

WATER COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 26, 2005
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Watkins, Chairman
Dr. George Patton, Vice Chairman
Tony Parrott
Chris Venice

ABSENT:

Bill McNally
Jim Mallett
Pete Frisina

STAFF PRESENT:

David Jaeger

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Watkins at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 12, 2005.

Vice Chairman Dr. George Patton made the motion and Tony Parrott seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 12, 2005. There was no opposition.

II. BADGER WATER METERS.

Mr. Parrott explained that the Water System began the radio read system in 1997. It has worked exceptionally well. We can read 2700 meters traveling 113 miles and only have 22 to recheck. It has been an outstanding program. However, technology has changed. Badger is offering a new type of system. Changing to a new type of system is awkward when you put 864 meters scattered around the county that read with a separate system. The cost to purchase meters for a two year period, plus having 300 replacement transponders for repairs and replacements, would be about \$395,000.00.

He went on to say that the \$395,000.00 is money that would be budgeted and spent over that two year period anyway. We would just be purchasing the meters up front. We have the funds available in the renewal and extension fund. It would also mean that even though this would get us through the year 2007, we will have to start next year reviewing what options we will have with a new system. By December next year, we will have to have an evaluation presentation to the Water Committee so we will be able to budget in 2007 for whatever change we will make.

With the replacement program we will be replacing ten year old meters and it would be done over a three or four year period as we did before. It would be an ongoing project.

Mrs. Venice asked if the meters we buy over the next two years would be replaced ten years, hence? Mr. Parrott replied that some of them that have a small amount of usage would be used for replacements to maintain the existing system. There would not be any waste. The first year we do a replacement, which would be two years away, those meters

with low gallons would be put to one side to be used for repairs to maintain the system while we were changing over the next three years.

Vice Chairman Dr. Patton asked about being able to eventually read meters from the office. Mr. Parrott stated the technology review would include whatever technology is available.

Chairman Watkins asked if this old technology would not be available in two years. Mr. Parrott replied that Badger is getting the transponders from another company, American Meter Company, and they will not be doing this any more. They are going to the Orion system. If it is available, it would not be available with the same warranty.

Mr. Parrott made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Water System purchase meters and transponders for the next two year period at a cost of approximately \$395,000.00. Vice Chairman Dr. Patton seconded for discussion. He asked if the money is available. Mr. Parrott stated yes.

Mrs. Venice clarified that we would already be buying the meters, anyway. In two years we would be forced to use new technology, regardless. Mr. Parrott stated this is correct and at that point in time, there will be another two years in the cycle and we don't know what the technology will be. We would be looking at a program to upgrade at that time anyway. We will still be able to read meters with existing technology.

Chairman Watkins called for the vote and there was no opposition.

DECENTRALIZED SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

Chairman Watkins mentioned that the Board of Health will be meeting the beginning of November if someone wants to do a presentation at their meeting. Mrs. Venice commented the Board of Commissioners has not decided which direction they want to go. Mr. Jaeger and Mr. Frisina are still working on the analysis to present to the Committee.

There being no further business, Chairman Chuck Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:20 A.M.

Chuck Watkins

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 9th day of November, 2005.

Lisa McElwaney