

WATER COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: James K “Chip” Conner, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson
Lee Pope
Commissioner Steve Brown
Jimmy Preau

ABSENT: Pete Frisina, Chairman
Frank Destadio

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Dennis Davenport

STAFF PRESENT: Daphne Cousson, Matt Bergen, Russell Ray

GUESTS: Ms. Mary Giles
John Dunlop – PTCFD

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Chip Conner at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2014.

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 10, 2014. There was no opposition.

II. LAKE PEACHTREE UPDATE.

Lee Pope reported that the most important thing to point out is that we are on track with the design schedule. There were some conversations back and forth with the City and Mr. Rapson was involved with the discussion of the haul routes in and out of Lake Peachtree.

Mr. Rapson commented that we now have direction from Peachtree City in regards to which haul routes they are in favor of. Primarily the hauling route will be from Drake Field across the golf cart path into Highway 54. We did this the last time; we will have to tear up the culvert, the golf cart path, the crepe myrtles and all that. It will be the less disruptive route, and we are planning accordingly.

Mr. Pope said that it is functional and will require a DOT permit which has already been submitted. He said that we are moving right along, the survey has been completed, and we also did soil samples. We are considering offering it as an option that we might sell some of the soil as it is moved out for other projects. We have to verify that the soil is not contaminated, so we are doing some test samples on it.

Prior to this project when the dredging was done, we found out that the actual company that did the dredging did the samples. They made the determination on whether they could sell it. That was something they did on their end. We are going to do it on the front end to help us offset some costs.

Mr. Rapson commented that we have some county projects we could probably use some of that soil for. We are looking at all those options.

Mr. Pope stated that 90% of all those samples came back and everything is looking fine. We are waiting on the Tulloch Rule (33 permit) to come back; he said he is anticipating it to be here any day. There have been no issues with it. Alan has already spoken with the lady at the Corp about it. The bottom line and most important is that we are on schedule.

Vice Chairman Conner asked if we have heard anything from the city as far as communication with the state on the dam and spillway. Mr. Rapson responded that he thinks that is still in the process, they are going to file some litigation, maybe.

Dennis Davenport commented that they are waiting for the state to come to a decision about what they want to do. He said that he thinks they are on a time clock, he believes, but he is not certain about that. They will have a decision in the next probably fourteen to eighteen days. That is not a hard deadline. They are waiting to hear back from the state.

Mr. Rapson said that at this point it is in Peachtree City's hands in regards to the classification and what they have submitted to the state.

III. ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR WATERLINE EXTENSIONS BID AWARD.

Lee Pope explained that this is a contract that we go out every year for waterline extensions in the distribution system. CH2M Hill assisted us with putting that contract out for bid. We notified several vendors and even put it on the state web site, which has about four hundred vendors. Unfortunately we only had two companies to actually submit a bid. CH2M Hill reviewed them, one was Kemi Construction and the other was Shockley Construction. Shockley came in as the low bid, and he can also meet the requirements.

Mr. Rapson asked about the difference between base bid and weighted bid. Mr. Pope responded that is everything that we feel like we are going to do, weighted is what is already scheduled.

Commissioner Brown asked if the reason we are only getting two is we are not running enough lines; it is not enough for some of these contractors? Mr. Pope said that he thought we would hear from Brent Scarborough and contractors like that, but they are tied up. Another contractor has taken a job out of state.

Mr. Rapson stated this is a different bid. If we were going for a “Project 1”, then we would be competitive, we would probably have more bids, but this is really, in essence a standby contract for services for different quantities. That is why, even for the project we are working on with the GMC building, we may be able to get a better price from Shockley if we bid that individually as opposed to just piggy backing off these things. He thinks it is the nature of the beast, very typical. In essence you have to stop to be able to supply our need for our bid as opposed to job cost a job. It is pretty normal.

Commissioner Steve Brown made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the low bidder, Shockley Plumbing, be awarded the contract. Lee Pope seconded and there was no opposition.

IV. CHEMICAL SYSTEMS AND ACTUATOR IMPROVEMENTS BID AWARD.

Mr. Pope reported that this is one of the projects that has to do with the CIP the state had pointed out that we were in deficiencies of; this is the first large project we have put out for some adjustments we need to make at the water treatment facilities. We had a pre-bid meeting, the contractors were allowed to come in, ask questions and tour the facility. We had ten companies attend the first initial meeting, but we only had three to actually submit a bid. He said that we asked CH2M Hill to assist us with reviewing those. That is when it was determined that AllSouth Constructors could meet the requirements and they were also the low bidder. That is the one we are recommending. CH2M Hill is also recommending them; they will be able to fulfill the duties as well as they are low price.

Mr. Rapson commented we are drilling this down a little bit; this actually pertains to four line items that are part of the consent agenda. The budget we had for that was; the amount of this award would be 36% more than what our budget is. CH2M Hill is trying to explain to us where the disconnect in regards to what we put in the budget versus what the actual bids are; we are drilling that down and we will have that recommendation to the Board of Commissioners when we actually come to the Board of Commissioners. It actually solicited 133 people, ten folks really showed up, they thought they would have ten folks bid. They actually went back and asked some of the folks why they didn’t bid and they felt like it was going to be too competitive; so only three of them bid.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that AllSouth Constructors, Inc. be awarded the contract. Additional information will be provided to the Board of Commissioners when it comes before them. Jimmy Preau seconded and there was no opposition.

V. TANK MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR UPDATE.

Mr. Pope reported that we had the urgent repairs completed on the 250,000 gallon small water tank in Peachtree City. That tank is back on line; it is rust free internally; it is being coated and all the required bacteria test were done to put it back in service. We are now looking at going out for a contract to help us bring all the other tanks back in to be rust free. Our goal is to have them rust free internally and externally. The 250,000 gallon tank was pretty critical on the inside; that is why we went out and had that repaired right away. In regards to the remainder of the tanks in the system, we have some time to go out and put out an RFP. He said that he has already written an RFP, but he has to get it to Mr. Rapson. After Mr. Rapson reviews, then he will bring it back to the Water Committee for review, advertise and see if we can get some vendors to give us some prices on an ongoing tank maintenance contract. That is really what we need here, something that will have us looking at our tanks on a regular interim internally and externally. Again, the goal is to keep them rust free; when you say rust free, they are internally submerged in water 90% of the time. There will always be small rust areas that show up and we will have that repaired. That is why you look at it on a regular interim so that you keep them in like new condition. He stated that our goal here is when you are looking at several million dollars of assets then we want to keep that in like new condition. We don't want to come up in ten or twenty years and have to tear tanks down and repair tanks because we didn't maintain them.

VI. WATER BILL INSERT REQUEST FOR THE FREDERICK BROWN, JR., AMPHITHEATER.

Discussion pertained to the inserts already being approved. This particular request was not included on the earlier list that was approved for inserts.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend approval of this water bill insert and to approve inserts for concerts at the Frederick Brown, Jr. Amphitheater in the future without individual recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. Lee Pope seconded and there was no opposition.

VII. CITIZEN SELF SERVE.

Daphne Cousson explained that we are ready to go live with Citizen self serve which is a real time module with our Munis data base. The citizens will be able to log in and register. They will need their account number and customer number in order to gain access to their water bill. They will also be able to look at different information. They will be able to manage their bills by payment, and sign up for automatic payment. The request will go straight to our office and streamlines the documentation on our ACH process. For their bills, they will be able to view their bill image, if they call into Customer Service, Customer Service can now guide them to gain access to a copy of their water bill without us having to reprint the water bill

for the customer. They will also be able to pay their bill via Paymentus. This process will go live on Friday, September 26.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is an additional charge for paying that way. Mrs. Cousson said there is a charge through Paymentus, which is \$3.75. Customers will be able to see their usage.

Mr. Pope asked if you have to know the amount that you owe. Mrs. Speegle said this way; you will be able to see what you owe. Mrs. Cousson showed the graph that the customer will be able to see when they go online and access their account.

Mr. Rapson commented that helps; we have a customer we are working with now that had a leak on their pool, and they had a \$4,800.00 bill. When you go here and look at the consumption, you will be able to see that something happened. Mr. Pope said before, we would have to pull it manually, mail it or email it to them.

Mr. Rapson commented when they say they don't believe what we are showing them or telling them, they can look at their own account and see how the volume spiked and what the deal was. Mrs. Cousson stated this is going to be very helpful to the customers that call in and want a printout of their consumption history.

Mr. Rapson said it will even help with the Leak Protection Program; it will help those folks because they can actually see what their normal bills were. Mrs. Cousson went on to explain that there are some resources that can be set up for attachments to share information with the customers. Mr. Pope mentioned we could also put information out there about planned or scheduled outages.

Mr. Rapson commented that is just like the web site and Channel 23, you have to go to it. If people opt in to here, it would be nice if we could grab the information from here and have them opt in on our email list, too. Commissioner Brown asked if we could create a check box for that. Mrs. Speegle commented that the notice will also give customers the chance to sign up to have their bills emailed to them. Mrs. Cousson added that customers can do a variety of requests such as change of address, and gain access to see if they have already received their leak adjustment. This is real time, so as soon as we process it, it shows up.

Mr. Rapson commented that this would not be here; if it wasn't for Daphne and he thinks it is also important to note that she also has stormwater utility and all those type of things that she is dealing with too. Hopefully, this will save some of those phone calls, at least for the customers that are so really in the weeds, then they can access their own information. Mr. Pope commented that he is thinking about the reprints that we do. We have to reprint them and mail them out. Mrs. Cousson said if they pay their bill using the payment option, the account number comes into our Munis program automatically. The customer cannot change that, there is no manipulation of the data.

Commissioner Brown clarified how to get on this program. Mrs. Cousson explained that you click on register on the web site. Commissioner Brown asked if we will have a section on the web site. Mr. Rapson stated we will put this on the home page as well as do an insert in the water bill.

Mr. Pope asked about other things if the county purchases the modules, they could do other business with the county. Mr. Rapson commented that he has always paid his water bill online through his bank; the bank does not charge him the \$3.75. What he will do is sign up with the Water System, find out what his bill is electronically and then pay it through the bank. You will never see him process. It could be one of those things, if he at least selects paperless, then you are not sending him a bill. Some people are just old school, and they want a bill. They look at it, they write down and they throw the bill away and then they pay. Rarely do they send a stamped payment in.

Mrs. Cousson said they get it electronically, they still print the piece of paper and still send it in. Mrs. Cousson demonstrated how the registration will look to the customer on line. There is certain information for security purposes that they will have to have in order to get signed up. They can always call Customer Service if they need additional assistance if something doesn't work. It is very simple; the passwords are very simple that the customer can set up. It will be very helpful. She went on to say that the Business License module is available as well and it came with it, so Nina Madrid is also working with that piece with Finance in order to get that piece going.

Mr. Rapson commented Mrs. Cousson has been working with this almost a year and it is a big deal that it is here. If it saves one phone call, it is worth it. Mrs. Cousson commented that it will save a lot of time with our payment processing. When we input that file, it is very important for those account numbers to be correct.

Mr. Pope said the biggest thing is getting the message out there so the citizens will sign up. He said that he thinks a lot of the citizens will take advantage of it. Mrs. Cousson commented they can link accounts together, so if they have a stormwater and a water account it does not come in differently. It comes in exactly how Munis is seeing it, and they cannot change it. That is very important.

Mr. Pope commented that there is a tax module that can be used if the county chose to go that route. Commissioner Brown clarified the stormwater information. He asked if the stormwater account shows up with your water account. Mrs. Cousson explained that they can link it together so if they have two accounts, the customer will have to link the two accounts together; they can link any number of accounts together. That way you don't have to have a different login for every single account, register once and have one login and password, use one account number-customer number and then link the additional information by having the additional account numbers.

Mr. Rapson asked about linking all of the accounts together automatically, would we not want to for some reason? Mrs. Cousson commented that we would like the customer to do it. Mr. Rapson commented that they are not going to do it. Mrs. Cousson commented that some of them may need a little assistance. Mr. Rapson asked if we want to go ahead and link them all for them, so that they are all linked when you show up, you have two different accounts. Mrs. Cousson commented they will have to register. Mr. Rapson said that as they register, we could call the customer and ask them if they want to link their stormwater and handle them that way. Mrs. Cousson agreed that would be a good way to do it.

Mrs. Cousson showed the committee the resources tab, which can be used for sharing information with the customers.

Dennis Davenport asked if there is a tie in to a delinquency that notifies the system to send out some type of delinquent notice as a result. Mrs. Cousson stated that we do have that process and hope to get it started after February 15, 2015, it is called Tyler Notify.

Mr. Davenport asked if you link your stormwater and your water, if their delinquencies are handled differently, is that going to be ferreted out in that process so you don't treat a stormwater like a water delinquency. Mrs. Cousson stated that is correct. It is set up in our Munis Utility Billing program and that system tells it, so with stormwater being different and handled as a past due differently that program is not ran where the water programs are ran.

Mr. Davenport asked if they link them together in one account, is that going to be a problem. Mrs. Cousson said it will not; she showed how it will show to the customer; they will have to drill down to see the details for stormwater. It should show stormwater only.

Mrs. Cousson commented this system will be live Friday at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Brown asked if we are going to do a press release on this. Mr. Rapson said yes, we should. Mrs. Cousson agreed to draft something and send it to Commissioner Brown for the press release.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Mary Giles asked about Lake Peachtree. Mr. Rapson gave an update on the lake. Ms. Giles asked if there is going to be a hearing. Mr. Rapson said we don't know, that is a Peachtree City question. Ms. Giles asked if the dredging would be published. Mr. Rapson responded it is all going to come out of Drake Field just like the last time. Mr. Pope said we have submitted the DOT permit for the curb cut and all that. We are at 60% design. Mr. Pope commented that the haul routes have been identified and there will be some creek crossings; these have to go through the Corp to get approval.

Commissioner Brown explained that the water that is pooled does not have to be drained. It is not part of the dredging. Mr. Rapson commented that we are only dredging at the inlets and all of that is dry. Mr. Pope stated there would be no benefit to do that because there is obviously not a lot of sediment in those areas, otherwise there would not be any water there. Sediment would be peeking out. He said that he and Mr. Destadio have discussed it and they are concerned about the fish. We are going to make sure they still have an area to live while we get this thing done.

Ms. Giles asked have you heard from the City, are they going to be doing any additional dredging or any additional work? Mr. Rapson commented that we do not know. We have offered them to piggy back off our dredging contract and they have not taken us up on it.

Commissioner Brown commented that we have had quite a few people talk to us about the island, who live on that side. We have said, if you can get Peachtree City to express a desire to work on it, then we would try to incorporate it into the project. We have not heard anything.

IX. GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE.

Dennis Davenport asked how to handle the Georgia Military College agreement. He asked if they wanted to do it as part of the committee meeting or do it after the meeting. Mr. Rapson commented that he thinks we should do it as number nine.

Mr. Rapson explained Georgia Military College; we all know that they are coming and they are coming to Veterans Parkway. They have to connect to water; there is water at the northern edge of Veterans Parkway up by Pinewood. Georgia Military School is going right behind the hospital. Mr. Rapson showed on a map the access points they can access the water; either from Sandy Creek Road or Highway 54. He said they talked with them about the 16" inch line that is already in place; they only need an 8" line. He described the different places they could connect to the 8" line. What was discussed was having them connect at Pinewood and we would upgrade the line to 16". Right now the hospital is fed through two 8" lines and we want to use the 16" line to get the hospital on a loop. They would then have a secondary line.

Mr. Pope stated that he has concerns about the hospital setup right now. That is what brought this all to conversation. Mr. Rapson explained they are having a meeting at 1:00 today because they are trying to figure out which way is cheaper for them. He said that he has asked Mr. Davenport, on the Pinewood solution, from coming north down from the 16", we would take the 8" they would have and upgrade it to a 16" line. We would treat it the same way we treated Camp Southern Ground. We would pay the difference between the 16" line and the 8" line, about \$430,000.00 in additional money for us. We would go to the Renewal & Extension

Fund that we have in the Water System and upgrade that line as part of this project. Primarily because we think that at some point, we want all this to be either 16" line to be able to complete a loop throughout the entire system. It makes sense we just upgrade the pipe and we can provide a solution for the hospital. Coming from the other direction (Highway 54), the additional cost is \$200,000.00 and some change. He said that he is not sure we would do this 16" line at this time because it does not solve the hospital problem. Ultimately they would be on the same line. He explained that he has asked Mr. Davenport to draft some bullet points for an IGA assuming that we do the Pinewood solution, so that Matt could do the construction management side to make sure that the pipe they are putting in the ground...they are saying even with Shockley's fixed pricing that we have, it would be cheaper for them to bid the project individually and have Brent Scarborough do it, as opposed to have Shockley do it for us. We would enter into this with the same type of agreement that we did for Camp Southern Ground, saying you can put the pipe in, we will pay the differential cost to make it a 16" pipe, but we are going to have some construction management to make sure that it is done at our standards. When they get finished with it, they will turn it over to us.

Mr. Rapson said they called late yesterday and said they might have another solution and they wanted to talk at 1:00 p.m. He said he does not know what that other solution is, but assuming we have an IGA in place and they come from Pinewood it makes sense. He went on say he and Mr. Pope would have to discuss this, sooner or later we want that entire line to be 16", he is just not sure if at this point we need to spend the extra \$200,000.00 for a short run that doesn't solve one of the major reasons, which is the hospital solution. It may be that the 8" line goes in, GMC hooks up, and four years from now we are in front of you saying we want to run a 16" line on top of the 8" line and put the whole 16" in; we don't know. He said they will find that out later today.

Mr. Pope stated that it is not beneficial for the concerns that we have to come off Highway 54 and run another line to the back of the hospital. Our concern now is their primary feed is from Highway 54 and they don't have dual feed.

Mr. Rapson explained that this is one of the issues, there is no solution to this problem, but here's the problem; when we strike a budget and we come to the Water Committee and we work with Lee on top of his budget and we balance the Water System budget we basically say we want to spend half a million dollars on waterlines and then what we do is decide waterline number one, two, three and four are the most important that has to happen. That is our budget. Then what happens is a developer comes in and says he is going to do an 8" line; it presents an opportunity for the county to have someone pay at least a portion of that 16" line that we want long term. What it does is it says if we are going to spend this \$400,000.00 we have to either not do one, two, three, four which is in our budget, or we have to go back and do a budget amendment and say we want to pull more money out of Renewal & Extension. It is kind of the dog wagging the tail from the developer perspective, but it is just the way it is, you are not going to change that.

What we do when these items come up, if it makes sense long term for the system, keep in mind we have already decided as a staff that Project one, two, three, four is our priority, and then what happens is this redirects our priority. Sometimes we have to decide do we want to stay within the budget we have now, or do we want to go out and grab more money out of Renewal & Extension to take advantage of the situation.

Mr. Pope commented that we don't want to miss this opportunity, but also we have the other projects that we have already scheduled for one or more reasons and we have set them up by priority. This has come in now and it redirects our thinking. Mr. Rapson stated that if you are going to redirect your priority, this is probably the better way to do it, because he is not redirecting county resources, he is letting a developer put those resources in place. He said all he is doing is wearing out Matt who now has to take care of project one, two, three, four and this new project. It probably has the least impact to the county.

Mr. Rapson explained that he has asked Mr. Davenport, if we were going to pursue this, of course they are on a fast track, to try to get GMC up and running by June or August of next year; he said he wants to get the Water Committee to approve the concept of this IGA so we can take it to the Board of Commissioners in October, but at 1:00, if they decide they want to come from the south and he and Mr. Pope don't think that is in the best interest of the county, then there won't be an IGA and we are approving something that does not happen.

Mr. Davenport explained that this is kind of unique from the perspective that he really does not know what he is supposed to do as far as the document is concerned. He said that he put in a couple of opportunities, different options; for example in paragraph two he states that he does not know if we want to put in the bigger line or not, but if we do want to put in the bigger line, this is what we are willing to do. All the separate information will be attached as Exhibit "A", whatever that Exhibit "A" looks like he does not know. He said one thing that concerns him, when you get into paragraph 3, under "C", the county is responsible for project management, inspection and general oversight. If the county is responsible for project management, inspection and general oversight, why are we not doing the project? That sounds like we are doing the project, it seems to him, that if they are doing the project, they are responsible for project management, we are responsible for inspections.

Mr. Pope explained that our concern there is to make sure that it is done to county specs, because we are going to assume ownership of that line when they are finished. We want to make sure that we have...Mr. Rapson said he does not think it is project management, he thinks this is probably more like construction management. Mr. Pope said he thinks we are just overseeing the project.

Mr. Davenport said that he has no problem taking project management out, it is just the note that he was asked to put in and he is thinking to himself that we are

doing all these things; we might as well just do the project ourselves. We want to do oversight and inspection, which is fine. Mr. Pope and Mr. Rapson agreed that is what we want.

Mr. Davenport referred to the unsuitable soils issues that he was asked to put in. When we did Camp Southern Ground the reason unsuitable soils issue became an issue is because the county was doing the project. We said, if we encounter unsuitable soils, we want to be compensated for extra labor and extra, etc. It is a contingency fund established that Camp Southern Ground paid money into, and whether we utilize some or all of that he does not know. He went to say that here, the shoe is on the other foot, Georgia Military College is doing the project; if they encounter unsuitable soils he could care less, they are going to pay for whatever needs to be done to put that line in the ground. He said that he put in a paragraph saying that there could be unsuitable soils, but Georgia Military College has had the opportunity to look over the area and to do whatever determination needs to be done, and they agree to pay whatever cost necessary to replace all unsuitable soils with suitable soils that can be stabilized properly. He said that is really the meat of the agreement, those several paragraphs that he went over. It is very high level, but it is enough to create some responsibilities between the parties. He said we are so fluid in negotiations right now that we need some things really ironed out to know exactly what the agreement should look like. He said this is a good start.

Mr. Rapson said that we should have either this type of an IGA going to the Board for their approval or we won't, depending on the discussion this afternoon. Mr. Rapson commented that we need a motion to approve the concept of this IGA going to the Board of Commissioners with the approval of this cost sharing relationship we are talking about, upgrading the 8" line to a 16" line. Mr. Davenport explained that this is a waterline agreement as opposed to an IGA.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the Georgia Military College waterline agreement as presented before the Water Committee. Lee Pope seconded for discussion.

Commissioner Brown commented that we should note that the project management has been changed to oversight. He clarified that with the provision that they decide to go the cheaper route and go up from Highway 54, this is null and void. Mr. Rapson stated that if they do that, we won't put anything in front of the Board at all. Commissioner Brown asked if that should be part of the motion. Mr. Rapson said he does not think so, because what happens is if they want to put 8" line in and we decide we don't want to upgrade it to a 16" line, then what they are going to do is just put 8" line in the ground; no action is necessary. Mr. Pope stated that we will only do this agreement if in fact they do go the way we are talking about; if they do anything contrary to that then this agreement is null and void. Mr. Rapson stated that it makes no sense for us to do a 16" line and have it terminate at GMC. After discussion Vice Chairman Conner called for the vote and all were in favor.

HOPEFUL BAPTIST CHURCH

Commissioner Brown explained that Hopeful/Primitive Baptist Church has a work day set up on the 29th. He said that he thinks we have been talking with them in terms of trying to get some sort of meter set up for them prior to that if possible. Mr. Pope stated it would be done by the 26th, barring anything unforeseen.

Commissioner Brown explained that they have a big day where Home Depot has volunteered to help them with a lot of the restoration at the site. They are going to have a lot of Home Depot employees; he thinks they are going to be doing a lot of planting material. They will need the water to water in whatever they are putting in the ground.

Mr. Pope said he thinks the only delay on our end was we needed to make a decision on where they wanted that tap to be, which was going to impact us either to have some permits for a road bore. We are not, now they have made that decision and we have scheduled the job for September 26. Commissioner Brown stated this a good project and we hope we can help them move forward.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Chip Conner adjourned the meeting at 8:40 A.M.

Chip Conner

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 22nd day of October, 2014.

Lisa Speegle