

MINUTES

MONTEAGLE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MEETING

June 9, 2009

PRESENT: **Dean Lay**
 Lex Orr
 Bud Knott

This meeting of the Monteagle Public Utility Board was called to order at 10:15 am by Vice Mayor Dean Lay.

The items for discussion were:

- 1. GRIGGS & MALONEY – Mr. Steve Maloney presented their report on the habitat assessment survey on the unnamed tributary to Trussell Creek. He reported that both Trussell Creek and the tributary are in good shape. Another survey has to be done in the fall. He also presented their report on the dye testing done on Juanita Creek. He discussed the areas where the dye showed up. Ald. Orr asked if there was any direct correlation between the discharge from STP #2 and the ecoli that shows up in Pelham Valley. Mr. Maloney said there was none that he knew of. He noted that the ecoli could be coming from septic tanks or runoff from farms where animals are kept. Ald. Orr made a motion to accept both reports and have Griggs & Maloney send them to TDEC for review and comment. Ald. Knott seconded the motion and it passed 3/0.**

There was a discussion on the dye testing for Trussell Creek. Anthony Pelham stated that the scope of this testing is similar to that done on Juanita Creek and recommended that we have Griggs & Maloney do the testing. He said he had talked to Phil Simmons of Water Quality Control and this testing should not hold up our permit application, but the testing is required. Kevin Gilliam gave the council members a copy of the proposal from Griggs & Maloney for the dye testing in Trussell Creek and recommended that the council approve it. Ald. Orr made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute the contract with Griggs & Maloney to do dye testing in

**MINUTES
PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD
MEETING**

June 9, 2009

Page Two

**Trussell Creek under date of June 1, 2009, not to exceed \$28,100.00
Ald. Knott seconded the motion which passed 3/0 on roll call.**

- 2. WILLIAM KILLIAN – Mr. Killian was asked about changing our water rates and he said that according to the chancellor’s ruling stated there is nothing to prohibit an increase or decrease in our rates. He was asked if the town could set up commercial and non-commercial usage and he said he thought we could. Ald. Lay asked if the court needs to review the rate structure that we arrive at and Mr. Killian said no. Ald. Lay suggested having a public hearing when we arrive at a new rate structure proposal to give everyone an opportunity to comment on the new structure. Ald. Lay noted that this court ruling applies only to the Monteagle Assembly’s billing as a “multi-user” on a master meter because they have a contract with us. Mr. Killian agreed that it did not apply to any one else being billed under the “multi-user” rate.**
- 3. MSSA CONTRACT – It was noted that there are three meters at the Monteagle Assembly. According to our contract with them, there should be one master meter. Ald. Lay said he felt the back meter which feeds the three houses behind the Assembly should be removed and those houses fed a different way. Kevin Gilliam is currently looking at a way to do this. It was stated that there is another meter at the East Gate and this may need to be removed. Mr. Oliver Jarvis said that this meter is necessary to maintain enough pressure in the Assembly if there is a fire. He said that it would be the city’s responsibility to maintain pressure within the Assembly for firefighting. Ald. Lay asked Mr. Killian if the Assembly was considered a separate water system within our system and he said that it is. It was the opinion of the city attorney and Haley Engineering that anything inside the Assembly would be their responsibility rather than the city’s. Ald. Lay said he feels since our contract calls for one master meter, the other two meters should be removed. We will have a report on this at the next utility meeting.**

**MINUTES
PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD
MEETING**

June 9, 2009

Page Three

- 4. GRUNDY HOUSING BYPASS – Kevin Gilliam said he has not completed his report on this. He said he feels, after reviewing our billing records, that the bypass started in about December of 2003. Mr. Gilliam said he will try to have a report ready by the workshop on July 21st.**
- 5. HALEY ENGINEERING – Anthony Pelham reported that the dewatering boxes have been shipped and are in Jasper, TN. They will bring them to the mountain soon. Mr. Pelham asked about the demolition of the perimeter fence at the sewer plant. He said this was not in the original cost estimate, but a portion of it will have to be taken down in order to unload the dewatering boxes. He suggested that we do this with city employees and the council agreed. Mr. Pelham said he had looked at the sewer line that is up on piers near Jim Sanders' property. He said two or three of the piers need to be replaced. Kevin Gilliam will be getting prices on this for the next meeting on June 30th. Ald. Lay asked when the dewatering boxes would be operational and Mr. Pelham said they expect them to be in operation mid to late July. Mr. Gilliam reported that we had received an email from Dale Hager saying that they had approved the rates we sent them. He said the permit now is the last item hindering us from advertising for bids. As soon as we get approval on the permit from TDEC we will be ready to advertise. The clean up at Lake Louisa has been done. We need to re-seed some areas, but this may not be done until September. The electrical problem has been corrected.**
- 6. EQ TANK – Haley Engineering gave us a rough estimate of the cost to replace the EQ tank. The city has spent \$33,870.24 plus labor following the collapse of the tank. There was a discussion on having Haley Engineering do a model for the new rates and they said they would be able to do that. They said they would need histories of our commercial customers and then they would use our budget numbers**

**MINUTES
PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD
MEETING
June 9, 2009
Page Four**

and back the rates into those numbers. They said they could do this for about \$5000.00. Ald. Lay asked when this could be done and they said within the next 30 days.

- 7. PIPE BURSTING – The council discussed the fact that we need to determine whether to do pipe bursting or the low pressure system on the Marion County side. According to Haley Engineering, Dr. Urban said this decision should be made by the city.**
- 8. 2009-10 BUDGET – SECOND READING – Ald. Orr made a motion to approve the 2009-10 budget on second reading. Ald. Knott seconded the motion and it passed 3/0 on roll call.**
- 9. WAYNE DAVIS WATER BILL – Mr. Davis was invited to the workshop last week to discuss his water bill, but he didn't attend. He wasn't at this meeting and the council took no action on his request for an adjustment.**
- 10. HAND HELD METER READER – Kevin Gilliam has received some information on this and will have a report at the utility workshop on July 7th.**
- 11. GATE AT LAUREL LAKE – There was a question about a gate that someone put across the road below Laurel Lake without the property owner's knowledge. It was unclear who had put the gate in place, but Ald. Knott said it has been removed.**
- 12. DEPOSITS – Ald. Lay asked about utility deposits and Mr. Gilliam said he is working on this as well as the other policies that were sent to us by TAUD.**
- 13. ELDER/TAYLOR WATER LINE – Ald. Orr asked for an update on this and Mr. Gilliam said that Mr. Elder had moved the line and it was placed into service on Monday.**

**MINUTES
PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD
MEETING
June 9, 2009
Page Five**


CITIZENS HEARING

Virginia Uden, President of the Monteagle Assembly, said she wanted the city to know that they had never objected to a reasonable rate increase. She also asked if the city intended to take out the east meter. Ald. Lay said no decision has been made, but that he personally feels it needs to be taken out. Ms. Uden said the Assembly would like to be in on any discussions about this.

Oliver Jervis said he was speaking as a resident of the Assembly and was not a representative for the Assembly. He stated that the Assembly had given up their system for the city to have their own system, and asked what benefit the city would receive from removing the east meter. He said he was concerned about adequate pressure in the system if there is a fire in the Assembly. Ald. Lay said his comments would be noted in the Minutes and that he would make his decision about removing the meter based on information from the city attorney and our engineers.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joy Sturtevant, City Recorder