

WATER BOARD MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Oliver Springs Water Board was called to order on May 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Chris Hepler. All were present except Mr. Stinnett and Mr. Brummert, who had excused absences.

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

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER:

A. The main shut-off water valve at the water plant used when water is purchased from A.C.U.B. was found to be faulty and costing the Town for water purchases not intended and accordingly was replaced.

B. Mr. Hassan A. Sanaat of TDEC conducted a "surprise" spot inspection on Friday, April 26, 2013 at the water plant. All was found to be in good order, but the written report has not yet been received. Ms. Treece will advise the results upon receipt of the written report.

C. Ms. Treece has spoken with Grants Administrator Evan Sanders and Engineer Chris Trico as to the Foxwood culvert repair. There is a possibility that the water loss grant will allow the Town to replace this culvert due to its location, as water lines to be repaired run through the same area. However, there is still a possibility that a portion or all of this repair cost could be borne by the Town.

D. The water department received a letter from the Water and Wastewater Financing Board (WWFB—Mrs. Joyce Welborn) dated April 9, 2013, who advised that the Town should increase the water and sewer rates not less than fifteen (15%) percent to twenty (20%) percent in order to come into compliance with state regulations. If a loan repayment cost is budgeted, the rate increase possibly could be as great as thirty (30%) percent for the next fiscal year.

E. After making a few minor repairs, the polymer system is now feeding correctly to both the drying beds and the dewatering box. The sewer plant had wasted approximately 60,000 gallons, which is an improvement.

F. Due to the large amount of rainfall over the past week, a few overflow areas have been reported throughout the Town as well as at the sewer plant. Until the Town is able to reduce the amount of grit/solids in the EQ basin, the Town will continue to have this issue due to reduced capacity.

G. Another 2013/2014 fiscal year water and sewer fund budget workshop needs to be scheduled. Extensive discussion followed as to the possibility of the needed repairs and improvements to the sewer plant and any loan funding to pay for these repairs. It was observed that no engineering study had been performed wherein the exact work to be performed, bid specifications, and cost estimate was available, resulting in the repair project not being ready for bids, ready for any type of loan amount and application, and "shovel ready" for the work to begin. Ms. Treece advised that the engineering firm had estimated a cost of \$60,000.00 to obtain this engineering study. Discussion followed as to whether or not the repair work should be done in one project at one time or done in several projects over several years. Mr. Cox indicated that he would not vote on a loan for the sewer plant improvements unless there is a plan. The chairman advised that he was going to meet within the next several days with Inspector West, and that no action should be taken until after that meeting.

H. All repairs were made to the air line at the sewer plant and it is now functioning as required.

I. Ms. Treece will meet with Ms. Welborn at 8:30 a.m. Monday morning.

COMMENTS FROM WATER BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Walker asked if any water and sewer bill relief could be given to the carwash at Tri County Mall due to the large volume of water purchased, and after discussion, no relief could be given.

Mr. Craze asked City Finance Officer Ramona Walker about the water department reserves, and she indicated that she does not handle the water department budget and is not familiar with the amount of reserves.

Mr. Holland asked about the increase in cost of the chemicals, and Ms. Treece advised that this is due to the problems with the processing of the solids at the sewer plant. As soon as these problems are resolved, the chemical costs should be reduced.

COMMENTS FROM WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

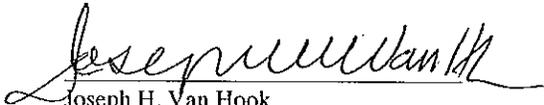
None.

NEW BUSINESS:

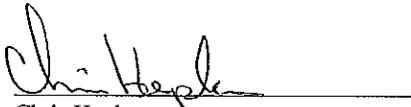
After discussion, the chairman scheduled a water and sewer department budget workshop for Monday, May 6, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

With no further business to come before the water board, upon motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph H. Van Hook
Water Board Secretary

APPROVED:


Chris Hepler
Water Board Chairman