CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

REGULAR MEETING
Action Minutes

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 5:17 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:
George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Gil Avelar, Member
Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator
Arnie Castaneda, Water/Wastewater Supervisor
Chelsea LeClair, Utility Billing Clerk
Kathy Eisen – Level 4 Water/Wastewater Operator
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti called for approval of the agenda.

Member Pacourek moved approval of the agenda as submitted.

Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting of Tuesday, February 20, 2018:

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the February 20, 2018 minutes as submitted.

Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There was no response to public comment.

Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director:

Traci Burnette, Grant/Project Coordinator reported the following information regarding their recent Colonias Infrastructure Board Meeting:

- We applied for funding through the Colonias Infrastructure Board for the Cook Street Water Treatment Project. We were required to submit a waiver because we had current Colonias funds that were not expended. However, that waiver was denied.
- Colonias receives over $20.2 million in a Notice of Intent to file from different entities. Those who requested projects that met requirements and moved onto the next phase, came to a total request of $15.4 million, but Colonias was only able to award $7.7 million.
- 6 out of 7 waiver requests were denied, and Carrizozo was the only request that was approved.
- In the future, Colonias only wants small projects that are going to be completed within 16 months of funding.

City Manager Fuentes – One of things we are trying to do when we have a project that we know is critical, is to use the resources that we have, and the funding we have available in both the Water and Wastewater accounts to do a piece of that project ahead of time. We are also trying to use other funding sources for these projects.

Arnie Castaneda, Water/Wastewater Supervisor reported the following:

- Morgan Booster Station - They are trying to resolve a few issues they’ve been having with the pumps at the Morgan Booster Station.
- Vacuum Pump at Mims lift station - One pump went down, and it was sent off for repairs. They received multiple quotes, and the cheapest repair cost for that pump was around $4,500 plus shipping.
- North Date lift station - They had some electrical issues with the pump, but fortunately they were able to get that back online. There is a phase (in the works) to replace the entire panel and rehabilitate the lift station.
- Potable Wells #4 & #8 and Non-potable Wells #2 & #3 – We received quotes for videoing those wells and diagnosing the problems. Non-potable Wells #2 & #3 are more than likely incrusted with minerals. We are looking at diagnosing it, and maybe re-drilling one well, or rehabilitating one well. Once we get a recommendation for all four wells, we will go back and contract a well driller to come in and do the work. We are anticipating the cost to be around $80,000-$90,000 for all four wells.
Discussion/Update: Sanitation Department – Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director:

There was no update due to Mr. Alvarez' absence.

Discussion/Action: Energy Cost Adjustment – Chairman George Szigeti:

Chairman Szigeti – We are still waiting on some information to come in, so we will postpone this item until next month.

Discussion: Water Rates – Member Ron Pacourek

Member Pacourek voiced his concerns about raising the water rates.

City Manager Fuentes - The fact of the matter is that we have a Water and Wastewater System that is aging and needs to be repaired. That issue has been communicated to this board, as well as the City Commission on a regular basis. Also, full funding agencies will ask us when the last time was that we increased our rates.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

There were no additional comments from the board.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

There were no additional comments from staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, George Szigeti, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of March, 2018 on a Motion duly made by ____________, seconded by ____________, and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board