

Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
March 17, 2025
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, March 17, 2025, in the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street.

Present were Commissioners Travis Greene, Kathy McClure, Jene' Huffman-Gilreath and Jerry Carmichael. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Jerry Roegner, Jered Sigmon, Debbie Putman, Johnny Lunsford, Aaron Short, Dana Daniel, Jennifer Hoffman, Todd Beaver, Brian Sartain, Chene Bailey, Stephen Ponder, David Ingram, Travis Tripodi, and Brent Dobler. Robert Frazier from the Frazier Law Firm was in attendance as were Brian Maurer and Garrett McMichael with HALFF Consulting.

Chairman Carmichael called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Carmichael then called for action on the minutes from the February 24, 2025, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner Greene made a motion to approve the corrected February 24, 2025, minutes. Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized David Ingram to present an update on the FEMA fund reimbursements from the 2024 Memorial Day tornado damages. David shared his events, as well as others at RWU, from that morning. He stated that he was proud of the way the team came together during this emergency even though several team members had significant damage to their own homes. RWU's asset management program was immediately amended to include a specific "tornado damage" project within the software. All damages specifically caused by the disaster were entered under this project by RWU personnel. These items were further amended to include FEMA's appropriate cost structure and amounts. Due to this, the FEMA reimbursement process was streamlined and items such as personnel, time and equipment were readily available to give to FEMA in their requested formats. All RWU reimbursements for FEMA approved utility expenses have been received. The total amount was \$182,265.27. This number represents 75% reimbursement, the maximum available through FEMA.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the financial reports. Billed revenue in the Water department for February 2025 was up 8% from February 2024 at \$1,396,656. Water consumption was up 1% at 222,310,140 gallons. The Water department reported a net income of \$377,528 for February 2025 and YTD income of \$4,449,902.59. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 67%. Water revenues are at 73% of budget and expenses are at 67% of budget. Capital is at 32%.

The Sewer department billed revenue for the month of February 2025 is up 16% from February 2024 at \$1,694,231. Sewer consumption was up 4% at 188,194,500 gallons. The Sewer department reported a net income of \$537,689 and a YTD income of \$6,286,305.55. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is at 67%. Sewer revenues are at 69% of budget and expenses are at 65% of budget. Capital is at 25%.

Unrestricted cash reserves for February 2025 in Water are \$24,990,794 and in Sewer are \$22,432,537. Restricted funds in Water are \$3,812,161 and in Sewer are \$3,551,017. Total

restricted and unrestricted cash reserves are \$54,786,508. This is an increase of \$3,880,733 from February 2024. The 12-month rolling average for lost water remains at 6%.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Brian Sartain to present the Engineering Reports. Mr. Sartain stated that RWU reviewed 149 plans. These range from sign placements to large multi-family projects. He stated that we are in the process of working with Bentonville on our emergency connection and we are also working on easements for the transmission main connection to the Beaver Water Western Corridor Pump Station. The Hwy 12 E water main project was approved by the USACE, and we are still awaiting ARDOT approval. He also went over a few of the city projects as well. The Banz sewer replacement project will require some manhole re-work before it can be finalized. He then showed some pictures of the progress on the RPCF Solids Handling project, which still consists mainly of underground utility work. He stated that all of our planned capital improvement projects are now included in a layer in our GIS system as well as all work-in-progress so that we can minimize any damage to our system.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Todd Beaver to present the Rogers Pollution Control Facility reports. Todd went over the DMR's, Industrial Pretreatment Activities, and the FOG program. No issues to report. This is the time of year when the solids are hard to keep up with, but the team has managed them well. The RPCF treated 302.6 MG in February, correlating to 23.6 MG of I&I. With no further questions, Chairman Carmichael ended the report section of the Agenda and moved to New Business.

Todd was then recognized by Chairman Carmichael to discuss entering into a three-year agreement with SNF Polydyne to supply polymer to the Rogers Pollution Control Facility for \$1.36/lb. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Jered Sigmon to present RESOLUTION 25-07 APPROVING THE SELECTION OF FORVIS MAZARS, LLP TO CONDUCT ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITS AND PERFORM OTHER ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Forvis Mazars is familiar with our specific type of business and has a local office and personnel. References were checked and were complimentary. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. RESOLUTION 25-07 APPROVING THE SELECTION OF FORVIS MAZARS, LLP TO CONDUCT ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITS AND PERFORM OTHER ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES: AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT: AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. All in favor, RESOLUTION 25-07 passes.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Aaron Short to discuss a change order for the Oak St. Waterline (52nd to Dodson). Staff recommend approving the change order for Oak Street-Dodson to 52nd to include a water main extension along the new road in the amount of \$171,654. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, Commissioner Greene seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Travis Tripodi to present the engineering services contract for Veterans Park & Beacon Circle sewer improvements. This is an upsize to increase the capacity of the sewer lines to prevent surcharging and increase capacity in the sewer mains. Staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Half Engineers for the design of sewer improvements at Veterans Park and Beacon Circle, in a total amount not to exceed

\$435,500. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve, Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Carmichael then recognized Chene Bailey to present the bid results for the RWU Large Meter Vault Rehabilitation. Chene explained that RWU engineering had requested inspection of all large meter vaults in our system and identification of areas that need repair or replacement. A design project was initiated, designed and bid. The engineer's estimate was \$388,100. The low bid from S&K Dirtworks was \$352,811. Staff recommends the award of the Large Meter Vault Rehabilitation to S&K Dirtworks in the amount of \$352,811. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, Commissioner McClure seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Carmichael then recognized Brian Sartain to present a professional services contract for easement acquisition services along the route from southwest Rogers to the Beaver Water District Western Corridor Pump Station. RWU solicited and received multiple statements of qualifications. The firm chosen is a national firm that has local representation and positive reviews from other local governments. RWU interviewed Contract Land Staff as well. RWU staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Contract Land Staff for easement acquisition services for the Western Corridor Pump Station Water Transmission Line, at a total engagement price not to exceed \$252,685. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, Commissioner McClure seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Carmichael then recognized Brian Sartain to present Engineering Services for Sewer Smoke Testing. Brian explained that RWU has utilized Trekk in the past for smoke testing, and they have local technicians here in Rogers. Trekk will complete RWU's smoke testing requirements on the east side of Rogers. We have also identified, through GIS, shallow services that may have been impacted by the Memorial Day tornado where uprooted trees could have damaged service lines. These shallow services will be a specific part of the testing. Staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Trekk Design Group, LLC for sewer smoke testing services, in a total amount not to exceed \$69,876.50. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Carmichael then recognized Brian to present a change order for the West Poplar Street Improvements project. Brian explained that this project had an initial allowance, but that it has been exceeded, and he explained the reasons for this exceedance. Due to this, and also because RWU would like to abandon the existing asbestos cement waterline, construct new services and relocate others, the cost will be \$116,814.00. Commissioner McClure made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Carmichael then recognized Brian to present the Engineering Services Contract for Sewer Model Update to the Commission. Brian explained that our existing sewer model does not include the City of Rogers' new Unified Development Code. This new code has the potential to significantly increase population densities. Our sewer model must reflect the latest code changes so that RWU can plan appropriately. Staff requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Freese & Nichols, Inc. for the update of the Sewer model, in a total amount not to exceed \$80,000. Commissioner Huffman-Gilreath made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Greene. All in favor, motion carried.

With no further business, Commissioner Carmichael adjourned the meeting at 5:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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