need for additional revenues. The Commission directed the staff to come to the next meeting (November 15) with a recommendation for raising existing connection fees and a plan to administer the application of fees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Sincerely,

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

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