

WATER COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2013
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Brian Cardoza
Steve Rapson
Tony Parrott
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

David Jaeger
Dennis Davenport

GUESTS:

Stephen Hogan, WASA
Frank Distadio, CH2MHILL
Tom Sawyer

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MAY 22, 2013.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 22, 2013. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE MCINTOSH PARK UPDATE.

Tony Parrott reported that the picnic tables are in, as well as the benches, trash cans, and the doggy stations. The restrooms are complete. The opening is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Friday. The only thing that is not complete, other than some pruning of some trees is the driveway being paved. The gravel base is done; and the Road Department will be completing the road as soon as weather permits.

Mr. Parrott mentioned that we have had some boaters on the lake already even though the lake is not open. This included some pontoon boats on the Coweta County side; we are trying to maintain some control until it is open. The pay station is in, it is solar powered.

III. MIEX UPDATE.

Mr. Parrott explained that CH2MHILL is going to run additional tests for TOC removal and Orica that handles MIEX is going to run a set of tests in conjunction with that. He said that he is not sure when the sampling will be done, they are going to coordinate to do them both at the same time.

Mr. Distadio stated they had wanted to start last week, but Mr. Parrott asked them not to because of the Sanitary Survey, so they held off. They were going to start this week and were going to coordinate with them so they can sample at the same place at the same time.

Mr. Rapson stated that he thinks it is important that we coordinate both of those efforts so that we have the same sample. He asked if EPD is at the South Fayette Plant now. Mr. Parrott replied yes, 6:00 A.M. this morning.

IV. WATER QUALITY ISSUES.

Mr. Parrott reported that we have had requests from five individuals for reimbursement during the time that we had water quality issues. He referenced a one page spreadsheet in the Water Committee package. Total of the requests are \$162.42. He said that he felt that he needed to mention this. Would we want to consider trying to straighten this out?

Commissioner Brown commented that if we start paying for everybody's bottle water that they have purchased we will be out several million dollars. Mr. Parrott agreed and said we still have to review the requests.

Mr. Rapson stated that the response is that there is nothing wrong with the water. The taste was bad, but there were no quality issues associated with the water. It sets a bad precedent, even the small amount we are talking about. Mr. Parrott said that he agrees, but he had to bring it before the committee for discussion.

Commissioner Brown mentioned that we have had instances where we have told homeowners they could flush their personal lines and we were doing a reimbursement for that. Mr. Parrott said yes, because of where some of the houses are located, there is not a fire hydrant at the end of the line so they had to be flushed through the house. Mr. Rapson said these were handled case by case. Mr. Parrott said that we made some one on one decisions for these. There were not very many of those, and they were handled one on one with the staff in the office.

Commissioner Brown said that he does not think we should cover the bottled water; we would be opening up Pandora's Box if we do. Mr. Parrott agreed.

V. SCADA UPGRADES – BID OPENING.

Mr. Jaeger distributed information on this item. He stated the bid opening was on June 4 for the SCADA system upgrade. He explained that SCADA is a way for the county Water System to control the remote equipment, valves, and pumps; to get flow data, tank levels, etc. It is a radio controlled system, so each of the water plants is capable of controlling any of these remote pieces of equipment. The system initially was put in during the mid 90's when the Crosstown Water Plant was expanded; then, again around 2000 when the South Fayette plant was built. There

have been some minor additions since then. Currently, the system is only partially functional; some of the remote units are not functional. It is also to the point where it is hard to get replacement parts for a lot of it. It is an analog system; and the current technology is all digital. The FCC is requiring the county change the band width of the communication system. There are a lot of factors coming together at one time that prompted the Water System to do a bid. He said the project was advertised as normal in the local paper legal notices, also advertised it in some of the contractor bid houses as well as the web site. He said they were approached by three contractors, J. K. Duren, M R Systems and C2I Control Instruments for bid packages. On bid day we received one bid from J. K. Duren.

Mr. Jaeger explained that J. K. Duren was the contractor that installed the original system at the Crosstown Plant and has been subcontractor to many of the contractors that have put in additional equipment throughout the county since then. They are well experienced within the county system. M R Systems was actually the contractor that put in the system at the South Fayette Plant. This work is typically a subcontracted work to a general contractor on a bigger project. He said that we have not contracted directly with these guys before, but we have been working with them in the past. C2I did not bid and we have not worked with them in the past. Because we only had one bidder, he and Ted Burgess went through a thorough review of the bids. During the review process he had a sub-consultant, Atlanta Consulting Engineers, that provided the technical specifications, review the bids to make sure the bids provided by J. K. Duren were reasonable and within the anticipated costs.

Mr. Jaeger went on to say that he contacted M R Systems and C2I to discuss with them why they did not bid. The chief reason was they felt that the contract time was not enough time for them to complete the work. He said that we had described a four month construction period, which according to our systems consultant was plenty of time to do the work. Neither M R Systems nor C2I contacted us during the bid period to ask for more time. They just explained that after the fact, so to speak.

Commissioner Brown asked if they said how much time they would need. Mr. Jaeger said that one of them said that he would prefer more like six months, instead of four months. That was something that we could have adjusted, if that had been requested prior to the bid. He said that he was available for questions, responses and addendums as usual, but there was no indication about that prior to the bid. That was information he was given afterwards.

Mr. Jaeger stated that attached to the bid tabulation is a letter from Ted Burgess in Purchasing with his review of the bid. The bottom line is that he felt that we have done everything we could do to establish a competitive bid situation, even though we ended up with one bidder. Mr. Jaeger stated that he and Mr. Burgess both support the recommendation of award to J. K. Duren. The third piece of information included with the bid tabulation is the letter of review by Atlanta Consulting

Engineers reviewing the bid prices, including their opinion that the prices appear to be reasonable.

Mr. Jaeger said that he and Mr. Burgess think that if we were to try to rebid the project, there is no guarantee that we would end up with better results. J. K. Duren's price would already be on the table. They may not even bid the next time. Whether or not either of the other two would submit a bid, he said he does not know. It is not a guarantee that we would end up with a better result if we were to rebid it.

Mr. Rapson stated that he has also looked at this, and he talked with Mr. Burgess and Mr. Jaeger extensively about it yesterday. He said that he thinks the four month lead time is enough. There are twenty-eight remote sites, and what they are doing is replacing the guts at those sites. The cabinets are going to be re-used where the cabinets are. We are not talking about a huge amount of effort, it is really just a complete upgrade of all the software and the guts that are associated with that, the antennae's that can't be used. To a large degree, this probably could have been a sole source type situation because we are upgrading an existing system. They are not telling us why, but he thinks that is primarily why they are waiving off. M R Systems did the South Fayette Plant, and C2I Systems had been the sub for what had been originally. J. K. Duren did the Crosstown Plant.

Mr. Jaeger commented that J. K. Duren did the original work at the Crosstown Plant and a lot of the remote sites that followed. M R Systems did the South Fayette Plant and then interfaced the two plants.

Mr. Rapson commented that C2I is a local vendor trying to get into this type of business. This is a very unique business. Mr. Jaeger stated that at either plant or in Mr. Parrott's office by computer you can visually observe the activity within the Water System at all the remote locations. You can see the status of valves, whether they are open or closed, you can actually control them to open or close and you can start and stop pumps. You can read flow values out of pumps; you can read pressures and tank levels at different locations. It is really a way to oversee and control the entire system from a single computer terminal. He said that you can do that from either plant, the plants are linked; and Mr. Parrott also has the capability to do that from his office. There are three locations that have complete control of the system from a supervisory standpoint and from a control standpoint.

Mr. Rapson mentioned that Coweta County has this type of system and everything is wired on the wall, and you can see how everything is inter-connected. He said that it is no more functional, but it looks cool.

Mr. Rapson asked where this is budgeted. Mr. Parrott stated that we will fund it out of R & E (Renewal and Extension Fund). Mr. Rapson asked Mr. Parrott when he does capital projects, R & E, by definition that is what it is for; how do we handle those. Will it come before the Board as a budget adjustment.

Mr. Parrott said that it comes before the Board and the Board has to approve it. Mr. Rapson commented that the next Board meeting will be July 9 and this item can be written up for that meeting. The July 11 meeting has been canceled.

Mr. Jaeger stated that the amount of the bid total is \$299,500.00. He went on to say that J. K. Duren was the subcontractor to the contractor that built the pump house at Lake McIntosh and they provided the SCADA system for that building. They will also assist with modification of the FCC license as well, as part of this contract.

Mr. Hogan commented that WASA has had similar issues and they are going through the same process.

Vice Chairman Chip Conner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to award the bid to J. K. Duren for the upgrade of the SCADA system in the amount of \$299,500.00 with the understanding that Steve Rapson would negotiate with J K Duren for a better price. Commissioner Steve Brown seconded and there was no opposition.

VI. BROOKS NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLING.

Mr. Parrott explained that we picked up the Town of Brooks' water system in June of 2010. In July, EPD sent the Town of Brooks the sample bottles. The Town of Brooks did not give them to us. Three years later, now the state sent the Town of Brooks a notice that they violated the permit because they failed to monitor the lead and copper. We had twelve months from the date we received this in order to even report the lead and copper sampling was not done. The notice has to be sent to 138 customers. We will send these 138 customers a notice that three years ago we did not get the sample bottles and did not perform the sampling, we have already gotten this straightened out and have the sample bottles at the lab at Crosstown to do the current round of sampling, so that we will be in compliance. Mr. Parrott said that he asked Ms. Franks why we did not get a notice. We had notified the Drinking Water Program that we were now operating the system. Each office within EPD doesn't necessarily talk to each other. This notice will go into the mail next month.

Mr. Rapson asked if this says we are not in compliance for the entire period. Mr. Parrott said that they only do it once every three years. Ten samples have to be done for 138 customers. We only have to do 30 samples for 28,000. We have to find 10 sites out of 138 houses down in Brooks that comply with requirements from the sampling. They have to be a certain age, a certain type plumbing, that kind of thing. The lab manager, Pam Johnson, has been talking to different ones trying to find ten sites. The state could not give us the list of the last ten sites that were done, so we basically had to start over.

Mr. Rapson said just looking at it, the way it reads, it looks like we did not do something for three years. Anybody, just reading it, it basically says we are not doing lead and copper monitoring for three years. He mentioned it would be good to reflect the fact that there is a narrow window to do the sample and if not, then you get gigged for three years.

Mr. Parrott explained that the notice that will have to go out will explain that it is a one-time sample and we get to put a paragraph in there that says we did not get the bottles and we did not do the sample.

VII. FAYETTE COUNTY WATER SYSTEM NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES.

Mr. Parrott stated that one of the things that we have talked about for years is the fact that we were borderline on passing the Total trihalomethanes. That was the reason we were doing MIEX and why we were trying to come into compliance. This is TOC. Mr. Parrott explained that previously, the trihalomethanes were averaged over all your sites. However many sites you had to do, according to your population, you had an average. That has changed and it now becomes each individual site. Whichever one of your sites of that average is the highest, if it exceeds the .8, then you wind up with a notice. We had a site that exceeded the .8 and because of that we have to notify everybody that we are out of compliance with the THM's. The site was on Reynolds Place.

Mr. Rapson commented that we have to take the water that comes into our system and make it 35% better, but the water we get is pretty good; which is why it is tough for us to get that 35%. We have good water and that is part of the problem, it is tough for us to do.

Mr. Parrott stated that it is a running quarterly average. You take the numbers each quarter and average them. The last four is what created this problem, so next quarter, you get that sample number and the last three and average them together. If you exceed the .8, the chances are, getting it below .8 with one reading is almost impossible. It is hard to reduce something by one number. He said that he suspects that we will have to do this again next quarter, because no matter what we do we are not going to get that average below the .8.

Mr. Rapson said that the interesting thing to note here is during the second violation, they are already aware of the first violation. He said they were sitting in EPD's offices having a discussion with all the upper management of EPD talking about how we are going to try to avoid the NOV's, talking about the TOC's and this issue never came up. When it actually was submitted, even the folks that were dealing with it at EPD were surprised that this happened. He said it is like the guy at the end of the hall is writing the notice and we are sitting in there meeting with all the senior leadership, talking about the MIEX project and moving forward. He said that the irony was not lost on him or Stuart.

Mr. Parrott said that this notice has a 30 day window. It was dated June 4, so by July 4 we have to get everybody notified. All the averaging changed in 2010. Mr. Rapson said we were trying to get ahead of it. Mr. Parrott agreed that we were trying. He said that he did not want the Committee to be surprised, next quarter we will get another notice. Mr. Parrott said that they require us to send it to every customer with a bill; we also have to send it to every apartment number that is on a master meter or a trailer park that has individual trailers, or a strip mall that has individual businesses. We have to hand-deliver a notice to each of those. There are 28,100 Water System customers.

Mr. Rapson said that he thinks this would be a good example of where we could be proactive to write a press release and the fact that this is going out and this is the reason, have our story as opposed to all of a sudden this is hitting, the newspaper is getting a copy of this and they are going to write their own spin. We need to be able to explain exactly why we are doing the MIEX project and tie that to the stuff they see flowing through our system and the fact that we are working hand in hand with EPD and CH2MHILL in regards to try to mitigate this and try to stay ahead of it. The average resident does not understand it. If we can explain the fact that we have to take the water and make it 35% better, and our water is so good to begin with it is very hard; the more we can make folks understand, then we are better off. If we can do a press release before we actually mail all these notices, then all the more better.

Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks as an organization, we have such information, we think everybody kind of understands it. What we are doing, instead of trying to mass communicate it, we are handling the ten people who call, but the problem is there are a hundred folks that think we don't know what we are doing, and they are not calling.

Mr. Parrott said that he feels that we should let them understand, and the notice should show that it is also going to show up in a quarter. Mr. Rapson commented that we are restricted in what you can say when we send it to everybody. They give you a boiler plate, and what he is saying is we can say what we want to say in a press release to educate folks. Tell them they will be getting this notice, don't be surprised when you get it, this is what it is really about.

Commissioner Brown said the last one we had, that came out in the mail; we got a bunch of phone calls about what is going on, the place is falling apart, and all these kinds of things. We will probably get it again. It is still on everybody's radar. It probably is better to get your message out there on the front end. Mr. Parrott stated that we could put a copy of the press release in the same envelope with the NOV.

Commissioner Brown said if it gets in the newspapers before they get the notice, at least we have a chance that some of them will read that press release before they get the notice; then they are not calling us.

Commissioner Brown asked if we send official correspondence back to the customers that have sent letters to us. Mrs. Speegle said yes, they all get a response. Commissioner Brown asked if they put something on their water bill, do we address those. Mrs. Speegle said that we contact the customer when a response is needed for the different situations.

Commissioner Brown asked if we had gotten any more calls about odor and taste in the water. Mr. Parrott said no we haven't.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:35 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 10th day of July, 2013.

Lisa Speegle