

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 14, 2001
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Watkins, Vice Chairman
Chris Venice
Chris Cofty
Tony Parrott
Dr. George Patton

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Bill McNally
Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Watkins at 8:10 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 24, 2001.

Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 24, 2001. There was no opposition.

II. CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY DOOR PRIZE.

Tony Parrott explained that, in honor of National Water Week in May, we planned to have a Customer Appreciation Day at the office. Our customer service representatives would like to award a door prize and it had been suggested the door prize be one month's free water - a minimum worth of \$16.00. He asked the Committee for their thoughts on this. Bill McNally did not feel it would be a good idea to have free water as the prize. It was noted that, if this plan was implemented, we should limit it to residential users only. Since it was to be drawn from the names of customers signing up when they came into the office to pay their bill, it would most certainly be residential users, but it was decided there should be a disclaimer in our invitation which limited it to residential customers. A suggestion that we have a supplier donate a prize was rejected as not good policy. It was also decided that a more appropriate gift would be a bag of prizes such as those that could be collected from the memorabilia being sold by the County - tee shirts, sweat shirts, etc. Bill McNally offered to furnish such a gift bag with his own funds and it was decided this was a more appropriate way to go.

III. DISCUSSION OF BIDDING METER AND LINE INSTALLATION.

Jim Mallett has made a recommendation that Tony feels would be worth considering to hem up the costs on the water lines that are being contracted out. He feels the best thing to do is prepare contract documents with specifications with detail sheet listing the various items that could be required in the course of construction, then actually bid one foot of water line (for various size pipe) and get prices for everything before bidding the annual contract. It would also include erosion detail, grassing, bond requirements, etc. We would be bidding the job, on an annual contract, with everything priced out. By not having a unit price, it causes some problems. For instance, Gordy Construction, who now has a contract with us, has just come back to us with costs for some items that were not in his contract, that Jim Mallett feels are excessive. It was discussed whether the two new projects should come under this system but Jim said they would have to be bid anyway so we shouldn't hold them up unnecessarily. It was suggested that we do a composite over the foot of pipe. Mr. Parrott said it would look strange because we would have to take what they are bidding and add to it to get these prices. Mr. Mallett pointed out that we should set a yearly limit for the annual contractors for what can be done without going back before the Board. We need to decide what that figure is up front. This would give Mr. Parrott a certain amount of flexibility to go forwarded on some that needed to be done immediately. Gordy's was over \$300,000 for six short water lines. We are working now, Mr. Parrott said, to have water line extensions a part of our budget.

There was a discussion about contracting out the boring or buying a boring machine but it was determined, no more bores than we do, it would not warrant the liability issues that could arrive from it.

Our contracts are going to be yearly contracts which will outline a range. Contractor bonds will be based on costs for each job - not on the yearly contract. Blanket bonds to cover the contractor for the year won't work because he might be buying a bond for a certain amount and then we do not give him much work that year. Bill McNally feels there should be a maximum line length assigned to the work the annual contractor will do. Above that, the jobs will be done on separate bids and the annual contractor should be made aware that any job above a certain length and with certain parameters would be bid out to another contractor. There would not be a dollar limit specified.

IV. WATER BAN AND DROUGHT DISCUSSION.

Tony Parrott pointed out that Lake Horton and Lake Kedron are within two feet of being full as of this morning. We had a Flint River pump damaged and a control valve on high service pump out of order - both have been fixed and installed which means we are within 95% of everything working at one time, which is about where we stay. If we can get two more feet of water in the lakes, we should be able to handle the summer demand.

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The new plant is to come on line end of May and we think he will make it by May even though the contractor is saying June.

Mr. Parrott brought up for discussion the plaque for the water plant recognizing those involved. He asked everyone to look over the draft and advise of any changes that needed to be made prior to submitting to Commissioners for approval. He thinks it will say June instead of May. Chris Cofty is going to ask Commissioners how their name should appear and discuss any other ideas they might have. There was discussion about listing all Commissioners who contributed, during their tenure, to the project. Mr. Parrott said it had been done previously because our projects took so long.

V. REQUEST FOR FIRE HYDRANTS FOR CEDAR TRAIL.

There was a letter enclosed from Town of Tyrone concerning the possibility of upgrading water lines in specified subdivisions in Tyrone to upgrade the quality of fire protection. Mr. Parrott had considered a pressure reducing valve station at Simpson where it ties onto Cedar Trail but high maintenance would be a problem. Failure could be a disaster. You might as well just replace the pipe. He pointed out that we have 200 fire hydrants in the system that do not meet the 1,000 gpm pressure for fire flows. This would be a considerable undertaking to upgrade all of them. His opinion is we should give priority to those people who do not have water as compared to upgrading certain areas to handle adequate fire flows. Bill McNally pointed out that, increasingly, we are going to have to handle the fact that people expect adequate fire protection to be a by-product of having County water serving their property. This should be a part of our aim from a position of County liability and we should have the Fire Department and Water System work together with that in mind. Tony Parrott pointed out that, for quite some time now, we have been meeting the 1,000 gpm requirement. The problems mostly come into play with the older developments.

Bill McNally thinks we need to have Board of Commissioners write a letter to the Town of Tyrone suggesting that they also need to allow development considering the availability of water to the projects. Not all the costs of upgrading the lines should belong to Water System - developers should bear part of the costs. Mr. Parrott pointed out that flow on Grace Lane, which is mentioned in their letter, is better than previously because of system upgrades.

Chuck Watkins asked for the number of hydrants in the system now and Mr. Parrott indicated he would get him that and also the number of readings that were less than 1000 gpm in the system. Mr. Watkins thinks we need to point out how many we have that are better than they were years ago.

Tony Parrott pointed out, when concern was expressed, that we started out several years ago requiring anyone doing commercial development submit to us a site plan before we sell them a meter - this includes those lines existing years ago. In the Technical Review Committee for the

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County, the Water System points out where we don't have the fire flows. Bill McNally thinks we need to establish developments with a certain number of houses, the City needs to come and review it with the Water System, but Mr. Parrott said we already do that. Problems are with areas done 1986 and prior. We have now taken care of that problem.

Chuck Watkins wanted to bring up one matter of concern to have Jim Mallett and Tony Parrott consider. There are trees growing on the dam of Lake Kedron and he feels that presents a situation that could eventually lead to leaking. He feels they should be cut. It was decided by the Committee that, since it is Peachtree City's roadway, Tony should write a letter to the City expressing our concerns so that, hopefully, they would remove the trees as a preventive measure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dr. Patton made a motion and Chris Venice seconded the motion to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of five items of real estate.

Dr. Patton made a motion that the Committee not accept a certain parcel as part of the Water System. Tony Parrott seconded. The motion was unopposed.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water committee meeting on the 28th day of February, 2001.

Chuck Watkins, Vice Chairman

Linda White