

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Schindler, Chairman
Thomas Dillon, Mike Dougherty,
Christopher Pflaum, Haskell Rhett, Bil Tucker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Feneran

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Jackson, Utilities Director
Steve Adams, Utility Engineering Manager
Kristin Simeone, Interim Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. To Be Discussed
- Consensus was to reschedule the meeting to Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2018
- Mr. Dougherty MOVED, Mr. Hoffman SECONDED approval of the June 25, 2018 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

- A. Utilities Operational Data: Review of Water and Wastewater Flows July/August 2018
- Mr. Tom Jackson, Utilities Director, reviewed operational data reports, as delineated in the agenda materials, announcing heavy rains had increased the reservoir levels well above the 50 year average. He reported transfer of 70.34 million gallons to the Aquifer Storage & Recovery system and 33.3 million gallons to the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) during July 2018.
- B. City Council Action on Utilities Agenda: Utilities Agenda Items Presented to City Council in July 2018
- Mr. Jackson reported on July 3, 2018, City Council passed a resolution supporting the PRMRWSA's permit application to increase their withdrawals from the Peace River.
- Mr. Pflaum recalled claims of pollutants in Florida's rivers killing fish; however, same was used to fill reservoirs for water treatment plants. He requested clarification of how both could be true.

- Mr. Jackson explained water from the Peace River was diluted in a series of two reservoirs and was not polluted with phosphates; however, certain nutrients might be present.
 - Mr. Steve Adams, Utilities Engineering Manager, expressed uncertainty as to whether the Peace River was denoted in the Department of Environmental Protection's List of Impaired Waters.
 - Mr. Schindler stated the Board had not received an update on the Loop Interconnect for six or seven months.
 - Mr. Jackson replied same was delayed due to difficulty in obtaining easements for the pipeline, noting Mr. Mike Coates, PRMRWSA, could provide a status report at an upcoming meeting.
- C. Utilities Financial Report: Report of Monthly and Year End Revenue and Expenses for Utilities July 2018
- Ms. Kristin Simeone, Interim Finance Director, drew members' attention to the June and July 2018 financials, as delineated in the agenda materials, announcing revenues were greater and expenditures were less than projected.
 - Mr. Dougherty inquired as to the increase in miscellaneous revenue.
 - Ms. Simeone replied same was due to penalties, water installation and interest income. She then noted the remaining funds for the RO project would be transferred at the end of the year.
 - Mr. Schindler questioned if City Council had approved the upcoming budget.
 - Ms. Simeone replied in the affirmative, noting adoption of same would occur in September 2018.
 - Mr. Schindler questioned if any rate increases were expected.
 - Ms. Simeone replied in the negative. She then introduced Ms. Elizabeth Braccia, newly hired Finance Manager.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mr. Jackson reviewed the background of the 1775 Developers Agreement presented at the June 25, 2018, meeting, noting the initial plans for the forcemain fell through in 2008. He stated two of the mobile home parks were previously under enforcement action for deficiencies in their on-site wastewater treatment plants; however, the deficiencies had been corrected and the mobile home parks no longer supported the forcemain. He announced the agreement had been continued at City Council's August 22, 2018, meeting and was scheduled to be heard in September 2018. He concluded there might not be a drive to require the mobile home parks to connect to the City wastewater system.

- Mr. Pflaum noted the agreement presented other issues as well, such as requiring properties outside City limits to connect to City utilities.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the enforcement of mandatory hookups inside and outside City limits.
- Mr. Tucker asked if this project would impact the Septic to Sewer Master Plan (Plan).
- Mr. Jackson responded City Council had approved the Plan's concept and directed the Utilities Department to work with Charlotte County to determine the project's details and associated assessments. He anticipated the Plan would come before the Board again in March 2019 or April 2019.
- Ms. Simeone noted City Council had requested the City institute a maximum cap for the associated assessment similar to that of Charlotte County.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Groundwater RO Progress Report Update

- Mr. Jackson gave a detailed update on the RO project, as delineated in the agenda material, focusing on work completed over the past eight weeks and the work scheduled for the next quarter. He concluded the project was slightly ahead of schedule, commenting favorably on Wharton-Smith's performance.
- Mr. Dougherty questioned the project's expected completion date.
- Mr. Jackson replied June 18, 2020.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Pflaum questioned the completion date of the next rate study.
- Ms. Simeone replied no rate study was scheduled at this time.
- Mr. Pflaum questioned if contractors were requested to consider seasonal rates.
- Ms. Simeone responded the current system might complicate consideration of fluctuating rates, stating the Finance Department would research same.
- Mr. Schindler noted the previous rate study was obsolete, speaking in favor of a new study.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:47 p.m.

Bill Schindler, Chairman

Sara Welch, Recording Secretary