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

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Action Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

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, in the City Commission Chambers of said City, on Tuesday the 20th day of January, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Alvin Siffring, Chairman, and Angela A. Torres acted as Secretary.

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

    Alvin Siffring, Chairman
    George Szigeti, Vice-Chairman
    Jeff Dornbusch, Member

Absent:

    James Hunt, Member
    Jan Bennett, Member

Also Present:

    Juan Fuentes, City Manager
    Ed Williams, Electric Division
    Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director
    Traci Burnette, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
    Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
    Kori Jankowski, Utility Office Manager
    David Schwent, Smith Engineering
    Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk
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.

"George Szigeti moved approval of the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Jeff Dornbusch
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alvin Siffring, Member, called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, November 17, 2014.

George Szigeti noted that he would like the minutes to reflect that the Solar System was only a proposal.

"George Szigeti moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, November 17, 2014 as amended."

Seconded by Jeff Dornbusch
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Ron Pacourek came before the Board with comments regarding the proposed Residential Solar System that George Szigeti reviewed at the previous meeting.

Mr. Pacourek also had concerns regarding poly-carts, and gave input regarding meter readers using golf carts for meter reading.

George Szigeti asked that a Solar Presentation be added to next month's agenda.

WATER SYSTEM ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: David Schwent, Smith Engineering, reviewed the Water System Asset Management Plan with the Board noting that they have looked at the existing Water System of the City, which includes pipes, pumps, and various equipment, that is associated with the distribution system, and they evaluated the age and condition of all elements of the system, to come up with a schedule for repair or replacements of individual items.
Mr. Schwent distributed maps which showed a summary of the pipes in the system. He created a rating system of the entire pipe assets, from extreme, to low extreme pipes, that he feels need to be replaced immediately.

Mr. Schwent noted that a risk analysis has been done on all components that ultimately resulted in this Capital Improvements Project Scheduling Budget.

Jeff Dornbusch asked which type of pipes were most at risk of failure.

David Schwent, Smith Engineering, noted that the system has an AC pipe, and cast iron pipes, which are typically the older pipes in the system. Based off of useful life, those are the most at risk of failure. However we are seeing several of failures in younger pipes that are scheduled 40pvc as well.

Jeff Dornbusch asked which portion was scheduled 40pvc pipe.

David Schwent, Smith Engineering, noted that 50% of the system is scheduled 40pvc. That is why they are recommending that 2.7% of the system be replaced.

George Szigeti asked for the estimated life expectancy of the system.

David Schwent, Smith Engineering, noted that the life expectancy on the chlorination system is about 15 years.

George Szigeti stated that he calculated the total monthly cost that customers would be paying and the total came out to around $55.00 per customer, per month, for the next 10 years.

David Schwent, Smith Engineering, noted that they would like to continue to use the Water Trust Board to fund the projects that they identified. He suggested that they also go after NMFA, Colonias, or maybe CDBG Grants for funding. They would then have to make sure that, as they figure out funding sources, they determine particular projects they wish to go after.

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director, noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant design should be complete by the end June and the engineer review will be complete by July. Construction will hopefully start by October or November of this year and it will take approximately 9 months to finish the project.

Discussion ensued with no action taken.
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director, noted that he spoke with Jeff Dornbusch and they came up with some ideas on a less expensive way to relocate the irrigation system. However there are a lot of grey areas that would require work, on such as moving the pump, and which size of tank to use. If they can get further information they can go from there.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager, noted that back in 2006 or 2007 the new pump station was installed at the Golf Course. Currently they are pumping Potable Water to the high school. For the past five to six years, the pumping station has basically served for one purpose, and that is to irrigate the City Golf Course using Effluent Water.

The design from the original location of the pump, (which is higher than the effluent pond), has created issues that staff has been dealing with. The City consulted with Smith Engineering to solve the issue long term, and they recommended relocating the system.

The Golf Course advisory Board agreed with the City’s recommendation and went as far as recommending use of their own funds as part of their match money to relocate the pumps. The Golf Course Advisory Board allocated $15000.00 toward this project, and the City will pay the difference for this relocation project.

“George Szigeti moved to recommend to the City Commission the separation of the Golf Course Irrigation System from the Wastewater Treatment Plant as a possible or short term solution.”

Seconded by Alvin Siffring
Motion carried unanimously.

Traci Burnette, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant, reviewed the increase of the sewer rates, noting that provided in the packet is a Resolution that was signed June of 2014 by the Commission showing that we need to raise rates a minimum of 20% for the USDA funding requirements. We are looking for a recommendation to raise rates 30% to cover not only the USDA funding, but future costs that are needed at the Wastewater Plant.

“George Szigeti moved to send the rate increase to the City Commission for approval.”
Seconded by Alvin Siffring
Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
Kori Jankowski, Utility Office Manager, reviewed the October and November Financial Report with the Board.

Discussion ensued with no action taken.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM STUDY:
Ed Williams, Electric Division, reviewed the Electric System Study with the Board stating that he has requested that T & D have a representative here at the next meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

SOLAR FARM:
Ed Williams, Electric Division, noted that the project is coming along. However they had a delay on the Transformer that they ordered, but now it is installed and things should move a little bit faster.

ACQUISITION OF SOLID WASTE POLY-CART TRUCK:
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director, noted that poly-cart stages 1, 2, & 3, are a good sized phases and if the poly-cart truck breaks down, and has to be serviced, the route could be delayed anywhere from a day to a week. We have another poly-cart truck and attachment to hook to it, but it is really slow.

With our new poly-cart truck, we start the route at 7am and finish around 1pm. With the attachment on the other truck we are looking at not finishing routes until 6:30pm.

The truck we wish to purchase is a 2016 Pete Built. The asking price would be $110,611.58 for the chassis, and the body part that goes on top of the chassis is $107,118.00; for a total price of $217,729.58.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager, noted that it makes sense to have an additional truck that will be able to pick up poly-carts more efficiently, and allow for a rest period for the other truck to get serviced.

We have funds left over from the original bond, and if we use some of the bond to purchase the first poly-cart truck we would like to use the remaining funds to afford this truck, and cover the short fall with any cash balance from the Solid Waste Fund.
"George Szigeti made a motion to recommend to the City Commission the purchase of the new Solid Waste poly-cart truck."

Seconded by Jeff Dornbusch
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD: None.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF: Ed Williams, Electric Division, noted that he is in favor of his Electric Crew receiving raises because he believes that a raise in salary is crucial to keep staff from pursuing jobs elsewhere.

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

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of February, 2015, on motion duly made by George Szigeti, seconded by Jeff Dornbusch and carried.

Alvin Siffering, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board