

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION - OROVILLE REGION

(Held at the Commission office on April 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.)

1. Call to Order ❖

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call ❖

Commissioners present were Commissioners Fairbanks and Mastelotto from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Reynolds and Thomson from the City of Oroville, Hatley and Wristen from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi, and Attorney Scott Huber (via Zoom).

3. Salute to the Flag ❖

Chairman Thomson led the Commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖

None

5. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 22, 2022, and the Special Meeting of April 13, 2022 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the minutes of the meetings, and seconded by Commissioner Fairbanks, the minutes of the March 22, 2022 regular meeting and the April 13, 2022 special meeting were approved.

6. Authorization of Warrants ❖

Commissioner Reynolds met with Manager Sturdevant and reviewed the warrants, and having found everything to be in order made a motion for their approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mastelotto. Warrants 27380-27438 in the total amount of \$1,126,041.69 from March 23 to April 26, 2022, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers, were unanimously approved and ordered paid.

7. Fiscal Reports ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported the fiscal reports for March 2022 were in the packets for review. There were no questions and nothing further to report.

8. Discussion of Manager's Emergency Spending Limit ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated that during the recent emergency he had to call Chairman Thomson to get permission to spend money over his authorized amount to do the repairs to our pipeline. At the special meeting in April, Commissioner Reynolds asked to have agendized a discussion to consider increasing the amount the manager is authorized to spend during emergencies. Policy No. 3110 governs the spending authority, so no action can be taken at this meeting because the policy will have to be amended. Commissioner Reynolds said he believes the amount the manager should be authorized in emergency situations should be \$25,000, and an emergency situation should be determined by the manager. Manager Sturdevant thinks that would be an appropriate amount. It should allow him to get an emergency team on site. Commissioner Mastelotto asked what Manager Sturdevant would do if the \$25,000 wasn't enough to get a team on site. Manager Sturdevant said he would call each commissioner and get a verbal okay to proceed with a higher amount, and then he would call a special meeting to make that official. Commissioner Hatley said we could raise the authorized amount to \$25,000, but in the case where the cost for an emergency repair would be greater than that amount, he could call the Chairman or whoever he can get ahold of to get authorization to spend above the \$25,000. Commissioner Reynolds said Manager Sturdevant should call the chairman or vice-chairman only so that it doesn't become a serial meeting and violate the Brown Act. Attorney Huber agreed. Chairman Thomson asked if we could put language in the policy that would permit in the event of potential environmental contamination the amount authorized to spend to fix the issue could be greater than the \$25,000. Commissioner Reynolds said that Manager Sturdevant is the one with the license on the hook if there is a violation and/or contamination, so he will do whatever it takes to stop that violation or contamination. He said that he would recommend a spending limit of \$25,000 in an emergency, but if he needs more than that and gets the approval of the Chairman or Vice-Chair, then the amount should be up to \$50,000 before having to call a special meeting.

Manager Sturdevant said he will agendize the policy change on next month's agenda, and will have Attorney Huber change the language of the current policy to reflect what was determined in this discussion.

9. Discussion and Direction to Explore the Purchase of Land for the Ruddy Creek Pump Station Upgrade ❖

Manager Sturdevant said that when the Board first approved getting the design done for the new Ruddy Creek Pump Station (RCPS), they talked with the property owners next to RCPS (old Wheeler property) who said they had no interest in selling. Former Manager, Scott Koch, called him a few weeks ago and told him he had run into the owners of that property who expressed they are now interested. Manager Sturdevant and Plant Supervisor Salsi met with her to see if she was serious. There are costs that will be incurred before we could even buy the property from her. He would like authorization to pursue this purchase of property, and once he determines what those costs will be then he will schedule a special meeting if necessary to discuss it and get direction. Today he is asking for authorization to explore what it would take to purchase that property. Commissioner Reynolds said that property has no access from Oro Dam Blvd., and he

needs to be sure he can get access from Oro Dam Blvd. Commissioner Hatley said this was discussed at the Thermalito meeting, and he was under the impression that she wanted to trade the property. Manager Sturdevant concurred that is her wish to trade for services for a mobile home park. It appears that property should cost between \$20,000 to \$25,000 based upon what five acres are selling for and divided it by ¼ acre. The most she would get out of this in trade would be one sewer connection and water service connection, and a manhole with a stub-out for her to connect later on. There would still be costs to SC-OR, such as lot line adjustment, design changes, etc. Commissioner Hatley said if that doesn't work out could we use eminent domain? Manager Sturdevant said they have not explored that avenue, but that is something that Attorney Huber would need to give direction on. Commissioners Mastelotto and Reynolds said that eminent domain would still cost fair market value. Commissioner Mastelotto said if she has a mortgage on the property makes it complicated. Any lot line has to be agreed upon by the lender. The huge benefit of having this property is that the current RCPS could stay in service until the new pump station was built. If we don't have this property, and have to bypass for any length of time to connect, we are at the risk of spilling. Also, once we demolish the old pump station, we have the old site for any growth that happens for a future station.

The direction by the board is to pursue this purchase or trade for property.

10. Attorney's Report ♦

Attorney Huber said that he is in very initial discussions with the attorneys related to the payment of the connection fee and the sewer service charges prior to having an occupancy permit. There is nothing to report at this time regarding those discussions. They will have a meeting next week and he will update the board accordingly.

11. Manager's Report ♦

Manager Sturdevant reported that they finished the repair on the Feather River Force Main on Friday, April 15th at 11:00 pm. He is pretty sure we will be under the \$80,000 authorized at the special meeting. He can't express strongly enough how appreciative we are of how all of the entities helped, along with Duke Sherwood Contracting. We still need to get in the bridge and figure out why the pipe rotted. We had to replace 10.5 ft of pipe. We believe we need to add another air relief valve, so he has been in contact with our engineers to figure out how we would figure out the problem. In order to inspect it we will have to bypass again, and it will be a big ordeal. When that time comes, he will inform the Commission.

He and Environmental Compliance Supervisor, Kendra Morgan, along with David Goyer, manager of LOAPUD, and his Foreman, Vince Victorino, met with State Parks and Bidwell Marina about dumping harmful septage into the sewer. David Goyer has talked with them several times about this, and they had said they would stop dumping it, yet they have been caught continuing to dump this inappropriate septage into the sewer. Their fish cleaning station is tied into the sewer, which is a blatant violation. They pump the pontoons of the houseboats, which contain petroleum products, and put it into the sewer which is a violation.

State Parks was giving David the runaround, so he asked what we could do. Glen suggested we put them on a P2 permit, which falls under the Industrial Pretreatment Program enforced by SC-OR, which is regulated under the authority of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. We told them we are a resource to help them clean up their water and get in compliance. They seemed receptive to our suggestions.

Our influent pump station construction has run into some delays due to the lead time of electrical equipment; like everything, it is hard to get right now. They are trying to figure out what their new completion date is going to be, but probably past the original August 23rd date, possibly into October.

12. Visitor Comments ❖

None

13. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖

Commissioner Hatley thanked Glen and Mikah for coming to the TWSD board meeting to give their board an update on the SC-OR bridge repairs, and then praised the TWSD staff and manager for their assistance. He asked Manager Sturdevant how the iron pipe looked where they cut the rotted piece of pipe from. Manager Sturdevant stated that it looked better but not great. Originally, they had replaced only two feet of the pipe, and when the line was charged it blew another hole in the pipe. That is the reason the repair took until 11:00 pm to complete. The theory is we need another air relief valve to allow the sewer gasses to escape, as they are corrosive.

14. Adjournment ❖

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for May 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK