PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

TIME & PLACE: The Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, met in a Regular Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Board, at the Commission Chambers of said City on Monday, the 19th day of March, A.D., 2007 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Alvin W. Siffring, Chairman and Jennifer L. Vallejos acted as secretary of the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Upon calling the roll the following members were reported present:

Alvin W. Siffring, Chairman
Lola Polley, Vice-Chairman
Charles Hibler, Member
James Hunt, Member

Also Present:

Jaime Aguilera, City Manager
Jennifer L. Vallejos, Deputy City Clerk I

Absent:

Bill Jacka, Member

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for approval of the Agenda.

"James Hunt moved to approve the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Lola Polley
Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ ACTION - CONSIDER REVISION OF EFFLUENT WATER FEE:

Jaime Aguilera, City Manager, stated that when he learned that the City had effluent water for contractors to use, he assumed that it was cheaper than regular water due to it not costing the City a lot of money; because they were throwing the water back into the river. He added that he had contractors calling him in regard to a Policy which states ‘Contractors shall use effluent water’. He added that these contractors were making excuses as to why they did not want to use this effluent water, such as having to journey thru town in large tanker trucks and not wanting to create more traffic in the streets. Another excuse was the distance between job sites and the location of the effluent water pond.

Mr. Aguilera stated that he came to the conclusion that effluent water is not cost effective to use. It’s actually more cost effective to get a hydrant meter and connect it to fresh water and use that instead. He stated that he is unsure as to how the fee of one dollar and eighty-five cents ($1.85) came about. He added that maybe the City Commissioners would like to reconsider and reduce the fee of the charge for effluent water in order to make it more attractive to contractors.

Mr. Aguilera added that he is currently working with the Water...
Department to see if the City can set up a hydrant which is tapped into the effluent water line behind the Golf Course. This hydrant would enable the contractors to purchase the water there. He asked the Board if they had any details as to why the effluent water was set at a higher cost than that of fresh water.

Charles Hibler stated that he recalled questioning the advisability; however, he could not remember the rationale towards setting the cost.

Mr. Aguilera stated that it cost a lot less in electricity to pump the water. At this point he had not done research, because he wanted to ask said Boards’ opinion as to whether or not they wanted to change the cost or not. He included that if the Board thought that maybe they could change the fee, he would get more information on the meters and such. He included that currently the fee for fresh water is at one dollar and seventy five cents ($1.75) per thousand gallons.

Mr. Hibler stated that what the Board needed to consider was how much it would cost to replace the fresh water that the contractors would be using. Would the City have to drill more wells, etc? He stated that replacement of the fresh water which the Contractors are using should be considered. He included that he thought that they would not have to break even, if the City could just save water; because this is the basic idea of the whole issue anyway.

Mr. Siffring agreed and added that the City doesn’t really have to make a whole lot of money on the effluent water. The figure was made up to cover certain fees. Also, the Board did not set the figure as such, other than possibly moving to accept these rates, on someone’s recommendation. He said there is no reason to make it very cheap; however, it should be slightly less than the cost of domestic water.

Discussion ensued.

“Charles Hibler made a motion for Mr. Aguilera to conduct a study for the cost of effluent water and report to said Board with suggestions and pricing strategy at the next regular scheduled meeting”.

Seconded by James Hunt
Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ ACTION: WATER
CONSERVATION
STUDY:

James Hunt stated that the City Manager came up with an idea to save water right now, if the Board agrees to lower the rate of the effluent water. He stated that the Albuquerque Journal puts out an article once a week regarding water conservation. He thinks that if the City could come up with a brochure or booklet, and publish something making it available to the public at the Library or certain key areas, this would be a good asset towards the conservation efforts.

Mr. Hibler stated that we needed to educate the public as to our local situation regarding our domestic water. He included that this may be something that said Board may want to consider.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion only, no action taken.

DISCUSSION
ACTION: CONTRACT/ASH
STREET
REBUILD:

Mr. Siffring stated that Gil Avilar was not present to update the status of the project.

Mr. Aguilera stated that the project is substantially complete. He added that the City had some issues with the contractor, who apparently did not
pay wages to certain employees. He stated that the problem was not very wide spread and may be explained away, however; it is still being reviewed. As far as the work is concerned, the contractor is ninety-five (95) to ninety-nine (99%) percent complete. The payment is being held due to the wages which were not being paid to said employees.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion only, no action taken.

Mr. Hibler stated that the documents were pertaining to something that we had not been billed for. The by power from WAPA generated in Glenn Canyon; is sold to the City, FOB the power plants. He stated that it is up to us to get the power from there to here. He included that their power supply is limited to their water supply. The allotment that the City gets varies a great deal. Other entities and municipalities’ water districts that purchase power by them, have the same problem. When WAPA cannot supply power to them, they must purchase it someplace else. This could be a very expensive project, however; we are very fortunate that we have a supplemental contract through the Sierra Electric Co-Op with Tri-State. The City purchases all supplemental power through them. He stated that WAPA supplies Tri-State with our allotment of power; Tri-State then credits us, and bills Sierra Electric for the remainder. In turn, Sierra Electric bills the City.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Aguilera then spoke, and stated that this really was not on the Agenda, however; it pertained to the financial reports. He added that said Board was used to getting financial reports. He was aware that they had not been receiving them lately, since Britt Maxwell had left the City. Mr. Aguilera included that he is certainly aware that said Board needs that information. He advised that interviews were going to be conducted on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at 12:30 P.M. He stated that he would like to invite members of the Board to sit in on the interviews.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion only, no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Alvin Siffring, Chairman called the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of April, 2007, on motion duly made by Kola Pooly, and seconded by Charles Hibler, and carried.

Alvin Siffring, Chairman