

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

June 21, 2012

Public Works Department – Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Dick Behrends, Chair; Geoff Larson, Vice-Chair; George Porter; Scott Willis; Leon Vance

Board Members Absent: Janet Hall-Schempf and 1 vacancy

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, Jim Heumann, Dave Crabtree, Patti Rumfelt, Beth McEwen

Public Comment: Chuck Cohen, Wayne Coogan, Josette Duran

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Behrends, Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 17, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as emailed out in the agenda packet.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No additional agenda items were presented.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Next Meeting Date

Ms. Rumfelt will send an email to members regarding their availability on September 20, 2012.

B. Proposed Code Changes

Mr. Duncan reported that the draft water and sewer code changes previously reviewed by the Board were presented to the Public Works & Facilities Committee (PWFC) on June 11, 2012. The PWFC reviewed the draft and forwarded it back to the Board for further work and research. Mr. Duncan recommended that the Board table the proposed code changes for now and wait for a new rate study to be performed which will include a period for public comment. Mr. Duncan explained that the previous rate study was completed in 2003, and Public Works is beginning preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new rate study. Mr. Duncan stated his hope that the new study will consider all aspects of our Water Utility and Wastewater Utility operations including

aging infrastructure, operational costs, fund balance, current rates, potential code changes, etc.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table the proposed changes until a new rate study can be completed. Mr. Larson seconded the motion, but was concerned about how much time the Board has already spent creating the draft changes, and inquired if at least some of the housekeeping changes could be approved. Mr. Willis expressed concern that the Board may not truly know which items would be deemed “housekeeping” versus items that would be controversial to customers.

Mr. Behrends opened the floor to public comments, with a limit of 3 minutes each.

Mr. Cohen identified himself as the general manager for Kodzoff trailer parks for the past 15 years and noted he is also a lawyer. He stated that Kodzoff consists of 85 families who would be potentially impacted by any code changes. He has looked at the proposed code changes, has had discussions with Public Works staff, and expressed concerns about many of the changes. He noted that mobile home parks have their own water lines and are responsible for maintaining them and discussed the “perception” that mobile home parks have leaking lines and that water is lost into the ground. He noted that, if this is the case, he believes the City should have contacted him earlier about potential deficiencies in his water distribution system. He is in favor of the motion to table any code changes and ended his comments by stating that he would like to see more community education and participation in the code change and rate review studies to insure that changes are made “fairly”.

Mr. Coogan identified himself as the owner of Sprucewood and Glacier View mobile home parks. He agrees with Mr. Cohen regarding the perception that there is a loss of water in trailer park systems, but believes that a study would need to be done to determine what amount is lost, if any. Mr. Coogan would like the opportunity to discuss the issue more with staff, and stated that he would like to see all mobile home parks metered.

Ms. Duran identified herself as one of the owners of Switzer Village Mobile Home Park. She stated that all of the mobile home parks owners should be included in discussions about any code changes that would affect such customers. She additionally noted that for many Juneau citizens, mobile homes are considered “affordable housing” and raising rates would have a significant impact on them. She concluded by requesting the City to please keep them in the loop regarding upcoming code or rate changes affecting mobile home parks.

Mr. Behrends reminded Board members of the motion that was on the floor. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. All members responded in favor of the motion to table the proposed code changes. The motion was carried.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Members Reappointed

Mr. Behrends, Mr. Larson, and Mr. Porter have all been reappointed to their seats for new 3-year terms, expiring on May 31, 2015.

B. Board Vacancy

Mr. Willis inquired about the open board seat. Mr. Behrends confirmed that the vacant board seat is an “open public seat”, and Mr. Larson encouraged any members of the public in attendance to apply if they were interested. Ms. McEwen noted that those interested should visit the CBJ Clerk’s webpage where there are links to the application to become a board member and a Fact Sheet about serving on advisory boards.

C. Water & Wastewater Utility Updates

WASTEWATER:

Mr. Larson inquired about the Auke Bay Wastewater Plant rehabilitation project noted in Mr. Trego’s report to the board. Mr. Duncan responded that the life expectancy of the plant was 35 years, and it is currently 38 years old. The plant has been patched for now, and an emergency plan has been developed.

Mr. Duncan also reported that an RFP is advertising for updated facility plans to be developed for all 3 wastewater treatment plants (with JD plant to be completed first).

Mr. Porter pointed out that with the Glacier Hwy redesign plans occurring in the DeHarts area, it would be a good time for force main to be installed in anticipation of converting the Auke Bay plant to a sewer lift station. Mr. Heumann responded that the feasibility of converting the Auke Bay plant to a lift station will be assessed during the upcoming facility plan updates.

Mr. Trego highlighted the illegal dumping issue that Wastewater has been dealing with and stated that his lab staff has been very busy sampling and to identify the source of the dumping. Mr. Duncan explained that Jim Penor (CBJ Solid Waste Coordinator) has been working with Wastewater staff (Cathy Carlson and Tom Listberger) to survey various commercial customers. TetraTech (contractor for the current FOGs project) will present the findings of the FOGs study to the PWFC. TetraTech performs these types of studies throughout the nation. Mr. Duncan noted that staff has discovered that most restaurants and stores in town freeze their used fry oil and then haul it to the landfill, where it then turns into leachate. Other than that, Mr. Duncan stated that it is too early to discuss any other findings of the FOGs study.

WATER:

Mr. Crabtree reported that the new onsite chlorine generator at Last Chance Basin went online today!

Mr. Behrends inquired about the condition of the well fields at Last Chance Basin. Mr. Crabtree responded they were rehabilitated 3 years ago, and since that time, production has declined to only about 5M gallons per day. Mr. Crabtree cautioned that wells can only be rehabilitated so many times and stated his belief that a new water source(s) definitely needs to be considered. Mr. Duncan added that no long-term planning has been done, and this issue will definitely be considered as part of the upcoming rate study.

Mr. Porter inquired if there will be enough water for the next 2 years. Mr. Crabtree stated his belief that there would be and that, if necessary, the cruise ships are interruptible customers. Cruise ships have already been denied fresh water once this year due to the Salmon Creek source being down with a broken motor.

Mr. Larson asked what percentage of the water is sold to the cruise ships during the summer and Mr. Crabtree replied approximately 16% (1/6). Mr. Larson pointed out that selling water to the cruise industry is revenue to the City, and it is disappointing that water is not always available for that purpose. Mr. Duncan reiterated the need for a new rate study!

D. Septic Haulers Notice

Mr. Duncan stated that CBJ Code 75.02.090 states the types of waste that are not allowed to enter the wastewater system, and it has recently come to staff's attention that private septic companies are hauling and dumping illegal waste. Staff is developing short-term and long-term solutions to this problem.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Rumfelt

Patti Rumfelt, Administrative Assistant II
CBJ Public Works Water Utility