



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

13 September 2011

Call To Order:

Vice Chairman Pecsí called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Pecsí

Commissioners Present:

Underhill, Mathieu, Pecsí and Bhakta

Commissioners Absent:

Cross

Others Present:

Dave Grah, Public Works Director
Deston Dishion, Public Works Superintendent
Michele Thomas, Public Works Secretary
Keith Caldwell, Interim City Administrator

Public Comment

Keith Caldwell, Interim City Administrator, introduced himself to the commission and thanked everyone for their commitment and service.

Correspondence

None

(1) Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Underhill moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting as written and motion carried.

New Business:

(2) SCADA demonstration

The SCADA system is web-driven and, when complete, will control and allow staff online access to our Well 4, Well 2, Storage Tank, Lift Station, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Aerators, and Digesters. Staff will be able to view and monitor water levels, on/off points, alarms, tank level and flows. Dishion demonstrated our new SCADA system on the overhead using a computer for the commission to view. Dishion went through the system and explained how staff

is able to monitor various areas and they now have the capability to control levels and flows using the computer.

Underhill was concerned about the security of the system, who has access, and what functions users have the ability to do within the system. Dishion explained that Public Works employees have a user id and password. The users can be listed as administrator, operator, or guest. Only administrators are able to make changes to the system. A log is generated listing who was on the system and if any changes were made. At this time, Dave Grah, Deston Dishion, and Mike McDermott are the administrators. The crew is listed as operators and only has the capability to acknowledge alarms and will still go to the facility to fix any problems that arise.

One change recently made using SCADA is running Well 2 exclusively during the night. Previously, the well would run slowly all day which is inefficient. Dishion also shared with the commission that the highest water usage is between 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. which is most likely due to irrigation.

Grah emphasized the importance of SCADA with how the system works, making modifications, and how the changes will make our system work better or worse. The value this system brings is that less could go wrong and we can deal with problems more quickly and effectively. SCADA has provided a window into how the system operates and how it could be improved. We would not have this information without SCADA. Over time, we look forward to electrical cost savings as well.

Old Business:

(3) Water tank information

Grah talked about the project the City has had with constructing a new water storage tank. The site our existing million gallon tank is located has two spaces available for additional tanks. Until recently, the state had storage requirements for emergencies and we were not in compliance. Over the past few months, we began work with Resource Concepts Incorporated on building a new tank. As the consultant worked on the project, it was determined we did not need additional storage to meet state requirements. We also realized we did not need the extra storage for emergencies, our backup generators should allow us to function properly in an emergency. Our generator is capable of running Well 4, Well 2, and the wastewater plant. We also have two wells that operate under Edison and one under DWP.

Grah feels we are at the point that it does not make sense to move forward building a new tank. Although, we are still working through other ideas associated with the tank. One area is the line going from Well 4 to the tank which drains completely dry with no pressure to keep contamination out and is a concern for the City as well as the state. We are also looking forward to a replacement of Well 4, possibly a test well. There is potential for an additional well at the Well 4 site and possibly automation of valves at the tank to improve system pressure. As we gather more SCADA data and have more experience with SCADA, we will discover more opportunities to enhance the system. The tank project is no longer considered a tank project although we intend to work with the consultant to implement some of the improvements associated with the project.

(4) Meter Readings

Water meters are used for informational purposes only. There were no significant changes in readings from previous months during this summer.

(5) Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

This is the second fiscal year staff has been keeping track of capital and non capital balances. The sewer balance is about \$150,000 higher than a year ago. Most of this is related to the slow progress with the Headworks project. Work should start on the project soon. The water balance is about \$400,000 lower than a year ago due to Project A and a couple water line projects completed. Without expenditures related to a large capital investment in a new storage tank, the balance will climb. Staff will look towards opportunities to replace water lines that need replacing and other work associated with the tank. It was noted that in both water and sewer there were large revenues in July due to customers taking advantage of a 5% discount by paying their water sewer bill for the year in advance.

(6) Public Works reports for July and August

During the month of July, the Iris Street and North Second Street water improvements projects were completed. Public Works crew repaired a leak on a service on Maple Avenue. Bacterial sampling was initiated on Well 1 to ensure the well is ready to use in the event of an emergency. Crew continued yearly main line valve exercising. Maintenance work for an upgrade was performed on the Johnston Drive Lift Station. Crew exposed and repaired a sinkhole on North Warren. A mail box on South Main Street in front of Alpine Signs was moved to create a parking space.

For the month of August, crew constructed new water main and installed a new fire hydrant at the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department Training Center. Minor repairs were made to all fire hydrants within the Fire Training Center. A leak on a main line under West Line Street near Pioneer Lane was repaired. Crew completed the main line valve exercising. Dishion attended Emergency Response Training provided by California Rural Water Association. Crew completed installation of conduit and pull boxes from sewer pond aerators to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to accommodate SCADA equipment. Crew repaired two main line sewer breaks under North Main Street in front of the movie theatre. Annual maintenance work was performed on the north clarifier at the WWTP.

Staff and Commission Reports:

Grah went over the Headworks Project progress, stating the project is moving ahead slowly. The equipment to be used has been identified and we are currently working on construction documents for a related concrete project.

The City is looking forward to the flow assessment of different parts of the wastewater system, manhole elevation surveying, and automated sludge transfer hopefully the next year.

Dishion shared an article with the commission regarding Sacramento's water consumption. Sacramento states they have one of the state's largest rates of per-capita water consumption which they are consuming about 280 gallons per day. This is less than half of the City of Bishop's daily water consumption. Dishion figured out that over the past eight months, we have

averaged 470 gallons per day per person, with July alone at 808 gallons per day. The state average is listed at 192 gallons, a level the state hopes to cut to 155 by 2020.

Items to be Discussed at the Meeting of 8 November 2011:

- Water tank information
- Meter readings
- Public Works reports for September and October
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

Vice Chairman Pecsì adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, 8 November 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Joe Pecsì, Vice Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary