WATER BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Oliver Springs Water Board was called to order on April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Chris Hepler. All were present except Gary Stinnett, who had an excused absence.

Motion by Craze and second by Shillings to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. All voted aye.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER TREECE:

A. The Water Department is working to repair all water leaks as they are identified.

B. C.R. Barger and Sons, Inc. is nearing the completion of the Water Loss Grant and will begin repairs, weather permitting, of the project disturbed yards. City Manager Treece will meet with Project Director Ricky Barger to review the work areas, yards, roads, and driveways where repairs are required. With the coming of Spring, the repair work will begin within the next two weeks in order that citizens may have their property restored.

C. On Monday, March 31, 2014, Clinton Utility Board was installing new power poles on Airport Road and cut into the ten (10) inch water main leading to our main water tank. The repairs took approximately 6.5 hours. Clinton Utility Board agreed to relocate the power pole to a new location that would not interfere with the access to the waterline by the Water Department in that area.

D. All approved repairs for the several lift stations have been completed.

E. The I & I work crew has completed the following items over the past week.

1. Audited local food service establishments to insure that each is abiding by the FOG Ordinance. The audit at Pizza Hut revealed that the grease tank levels looked much higher than were indicated, and Pizza Hut pumped the grease interceptor and determined that Pizza Hut was having a large amount of water intake due to missing or damaged clean out caps. Pizza Hut was directed to replace these clean out caps in order to prevent the FOG levels from causing sewer line issues.

2. The lift stations have been checked several times throughout the week to ensure that all levels are within normal parameters and all equipment is operating as required.

3. Two sewer services on Railroad Avenue were capped.

4. Installed cap at PD and dressed area behind PD.

5. Reorganized all parts and tools at sewer plant so the parts could be easily located and reordered when low. This will ensure less wasted time when parts are required on the job.

6. Located sewer tap for Mr. Coker.

7. Cameraed sewer line on Hen Valley Road. The sewer line break was located and repairs are being completed.

8. The sewer backup on Oak Circle was caused by a large root mass. As the Town's equipment would not cut through the large root mass, Kingston was called to assist with heavier equipment. The sewer line will be camered by the end of the week, weather permitting, to see if any sewer line sections must be replaced.

F. The preliminary 2014-2015 Water and Sewer Department Budget is presented. Due to the projected increase in health insurance costs, several options are available for consideration. Optional rate increases to cover the required loan for the sewer plant repairs and the roof of the water plant are also presented.

G. GRW and Community Development have assisted in obtaining loan quotes from SRF and Rural Development. The SRF loan interest rate would be at 0.88 percent for twenty (20) years and the RD loan would be 2.97 percent for thirty eight (38) years. Break down sheets are provided. Mrs. Treece recommended that the Water Department should not finance a plant repair for longer than its depreciation schedule or usable life. For a sewer plant, the depreciation schedule or usable life would approximately twenty to twenty five years. City Manager Treece is willing to discuss these budget problems with any individual at any time.

COMMENTS FROM WATER BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Walker opened discussion, joined in by several others, as to the purchasing and using of hand tools. Mr. Walker recommended that quality tools be purchased that come with a lifetime guarantee. Mr. Shillings observed that it is common from employees to lose tools, and if a tool is lost, a lifetime guarantee does not help much. Mrs. Treece stated that she tries to purchase tools locally as much as possible.

Mr. Walker asked and Mrs. Treece advised that the leaks and other problems found on the backhoe were due to inspection prior to use.

Mr. Holland observed that Knoxville had experienced a very large water line leak on an eighteen inch diameter downtown water main line, and discussion was held as to Knoxville's problems in repairing this large water line, with water loss and other problems, as compared to the repairing of water lines, water loss, and other problems experienced by the Oliver Springs Water Department.

Mr. Holland asked and Mrs. Treece explained about a bill that was paid in the Water Department.

Extensive discussion was held as to the TDEC inspections and requirements of the sewer plant, the engineering study, the changes by TDEC over these last several months of various requirements, and the need for and cost of substantial sums of money to be obtained possibly by grant funds and loans funds.

COMMENTS FROM WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS:

Gaynor Byrge advised that on Friday, during repairs to a nearby sewer line, her rental house was flooded with sewer efluent. Mrs. Treece advised that she had reviewed the damage and proceeded to give a report on what she saw. Mrs. Treece advised that the back flow was created due to a root ball in the sewer line, and the work crew was trying to cut out the root ball, and use pressure to help blow it out. The problem was turned into the Town's insurance company. Mrs. Byrge stated that the smell was so bad from Friday to Monday that it was difficult for her to live in her house, and she was staying with relatives. The Town's insurance adjustor has inspected the problem and taken steps to clean the problem by hiring Serve Pro to clean. However, chemicals, several large ventilation fans, and high heat in her house were used with the clean up. However, the insurance company will not allow her a place to stay while the house was being repaired. The smell in the house is horrible and it is difficult if not impossible to live in the house. Mrs. Byrge asked if the Water Board Chairman could talk with the insurance company to determine if something might be resolved. After additional discussion, motion by Cox and Second by Shillings to authorize the Water Board Chairman to contact the insurance company to try and offer assistance to Mrs. Byrge, and if the assistance cannot be obtained at this time, then authorize the Water Board Chairman to spend up to three hundred dollars ($300.00) at his discretion to give her a place to stay until Monday. All voted aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

With no further business to come before the Water Board, upon motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph H. Van Hook
Water Board Secretary

APPROVED:

Chris Hepler
Water Board Chairman

WB 4-3-14