



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

8 November 2011

Call To Order:

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Cross

Commissioners Present:

Underhill, Cross, Pecsí and Bhakta

Commissioners Absent:

Mathieu

Others Present:

Dave Grah, Public Works Director
Deston Dishion, Public Works Superintendent
Michele Thomas, Public Works Secretary
Jim Ellis, City Council Member

Public Comment

Dishion introduced Council Member Ellis to the commission.

Correspondence

None

(1) Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Underhill moved to approve the minutes of the 13 September 2011 meeting as written and motion carried.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

(2) Meter Readings

It is noticeable with the recent meter readings that irrigation has began to slow down. There will be a few more meters added to our spreadsheet from the hospital remodel. Except for new construction, the city does not anticipate to install additional meters than what is currently in

place. Meters are used for informational purposes only. The city does not charge by water meters at this time.

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

The sewer cash balance is trending down due to the ongoing implementation of the SCADA system. We are also in the process of a significant upgrade to the Johnston Drive Lift Station, converting over to a different air compressed system.

The water cash balance is starting to climb. Without the anticipated new tank project the balance will continue to rise. The staff's intentions are to move ahead with needed water line replacements. We are also looking forward to the additional work that was included in the new tank project which will have an impact on the cash balance. The City Council will be considering a work order related to the work associated with the new tank project at Monday night's council meeting. The related work is for the pipe that runs from Well 4 that lifts water out of the ground and dumps it down to the tank. The pipe currently does not have positive pressure which creates a contamination risk. The estimated cost of the work order is \$7500.00, for the consultant cost.

Pesci questioned why we would have continued rate increases if we are not going forward with the tank project or not having any huge projects scheduled for this year. Grah explained that the bulk of the funds in our cash balance go into ongoing replacement of our water lines that are at the end of their useful life. We do have the Church Street Water Line Project scheduled for next summer along with the water line between Well 4 and the tank. Pesci also asked Grah what the ending cash balance would be at the end of the fiscal year.

Grah explained that fees, between \$400,000 - \$500,000 a year, are built into the cash balances for capital expenditures. If this money is spent each year, the cash balances would remain the same. Without spending funds on the new tank project, the city can focus on water line replacements. Since the beginning of rate increases in 2004, the City has replaced roughly 5% of deteriorated water lines. Other remaining funds in the balances cover operating expenses such as electrical cost, staff cost, vehicle fuel and office related costs. Our largest revenues are recorded in July when payments are brought in for the yearly discount and income goes down the rest of the year.

(4) Public Works reports for September and October

During the month of September, crew replaced a galvanized $\frac{3}{4}$ inch water service with copper. Pothole work had been done on Warren Street to help determine which water mains need to be replaced with the future street project. Aquatic Inspections made their every two year cleaning and inspecting to the 1 million gallon storage tank. Dishion updated the Bacteria Sample Site Plan to include Triggered Source Monitoring. If a water sample comes back positive, we need to test our wells for E. coli as a state mandated rule.

In sewer, a new manhole was installed on Main Street. Crew did grease clean up at the waste water plant. Preliminary survey work to replace 1000 feet of sewer main in the City Park was started. Water samples were taken from all the wells to help us and ESCSD determine why the

district has low alkalinity in their source water. SCADA work continues and about 90% of the work is now completed.

Throughout October, crew replaced a water service on East South Street. Potholing continued in various locations along South Warren Street. Staff began work with Resource Concepts to design a solution to keep the 12 inch main full between Well 4 and the storage tank. Grah and Dishion visited three waste water treatment plants that use similar equipment that has been proposed by our consultant to be used in our Headworks project. Mike McDermott, Public Works Supervisor, attended a trade show to see an example of a new and clean screen like the one proposed for the Headworks project. Public Works crew installed a new roof that was leaking on the Johnston Drive Lift Station. Crew also began the installation of the new compressor system at the lift station.

Underhill asked if we will be doing our street sweeping program and if leaves cause problems in the sewer system storm drains. Dishion said that problems do arise due to leaves but with the new inlets we have installed we have less issues. Also, only a very small number of inlets are connected to the sewer system.

Staff and Commission Reports:

Grah added to the previous conversation pertaining to the cash balances that looking at the schedule for the next rate study we would get started by releasing a Request for Proposals August 2012.

With the Headworks Project, work is continuing but slowly. We still need to see a screen in action without a grinder in front of it. We also need a good understanding of how the consultant will create quality plans we are able to go out to bid with because the present plans are not good quality.

At the 14 November City Council meeting, the council will be considering an amendment for \$18,000.00 to the SCADA contract to add SCADA at Well 1. Well 1 is a standby well because of fluoride.

Pecsi asked if the amendment to SCADA had previously been discussed with the commission. Dishion stated that at our September meeting, there was discussion about the additional work related to the tank project and also that as we gather more SCADA data, we will discover more opportunities to enhance the system. The idea of this amendment came up after the last commission meeting. The Water Sewer Commission meets every other month and is an advisory committee which does not take action.

The Sewer Pond Pasture Lease expires 31 December 2011. The current lessee, Roy Boothe, is interested in renewing the lease with the city.

Cross commented on the article from the Inyo Register regarding grants for water projects. He stated that the work involved with filling out the paperwork for the grant is very extensive. Mammoth Community Water District has asked for \$100,000.00 and has not been guaranteed the funds yet.

Pesci asked to have a copy of the next rate increase for the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 fiscal years along with the percentage increase per year.

Items to be Discussed at the Meeting of 10 January 2012:

- Water sewer rate increases for next two fiscal years including percentages
- Meter readings
- Public Works reports for November and December
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

Chairman Cross adjourned the meeting at 7:46 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, 10 January 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Forrest Cross, Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary