

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

January 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:35 p.m. on the above date at Medford City Hall Lausmann Annex, Room 151/157.

The following commissioners and staff were present:

Chair Leigh Johnson; Commissioners Cathie Davis, Tom Hall, Don Skundrick

Manager Larry Rains; Deputy City Recorder Karen Spoons; Administrative Coordinator Betsy Martin; Principal Engineer Eric Johnson; Finance Administrator Tessa DeLine; Water Quality Superintendent Bob Noelle; Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson; TS Coordinator Kris Stitt

Guests: Medford Councilmembers Bob Strosser and Jim Kuntz; Medford City Attorney John Huttli; Medford Deputy Fire Chief Kurt Bennett; Central Point Councilmember Kay Harrison; Central Point Mayor Hank Williams; Central Point Interim Public Works Director Matt Samitore; Central Point Assistant City Administrator Chris Clayton; Public Works Management Joe Strahl; Phoenix Councilmember Stan Bartell; Lynn Gladman

Commissioner Jason Anderson was absent.

2. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2010
The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Comments from Audience
 - 3.1 Public Works Management Joe Stahl stated that he was in attendance to represent the Cities Water Coalition and introduced City of Phoenix councilmember Stan Bartell.
 - 3.2 Medford Councilmember Strosser stated that Chuck Root has officially retired as Manager of Rogue Valley Sewer Services and will be missed.
 - 3.3 Deputy Fire Chief Bennett commented that 2010 was a positive record setting year for less fire service line of duty deaths.
4. Written Communications
None.

Out of sequence.

7. Engineer's Report
 - 7.1 Control Stations Upgrades – A bid opening was held on December 21; Ausland Builders, Inc. provided the lowest bid of \$889,000. The Engineer's estimate provided by CH2M HILL was \$826,000, a difference of \$63,000 over estimate. The building permits are ready to be pulled at both Jackson County and the City of Medford. MWC has received the estimate from PP&L concerning updating the electrical power to both Conrad and Rossanley Control Stations. The estimates are \$136,407 for Conrad and \$27,866 for Rossanley. The increase electrical power requirements are due to the increase of pump sizes at both stations. The current budget has allocated \$543,000. The Control Station Upgrade Project is a two fiscal year project; the next fiscal budget will be adjusted to compensate for the additional cost. In the near future the PP&L allocations will be included in the voucher.
 - 7.2 Duff Water Treatment Plant Operation Seismic Upgrade and Remodel – The interior demolition is underway on all three floors. The hazardous waste abatement for lead paint will be completed this week. The environmental containment will be removed next week.
 - 7.3 Duff Reservoir Seismic Upgrade – The kick-off meeting was held yesterday with Marquess and the preliminary design phase is under way.

- 7.4 Ave G 48" Transmission Main – Staff continues to work with Thornton Engineering on the design plans. The plans have been submitted to Jackson County and ODOT for review.
- 7.5 11th Street 36" Water Transmission Main – The 36" water main construction is proceeding northerly in 11th Street and will continue for the next month.
- 7.6 Martin Control Station – MWC is preparing a response to ODOT's request concerning MWC's proposal for the future Martin Control Station property.

Back in sequence.

5. Resolutions

- 5.1 No. 1429, A RESOLUTION Awarding and Authorizing the Manager to Execute a Contract with Scott Bradley Backflow Assembly Testing, Inc., for Residential Backflow Assembly Testing and Maintenance Services

As reported at the last meeting, the Commission received four proposals and conducted interviews with three firms on December 3. Staff recommended award to Scott Bradley Backflow Assembly Testing, Inc., the current provider of these services and a notice of intent to award was issued on December 16. The Commission did not receive any protests of the intent to award. Staff recommended approval.

Motion: Approve Revised Resolution No. 1429

Moved by: Mr. Skundrick

Seconded by: Ms. Davis

Roll Call: Commissioners Davis, Hall, Johnson, and Skundrick voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered. Resolution No. 1429 was approved.

- 5.2 No. 1430, A RESOLUTION Awarding and Authorizing the Manager to Execute a Contract in the Amount of \$889,000.00 with Ausland Builders, Inc., for the Conrad and Rossanley Control Stations Upgrade Construction Project

A notice of intent to award was issued on December 22. No protests were received; staff recommended approval of the award.

Motion: Approve Resolution No. 1430

Moved by: Ms. Davis

Seconded by: Mr. Hall

Commissioner Davis questioned when the costs would be given for the power; Engineer Johnson noted that it would come out of this fiscal year.

Roll Call: Commissioners Davis, Hall, Johnson, and Skundrick voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered. Resolution No. 1430 was approved.

6. Authorization of Vouchers

Motion: Authorize the Manager and the Recorder to issue check-warrants in payment of invoices for a total amount of \$394,557.25.

Moved by: Mr. Hall

Seconded by: Ms. Davis

Roll Call: Commissioners Davis, Hall, and Skundrick voting yes; Johnson recused himself from the Stanley Convergent payment.

Motion carried and so ordered.

8. Water Quality Report

- 8.1 The HSP3 start-up testing will commence as soon as Triad Mechanical can coordinate all the key participants.
- 8.2 The HAB Public Health Advisory for Lost Creek Lake was lifted January 4. Staff has been monitoring the Rogue River in an effort to determine if algal toxins might be present at the treatment plant intake. Microcystins have not been detected in any of the samples collected to date. Continued monitoring is planned for future HAB events. Staff will also propose a monitoring plan for Willow Lake in the coming weeks.
- 8.3 The Environmental Working Group recently released a study of chromium-6 in water supplies. Chromium in drinking water is regulated by USEPA at 100 ppb, and MWC does perform annual source water testing for chromium (total). Specific testing for chromium-6 is not currently required by EPA, the detection of chromium-6 is included in the required chromium (total) test. MWC has never detected chromium (total) in either source, although the test method used has a detection limit of 5 ppb. Drinking water standards for chromium-6 have been proposed as low as 20 ppt, so the data we have does not approach this very low concentration. Most of the issues involve industrial contamination and there is no reason to suspect the presence of chromium-6 in our water sources. Staff will explore investigative testing.
- 8.4 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will soon be issuing a report that recommends lowering water fluoridation dosages administered by community water suppliers. Although the report is not yet available, it is anticipated that the CDC will recommend a maximum fluoride dose of 0.7 mg per liter if feeding fluoride. CDC currently recommends an optimal water fluoridation dosage of 0.7 – 1.2 mg/L to prevent tooth decay.
- 8.5 Oregon DEQ has proposed "Revised Water Quality Standards for Human Health Toxic Pollutants and Revised Water Quality Standards Implementation Policies". The DEQ has proposed revision of turbidity standards as well.

9. Finance Report

- 9.1 On January 7 staff will be conducting a physical inventory at the Service Center which is expected to go smoothly and quickly. Commissioner Skundrick questioned if inventory is going down; staff noted that the inventory level is a little over a million dollars. Staff expects to be only off about \$2,000 as things are so orderly in the process. Operations Superintendent Johnson noted that we have cut down on ordering and slowly using inventory.
- 9.2 The MWC has been offering the use of credit card for a few weeks which has already helped by taking customers off the shut-off list. On Monday the MWC will start allowing the use of credit cards over the phone. The ability to use credit cards will be advertised sometime in February.
- 9.3 Financial reports are in the Board's packet; revenue is down from last year and seems to be shaping up to last year's figures.

10. Operations Report

- 10.1 Hillcrest 2 Reservoir - Contractor is excavating on the steep hillside and should be ready on Friday for City electrical inspection.
- 10.2 Angelcrest Pump Station Site Improvements – Project is moving forward with few glitches.
- 10.3 The RFP for the spraying of weeds contract is due tomorrow.

11. Manager/Other Staff Reports

- 11.1 Council held a study session on the Water Conservation Committee. The outcome was favorable; the committee will reconvene along the lines with what the Board wanted 1) explore incentives but also examine the cost/benefit ratio 2) look into modifications of the eight and eighty-five rule 3) residential landscape would be guidelines.
- 11.2 As of this morning the DEQ will try to meet in February with the MWC pertaining to the appeal for the DEQ fine pertaining to water discharge at Capital Hill. City Attorney Huttli, Water Quality Superintendent Noelle and Manager Rains will be attending as well as the Portland attorney who filed the appeal. Manager Rains invited board members to attend if they would like. The Board questioned what date it would be; staff to let them know.
- 11.3 TS Coordinator Stitt provided information pertaining to emails from the Commissioners to staff. Emails pertaining to the MWC sent from your personal computer may allow your entire system to scrutiny. Historically and legally, there was an issue pertaining to the City of Beaverton and Nike; through the litigation process Nike asked for the emails of the City of Beaverton's councilmember's private email system. The City of Medford is currently in a pilot program pertaining to ipads; several councilmember's and the mayor are trying out ipads which allows them to keep all city related business on this device. Costs range from \$499-\$650. The City is using the WiFi only at \$499 plus \$20/month for service. The MWC may not have as many emails as the City; the Board may want to wait for the City's final decision on their pilot program.

12. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

None.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, this Commission meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m. The proceedings of the Water Commission meeting were recorded on tape and are filed in the Water Commission's Office. The complete agenda of this meeting is filed in the Water Commission's Office.

Karen M. Spoons, MMC
Deputy City Recorder
Clerk of the Commission