

**BOARD OF WORKS
ELECTRIC UTILITY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
8:00 A.M.**

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

The Columbia City Board of Works met in regular session with the Electric Utility. All members were present, Mayor Fleck presiding.

LIFT STATIONS REPLACEMENT STUDY – BONAR GROUP Mark Jesse with Bonar Group was present to discuss the study. He stated as a part of the agreement the first phase was the investigation phase of which was to evaluate existing lift stations and look at options for replacement and then recommend which way to go. He thought the City had applied for some grant funds and if those come through we would be at the readiness stage but if not he knew that it was of high priority that needed to be done. He explained they looked at submersible lift stations and also the recessed wet well lift station option.

Cheryl Culler was also present to discuss the lift station recommendations. She advised the first thing they wanted to do was to see what the current conditions of the pump stations were. She stated the inspection showed that the wet wells were in very good shape for being built in the 1950's – 1960's and could be reused if needed. She advised soil borings were also done.

Ms. Culler explained the amount of flow coming to each of the lift stations was modeled based from information given to them from a consultant the City had. She stated they used that information to determine whether the existing pumps would handle the new flows or proposed flows coming at it and found that they would not. She advised the pumps would have to be enlarged to handle 1 and or 10 year flows. Mayor Fleck questioned if the data was current. Mike Cook advised the information was probably right at 1 year old.

Ms. Culler explained the restricting factor in being able to use the existing equipment was basically size of the force main. She stated to continue to use the existing force main at the Main Street pump station by optimizing that force main they could get 2,000 gallons per minute which was a substantial amount of flow increase over the 900 gallons per minute which was the maximum pumping at Main Street right now. Mr. Jesse explained they could reduce the amount of overflows by pumping more through the existing force main. She stated the bottom line was they would reduce a good amount of overflows at that station.

Ms. Culler advised they looked at a submersible lift station and a recessed wet well mounted lift station. She explained with the submersible lift station the pumps would be at the bottom and the existing wet well was not sized big enough to put the bigger pumps in and they would have to build a new submersible lift station. She explained the recessed wet well mounted was a good

solution because they could use the existing wet well and it could be constructed while the existing pumping station is functioning so there was very little time lost to do the switch over.

Ms. Culler explained the costs for Main Street the submersible lift station would be about \$540,000 and the recessed wet well mounted lift station would be about \$384,000.

Ms. Culler reported the Jefferson Street lift station had significant amount of flow coming to it and increased flows as modeled by XCG did not have a huge factor and the station was handling the system at about what it would get in the future. She stated the existing 10" force main could handle about 2,500 gallons per minute so the wet well pump could be sized accordingly. She explained they looked at both scenarios and the approximate costs for the submersible wet well was \$552,000 and the recessed wet well mounted was \$408,000.

Ms. Cullers advised their recommendations for both Jefferson and Main Street would be to install the recessed wet well mounted lift station.

Walt Crowder questioned the estimated time line from start to finish. Mr. Jesse thought they could do it in a couple weeks.

Roger Seymoure confirmed the existing wet wells were in fine shape. Mr. Jesse advised they were in unbelievably good shape.

Mayor Fleck questioned when they could expect to have them constructed. Mr. Jesse thought it could be easily bid over the winter with construction next spring.

Walt Crowder questioned what would happen if they would not do anything. Mike Cook advised the Main Street station had a small hole and has flooded twice since he has been here. He explained when it floods the whole station goes down and sewage goes to the river. He stated they have to test upstream and downstream every hour, have to have the station fixed, have to set up some type of bypass pumping which the best way would be to bring semi tankers in and haul it out as fast as they could and then also try not to get fines from IDEM. Mr. Jesse felt it was really an accident just waiting to happen.

Jeff Walker questioned if there was any opportunity to connect this with the bond for South Chauncey Street. Mayor Fleck advised he was trying to figure that out. He reported no one had jumped forward with grant monies but there may be monies available through OKRA.

Mr. Jesse advised the project could be designed, permitted and ready for whenever. Mayor Fleck felt they needed to at least get it to that point. Mr. Jesse stated the construction permits were only good for one year but an extension could be requested.

Mayor Fleck asked for an estimate for design costs. Mr. Jesse advised we already had a contract for that and was around \$60,000. Mayor Fleck confirmed by saying 'go' we would not be committing to any more money. Mr. Jesse advised that was correct and just needed authorization.

Mr. Jesse advised the project costs do include their fees.

Mayor Fleck questioned to what extent design fees would become eligible for grant monies. Mr. Jesse advised we could not go back and get those.

Walt Crowder advised this would be for both storm water and wastewater and felt there was opportunity to look at those departments.

Walt confirmed with Jeff Walker and Mike Cook that they supported the recommendations. Mike advised they did.

Upon the motion of Mayor Fleck second by Seymoure to proceed with the recommendations of the engineers and our staff to design a recessed wet well with estimated costs for Main Street at about \$384,000 and Jefferson Street at \$408,000.

Mayor Fleck advised he was hesitant about naming the price and was not intended to be a limitation on the project or authorization to spend that amount of money. He felt it further identified what they were trying to do.

Ms. Culler advised if construction was put off for two years they might as well add 5% for each year as the estimates were in today's dollars.

Upon the motion, all voted aye.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT Larry Whetstone reported they have kept in touch with Warner Electric on their project. He advised 2 temporaries were set at Chesapeake and another one over at the Brennan's Addition. He reported he met with Trail Ridge on their expansion project and advised they would be running primary service to 32 new units. He advised he met with the hospital and reported their requirements for temporaries had gone down from 12 to 7. He stated he has gotten several more inquiries about the ordinance for people who want to use generators. He reported IMPA came out with a model ordinance and had Attorney Grossnickle put a draft together. It was requested to put the Ordinance on the next Council agenda and the Resolution on the next Board of Works agenda. Larry reported the Habitat for Humanity project was moving forward and they had hooked up a couple of the houses.

RATE ADJUSTMENT CASE Mayor Fleck reported when they presented the filing it showed a rate of return that was planned to give us retained earnings or a net profit of about \$1 million per year. He advised the Consumer Counsel objected to it and asked that we reduce it to a number somewhere between 5% & 6% which would give us just a little less than \$1 million. He reported Buzz Krohn was comfortable with it but was not what he would like. He stated with respect to that because of the Federal legislation that will be proposed on cap & trade there was probably no question in several years we would need to go back in.

Roger Seymoure confirmed this would in no way take into account the possible cap & trade. Mayor Fleck advised it did not. He explained one of the things that once this rate would go into affect there in addition had been talk about withdrawing from the IURC. He reported we were

one of the very few electric utilities still under their authority. He advised it did not change anything except it allows us when we do have to make adjustments to do it a little less formally. He explained in the interim that consideration could be taken into account also. He advised the steps would be to adopt a rate that was lower than what was first proposed and then take into consideration whether or not we remain under the umbrella of the IURC. He thought by then the cap & trade legislation would have been resolved and as we proceed with the next phase we would have better direction.

Walt Crowder confirmed they would not be committing to anything other than giving Buzz direction. Mayor Fleck explained they would be recommending to Council to proceed. Roger Seymoure confirmed they were recommending Buzz proceed and then he would come to Council. Mayor Fleck advised that was correct.

Upon the motion of Seymoure second by Crowder to proceed, all voted aye.

HANDICAPPED PARKING – FEE SIGNS AT HIGH SCHOOL Walt Crowder advised he observed the fee signs were posted at the high school that stated ‘up to \$100’ which was different from the recommendation from Attorney Grossnickle of \$500. He stated we shared with Mr. Davis that as a City we would get back with him either by phone call or by letter on how to handle it once we got direction from Attorney Grossnickle. He felt a letter needed to be sent acknowledging that as well as a copy to the school so that they were aware of the recommendation from our Attorney. He stated we really did not have jurisdiction but felt we needed to follow through with the information.

Mayor Fleck advised he would get with Attorney Grossnickle to draft a letter and then he would send it out.

Walt suggested looking into other locations that have this same verbiage on private property.

Mayor Fleck advised he would also ask the police department take inventory of other places that have the fee posted.

ELECTRIC TRUCK INSPECTIONS Larry Whetstone reported they had annual truck inspections and Truck 9 was determined unsafe. He asked for an estimate of the cost of repairs to get it back up to code and reported it would be about \$3,500.

EEL RIVER TRAIL – RICK WAGNER Mayor Fleck shared a letter from Rick Wagner stating they would be restarting the project in the spring of 2010. He stated there was a service club interested in the project and a foundation willing to grant them money.

Walt Crowder asked to get a copy of the layout of the trail.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor James Fleck

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer Rosie Coyle