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

Monday, June 16, 2008

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

TIME & PLACE: The Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, in the County of Sierra, and State of New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the Law and Ordinances of said Board, at the Commission Chambers of said City, on Monday the 16th day of June, 2008 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Alvin Siffring, Chairman and Hazel F. Peterson acted as Secretary.

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

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Bill Jacka, Member
Mike Potia, Member
Al Wilkinson, Member

Also Present:
Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager
Hazel F. Peterson, Deputy City Clerk II

Absent Was/Were:
James Hunt, 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.

"Bill Jacka moved approval of the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, May 19, 2008.

"Al Wilkinson moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, May 19, 2008."

Seconded by Bill Jacka
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

WATER CONSERVATION STUDY: Al Wilkinson passed out a list of water conservation tips and stated he thought it would be a good idea if this information could be put in each customer utility bills to remind them of things they can do to conserve on water.

Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager stated the third party person who does the billing and stuffing of the envelopes stated to her that there would be a .10¢ per envelope charge to stuff it if we had an insert added. She stated that doesn't include the printing of the document if they were asked to print it that would depend on how the format was. She stated she was looking at about five thousand bills that go out in a month for all four cycles which comes to about $500.00.
Discussion ensued.

"Al Wilkinson moved to have five hundred dollars allocated to pay to have the water conservation tips insert put into each utility bill to begin as soon as possible because this is the watering season and submit to the City Commission for their consideration."

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

RED TAG POLICY: Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager stated the City Manager has the proposal from the last meeting and asked her to come back to this Board. She stated they really want to see a procedure as far as first time, second time, and third time in a time frame whether it’s six months or a year. She stated the City Commission was actually looking for a sliding scale such as first time twenty five dollars, next time thirty five, next time forty five in a six month period, a twelve month period, a twenty four month period instead of a fifty dollar one time fee all the time.

Discussion ensued.

"Bill Jacka moved to reaffirm the Public Utility Board recommendation of the May 19, 2008 meeting to raise the utility red tag fee to $50.00 and that the expected increase in collections be used to provide safety glass protection for personnel in the Utility Office on the basis that a system is already in place through the Utility Office to take care of people who are having a trouble and not just delinquent and submit to the City Commission for their consideration."

Seconded by Al Wilkinson
Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager stated she has not been in the office for the past two weeks therefore she does not have a Financial Report but will have one for a two month period at the next meeting.

Alvin Siffring stated there was a copy of a proposed ordinance that went before the City Commission at their last meeting regarding the Capital Improvement Accounts within the Joint Utility Fund. He stated there is the ordinance of the City of Truth or Consequences that has a provision to set aside money for emergency funds from the utilities. He stated this is supposed to be 9% of the revenues from the Joint Utility Fund and there is an Emergency Repair account with a total of fifty thousand dollars and there is also a provision for the Wastewater Treatment Plant fund which is supposed to be 7% of the revenues, and Electrical Construction account with a total of forty thousand dollars per year.

He stated that for the last several years the City of Truth or Consequences Commission has ignored all of these provisions, in fact in all the years he has been on the board the City Commission has never followed the ordinance, so every once in a while when something goes bad they don’t have any money. He stated there was also a City Manager that managed to take funds out of all the accounts where money had been stored and used it for operation expenses.

Mr. Siffring stated that since that time instead of fifty thousand dollars or 9% in the Joint Utility fund they’ve been taking two and a quarter in order to store up two and a quarter percent, and instead of fifty thousand they’ve been storing up twelve thousand five hundred dollars.
He stated that it was a little spooky from the standpoint that they are down to close to a million dollars in the Joint Utility account electrical division, but that's about what a transformer costs.

Discussion ensued

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board Alvin Siffring, Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 31 day of July, 2008, on motion duly made by ____________, seconded by ____________, and carried.

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board