

SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES

January 22, 2009

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Erik Henrikson, Dan Wilkins

STAFF PRESENT: Cindy Gustafson, General Manager  
Alan Harry, Administrator of Planning and Public Works  
Tony Laliotis, Director of Utilities  
Matt Homolka, District Engineer  
Ginger Charlton, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Director Henrikson.

1. INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS; CONDOMINIUMS

Mr. Harry explained that water meters have already been installed on a vast amount of the irrigation systems at condominium complexes. They are being billed at commercial rates and the bills are sent to the Homeowners Associations. The next step is to get the condominium meters in and \$1 million is budgeted for it. Staff met and discussed the possible options. They are:

- (1) Install a master meter to cover all of the units in the development and enter into an agreement with the HOA for them to average out the bills, bill all of their units, and pay the District with one check.
- (2) Install block meters, average out the cost per unit in the building, and either bill the individual customers or have the HOA pay the bill and collect from the individual units.
- (3) Individual meters where possible.

Director Henrikson said that he would prefer to have all condos on master meters. Ms. Gustafson went over the problems with the various options and said that the best scenario for the District is master meters with the Board's understanding that occasionally we will eat water losses due to leaks. Ms. Gustafson said that the president of the Homeowner's Association at St. Francis told her that they want a master meter. She said that a conversation needs to take place with our legal counsel regarding this because we need to know that this person has the right to decide for the entire HOA. The Committee agreed that master metering would be preferred, but if the HOA didn't want that, then choice #2 could be chosen, or #3 could be the final choice. Some complexes wouldn't be able to have all of the choices due to the way they were built.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; ACCELERATION OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Ms. Gustafson said that economic stimulus packages are being discussed at the State and Federal levels so some of the planning and design for projects that wouldn't be commencing until next year need to be expedited to be potentially ready for this fall or within 12 months. She said that the money for this work could be borrowed from the reserves that the Board set aside and then pay it back in future years. Mr. Harry went over the projects that staff would recommend to be expedited for 2009 and said that it would total about \$350,000 out of reserves. Director Wilkins said that he is fine with the concept but he has concerns that if the rates don't go through then we won't be able to pay the reserves back and that is a priority. He said that before he would be

comfortable to take some of the reserves he would want to be clearer on our revenue picture for next year. The Committee said that they would consider it and that Ms. Gustafson should go for the projects she suggested because the money could be returned if our funds don't come through.

### 3. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Harry said that the open house worked out well and there was a good article in the Sierra Sun about it. Attendees were able to calculate what their rates would be in April and were briefed on why rates need to be raised.

Regarding Granlibakken, Mr. Harry said that he has been meeting with Ron Parson and spoke with the County regarding Granlibakken's zoning. He found that the zoning for the entire facility is 173 Granlibakken Tourist which the County sees as commercial in nature. This means that it seems that what we are doing is correct based on our existing Ordinance.

Regarding the water conveyance policy, Mr. Harry can't find one in existence in California. He's still researching and will bring the policy back as soon as he can.

Mr. Homolka reported that staff isn't ready to bring the lien for Thompson/Rubicon to the Board yet. They are looking at several options including termination of service and hope to bring the item back to Sewer and Water in February.

Mr. Harry said that at the February Sewer and Water Committee meeting, staff will bring options including revisions to our water ordinance so that we can have master meters detailed within the ordinance itself. Consumption based rate within the ordinance and fee structure changes will also be discussed.

He said that staff would bring an additional definition to be added to our sewer ordinance. It will be a definition for a second unit. We don't currently have one and other agencies do so we want to make it consistent with them.

Director Wilkins said that he will be on vacation from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. A decision will be made at the Board meeting on if there will be a Sewer and Water Committee meeting in February.

Ms. Gustafson said that Pat Davidson called and asked her to come speak at the next CATT meeting on plan check issues and the rate increases. She will attend.

Mr. Laliotis updated the Board on a leak in the Tahoe Park Water area that occurred Tuesday morning.

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public comment.

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

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Ginger Charlton, District Clerk