

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2002
MINUTES

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Venice

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Bill McNally
Jim Mallett

STAFF PRESENT: Russell Ray

GUESTS PRESENT: Troy Besseche
Scott Powell

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 23, 2002.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton made the motion, seconded by Tony Parrott, to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 23, 2002. There was no opposition.

II. CUSTOMER REQUEST FOR LAKE KEDRON :

Tony Parrott presented a letter from Mr. Marden at Lake Kedron. Mr. Parrott went to look at a tree he has on County property by his house. It has a rotten spot at the bottom and the home owner wants the tree removed. He felt it could fall on his property and he wanted it taken down or to have the County assume responsibility. It is in the buffer the County owns around the lake at Smokerise. The other undergrowth has been removed. The rotten spot is probably one fourth of the bottom of the tree, not at all uncommon. Attorney McNally asked if his house was in danger if the tree fell. Mr. Parrott didn't think so. Dr. Patton suggested Mr. Parrott contact Sheldon Hammond and ask him to go out and take a look at it to get his opinion since this is Mr. Hammond's area of expertise. It was decided that would be done and Mr. Parrott would get back with the Water Committee on it in a couple of weeks.

III. LAKE PEACHTREE DREDGING

Jim Mallett said there appears to be about 20,000 yards of silt involved. Three side channels have about 2,200 yards of silt. As far as costs are concerned, Mr. Mallett said this was special work and the price could be higher than we expect. We are going to bid the project both as dredging it and as doing it with a barge. The tributaries are not really lake. Our consultant on the wetlands issue indicated that we did not need a 404 permit from the Corp of Engineers to dredge the lake unless we got involved with grasses and weeds that might be of the wetlands type. It might be worth while to get an opinion on the tributaries also. Chairman Watkins said we need to decide between the two methods and start to figure out what we will do with silt we will be hauling out. We don't want to haul wet silt through the City. Troy Besseche of Peachtree City indicated they might want to use the silt, maybe on Drake Field. They needed to know the approximate quantity of silt expected. He was going to check to see how much of it the City wants.

According to Mr. Mallett, there were two areas that were not part of the City's requirement. Area six has about 150 yards and we probably should just leave alone. Area five has about 3,200 yards. It was suggested we go ahead and do it while we are there. The 20,000 yard silt estimate was considering all six areas. Bill McNally will be working on an agreement between the County and Peachtree City.

IV. REVIEW OF STATE SANITARY SEWER SURVEY:

A. CEDARTREE WELL:

In taking care of some of the items on the list, Tony Parrott wanted to talk about closing the Cedartree Well, which has been in use for about a year and a half since we tied it onto County water. At the time we took it over, the well was rated at 62,000 gallons a day but the best we were able to do was about 25,000 gallons per day. We have had it shut down for a couple of years now because there are constant problems with either the well or the chemical feed equipment. Mr. Parrott wants the Board to permanently close it. We are averaging 8,000 gallons a day and it is rather insignificant in terms of production. We have to go down the property line of another homeowner, etc. and it is not worth the potential nuisances. Mr. Parrott said we had pumped enough water out of it to off-set the cost of putting the water service in so we have broken even on that part. Bearing the costs to bring it up to the standards the State wants does not seem to be feasible. Dr. Patton made the motion that, by Mr. Parrott's recommendation, we permanently close down the Cedartree Well. Tony Parrott seconded it and the motion carried.

B. PAINTING 250,000 GALLON PEACHTREE CITY TANK:

This is one of the things on the State list, Mr. Parrott noted. Mr. Mallett had Joel Maggort do a review of the paint on this tank. We had been within a week of finishing the paint job when we shut it down. His recommendation was to sand blast it back down to metal on the primer and paint it, or, we should do test spots of paint and wait a year to see how the various test spots did. When we were painting it last time, The Avenue was not there. If we are going to paint it, we need to shroud it like we did on the Highway 92 tank. There is no other way to take care of surrounding properties without it. For clarification, Chris Cofty asked if we were going to have to paint the tank one way or another. Jim Mallett said they previously had put a primer on there that got exposed to ultraviolet light and crystalized and nothing will stick to it. We are hoping to just rough it up without the need for blasting work; our independent consultant does not think it will work but we can try and do test spots. Otherwise, we have to blast down to the metal and start over. The legs of the tank are in pretty good shape and the paint will only have to be matched and finished in a few places. Tony Parrott wants to paint legs and all if we go to the trouble to shroud the tank.

By way of explanation to Chairman Watkins, Mr. Mallett pointed out that the paint was new at the time and the paint manufacturer was unaware there was a problem until several others started to complain. We don't use that paint or manufacturer any more. The same problem occurred with the Crabapple tank but the problems were corrected by the manufacturer and builder.

Chairman Watkins asked, if we are able to paint without stripping to bare metal, what would be the difference in price. Mr. Mallett gave an example of the Highway 92 tank, which is bigger, but our cost was \$180,000 with a shroud. This job, which is smaller, would be in the neighborhood of \$100,000 to shroud compared to about \$25,000 to just paint.

Tony Parrott made the motion to use recommendations of our consultant to test the 250,000 gallon tank in Peachtree City. Chairman Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Watkins pointed out that the County logo needed to be redone on the Crabapple tank. Mr. Parrott indicated it was about time to repaint it, also.

C. BACKFLOW PROGRAM:

We test everything in our program that is 3" or bigger and the State wants everything tested that has backflow prevention on it. We are doing a report on everything we have of the different sizes but the total is not yet ready. There are probably between 400 and 500 more we would have to test. We have been putting backflows in since 1986 or 1987 so anything after that has it. We have got to get them to actually tell us what we will be required to do about testing. Right now, our program says we test

everything three inches or bigger and that is what they approved previously.

Mr. Parrott presented a Source Water Assessment done by ARC that includes all five of our intakes. They look at sewer plants, lift stations, etc. up stream from our intakes and how it affects the water system. Lake Horton is one of the most pristine watersheds in the ARC with only one business license within the 17 square miles of the lake area. Dr. Patton made the motion and Chairman Watkins seconded to put together a synopsis of the ARC findings and make it available to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Parrott mentioned that we are always looking for better ways to serve our customers. We have door hangers, Request forms and Customer Complaint forms. We are working to get customer's signatures on the form when we have been out in response to a call from them and leave door hangers when we have been out for various reasons. The water plant handles calls after hours and we are working to follow up with people on calls they handle.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Tony Parrott made the motion and Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded to go to Executive Session to discuss one legal item.

Attorney McNally advised the Committee on one legal item. No action was taken.

There being no further business, Chairman Watkins adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Chuck Watkins, Vice Chairman

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 27th day of February, 2002.

Linda White