

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

(Held at the Commission office on August 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.)

## **1. Call to Order ❖**

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

## **2. Roll Call ❖**

Commissioners present were Commissioners Salvucci from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman and Thomson from the City of Oroville, Taggart and Koch from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi, and Attorneys Danielle Williams from Jones Mayer and Meghan Wharton from Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley's office both attending by Zoom. Commissioner Mastelotto was absent.

## **3. Salute to the Flag ❖**

Chairman Taggart 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 July 25, 2023 ❖**

Upon motion by Commissioner Koch to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Vice-Chair Pittman, the minutes of the July 25, 2023 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

## **6. Employee Safety Meeting Minutes held on August 16, 2023 ❖**

Upon motion by Vice-Chair Pittman to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Chairman Taggart, the minutes of the August 16, 2023 employee safety meeting were unanimously approved.

## **7. Authorization of Warrants ❖**

Commissioner Thomson met with Manager Sturdevant and reviewed the warrants earlier: Warrants included check numbers 28290-28358 for a total amount of \$1,387,175.78 from July 26, 2023 to August 22, 2023, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers. The warrants were ordered paid.

## **8. Fiscal Reports ❖**

Manager Sturdevant stated there were no fiscal reports for July due to the annual audit. They will be presented at the September meeting along with the August fiscal reports.

## **9. Closed Session ❖**

The Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 5:04 pm and reconvened to open session at 5:13 pm. Chairman Taggart stated that there was only information received in closed session, and no direction was given.

## **10. Amendment No. 5 to Task Order No. 34 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Final Design ❖**

Manager Sturdevant stated that we had to ask Jacobs to change the design plan a couple of times since we were awarded grant monies. Originally, we were going to get \$20M, and we approved an amendment to their contract for phasing a \$20M project. Then the County came back and said we were only going to get a \$10M grant, so we had to re-phase the project design. This amendment is after the fact, as Jacobs has already done most of the work. They are done designing the phased project, but we still need to get the bid language that is part of this package and a cost estimate. They are asking for \$175,000 to finish this final design repackaging project.

Vice-Chair Pittman asked what this upgrade will get us. Manager Sturdevant said we will gain 1,800 connections, an increase to a maximum flow of 15MGD from 12MGD. It will not upgrade the technology, but is for capacity, as that is what is required in the grant.

A motion was made by Chairman Taggart to approve the amendment #5 to task order no. 34 for an amount not to exceed \$175,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pittman, and passed by the following vote: Pittman – Yes, Taggart – yes, Salvucci – Yes.

## **11. Amendment of Policy #2310 – Compassion Leave ❖**

Manager Sturdevant reported that the State of California passed a law effective January 1, 2023 granting 5 days of bereavement leave to employees. We need to adjust our current policy from 3 days of paid leave to 5 days of paid leave. Attorney Jones had his employment attorney look over the policy who made some changes to the language.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koch, and seconded by Commissioner Salvucci to approve the amendment to SC-OR Policy No. 2310 to increase the bereavement leave from 3 days paid to 5 days paid. The motion passed by unanimous consensus.

## **12. Attorney's Report ❖**

None

### **13. Manager's Report ❖**

Manager Sturdevant asked for direction on the Ruddy Creek Pump Station property purchase. He asked if the board was considering using eminent domain on that property. The property owner just will not respond to any calls or letters. Commissioner's Koch and Mastelotto, who both know her personally, called her but received no response from her. Eminent domain isn't the optimal way to go for either entity. Verbally she was good with our offer when originally presented to her, so we don't know what changed. He said he doesn't want to threaten her. Commissioners Taggart and Pittman suggested sending a certified letter stating we needed a response by a certain date, otherwise we will need to move to the next step. Chairman Taggart directed Manager Sturdevant to put this on next month's agenda to move forward.

Manager Sturdevant reported and he and Mikah went to Sacramento and met with seven staff members of Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Regulatory Department to discuss the miniature hydro facility on the Butte-Sutter canal that we are interested in pursuing. This was previously pursued by Ray Sousa and Scott Koch when they were managers of SC-OR, and he and Mikah looked at the 2012 correspondence and they saw no red flags, or any reasons not to pursue this project. It seems like a win-win project. DWR said they don't see any reason why this project cannot proceed. They did mention the FERC license, and that could be an obstacle. DWR said there may be ways around FERC. DWR is doing their due diligence inside DWR, and are supposed to report back to us. He will then follow up with the Commission and see if we want to invest more money into this project with an updated feasibility study. We were also made aware that there are grant monies for these types of projects, so we will pursue those if we proceed with this project.

### **14. Visitor Comments ❖**

None

### **15. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖**

Commissioner Pittman asked Commissioner Salvucci about the housing project at Ophir and Lincoln, and if it was going to start. Commissioner Salvucci stated that at LOAPUD's last board meeting the developers were there telling them that they were eager to begin their development. He said that LOAPUD will put in a new lift station at Ophir and Lincoln, and will then take two other lift station off-line. Manager Sturdevant said that the developer will need to do another capacity study prior to beginning their project. Commissioner Koch stated that he had requested a new capacity study when he was still manager because the original was so old. Commissioner Pittman asked how many units they were talking about. Commissioner Salvucci said 120 units, but it could expand.

Commissioner Pittman asked Manager Sturdevant about the EDU audit that had been discussed at the last meeting. Manager Sturdevant said he's talked with the JPA managers, and this Thursday they will all meet the new City Public Works and Community Service Development Directors, and all sit down to discuss our ideas of how to proceed

with the audit. He made it clear to Manager's Boucher and Goyer that he does not want to give a "witch hunt" vibe. He wants as accurate of information as he can get, and doesn't want anyone to think they could get in trouble if their numbers don't add up.

Commissioner Thomson said that the clock that we run the meeting by is faster than cell phone clocks. He mentioned that because we were waiting on the attorneys to join the meeting by Zoom and they may have seemed late, but there were a few minutes of lag time. Glen will buy another clock to put in its place.

Chairman Taggart asked the city commissioners what was going in next to Riebes. Vice-Chair Pittman said that Tractor Supply was building a new store and will be moving there once it is done.

## **16. Adjournment ❖**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for September 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN L. STURDEVANT, CLERK

Approved