

South Sangamon Water Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
July 20, 2020
Water Plant, 9199 Buckhart Road, Rochester IL and Via Zoom Meeting

Commissioners:

Present: Lee Bloome, Cindy Morris, Dave Johnson

Absent: none

Quorum: yes

Others Present:

Stephen Bivin, Kevin Canham & Laura VanProyen (SSWC), Randy Segatto (Barber, Segatto, et al), Max Middendorf (MECO Engineering)

Mike Krall & Susn Spalding (New Berlin), Jamie Headen (Benton & Associates), Mitch Nein (KAT Express)

Proceedings:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by chairman Lee Bloome and roll was taken.

Operating Report by Stephen Bivin:

Plant Outage:

- Failure of BOP MCC and WesTech com cards caused the plant to shut down for fourteen days. Retail customers received water from the plant while wholesale customers used backup emergency water suppliers. Communications were running through our SCADA pending arrival of replacement com cards.

Well maintenance:

- Well #7 cleaning was completed in July. There was a pump issue which may need to be addressed.

- Commissioner Johnson asked how old the pump was. Bivin stated it was ten years.

- Video following sonic cleaning looked good.

Water Meters:

- Retail meters have an estimated life of about ten years. Many of our meters are that old. Bivin suggested we should begin swapping out some number of meters each year to keep them accurate.

- Commissioner Morris asked how many meters we have. Bivin said there are 47, the majority of which are about ten years old.

- Commissioner Johnson suggested looking at replacement of highest usage meters first.

- Bivin would have pricing for meters, transmitters and meter reader options at the August meeting.

Crane/Winch System:

- One of the effluent pumps from the lagoon to the outfall was not pumping; it had sucked up a turtle. Joe Lee came to swap out overloads and got them both flushed out and running.

- Previously we had called Henson Robinson to come pull pumps as needed for this type of maintenance. Purchase of a winch to hook to our Bobcat would offer a less expensive option for the future.

- Discussed possibly adding a mesh screen which had not been done previously because vegetation would grow on it and require being pulled for cleaning.

Chloramine Conversion:

- The monochloramine analyzer was scheduled to be set up August 7, but still awaiting confirmation of some details surrounding that.
- Bivin suggested waiting until everything is hooked up and running before announcing a go-live date.

Transfer Switch:

- The tentative delivery date for the new switch remained as September 4.

Engineering Report by Max Middendorf:

- Following recent cleaning, two wells showed increased specific capacity. The third did not which was probably due to problems with the pump.
- There had been no word from Advanced Automation regarding communications with the New Berlin tower.
- Commissioners were given packets regarding possible grant application for water tower. This would be (best case) 80% federal grant with 20% match.
- A conference call would be scheduled soon with Darrin Fleener in the Chicago Regional office to discuss eligibility criteria.
- Their emphasis would be looking at economic impact related to COVID and how it would relate to job creation and sustainability.
- After the conference call more would be known about the cost for the grant application and how much information will be needed to complete it.

Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Johnson, second by Morris to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2020 regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Bloome – yes Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Laura VanProyen:

- Commissioners received draft financial reports through June 30, 2020 for their review and reference.

Bond Sale:

- VanProyen was working with the bank to restructure bond & interest accounts following the bond refinancing; closing some accounts and repurposing others to align with the bond ordinance requirements.
- She shared information from a recent phone conversation with Mike Southworth regarding status of our reserves moving forward following the closing of the new bonds which was held on July 7.
 - Funds would be moving from the Illinois Funds account to fully fund the Depreciation, Repair and Replacement to \$500,000. This amount could be considered as part of reserves when calculating repayment requirements.

- While the new bond ordinance did not require a debt service account, the ability to abate taxes each year continued to depend on having enough reserves on hand at the time of the abatement ordinance to cover the entire bond payment(s) scheduled for the coming year. This meant, while the bond & interest accounts were being consolidated, all amounts would remain as reserves and would not be moving into unrestricted status.

- Commissioner Bloome summarized the success of the bond refinancing stating the savings will be seen towards the back end, but we were able to hold the bond payments steady for the remaining life of the bonds, we did not increase the end date of the bonds and in the end we saved our customers approximately \$3.2 million.

- Now that the bond closure is complete, Bloome would put out a press release sharing its success and savings.

Approval for Payment of Invoices:

- Commissioners received a list of open invoices totaling \$97,452.65 for approval and payment.

MOTION by Bloome, second by Morris to approve payment of all open invoices totaling \$97,452.65 as presented.

Roll call vote: Morris - yes Johnson – yes Bloome - yes Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Chairman Bloome suggested it would be a positive thing to share some information with the news media following the closing on the bond refinancing which was scheduled to happen on July 7. He offered to take point in handling this.

SCADA Support Services:

- Bloome told the commission of the slow responses by Advanced Automation Controls when the plant went down which caused the outage to continue for two weeks.

- Research into the alternative vendor from Bloomington indicated they are better staffed and made a positive impression on representatives from SSWC, Chatham and New Berlin.

- Morris stated the extra \$500 per month for a 24/7 service and response contract might be able to be split with one or both villages who would likely also be changing vendors. Bloome said even without this, it would be better to spend this money than to have the plant down again.

- Morris said we would need to make sure AAC does not hold licensing in their names. Bivin would look into this but did not believe that was the case.

MOTION by Bloome, second by Johnson to contact the vendor from Bloomington regarding a contract that would include initial investigative services at the plant.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnso – yes Bloome – yes Motion carried.

Copier Lease Proposal:

- VanProyen presented a proposal from Watts Copy System which would replace the soon-to-expire five-year lease for the Kyocera copier/printer in the business office. The new equipment and lease terms would be very similar to what we currently have at a monthly savings of \$5.00.

MOTION by Bloome, second by Morris to authorize having Watts prepare a new lease for Attorney Segatto’s review and future approval at the August meeting.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Bloome – yes Motion carried.

Well Field Mowing:

- Discussion regarding current status of CRP land and mowing requirements.

MOTION by Bloome, second by Morris to table this matter until the August meeting to allow Bivin to gather additional information.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Bloome – yes Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Johnson asked if broken valve box and fire hydrant near County Highway 40 and the interstate are ours. Bivin said they were not.
- Bloome to follow up with Sanitary District.

- Morris asked about status of the leak near the Neuman property. Bivin had shut off the hydrant about a month before, stating it was a flushing hydrant.
- Bloome said a new meter would allow for better accuracy.

- Katie Krall had been assigned as communication coordinator for the plant.
- Bivin and VanProyen were scheduled to meet soon to review mass text messaging options.

New Business:

- Jamie Headen reported he met with Bivin and Dustin from Chatham to put together options for discussion at the August meeting regarding emergency backfeed with Chatham.
- Bloome said this would also improve things with EPA regarding our emergency operations.

- Chairman Bloome explained that expanding duties and challenges with his job have caused him to step down from this board; this would be his last meeting. He shared several notes for the board as they move forward:
 - The recent bond sale should provide stability for rates and liquidity.
 - Well capacity rebounded well following recent cleaning. We should continue to maintain at least three wells each year to optimize capacity and look ahead toward getting sites for additional wells in place ahead of potential growth.
 - Having 500,000 gallons elevated storage would stabilize our system not only as a buffer for existing customers but also to add redundancy and keep us from problems with EPA. He thanked Middendorf for looking into a possible grant application and suggested the debt service on the short-term loan currently being repaid from our rate structure could be used in the future for purchase of an elevated tank at the water plant.
 - It had been frustrating that the chloramine conversion had taken so long and we need to do whatever it takes to get this completed very soon.
 - An emergency backfeed connection with Chatham must happen to keep emergency events from causing boil orders in the future.
 - The decision to switch SCADA vendors was the right thing to do to keep emergencies like the recent communication failure from costing days or weeks of revenue in the future.
 - We must stay on completion of the new transfer switch as soon as possible.

- Commissioner Morris praised Bloome for his leadership and teaching and thanked him for his job as chairman.

Adjournment:

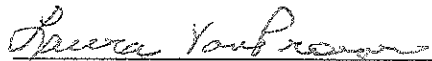
- The next regular meeting of the South Sangamon Water Commission will be held Monday, August 17, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Morris, second by Bloome to adjourn.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura VanProyen, Clerk