



CITY OF BISHOP

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Minutes

Water and Sewer Commission

12 March 2013

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Pecsí.

(3) Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Mathieu, Pecsí, Cross, Martin and Bhakta

Commissioners Absent:

None

Others Present:

David Grah, Public Works Director
Michele Thomas, Public Works Secretary

(4) Public Comment

Ken Sample, owner of Inyo Shell located at 1290 North Main Street, commented on the rate increase to service stations that took place during the last rate study. It seems to him that the sewer rates for service stations increased by 555%. Sample also stated that he owns gas stations in other cities in California and the City of Bishop's fees are the highest. Sample is interested in getting involved with the upcoming rate study. Cross explained that the rates are based on the overall usage for the City of Bishop. The industry standard is to then divvy things up into a percentage bases. The percentage bases and the overall cost the city occurs is how we come up with the actual dollar amount to charge each category. The dollar amount won't be the same in every city, but the fraction of the overall amount that each category pays will reflect throughout the different cities. Sample feels there are more variables to charging service stations than by island count alone. Sample also feels that the study should have looked at fast food establishments to charge for usage in the same way they are charging service stations if excessive restroom usage is the main factor. Grah recommended that Mr. Sample and he along with Willdan, the consultant for the current rate study, conduct a teleconference to discuss the concerns brought up this evening. Thomas will also notify Mr. Sample when each Water Sewer Commission meeting takes place so he may attend.

(5) Correspondence

Letter from Dave Grah to Jan Clover dated 15 January 2013.

(6) Approval of the Minutes

Vice Chairman Cross moved to approve the minutes of the 08 January 2013 meeting as written and motion carried.

(7) Reorganization – Election of Officers

Chairman Pecsí turned the nominations over to the Dave Grah, Public Works Director. A call for nominations for the position of chairman was made. Commissioner Bhakta nominated Joe Pecsí for a second year term. No further nominations were received. Roll call was taken to close the nominations for chairman and passed unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken for the re-election of Pecsí for Chairman. Ayes: Bhakta, Martin, Mathieu, Cross, and Pecsí. Joe Pecsí will serve a second one-year term as Chairman.

Re-elected Chairman Pecsí opened nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Pecsí nominated Forrest Cross for a second year term. No further nominations were received. Roll call was taken to close the nominations for vice chairman and passed unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken for the re-election of Cross for Vice-Chairman. Ayes: Bhakta, Martin, Mathieu, Cross, and Pecsí. Forrest Cross will serve a second one-year term as Vice-Chairman.

(8) Rate Study

Grah stated that the rate study is starting to move along. Grah had a teleconference on Friday, 8 March with Willdan. Willdan is slightly behind according to the planned schedule. Grah doesn't feel there will be any issues with them catching up. The commission should be expecting a draft recommendation from the consultant at their May meeting. Grah will share with the commission information as it comes in from now until the May meeting. The idea is for the commission to review the draft report recommendations and ask for any revisions. The revisions will be presented at the July commission meeting and the commission will review and make any final changes at that time. The commission will then make their recommendations to the City Council in September. The council will then consider the recommendations and approve notices for public hearings set for October. The rate hearing will take place in December for any rate adjustments going into place in July 2014.

Pecsí asked if there will be an opportunity for the general public to meet with the consultants. Grah stated that there is nothing proposed in the schedule for an additional public meeting besides the regular Water Sewer Commission meetings and City Council meetings. Pecsí feels it would be beneficial to plan a meeting, like the meetings that take place when a new street project is proposed, where the public can make comments and voice their opinion to the consultant without having to address the commission. Pecsí added that this gives the public an opportunity to discuss their concerns at the beginning of the rate study process when it is easier to make changes rather than wait until the public hearings at the end of the year after the study has been completed. Cross reminded the commission about the last rate study and the lack of public involvement. Cross doesn't think a separate meeting is necessary. Grah said that staff will do their best in advertising the upcoming commission meetings in hopes for more public

involvement. Peci asked if it would be more feasible to have an open public meeting in the evening prior to the start of the 14 May Water Sewer Commission meeting. Cross agreed that it would be better than scheduling a separate meeting date. Martin asked at what point are users notified of the proposed new rates. Grah explained that at the end of the process Proposition 218 takes place and notices are sent out. Grah added that staff does its part to notify the public of upcoming commission and council meetings when the rate study will be discussed.

The commission agreed to hold a meet-and-greet with the consultant in the evening of 14 May prior to the regularly scheduled commission meeting. Staff will send out letters to all users and property owners inviting them to the meeting with the consultant along with news releases for the local media.

(9) Meter Readings

With warmer weather coming to Bishop, water use will rise. Mr. Sample commented on the comparison between Giggle Springs Gas Station and Our Water Works Car Wash and why the gas station uses as much water as the car wash. Grah stated that when the car wash was originally developed, they were to recycle their water although there is no indication this is being done. Mr. Sample commented that Giggle Springs has an ice machine that uses a lot of water. Bhakta added that Giggle Springs washes down their parking area every night. It was noted that Mr. Sample's gas station is not one of the businesses with a meter. Meters are for informational purposes only.

(10) Cash balances and revenue and expenditures update

The final payment for the screen will have an impact on the sewer balance. The Grit agreement was also approved for \$120,000. The water balance is up and there are couple projects to be completed soon. One of the projects is the Clarke Street Water Line project and the other is the Storage Tank project.

(11) Public Works reports January and February

Bhakta asked which business on the 600 block of North Main Street had a plugged sewer with large volumes of grease. Grah believes it was caused by Schat's Bakkery or possibly Jack's Restaurant. Staff will find out which business caused this and get back to the commission. Peci asked if a letter was sent to the business and Grah stated he is currently in the process of drafting letters to restaurants with grease issues.

(12) Staff and Commission reports

Thomas brought up ideas for the rate study concerning rates billed to single family and other facilities. It would be useful for these category's amounts to end in whole dollars if possible. Grah also added that this could be beneficial with avoiding error and limiting staff time tracking down errors.

Grah updated the commission on projects. The Headworks concrete work is complete and the screen is installed and in operation. The screen is causing more back up than anticipated which will impact the trunk project. The manufacture specifications stated to expect about a 3/10th foot elevation drop from above the screen to below the screen. We are experiencing close to a foot which has an impact of the flow coming into the plant. The Trunk Line project will raise the trunk and make it steeper than originally anticipated. The Headworks project total cost is \$380,000.

At last night's City Council meeting, the council approved the purchase of the Grit Equipment. This is the final work on the Headworks project which should be done in three months.

The preliminary design for the Trunk Line project is underway. With the screen impacting the design of the trunk and now with the trunk needing to be higher, it may conflict with Eastern Sierra Community Services District (ESCSD) line where we cross. We won't be able to get under the line anymore and going over the top puts us up into the bottom of the canal. This project will take some thought to get by ESCSD's line. The environmental and final design for the project still needs to be completed and hopefully by this summer will be ready for construction. Although it could be delayed until funding is available, which could be fall or later.

The next big sewer project will be project to automate the sludge transfer process. Automation will allow us to do the transfer more continuously which will improve the treatment and ensure the city will stay within the limits of our permit with Lahontan. There may be significant cost savings for the project over what had been estimated previously.

The Tank project is in design with the plans and specifications coming together. Hope to construct this fall when water usage is down.

There has been no recent news on the proposed breweries coming to the city.

ESCSD is an important partner of the City of Bishop. The district handles sewerage collection and treatment for the Bishop area outside of the city. Unfortunately, the relationship has been rough at times over the years. Recently, staff has been working very well with the district on installation of an additional monitoring well at the plants. We are also working on updating the agreement we have between them to better reflect actual practices and to allow for more in the future.

Cross asked if the proposed monitoring is related to groundwater nitrate issues. Grah says he doesn't see a nitrate issue but the district has identified one. We are anxious to work with the district on the issue. We have been improving our treatment process with the installation of baffles. The district is trying to understand ground water patterns in the area. We are working with the district to add the monitoring wells to aid in this understanding.

Cross asked about previous discussion regarding solar installation at the sewer plant. Grah said that he would like to meet with Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD), including Cross, to get a clear idea of the analysis MCWD did on their project. Cross stated that MCWD is generating 100% of their power consumed over the year.

Bhakta asked staff to send out letters to all hotel owners with a swimming asking them to dispose of pool water into the sewer system and not out into the street.

Mathieu addressed Mr. Sample explaining that rates have increased dramatically in the past years because the city had never raised rates in prior years. Because of the lack of rate increases, the systems have begun to deteriorate. Grah added that from the last rate study, the need for future capital replacement is down because of all the work that has been done in recent years.

Items to be Discussed at the Meeting of 14 May 2013:

- Rate Study
- Meter readings
- Public Works reports for March and April
- Cash balance and revenue and expenditures update on water and sewer reserves

(13) Adjournment

Chairman Pecsì adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Joe Pecsì, Chairman

Michele Thomas, Secretary