PUBLICATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

Monday, April 20, 2015

Amended
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 Monday the 20th day of April, 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
James Hunt, Member
Jeff Dornbusch, Member
Jan Bennett, Member

Also Present:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Ed Williams, Electric Division
Boaz Easley, Electric Division
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director
Traci Burnette, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Dan Higgins, General Electric Water Division
Lila Garza, Alma Energy Group
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 noted that “Electric Department” was listed twice on the agenda under item #4.E.

“James Hunt moved approval of the Agenda as modified.”

Seconded by George Szigeti
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alvin Siffring, Chairman, called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, March 16, 2015.

George Szigeti noted that on page 4, under comments from Board, where it implies that the cost adjustment increases during the months of June July and August. The minutes should note that the base rate increases not the cost.

“George Szigeti moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, March 16, 2015 as amended.”

Seconded by James Hunt
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

DUCKWEED PILOT PROJECT PRESENTATION: Lila Garza, Alma Energy Group, presented the Duckweed Pilot Project to the Board noting that she had previously given her presentation to City Manager Fuentes, and Chairman Siffring, and they recommended that she bring the presentation before the PUAB Board for review.

Dan Higgins, General Electric, Water Division, reviewed the current process that we use at our local Wastewater Treatment Plant and explained the benefits of the Duckweed Project if used at our Local Wastewater Treatment Plant.
Lila Garza, Alma Energy Group, noted that the idea is not only to clean the water at the Treatment Plant; their interest is also to bring them a new industry. Duckweed has many uses including fishmeal and it is used for bio plastics. Ms. Garza proposed that they start with one project, and go from there.

“George Szigeti moved that the Board form a committee and appoint a point of contact, to develop a work plan for the pilot project.”

Seconded by Jeff Dornbusch
Motion carried unanimously.

**GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION PROJECT:**

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director, reviewed the Golf Course Irrigation Project and noted that the 8 inch check valve has been ordered. They also ordered 180 cinderblocks and rebar for the vault. The schedule 80 pipe will be here Friday. The only thing that we are waiting on is the storage tank, which will take approximately 3-4 weeks to come in.

The river well #2 is incrusted with iron bacteria, so now we do not have any fresh water coming into the Golf Course and we are currently using 280,000 gallons of effluent water a day, at the Golf Course. The motor on the pump is good, but the liquid in the pump is not turning. He has Mauldin looking into the issue.

**WATER/WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT:**

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director, noted that two weeks ago electricians from Smith Engineering came into the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and took two days checking out the system. They found some conduits that were blank and stubbed out which will bring the price down on the electrical portion. We will also be using diffused air in the system and there will be some areas in the system that won’t have oxygen.

Traci Burnette, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant, noted that she would like to address the compost situation. Noting that once they get through with all of the upgrades she would like to partner with Andy Alvarez, from the Solid Waste Division who has a good source with the Raid Grant. She would like to convince him to possibly use the Grant to get a better chipper that will produce smaller chips that they need, in order to mix it in with the compost (since they have a place for composting) and possibly look into selling that compost. So that they can generate more revenue. As far as funding goes for both
Water and Wastewater, all of their applications have been submitted at this point for the CDBG, MFA, Colonias, and Water Trust Board Grants. We are still working on the USDA Grant. The first part of the Grant does not have to be submitted until September. We should know anywhere from May to August whether or not we are going to receive any of the funding. We did get unofficial word, which it looks like we will get all of the planning funding for our Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan.

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT:

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director, noted that the Truth or Consequences Landfill closure has been extended until March 30, 2016. We are working with BLM Landfill. The reason for the extension is soil sampling. We needed it to be approved by BLM. There is an alternative option which is to go in there without the BLM application, and speed things up on the Western Borrow Site, which means they will have to drill three holes, four feet deep for a soil sample. The soil that will be sampled will cover the existing Landfill.

We have contracted Gordon Environmental to do testing of the wells, which includes gas monitoring and water monitoring.

Alvin Siffring, Chairman, asked how the wells were tested.

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director, noted that they use a gas monitor to test for LEL. It's similar to a vacuum pump that is connected to the top of the well to suck up gasses.

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director, noted that all dumpsters in phase 4 of the poly-carts have been removed and replaced with poly-carts, and we will be soon starting phase 5 of the poly-carts.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT:

Ed Williams, Electric Division, introduced Boaz Easley, from the Electric Division, and noted that Boaz will be taking the Interim position for the Electric Department.

Boaz Easley, Electric Division, reported that the Solar Array panels are running very well. There were a few panels that were not working properly, but we had some technicians out there to fix the issue.

Mr. Easley noted that Aaron Barnes is finishing up on the Electric System Study Model and from there they will do the analysis on it.

Mr. Easley also noted that the Commission approved the Renewable Energy Customer Program for publication. And he
reviewed the status of the Walmart Solar Panels and the Hospital Energy System.

The Board welcomed Boaz Easley aboard.

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD:**
None.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**
Juan Fuentes, City Manager stated that he will have city staff present their preliminary budget for the next fiscal year, at the next PUAB meeting.

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

**APPROVAL:**
PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of March 2015, on motion duly made by [Signature], seconded by [Signature], and carried.

[Signature]
Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board