



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Medford City Hall Council Chambers
411 W. 8th Street – Rm 300, Medford, Oregon 97501

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:22 p.m. on the above date at Medford City Hall Council Chambers, with the following commissioners, staff, and guests present:

Chair Bob Strosser; Commissioners Jason Anderson, John Dailey, Michael Smith, and David Wright.

General Manager Brad Taylor, Executive Administrative Coordinator Yvette Finstad, HR Manager Tanya Haakinson, Water Meter & Controls Manager Ken Johnson, Water Maintenance Manager Lester McFall, Engineering Manager Brian Runyen, Information Technology Manager Kris Stitt, Water Quality & Treatment Manager Ben Klayman, Customer Service & Water Efficiency Manager Julie Smitherman

Guest(s): Attorney Mark Bartholomew, City of Central Point Councilor Tanea Browning*, Robert Annear*, Erik Brahmer (Slayden)* (*Via Zoom)

3. Comments from the Audience

None.

4. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting of December 21, 2022

Motion: Approve the minutes of the last regular meeting as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Smith

Seconded by: Mr. Dailey

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Smith, Strosser, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. Resolution No. 1854, A RESOLUTION Awarding and Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Contract Amendment in the Amount of \$20,526,913.00 with Slayden Constructors, Inc. for the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant Filter/Reservoir/Pumping Expansion CM/GC Construction Services Contract

The Duff WTP Filter/Reservoir/Pumping Expansion CM/GC construction services contract with Slayden Constructors, Inc. anticipated multiple contract amendments as design of the project elements develops. Staff has received pricing for the next Early Work Amendment (EWA), EWA #2. Costing for these items is based on the 95% filters plans and specifications provided by Jacobs Engineering. Scope includes, but is not limited to, the balance of filter concrete structures, metal fabricated items, and several long lead items. EWA #3 is anticipated to be the remaining balance of the construction of the filters; future amendments will include the reservoir excavation and construction of the reservoir and pump station.

Commissioner Dailey noted that there is a lot of mechanical and electrical equipment involved in the project, and asked if those items were still bid for best price. Within the CM/GC process, there are competitive processes that occur by the contractor. They provide a Guaranteed Maximum Price that we review through every line item; this is an incentive on their part to save us money. Commissioner Smith inquired whether the amount of the EWA is as expected; it sits right where we anticipated, with the inclusion of transformer equipment to get those ordered.

Motion: Approve Resolution 1854.

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Smith, Strosser, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

Taylor added that staff will respond further to Commissioner Dailey's question following the meeting.

6. Leadership Team Reports

- Ken Johnson, Water Meter & Controls Manager
 - Ashland Request for Water Update – On December 27, Ashland experienced operational difficulties at their water treatment plant and requested water from our system. Their treatment plant could not operate at a rate to meet their system demand; we agreed to provide up to 1.3 MGD between noon and 3:00 a.m. Ashland requested water for the second time on December 29, and there has not been any additional request from this date. We have not experienced any operational problems providing this additional water.
- Ben Klayman, Water Quality & Treatment Manager
 - Watershed Update – Precipitation for the 2022-23 Water Year (Oct.-Sep.) is sitting at as close to average as it has been in several years, and there is a decent early season snowpack. Springflow is better off than this time last year, and Willow Lake is at the historical average level. We anticipate the lake to fill again this year.

Commissioner Anderson remarked that the amount needed to fill both transmission lines appears to have changed; Klayman confirmed that this was correct. Now that we have access to Rancheria Springs, it lowers the effective amount needed to fill both pipes.

- Watershed – OWRD has indicated that the Carey Pond appears to have been decommissioned; it will be re-inspected in the Spring/Summer when ground conditions permit. OWRD has begun investigating similar ponds in the vicinity.
- Water Quality – OHA conducted a Sanitary Survey of the Medford Water system and found one significant deficiency for the Rancheria Springs collection box hatch not being constructed to today's standards; it will be retrofitted as part of springs modernization project.
- Brad Taylor, General Manager
 - CAWD Dissolution Update – Staff has worked with Legal to draft a dissolution agreement; members of the Charlotte Ann Water District (CAWD) will vote in May whether to dissolve or continue to operate as a district. The ODOT project on Highway 99 will result in significant conflicts with services for the district, and is one of reasons they are considering dissolving. Phoenix is sharing the draft agreement with their council this week, and CAWD will consider it on January 12; if they approve, it will be brought to the Board to approve our signing of it. They are currently served through a pump station that they own; the majority of customers are downstream of the pump station, Phoenix will take on the responsibility of the station and serving these customers. A few customers are upstream from the station, such as Harry & David. They would remain our customers, going to the outside customer rate.

Commissioner Dailey inquired if there is an idea of the costs associated with dissolution. There is not an overall estimate; the ODOT conflicts potentially represent millions in liability. The agreement lays out how parties will take responsibility for those liabilities, and the underlying principle of the process will be to protect our rate payers. Commissioner Smith asked for clarification on the May ballot; CAWD residents will vote on whether to dissolve. There may also be a vote in May by Phoenix voters considering the urban boundary (which would impact CAWD), and if not, it would most likely be the following May.

- Upcoming Board Schedule – January 18, Source Water Protection Plan; February 1, Water Efficiency Updates; February 15, Resiliency Backbone Discussion; March 1, Capital Budget 2023/24-Part 1; March 15, Capital Budget 2023/24-Part 2.

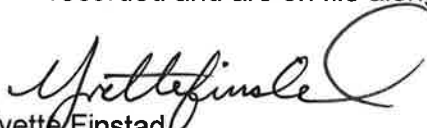
7. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Strosser remarked that he had asked Taylor to come up with rotation options for officers, to normalize the schedule after years of the appointments being out of sequence

due to the filling of partial terms by new commissioners. These options will be brought back to the Board for input.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. The proceedings were recorded and are on file along with the complete agenda of this meeting.


Yvette Finstad
Assistant Clerk of the Commission