

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION - OROVILLE REGION

(Held at the Commission office on August 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.)

## 1. Call to Order ❖

Chairman Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## 2. Roll Call ❖

Commissioners present were Commissioners Fairbanks and Mastelotto from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman and Reynolds from the City of Oroville, Hatley and Wristen from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi, and SC-OR Attorney Scott Huber.

## 3. Salute to the Flag ❖

Chairman Pittman led Commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

## 4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖

None

## 5. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 28, 2021 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Hatley to approve the minutes of the meetings, and second by Commissioner Reynolds, the minutes of the July 28, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

## 6. Authorization of Warrants ❖

Commissioner Wristen met with Manager Sturdevant and checked the warrants, and having found everything to be in order made a motion for their approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks. Warrants 26918-26983 in the total amount of \$235,583.96 from July 29 to August 25, 2021, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers, were unanimously approved and ordered paid.

## 7. Fiscal Reports ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated there were no fiscal reports for this month due to the annual audit. The July and August fiscal reports will be in next month's packet.

**8. Inspection and Repair of Flygt Pump by Xylem ❖**

Manager Sturdevant said that annual maintenance is performed on the pumps at the Feather River Pump Station, and during the inspection we found that the seal has failed on one of the pumps, and sewer water is in the cooling jacket. At this point there is no damage to the pump, but if we were to run it in that condition it would cause damage. We are requesting an amount of \$8,400 for the repair, but if there are further repairs once Xylem disassembles the pump that amount could increase. If there are additional costs associated with this repair, he will inform the Board as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the repair of the Flygt pump for the amount of \$8,400. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wristen, and approved by unanimous consensus

**9. Contract with Duke Sherwood Contracting for Pipeline Repair on our Sewer Line on Highway 162 ❖**

Manager Sturdevant said that Thermalito Water and Sewer District camera'd our pipe while they were looking for damage that a contractor had done to their sewer lines and manholes, and found leaks in one of our pipes that could cause a collapse. We have received a quote from Duke Sherwood Contracting for \$40,000 to repair this section of pipe. If this pipe were to collapse, TWSD would not be able to get their water across the bridge, so this needs to be repaired as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wristen to approve the bid from Duke Sherwood Contract for the pipeline repair on Highway 162 for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hatley, and was approved by unanimous consensus.

Manager Sturdevant said that the other entities and SC-OR work well together, and TWSD has been very helpful when we have needed help. Chairman Pittman asked that Manager Sturdevant send a letter of appreciation to TWSD for their assistance with this issue.

**10. Request to Reschedule the Regular Meeting of the Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region to September 29, 2021, and Authorization for Manager and Plant Supervisor to Attend the WaterReuse Conference. ❖**

Manager Sturdevant has previously stated that he would like to explore all options to make SC-OR as self-sustaining as possible, and he thinks the first step to do that is water reuse. Chairman Pittman has talked about the Orange County Water District tour he took, so Manager Sturdevant called them to schedule a tour after the conference. He looks forward to talking to agencies that have already gone through the legislative process of water reuse in hopes that SC-OR can avoid the pitfalls that are inherent in the legislative process.

Chairman Pittman said he believes this education is important, and now is the time to learn all that is involved, before the upgrade to the plant begins.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wristen to authorize Manager Sturdevant and Plant Supervisor Salsi to attend the WaterReuse Conference beginning September 22, and continuation of the regular board meeting to September 29 to allow for the Manager and Plant Supervisor to attend this conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, and was approved by unanimous consensus.

## **11. Discussion of Change Order Approval Process for the Influent Pump Station Project ❖**

Manager Sturdevant reported that Commissioner Wristen asked to have this item placed on the agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Wristen said that after listening to the discussion on this item at the July meeting, and once he was able to consider what was said and voted on, he wondered why it was determined that the Manager must notify the attorney by email and blind copy the Commissioners when he authorizes a change order up to \$25,000 during construction. He said by notifying the attorney all we are accomplishing is spending money on the attorney contract. Attorney Huber stated that this process was not to inform the attorney, but so the Commissioners were informed and the communication is protected from disclosure under the Public Records Act.

Commissioner Wristen then asked why the Commissioners need to know immediately that a change order is being done because it sounds like we don't trust our manager. Commissioner Reynolds stated that it is Commission's responsibility to the public and for the protection of the manager. Commissioner Hatley asked how long it would take to send an email regarding a change order. Manager Sturdevant replied about 3 minutes. Commissioner Hatley said if the Commissioners get several emails for change orders between meetings, they may request a special meeting to discuss why there are so many change orders. He said the extra communication and transparency is good.

Manager Sturdevant said his position is that he is the eyes and ears for the Commissioners at the plant, so he doesn't have an issue with the direction given him. He said he appreciates that Commission Wristen has faith in him but feels like this is just a transparency issue.

Commissioner Wristen said if the change orders are legitimate, what difference does it make if there are six or one? If we stop the project because of too many legitimate change orders, it will cost additional money to complete. Chairman Pittman said that this process is really just an accountability process.

There was no action taken on this item.

## **12. Attorney's Report ❖**

Attorney Huber said that he is working with a friend who recently retired from the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) who oversaw the department that gives out loans and grants for wastewater treatment, and will set up a meeting between his friend with Glen and Mikah and himself to discuss the opportunities through the SWQCB.

## **13. Manager's Report ❖**

Manager Sturdevant said we are finishing up the application for the SRF application with Provost & Pritchard. It should be completed very soon.

We had a site meeting at the Ruddy Creek Pump Station with the engineers.

We are working with the City and the County on potential CBGD funding for Ruddy Creek Pump station.

We are working with TWSD and the State of California to connect Golden Feather Mobile Home Park to the sewer system. Chairman Pittman asked how many EDUs would be connecting, and Manager Sturdevant replied 90 EDU's. Commissioner Wristen said that the grant funding application process is moving along and the State seems motivated to get the Golden Feather Mobile Home Park connected to the sewer.

We are working with the State of California, the County and LOAPUD on sewerage Palermo. The State seems motivated to get that done.

We were approached by the County with some funding, and the pipe in the bridge will be a future issue if it is not upgraded, so we will consider pursuing this funding for the pipes future upgrade. Commissioner Wristen asked if this would involve increasing the size of the pipe going across the bridge? Manager Sturdevant said it would not increase the existing pipe size, but would add another pipe next to it. Commissioner Wristen asked who would pay for that pipe? Manager Sturdevant stated that it would be SC-OR paying for it, whether it be through grant funding or loan remains to be investigated. Commissioner Wristen also asked if we had considered purchasing pipe for the future to avoid escalating costs. Manager Sturdevant said he had not thought about it, but said it wasn't a bad idea.

We gave a tour on August 11<sup>th</sup> to the Board of Realtors, which was arranged by Commissioner Mastelotto, and it seemed to go well. We tried to educate the realtors on issues that we deal with at the plant and the causes, such as bad sewer laterals, and how it could benefit the community and SC-OR.

Manager Sturdevant received a call from a science teacher at Oroville High School who wants to bring his class for a tour. We are in the process of scheduling that tour. He asked the teacher to reach out to the Las Plumas science teacher as well to let them know they are invited for the tour.

**14. Visitor Comments ❖**

None

**15. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖**

Commissioner Mastelotto asked regarding the repair of the SC-OR line in the LOAPUD district, and if it would be completed prior to the rainy season. Manager Sturdevant said it would not be completed by then. She asked if there are excess flows how they would be calculated. Manager Sturdevant said that in good conscience he could not bill LOAPUD for any excess flows because there is no way to determine who's water it is.

**16. Adjournment ❖**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m. to the continued regular meeting scheduled for September 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK

Approved