



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/26/2024

REQUESTER: Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities

PRESENTER: Chris Mattingly, Director of Utilities

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A DONATION AND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500 FROM ROBERT KEYES FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VISUALLY RESTORED ANTIQUE WELL PUMP TO BE DISPLAYED AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

During the summer of 2014, the old Norman Utilities building known as 1 West Gray was demolished and taken out of service. During demolition of the building, Norman staff discovered (2) 300 foot deep, brick lined water wells were still present. Staff hired a local Norman well driller, AEI, Robert Keyes, to send a video camera into the wells and his company confirmed the depth of the brick constructed wells. With this information, the decision was made to place metal lids on the wells until more information was determined about their origin. Staff researched the well history and this area appears to be within the area where Norman's first deep wells were drilled in 1903. These two 300 foot wells appear to have been used to pump water using diesel engines or their precursor for our town's use and fire protection. Parks and Utilities staff enlisted the expertise of citizens well-versed in local history to volunteer their ideas and time for the potential restoration of these two wells, which are intended to serve as a historical marker branching off from the current Legacy Trail.

DISCUSSION:

One of the members of the informal committee, Rick McKinney, researched the pumps used in these kind of wells in the early 1900's and found a replica at a local pump dealer's scrap yard. He obtained a price to have the pump refurbished and painted at \$13,000. The local vendor, from Moore, has also included delivery in the quoted price, which is significant as the pump weighs 5,000 pounds. As this is a specialized early 1900's pump, they are not readily available and staff asks that this be a sole source purchase (City Code, Section 12-204(b.2)). One of the committee members, Robert Keyes, stated he would pay for half of the refurbished pump if the City of Norman would cover the other half of the cost.

Staff would like to move forward with this purchase and intends to have it installed as a part of the future "History of Norman's Water" historical marker. Andy Rieger has drafted a historical

message to be transcribed onto a historical sign and we are working with the historical sign committee to possibly include it within their current sign projects.

In accordance with City Code Section 12-111, any donation valued above \$250 shall be required to be accepted by the Council of the City of Norman prior to any use or disbursement of such monies. This is a private, unsolicited donation from Robert Keyes in the amount of \$6,500 to be used for the purchase of a visually restored well pump to be installed at the location of Norman's first deep well.

This equipment will be placed on public display as a historical element and will not be used in the water distribution system.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the \$6,500 donation be accepted, deposited into Water Fund Donations (Account 319-363373), and appropriated to Water Treatment Plant - Minor Equipment & Tools – Other (Account 31955234-43699) for the purchase of the pump.