

# **Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission**

**November 18, 2002**

## **Minutes**

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission took place at 4:00 PM, Monday, November 18, 2002, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. Commissioners present were Donnie Moore, Dick McLelland, Jerry Pittman, Lon Pepple, and Fred Wanger. Rogers Water Utilities staff in attendance were Tom McAlister, Mark Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Don Roberts, Mike Lawrence, Stephen Ponder, and Earl Rausch. Others in the audience were Jerry Kelso, Jim Clark, John Moore, and Michael Rowe. Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

Moore recognized Jerry Kelso, P. E., an engineer with Crafton, Tull, and Associates, representing developer Charles Reaves. Kelso explained that Reaves, Developer of Shadow Valley Golf and Country Club, had declined to exercise his option to purchase a 142-acre tract east of his development. The sewer that was planned to be extended into this parcel had been shortened and downsized for Reaves' intended use. However, the RWU engineering staff required that the sewer main in question remain a twelve-inch, since the new owner already had eighty acres rezoned residential. Kelso said that the cost to upsize the main and extend the main to S. Rainbow road was \$17,115.84. McAlister said that the next developer should pay for the cost. Pittman asked the Deputy City Attorney if this was legal? Clark answered in the affirmative. There was a motion by McLelland, second by Pittman, to approve the cost share proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Mark Johnson, P. E., Utilities Engineer. Johnson presented the Commission with a spreadsheet reporting the status of the several projects in which the Commission had a pecuniary interest. Johnson reported that the Phase VI sewer project was finally completed. How many customers in Acres Escondidos have connected to the sewer? McLelland asked. Earl Rausch, project engineer, reported that most had hooked

up, but he did say that several residences had been sent letters requiring their connection to the new sewer system.

Continuing, Johnson recounted that the Phase VIII sewer project was near completion except for the jack and bore under S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. and the railroad. Johnson said that the first bore was significantly off alignment and the work had been declined. Pittman asked who the contractor was, and was not their something that could be done to avoid recurrences of the same problem? Johnson said that the boring contractor, Main Construction, was a sub of the general, APAC- McClinton-Anchor, and, unless the Commission could legally bar Main or other problematic contractors from working in the City, nothing much could be done.

Johnson reported that the design of the ground storage tank – pump station was near completion, and should be bid next month. He said that the design work on utility relocation work on New Hope Road was going to be finished a little later than hoped. McLelland asked how much of the existing water line was going to have to be moved? Johnson said that everything would need to be moved from S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. west to Prestwick Road. McAlister said that the eight-inch main in New Hope Road would be upsized to provide enhanced hydraulics in the area. McLelland asked if all the water was in the right-of-way? Johnson answered “NO”, but reminded the Commission that they would be responsible for all costs, since the City of Rogers had agreed with the Arkansas Highway Department that the city would be responsible to relocate all utilities.

Johnson presented the Commission with a change order request to add some additional sewer lines to the current RLF sewer rehabilitation contract. He said that RWU had an approved contract with Insituform, Inc. and that the staff had requested that the old 15-inch outfall sewer line running from Dixieland Road at Olrich to S. 28<sup>th</sup> near Chateau Terrace. The total change order was \$103,550, \$52,846.42 of which would come from the state RLF. The remaining \$50,703.58 would come from sewer reserve funds, he said. Johnson said the prices from Insituform were very attractive, and that the sewer main in question was in need of rehabilitation. There was a motion by Pittman, second by Wanger, to approve the change order, provided the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission agreed, also. All in favor, motion carried.

Moore recognized Joyce Johnson, Utilities Controller. Johnson presented the Commission with the financial sheets for October 2002. Johnson said the strong demand for water in September led to a better than average month, although interest income on investments was continuing to decline. Johnson said that the 1994 Sewer refunding bond issue was almost paid off. The Commission accepted the statements without exception.

Tom McAlister, Utilities Manager, told the Commission that the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA) had had its first meeting, and that officers had been chosen. The next NACA board meeting was set for the following Thursday, November 21, at 3:00 PM, in the Rogers Water Utilities Training Center. McAlister noted that the Board had asked for Statements of Qualifications from consultants in order to form a business plan and move forward on a possible sludge disposal project.

Continuing about NACA, McAlister presented the Commission with a list of challenges facing the Rogers Water Utilities regarding sewage treatment and disposal. He said that, if NACA could help him achieve his goals in an efficient and effective manner, then the Commission should consider contracting with NACA for such services.

McAlister reported about the situation regarding Oklahoma and the phosphorus standard for the Illinois River. He said that the talks with Oklahoma had broken down, and that Oklahoma had sent their rule package to EPA for federalization. He said that the State of Arkansas had pledged a full legal challenge to the regulation. McAlister said that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) had promised to impose a phosphorus limit on all the cities in NWA. He said that, since Rogers was currently meeting the promised 1ppm Total Phosphorus limit, the Commission might want to go ahead and ask for a new permit from ADEQ. McAlister said that a consent decree from a judge might protect the City from lawsuits filed by citizen groups.

Continuing, McAlister presented the Commission with list of challenges facing the Water Department. McAlister listed several projects that the Commission was going to need funding in the next ten years. Someone asked where is the money coming from? McAlister said that the staff was trying to procure state Drinking Water RLF funds for the ground storage tank/pump station and the proposed “buyout” of Bentonville’s interest in the existing transmission mains. McAlister reminded the Commission that the water department had not had a rate increase in thirteen years, and that Beaver Water District was planning an \$82 million plant expansion. He said that, as soon as Beaver settled on a rate increase, he would ask the Commission to engage a rate consultant, to look at the adequacy of the existing water rates. McLelland said that it would have been better to phase in rate increases slowly, rather than waiting for thirteen years, and bringing a large increase to the customers.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

