

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

September 16, 2010

Public Works Department – Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Geoff Larson, Vice Chair; Janet Schempf; George Porter; Leon Vance; Scott Willis; Matt Van Steenwyk

Staff Present: Scott Jeffers, Liam Carnahan, Tom Trego, Patti Rumfelt

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Geoff Larson, Vice Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 29, 2010, meeting were presented and unanimously approved without any changes.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Welcome of new Board member Matt Van Steenwyk

Mr. Van Steenwyk introduced himself to the Board. He currently works for the State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game, as an accountant. He graduated with his Masters degree in Business Administration this past May. He is currently taking a UAS class by distance, called "Utility Management". This is Mr. Van Steenwyk's first experience with public boards, and he decided to join because it seemed like an interesting group to be involved with.

B. Next Board meeting date (Oct. 21??)

Ms. Schempf said she would be leaving on a business trip that afternoon, Mr. Porter said he would be out for the month of October, and Mr. Willis stated that they are not available on October 21, but might be able to call in. Mr. Jeffers mentioned that he knew Chair Behrends to be unavailable one week earlier on the 14th.

Mr. Larson suggested October 20, but Ms. Schempf was also not available that day. Ms. Schempf asked of Tuesday, October 19, might work. The Board asked Mr. Jeffers will send out an email invitation for this date.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Water Utility Updates – Liam Carnahan, PE

Mr. Willis pointed out that the Water Utility Highlights document has some bullet items repeated; Mr. Carnahan apologized for the errors.

Mr. Carnahan reported on the current CBJ Water Reservoir 2010 Corrosion Repairs and Valve Painting contract for the Lemon Creek and Auke Lake water reservoirs. The contractor is currently working on the Lemon Creek reservoir, located above DZ middle school. The contract focuses on cleaning and repairing damaged paint on the exterior of the reservoir, which had suffered numerous paint chips over the years. The reservoir was emptied for this project. While the reservoir was empty, water utility personnel took the opportunity to inspect the interior of the reservoir, where corrosion issues were found. In addition to paint chips at the bottom of roof support posts, small quantities of sediment and other fine particulate matter were found on the floor of the reservoir. The interior places where corrosion had occurred were on the ceiling of the reservoir where the coating system had failed in several places exposing the under side of the steel roof. A separate corrosion inspection specialist will also perform a battery of ultrasonic thickness determinations of the roof steel to assess the extent of the corrosion damage.

Mr. Vance inquired whether this was unexpected corrosion.

Mr. Carnahan responded that it was not; over time, corrosion like this can occur.

Mr. Vance also inquired whether there was anything operational that the Utility can do differently in the future.

Mr. Carnahan advised that there was not.

Mr. Carnahan further reported that the contractor's paint will arrive on the barge next Wednesday and, if the dry weather holds, the exterior painting will be completed by the following Monday. If the weather does not hold, then the painting will be completed in the spring. If the latter occurs, then the reservoir will be refilled for use during the winter and drained again in the spring for painting.

Mr. Larson inquired whether having the reservoir drained for a couple of weeks is dangerous for the Lemon Creek area, if for instance there was a 3-house fire.

Mr. Carnahan replied that there is no danger having the reservoir temporarily out of service. In the case of a major fire during this time, valves below the Salmon Creek reservoir would be opened more to ensure an adequate water supply. Historically, despite repeated attempts with the fire chief, there has not been good communication between the fire

department and the Utility when major fires occur (i.e., the Fishermen's Bend fire a couple of years back). In that case, a Water operator was on scene by happenstance and knew to alert the on-call operator.

Mr. Larson suggested we invite the new fire chief to a Board meeting to discuss improved communications between the two departments.

Mr. Willis inquired about the "go live" date for the CBJ's new Govern software.

Mr. Carnahan responded that the tentative "go live" date is October 1; however, a meeting will be held tomorrow to confirm this. The Govern software handles meter reads and utility billing for Public Works and many other functions for various CBJ departments. The new system is currently in the testing phase, which has lasted at least 6 months so far. During the testing phase, Water staff has had to gather 2 sets of meter reads (one for current "Munifax" system and one for "Govern" system in development) because the software formats for the two systems are not compatible with each other. The handheld devices we use to read meters can "talk" to each system, but separate meter reads must be obtained by staff for each system's download/upload. This is labor-intensive, and staff is really looking forward to "going live" with the new system, when they can return to collecting one set of meter reads each month.

B. Wastewater Utility Updates – Tom Trego

Mr. Trego reported that the Juneau-Douglas incinerator was shut down for unscheduled maintenance on August 27. The last shutdown was in March of this year. Maintenance was successfully completed. In the future, staff will change out the sand in the bed more often, to avoid trouble with the sand lifting properly. Following completion of the maintenance, staff has been working 24/7 to get caught up on burning the sludge cake that had accumulated while the incinerator was down. By Monday or so, the sludge backlog should be treated. Mr. Trego noted that the CBJ Wastewater Utility currently has the capacity for storing the sludge generated from approximately 3 weeks of plant operations. This is something that staff is careful to consider when the incinerator is down for repairs.

Mr. Larson provided a historical review for Mr. Van Steenwyk regarding the incinerator. A couple of years ago, the "skin" on the incinerator began corroding at an accelerated rate, and initial estimates to replace it were about \$15 million. Staff was able to re-evaluate and identified a lower cost repair option for around \$2 million. This issue was of major concern to the Board.

Mr. Trego reported on recent bids that have been received for polymer and UV lamps and quart sleeves. Between the low bid and high bid, there was a difference of about \$49,000. The UV lamps are used for disinfection of waste water effluent before it is returned to the

environment. Polymer is a chemical used to reduce the moisture content of sewage sludge and thus reduce incineration costs.

Referring to the Wastewater Highlights document, Mr. Carnahan inquired as to which sump was vacuumed out at Treadwell Ice Arena.

Mr. Trego responded that it was the storm drain, which receives ice shavings and debris from the ice floor.

Also referring to the Highlights document, Ms. Schempf inquired about the jet cleaning at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center.

Mr. Trego replied that his crew gets called out a couple of times per year, to jet clean their sewer mains. Their sewer system requires regular cleaning because the jail has a big kitchen (lots of grease) and rag/debris clogs caused by the flushing of various materials by inmates. The system is subject to a lot of problems if not regularly jet cleaned.

Mr. Larson commented on the issue of grease being a such a problem.

Mr. Trego responded that grease can cause huge problems, and there are certain residential neighborhoods in town that are more prone to these clogs than others.

Mr. Porter inquired whether the Utility has the ability to track where the problems are exactly and whether or not there is a program to charge customers for the Utility's time and resources spent cleaning the mains.

Mr. Trego replied that currently there is no enforcement mechanism, although staff can often tell a lot from checking manholes and doing CCTV inspections. The utility works to bill the customer for the jet truck cleaning and crew time when the specific source of the clog is identified.

Mr. Porter suggested that perhaps CBJ could come up with a requirement that in order to have sewer service continued each year, have customers show proof of how they dispose of certain wastes.

Ms. Schempf inquired whether UAS Housing was connected to the CBJ sewer system.

Mr. Trego responded that it is and that it has not been problematic.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Regarding an item on page 4 of the 7/29/10 minutes, Mr. Larson inquired why no ARRA funding was available.

Mr. Carnahan responded that historically big cities were successful at obtaining these grants, so the state then developed stricter criteria. Now,

neither Anchorage nor Juneau qualifies as a “disadvantaged city”, and therefore CBJ utilities are not able to get ARRA funding.

- B.** On page 4 also, Mr. Larson inquired as to the comment about the MWWTP collections system nearing Class 4 designation. His concern was 1) how far away is this, and 2) shouldn't the Assembly be alerted to this, as it will be more costly to operate a higher designation facility?

Mr. Trego responded that several years ago, DEC changed how it classifies systems. Formerly, the designation was made based on the number of lift stations and miles of main; now the designation is made based on the number of lift stations and the number of services on each collection system. One option would be to stop building and adding to the system!

Mr. Jeffers advised that CBJ has three collection systems: Mendenhall (class 3), Juneau-Douglas (class 2), and Auke Bay (class 1). Four years ago, Mendenhall collection system was about 500 services away from becoming a Class 4.

- C.** Also from the last meeting's minutes, on page 7, Mr. Larson reminded the Board about Mr. Behrends request for members to consider whether the Board should become an empowered board. Mr. Larson wondered if anyone wished to discuss this now. Mr. Willis responded that he would like to wait until Mr. Behrends returns, in order to hear what further ideas Mr. Behrends had. The Board was unanimous in a decision to wait on this issue until Mr. Behrends' return.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Rumpfelt, Administrative Assistant II
CBJ Public Works Water Utility