

OPENING

Chairman Merritt brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. welcoming all in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Chairman Harold Merritt
Board Member Ross Gregerson
Board Member Dale Beddo
Mayor Marty Lisonbee
Jerry Jorgensen (VIRTUAL)

Staff:
John Barlow
Taylor Pledger
Dale Harris
Rod Mills

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. Expense Report**
- C. Operational Budget Report**

Consent Agenda skipped as items listed were not present

STAFF REPORTS**1. Dale Harris, Superintendent**

Dale Harris- Noticed there was a lot of questions about water from the planning commission last night. He would like to clarify what is happening on north Rome. When they put the new water system together, they knew that there were problems with flow and pressure on north Rome. They talked with the state about those issues and received an exception on two homes on north Rome. The flow does meet the minimum pressure requirement of 20lbs. They meet the fire flow requirements with the pumps turned on. Current tank storage is 440,000 gallons. Going forward with any development there will be hydraulic modeling, apparatuses, pipes, tanks, and more if the need is shown. Mentions the tanks are never below 20,000 gallons.

Board Member Beddo- States with 60 minutes of flow we're putting out only 10% of our capacity. We want to be clear that state code says we have to have 1,000 gallons a minute of pressure. Our capabilities are much higher than the magnitude of the problems on north Rome.

Dale Harris- Mentions he would like to make recommendations on the drought. We are currently in a D-4 which is the worst drought we have had in 1,500 years. Well 59 has lost 20 feet of static head this year going from 73 down to 53 in standard water. He recommends that we pay attention to what these aquifers are doing. He also recommends that we come up with some type of a program where we aren't building so fast that we exceed our water capabilities. Dale believes it's imperative to get Canaan moving as soon as possible, especially to relieve Cedar Point. There are iron algae in the Cedar Point systems that have been there for years.

Chairman Merritt- States we tend to focus too much on the developments that want 50-60 houses and we often don't notice the subtle bunches of 4-5 houses that are going up everywhere. He agrees that Canaan springs will be our salvation.

Dale Harris- Mentions he regularly gets questions on whether we have enough water. His answer is always yes we have water, but at any moment we could lose our water. All we have to rely on is our aquifer. The SSD will always do its best to take care of the aquifer and make sure we have plenty of water.

Board Member Gregerson- States that his understanding is the Jessop well is becoming unusable.

Dale Harris- Explains he deactivated that well on Monday. What has been coming out of that well is black and smells like oil.

Board Member Gregerson- What is the distance from the springs to the million gallon tank?

Rod Mills- 2 miles.

Board Member Beddo- What size line is it?

Rod Mills- 12inch line. From an engineering perspective he would like a bigger pipe.

Board Member Beddo- What would it cost to treat the well?

Rod Mills- Explains they aren't even looking at treatment, the well doesn't produce enough water to make it cost effective.

Board Member Gregerson- Is there something we can do with the state regarding emergency water? Could we take the issues in Cedar Point to the state?

Rod Mills- Mentions they have had that discussion and have started that conversation. If we get to the point of an emergency there is a funding source.

Board Member Beddo- Have you noticed a change in the overflow at Canaan springs?

Dale- We checked on Tuesday and it's flowing just as much today as it was on the day we received it.

Chairman Merritt- We have a tank that's empty that hasn't been used in a long time. Would it be wise to rehab that tank in the next 2-3 weeks to add 50% of our storage?

Dale Harris- Yes but we would need to sand blast and coat it.

Rod Mills- We did an 80,000 gallon tank last summer which cost about \$75,000 to refurbish. Mentions it would be substantially less than that but will still be more than we estimated a few years ago.

Board Member Gregerson- Mentions he has access to a sand blaster and we can sand blast it ourselves for significantly less.

2. Rod Mills, District Engineer

Rod Mills- Explains we are in a very serious drought. We have a little bit more water in the overall system; however, it's not connected yet. He believes we need some plans in place to service what we have. Explains we had a source protection plan with the Jessop Well but we don't have one with the Cooke Well. We have a source protection plan for well 59 that is still in the process of being approved. In addition to the source protection plan, we had to move water rights around. Expresses that he is very happy with the outcome of the spring rehabilitation and the output we are getting. He thinks we can get it to stabilize with an even higher number than we are getting now.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3. Discussion and possible action on adoption of meeting schedule

MOTION: Mayor Lisonbee moves to adopt the 2021 meeting schedule

SECOND: Board Member Gregerson

VOTE: Chairman Merritt called for a vote:

Board Member Gregerson Aye

Chairman Merritt Aye

Board Member Beddo Aye

Mayor Lisonbee Aye

Board Member Jorgensen Aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried

4. Discussion on purchase of standby generator and trailer

Chairman Merritt- We has purchased the generator and a board member has a trailer we can use. This has already been approved and taken care of on the Town Council level.

5. Discussion and possible action on resolution authorizing users for Public Treasurer's Investment Fund (PTIF)

MOTION: Mayor Lisonbee moves to approve the appointment of Harold Merritt, Ross Gregerson, and John Barlow as individuals to see the big plains water and sewage special district accounts. Any time money is transferred, Harold Merritt will be notified.

SECOND: Board Member Gregerson

VOTE: Chairman Merritt called for a vote:

Board Member Gregerson Aye

Chairman Merritt Aye

Board Member Beddo Abstain

Mayor Lisonbee Aye

Board Member Jorgensen Aye

The vote was passed with one abstention and the motion carried

6. Discussion and possible action on Long-Term Bulk Water Usage Policy

John Barlow- Explains the problem we are trying to solve here is that there is a system in place for bulk water usage and that system works well; however, there are people who use the bulk water more frequently and for extended periods of time for different reasons. We would like to leave one the bulk water system in place and create a new system to allow people to rent a bulk water meter for an extended period of time. For example, if someone wanted to come in and pay a \$1,000 nonrefundable fee and an additional \$500 deposit, they can rent a meter and hold on to that meter for a long period of time at such point it would be the customer's responsibility to come in and have that meter read monthly.

Board Member Beddo- Recommends we allow long term bulk water users to be able to purchase their own water meter and donate it to the town allowing them to check it out meter and not pay the \$1,000 fee.

John Barlow- Agrees with Board Member Beddos suggestions and gives further detail and clarification to the policy.

Board Member Beddo- Suggested changing the wording in section 15.2.4 from "hydrant" to "hydrants". Also suggests changing the amount listed in section 15.2.5 to better identify the fee they will have to pay. Further recommends we increase the \$500 deposit to a \$1,000 deposit.

MOTION: Mayor Lisonbee moves to approve the Long-Term Bulk Water Usage Policy with the corrections as discussed.

SECOND: Chairman Merritt
VOTE: Chairman Merritt called for a vote:
Board Member Gregerson Aye
Chairman Merritt Aye
Board Member Beddo Aye
Mayor Lisonbee Aye
Board Member Jorgensen Aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried

7. Discussion and possible action on Customer Billing Error Policy

John Barlow- Explains we are addressing the problem when customers come in to the town office, for various reasons, people will have usage that is higher than what they expect. Sometimes our readers read wrong, sometimes there is a leak and other times they use more water than they expected. One thing that is not an error is the actual meter malfunctioning.

Dale Harris- Clarifies that the meters will not error on a high reading. They are specifically designed to never over read but they can possibly under read if something is broken.

John Barlow- Expresses that with our current policies, when people come in with usage concerns it feels like a dead on how we can help them. Explains that what is being proposed would be to add more processes to address these issues. If a customer formally disputes a bill we will give them reprieve until it is figured out. We would like to require staff to fill out a customer complaint form and then staff will schedule an appointment for Dale Harris to go out and check the meter. Dale's findings from his assessment will be considered final. At that point the only thing the customer can do is appeal it to the board. The board can then decide if staff has followed the appropriate process.

Dale Harris- Suggests that if a water leak is found, we will adjust the charges to match the amount they paid for the same month in the previous year.

Board Member Beddo- Expresses his discrepancies with section 3.3.11. He feels that the wording does not allow the board to have any decisions. He thinks we need to have the town attorney look over the wording on this policy so we can come up with a solution.

Mayor Lisonbee- Suggests we remove policy 3.3.11 altogether for now and can amend the policy later on.

MOTION: Mayor Lisonbee moves to approve the Customer Billing Error Policy with the corrections as discussed and the removal of the policy 3.3.11.
SECOND: Board Member Beddo
VOTE: Chairman Merritt called for a vote:

Board Member Gregerson	Aye
Chairman Merritt	Aye
Board Member Beddo	Aye
Mayor Lisonbee	Aye
Board Member Jorgensen	Aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried

Chairman Merritt opens the public comment

No public comments made

Chairman Merritt closes the public comment

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Board Member Gregerson moves to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Chairman Merritt

VOTE: Chairman Merritt called for a vote:

Board Member Gregerson	Aye
Mayor Lisonbee	Aye
Board Member Beddo	Aye
Board Member Jorgensen	Aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Date approved: _____

Harold Merritt, Chairman

ATTEST BY: _____
Deputy Recorder