

BOARD OF WORKS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010
8:00 A.M.

Mayor James Fleck – Present
Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle – Present
Attorney Lindsey Grossnickle – Present
Walter Crowder – Absent
Roger Seymoure – Present

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with all members except Crowder present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

BEN GATES – HOLDEN POND Ben Gates reported he had been working with the Holden Lake Property Owner's Association for several months on their problem. He advised as long as he could remember Holden Lake has been an integral part of the storm water system and as far as he could tell there were 6 or 7 inlets into Holden Lake. He explained over the years the water coming into the lake has washed salt, gravel and various other things into the Lake to the point where the people who maintain the Lake have informed the Association that it was useless for them to spend any more money to keep the Lake from stagnating and algae under control because the Lake was too shallow. He stated if something was not done it would become a bottle neck in the storm water system. He advised as a result, the Association sought bids and suggestions from people as to what needed to be done. He reported they received bids from Wigent Excavating and Star Excavating and where almost identical. He stated they both say the only solution would be to drain the Lake and remove enough to create a depth of at least 6 ft. or there was an option to do 4 ft. He advised the price tag on this was sufficient that there was no way the Property Owner's Association could meet this obligation. He stated realizing that this was an expensive proposition, and it not only was a problem for the Association but could become a rather severe problem for the City, they decided to make this presentation.

Copies of the bids were distributed to the Board. Mayor Fleck mentioned they were in excess of \$135,000 and questioned if that was for 4ft. or 6ft. Mr. Gates explained the lower bid was for 4 ft. and the higher was for 6 ft.

Mayor Fleck advised there was no question Holden Lake was a very important part of the City. He stated the City does have some obligation to help deal with it. He asked Jeff Walker to explain what we were doing up there now. Jeff Walker advised he shared with Mr. Gates that the City has a storm water improvement project currently under design for along the Holden Road Jeffery Drive area which was in the watershed for that area. He stated it would not hit Holden Lake any quicker but in the design they planned on additional inlets and larger conveyance piping to transport it and even contain it. He thought it was a \$150,000 - \$200,000 project. He advised over the years they have tried to ramp up priorities as far as getting a good start in the spring on sweeping and do catch basin inlet maintenance to try to capture the silt and gravel before it goes in.

Mayor Fleck questioned Dean Ramsey how much was removed in 2007. Mr. Ramsey discussed the different areas they dug out. He stated he could think of 6 – 7 inlets and every where those inlets are it is built up. Mayor Fleck questioned if the depth had gone down faster in more recent years. Mr. Ramsey advised he has lived there for 10 years but it was hard to tell.

Mayor Fleck advised the City has spent a lot of money on this to date and it was not a problem or challenge just with the property owner's. He stated we all had the same interest and that was to make it a viable Lake and one that continues to be an asset to the community and property owners. He advised the concern was the ability to finance it and do it in a way that would address the whole problem. He questioned Jeff Walker what the outcome was for grant opportunities. Jeff Walker explained he exhausted

every financial lead he could find and the one that had the best potential he gave information to the Association to follow up on but there was absolutely no funding available for this type of project.

Mayor Fleck questioned if one of the challenges was that it was a private lake. Jeff Walker understood that even if it was a public lake the grant that was available could not even be used for this type of improvement.

Mayor Fleck advised they wanted to continue to explore ways of getting this done in terms of spending tax payer money. He explained this issue somewhat has us in a box because of the nature of the challenge and the cost. He stated when we entered into the 2007 agreement it was that we would do it to remove what may or may not be the silt deposited from the construction.

Mr. Gates questioned what would happen if that Lake was no longer an alternative and what would the cost be to make other arrangements. He also questioned if we had funds left from Phase I of the wastewater project. Mayor Fleck advised we had about \$1.3 million left over but \$600,000 - \$700,000 of that was committed through SRF to be applied to two lift stations on Jefferson and North Streets. He stated whatever money was left was to be applied to the completion of Phase II which was the South Chauncey Street project and was part of the overall plan.

Mayor Fleck advised the question was can we do it and can we do it legally. He stated the advice we have been given was that we cannot. He advised him, Walt and Roger were willing to modify that because it was everyone's benefit. He felt it was about finding a way to get it done. Jeff Walker advised it was a tough issue. He stated to address the one question Mr. Gates presented was that our consultant was not given the direction to assess and analyze the 'what if's'. Mr. Gates felt it was a 'pay me now or pay me later' situation in one form or another that was going to have to be faced. He stated if there was some possibility that this project would qualify for part of those funds he felt it should be explored. Mayor Fleck thought as we would get additional funds we could probably do that. He was not sure it could be done this summer but now know what the scope of the project was.

Mayor Fleck advised we were being faced with ponding issues at the 4-H grounds as well.

Mr. Gates explained the reason this came to a head when it did was because the people who were maintaining the lake said at the conclusion of last summer that if the issue was not corrected it would become a health issue as well as a drainage issue. Mayor Fleck advised Mr. Ramsey has related all of this to the City.

Roger Seymoure questioned how deep the lake was. Mr. Ramsey stated there were some spots less than 2 ft. and some areas were up to 10 ft. deep.

Mayor Fleck advised they would continue to look at trying to get this solved. He stated the situation was how to address it in a way that they could justify public participation. Mr. Gates did not feel there was an issue justifying the consideration of the problem because if this situation was not corrected it would affect more than just the people around the lake. Mayor Fleck agreed and advised the same goes for the area around the 4-H center.

Mr. Gates felt the Association was willing to continue to furnish any information they would get but thought it might help for the engineers to take this specific problem and see where it would fit in. Mayor Fleck thought they could do that.

TODD SIMMERS Todd Simmers was present to discuss issues he has at his residence. He advised he lives at the bottom of Gates Road across from the 4-H park and questioned what he was paying for each month for storm water. Jeff Walker explained the City storm water utility was developed to make necessary improvements

to maintain the water quality when the water eventually gets to the public water ways. He stated in Mr. Simmer's case he has water run-off from city streets as well as regulated drains assessed through the County for which the City pays for. Mr. Simmers advised the 4-H put a lot of money into putting fingers in to get rid of the water in his back yard and shed the water out over a larger area. He questioned again what he was paying for. Mayor Fleck explained it was for all of the water that comes through and off of his property.

Mr. Simmers discussed another issue regarding trash pickup. He explained he did not have trash pickup because he did not pay his bill for a couple months and so his dumpster was removed. He advised he continued to be billed for the service. He questioned how he could be charged for the service when there was no service there and requested to get his money back.

Rosie Coyle advised he did not pay his bill for 2 – 3 years but we did continue to bill because it was part of the contract. She stated we finally picked the trash bin up because he was using the service but not paying for it. She reported we picked the bin up in March of 2007 and after everything was paid they delivered a dumpster in April of 2009. She explained it is just like recycling whether you use it or not you get billed for it.

Mr. Simmers explained he had a dumpster at his shop outside of town and would just take his trash out there. Rosie advised it did not matter you still get charged for the service.

Mr. Simmers discussed an issue regarding a counterfeit \$50 he supposedly paid with. He advised he was not the last person to pay with cash that day. Rosie explained he was the last one to pay cash at the one window. She advised they have already gone through the whole thing. Mr. Simmers questioned why someone never got back with him on it. Rosie advised it was out of her hands and directed Mr. Simmers to go to the detective.

MINUTES Motion was made by Seymoure to approve an overview of the January 29, 2010 meeting minutes as presented, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

SERVER REPLACEMENT Terry Wherry reported the main logon and email server crashed over the weekend. He advised they worked to try and get it back up but found that 3 of the drives were not repairable nor were they able to get information off. He explained they reinstalled the backups they had to try and get the data back but it failed on Monday, Tuesday they were able to get the server back up for log on purposes but there was no email and Wednesday they were able to get the email portion of the server back up. He stated they continue to try and load the anti-virus software, etc. onto the server. He explained the server was 6 years old and needed to be replaced. He reported he talked with Preferred IT to see what the best system was available. He advised they were looking at a SAN unit which was a storage unit and two rack servers that run virtual images of the servers. He provided two quotes for the equipment and installation of the software. He reported the lead time was a minimum of 2 weeks to get it back up and switched over. He advised the new system would also be able to pull the Komputrol server into the virtualization as well as the surf control server that is used for data storage. He explained the new system would eliminate 3 servers we have now. He asked for approval from the Board to go ahead with the replacement of the servers.

Roger Seymoure reviewed the quotes and felt outside of the labor Preferred IT was giving the better deal. He confirmed the recommendation was to go with Preferred IT for equipment and labor. Terry advised that was correct.

Motion was made by Seymoure to accept the recommendation of going with Preferred IT to purchase the equipment and installation noting that Preferred IT pricing was cheaper than NetSolutions for the same equipment, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

Mayor Fleck recommended the funds come out of the Rainy Day Fund. Seymoure agreed.

BLUE RIVER TRAIL EXPANSION UPDATE Mark Green gave an update on the expansion of the Blue River Trail. He reported a Committee was put together consisting of Lori Shipman, Trudy Miller-Longhenry, Greg Fahl, Craig Langohr, Barb Berlin, Ross Binkley and himself. He stated the main reason for extending the greenway was to connect the north side of Columbia City to Morsches Park, the Library, YMCA and the new hospital. He advised it would provide safety and physical wellness. He reviewed a map of where the extension would go. He stated once the whole trail was completed it would make a 2 mile loop. He reported the first phase costs were \$67,000 and the second phase costs were \$79,000 with a total cost of \$146,000 for 1.7 miles of new trail. He advised they have met with the engineers regarding the bridge but they are not able to do anything until they receive the survey results and then could give an estimate on the cost. He was hoping the bridge will be similar to the one behind the YMCA so they can drive the mowers over it to maintain the trail on the other side. He stated once they know the entire costs then they can start the grant writing process.

Mayor Fleck pointed out that this gets confused with the Eel River Trail but it was an entirely different project and the City has nothing in it in terms of dollars.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT Mike Cook pointed out that the Grease Trap Ordinance was not on the City website yet. Rosie Coyle explained the ordinances have to be codified and then they were updated to the website but advised she could get a copy of the ordinance to Terry to put on the web. Mike reported the guys were putting together a workshop area in the process building. He advised they have also been working on some SOP's for his department.

WATER DEPARTMENT Mike Dear reported they fixed a main break on East Van Buren Street, hooked up radio boxes and have been painting at the plant.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they started the line from Towerview to the new hospital and had it over to the point of junction where they will be going to the transfer switch and to the point for new service for the library. He advised they continue with tree trimming and should be complete by the end of next week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Tom LaRue reported they have checked all of their air packs and have had several big runs.

STREET DEPARTMENT Kelly Cearbaugh reported a couple of his guys had been assisting with tree trimming. He reported on snow removal.

PARK DEPARTMENT Mark Green reported the Father Daughter dance was scheduled for next Friday and was sold out. He advised they were holding baseball and softball registration. He reported his guys had been doing snow removal at the park as well as downtown. He advised they have had troubles with people moving the straw bales at DeVol field and signs being stolen.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Mike Petersen reported they have been working on training.

PAY REQUEST – BONAR GROUP – INV. 45596 \$680.00 STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE Jeff Walker gave a brief update and recommended the Board act favorably in the sum of \$680.00.

Motion was made by Mayor Fleck to pay Invoice 45596 in the sum of \$680.00 to Bonar, Seymoure second the motion, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST – BONAR GROUP – INV. 45595 \$7,190.00 JEFFREY DRIVE AND HOLDEN ROAD STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS Jeff Walker advised they were real close to bidding the project out and advised everything was in order. He recommended payment in the sum of \$7,190.00.

Motion was made by Seymoure to approve payment for Invoice 45595 to Bonar Group for storm water improvements to the Jeffrey Drive/Holden Road area in the sum of \$7,190.00, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST – BONAR GROUP – INV. 45598 \$7,384.00 LIFT STATION MAIN & JEFFERSON STREET Jeff Walker reported they met with several people to finish up direction for the electric design consultant and were pretty much buttoning up the project from the design standpoint. He explained the amended PER has been approved so the financing side was continuing to move forward. He advised everything was in order and recommended the Board act favorably in the sum of \$7,384.00. Motion was made by Mayor Fleck to approve the recommendation and pay Invoice 45598 to Bonar Group in the sum of \$7,384.00, Seymoure second the motion, all voted aye.

PAY REQUEST – WHITAKER ENGINEERING - INV. 10/01-7 INFLUENT SCREEN \$1,585.00 Jeff Walker reported they continue working to resolve the issue with the influent screen. He advised Siemens was looking to an expert who could give direction on the screen itself and the problems that continue. He stated everything was in order and recommended payment in the amount of \$1,585.00.

Motion was made by Seymoure to approve Invoice 10/01-7 to Whitaker Engineering in the amount of \$1,585.00 as recommended, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

BID AWARD - CEMETERY MOWING Kelly Cearbaugh reported one person turned in a bid for the mowing contract. He advised they contacted references and did not see a reason not to give Wise Property Management a shot at it. He recommended awarding the bid to Wise. Kelly questioned if it was a one year trial period. Rosie Coyle explained there was an option to do one or three years. She stated if we would award it for three years and they were not fulfilling the specifications we could terminate the agreement. Attorney Grossnickle suggested attaching a copy of the specifications so they were clear on what they needed to do.

Motion was made by Seymoure to approve the mowing agreement with Wise Property Management for the mowing of the cemetery in the amount of \$15,200 per year for 3 years as presented, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

BURGESS & NIPLE: GROUNDWATER MONITORING SERVICES 2010 Jeff Walker explained this was for monitoring of the former City landfill site. He advised it was required of us by the US EPA to do ongoing groundwater monitoring. He reported this was for the current 2010 contract and was pleased to see that their fees would not increase this year with a not to exceed amount of \$9300.00. He recommended the Board act favorably.

Mayor Fleck made a motion to approve the contract.

Roger Seymoure did not feel the ‘estimate not to exceed’ was very definitive. Jeff Walker advised that was what they do every year and they have never exceeded that amount. Attorney Grossnickle advised they could approve it as is knowing it might go over or they could approve it with modifications and have it state costs of services would not exceed \$9,300 unless prior approval was given. Roger confirmed they billed for time and material. Jeff advised that was correct.

Roger Seymoure second the motion with an amendment to state the contract would not exceed \$9,300 unless approved by the Board.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

BILLS Motion was made by Seymoure to approve the bills dated 2-12-2010 in the amount of \$577,909.88 as presented, Mayor Fleck second the motion, all voted aye.

Having no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle