

June 23, 2009
12:45 pm

The regular meeting of the SJWD Water District was held with the following present:

Commissioners: *Wanda Fowler, Buddy Carlton, John Sexton, Tom Lomax and Roger Nutt.*

Staff: *Mike Caston, Executive Director; Mike Frost, Director of Projects and Construction; Larry Christopher, Director of Finance and Administration; Mitch Turner, Manager of Water Resources; and Jeff Diaz, Director of IT and Customer Relations.*

Guests: *Mr. John Dodd* (arrived at 1:39 pm)

The Agenda for the meeting was emailed to WSPA TV and the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*.

APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 2009 MINUTES

Wanda Fowler made a motion, which was seconded by Buddy Carlton, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting. Tom Lomax did not vote because he did not attend the May 19th meeting. The motion was approved unanimously with the exception of Tom Lomax.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff reviewed the Financial Report and Bank Balance Report for the period ending May 31, 2009. Staff reported that revenues were down in the current budget year compared to the budget and to the prior year; expenses remain well below budget to offset the loss in revenue. Production levels at the Filter Plant are down significantly compared to the prior year. Revenue for the remainder of the budget year is not expected to deviate from current trends in the foreseeable future. Staff will continue to remain vigilant in their management of controllable expenses. Tom Lomax commended the staff for doing a good job managing the budget.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

Tom Lomax made a motion, which was seconded by Roger Nutt, to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2010 for public hearing. The public hearing will be held at the next regular meeting on July 21, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Jeff Diaz presented a proposal, along with cost justification, to upgrade the communications infrastructure for the District. This upgrade includes replacement of the phone system and data cabling, along with addition of the filter plant and the lake sites into the main system. Of the quotes that were obtained, the lowest quote was received from Consultedge. Consultedge is considered to be the best in value and in their ability to complete the job by September 2009. The price for purchase, installation, and training is not expected to exceed \$125,000.

Tom Lomax made a motion, which was seconded by Buddy Carlton, to approve up to \$125,000 for the purchase, installation, and training to upgrade the District's communication infrastructure as described above. The motion was approved unanimously. Funding for this project will come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

STAFF UPDATES

- Larry Christopher reviewed preliminary findings regarding the modification of the District's rate structure from a declining block rate structure to a flat rate or inclining block rate structure. A workshop will be planned for July 1, 2009 at 8:30 am at the District office to further review and discuss these findings.
- Mitch Turner presented information about watershed signs that could be placed throughout the District. The intent of the signs would be to bring awareness of the watersheds in our service area. Mitch will continue to investigate pricing and possible funding for the signs through a grant.
- Jeff Diaz will work with a contractor to obtain an assessment of the District's security infrastructure.
- Mike Caston will follow up with YMCA officials about SJWD's offer to purchase property for Shoals Road tank site.
- Mike Frost reported on some of the positive results of the improvements at the Filter Plant. Commission requested that Filter Plant staff prepare a package demonstrating the benefits of improvements to be presented at the next meeting.
- Mike Frost discussed the progress of repairs to the North Tyger raw water pump station. Repairs have begun and the line should be loaded and ready for use in the next 3 weeks.

WOODFIN WELL PERMIT

Staff recommended that the District begin making plans to use the Woodfin Well. Hydrosorce Associates, Inc (HSA), a firm that SJWD has been working with on the well, will use the previous 27-hour pumping test data to assess the sustainable yield of the Woodfin Well. HSA will assemble the pertinent well construction, well testing, and water quality information into a final hydrogeological report to be submitted to SC DHEC and SJWD for the purposes of gaining approval of the Woodfin Well as a public drinking source. The cost of the report should not exceed \$6,000.

Tom Lomax made a motion, which was seconded by Roger Nutt, to approve up to \$6,000 for HSA to complete the final report for SC DHEC source approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Dodd, a customer who lives on Lake Cooley, requested an opportunity to address the Commission. John Sexton granted his request after mutual consent of all Commissioners.

Mr. Dodd expressed his concern about the number of boats on the Lake that did not have updated permit stickers. He took an unscientific survey of 80 boats on the lake, many of which were docked at the time, and found that only 26 had updated permit stickers.

Mitch Turner noted that boat owners have until December 31, 2009 to renew their permit sticker. Many boat owners often wait until the end of the year to renew because they have engines that are no longer allowed on the lake unless they are “grandfathered” meaning that they owned the boat prior to the policy change. To maintain “grandfather” status, a permit must be renewed each year.

Mr. Dodd also expressed concern about the number of office hours that SJWD employees maintained at the lake to grant permits. He personally had to try 3 times before someone was available to inspect his boat and issue the permit. He has spoken with neighbors who have had the same concern.

Mitch Turner explained that someone is present during posted office hours. There have been 3 occasions when staff could not be present during scheduled office hours, but a phone number was included for contact.

Mike Caston thanked *Mr. Dodd* for expressing his concerns and asked him to feel free to continue to send ideas and suggestions. He explained that within the next year SJWD will be reevaluating the revenues and expenses at the lakes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Lomax made a motion, which was seconded by Buddy Carlton, to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was approved unanimously with the exception of Wanda Fowler who had to leave prior to the Executive Session and did not vote.

Buddy Carlton made a motion, which was seconded by Tom Lomax, to come out of the Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously with the exception of Wanda Fowler who had to leave prior to the Executive Session and did not vote.

The next Commission meeting will be held July 21, 2009. The meeting was adjourned by mutual consent.

Read & Approved

Wanda Fowler, Secretary
