

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
Minutes of March 8, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Works was held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., in the Boardroom at 121 West Court Avenue.

In attendance:

Gene P. Hancock	Steve D. Reeves, Jr.	Jerry Smith	Lee Roper
Michael G. Monaghan	Ken Barnett	Jeff Auman	Stacia May
Henry O. Watts	Eduardo Noriega	Jeff Chapman	Chris Trainor
	Carlos Cometto	Richard Gentry	David Tuck
	Jeff Meredith	George Petersen	
	Vickie Gorham	Vicki Knott	

I. Chairman Monaghan called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Commissioner Watts.

II. Chairman Monaghan gave the statement of compliance with the notification provision of the Freedom of Information Act.

III. Business:

A. Manager Reeves presented a recommendation to approve a requisition in the amount of \$25,746 to E. H. Wachs for a software program for the water department to work along with the valve and hydrant programs in order to better track exercising of hydrant equipment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hancock, and seconded by Commissioner Watts; the motion was unanimously approved.

B. Manager Reeves stated that Mr. Chapman was prepared to make a presentation prior to consideration of a water line study. He explained that the condition assessment would be on two sections of water line, one on Reynolds Avenue, and the other on Montague. Both are old sections of cast iron pipe, not ductile iron, that are known to be in bad condition. This proposed study would evaluate the condition of those pipes to determine if replacement is needed now or if it could wait for five or ten years. Commissioner Hancock asked about some line replacement being done now on Reynolds; Mr. Chapman responded that it was probably a leak repair. He added that some bond money had already been used to replace about 900 feet on Reynolds. Chairman Monaghan referred to a large leak on Montague some time back; Mr. Chapman responded that there was a big blowout in

front of M & M Tire that took place after they had gone through the 2010 bond budget; that had ended up costing close to \$40,000 with paving.

Mr. Chapman began the presentation on the two sections of pipe, noting there is about ½ mile on Reynolds Avenue and 1 ½ miles on Montague Avenue, and that both sections are cast iron. He continued that the assessment could project the integrity of the pipe and help determine how to repair and when to budget for the repair. An assessment would also help to determine the areas most likely to break, thus anticipating repair procedures and allowing for spot replacement. He stated that there is 6-in. cast iron pipe on Reynolds from Cokesbury to Old Sample Street, with this particular section of pipe having initially been out at the airport during World War II, dug up after the war, and moved here, so this pipe is not only old, but is twice installed. He added that they address the numerous breaks on Reynolds now as they pop up. He then noted that 6-in. cast iron pipe is also on Montague Avenue, with an estimated age of 70 plus years. Montague Avenue is a congested corridor with many businesses, restaurants, and Lander University. Mr. Chapman provided an actual slide of a section of cast iron pipe from the break at M & M Tire. He noted that this type of break results in water outages for CPW customers and “boil water” notices. He shared construction concerns and provided a slide of all the utilities that are affected during an outage. Mr. Chapman explained the oxidation process beginning with iron in its natural form which is rust, or iron oxide. The iron oxide is dug up, refined, sent to the mill, and cast iron or ductile iron pipe is made. Mr. Chapman added that CPW no longer uses cast iron, and now uses ductile iron pipe. Over time as part of the corrosion process, the iron pipe returns to its natural state, which is rust. He further explained the corrosion process once pipe is in the ground, and showed a section of pipe taken out of Reynolds Avenue with actual scale buildup. Mr. Chapman noted that although it looks horrible, it is actually not a health concern because everyone needs iron in the blood to metabolize oxygen. Mr. Chapman continued that the proposed study will go through the entire two miles of pipe and identify areas where pipe has left nothing but graphite, which is brittle and lacks strength and integrity. He provided a slide of a cross-section with graphitization of line ductile iron pipe, pointing out that the area shown has nothing left but graphite, and is the weak spot where a blowout will occur. He continued with two possible solutions, the first being a slip-line of the entire two miles, at a cost of \$1.5 million. The pro is that this is the least inconvenient to customers; the con is that it is slightly more expensive, and while we gain better flow by increasing the flow capacity of that 6-in. line back to its original design life, but would not gain the flow capacity of a 12-in. line. He stated that the other possible solution is traditional construction, or

open cut. In that case, we would want to increase the pipe size to 12-in., at a cost estimate for two miles of \$1.4 million. There would be the possible issue of change orders with running into utilities that may not have been properly marked, or cut. The pro in this case being that this would allow for future growth. The cons are congestion, customer outages, complaints, and lane closures. Mr. Chapman concluded that this study could help to determine when the repairs must be done, and how to best go about doing them. Commissioner Watts asked if the 6-in. line meets current needs; Mr. Chapman responded that it meets the existing needs of businesses; as far as fire flow, if there were a fire there, that 6-in. line probably would not meet the needs of those customers. We would have to feed off other streets where there are lines.

Manager Reeves stated that the cost of the study is a little over \$53,000; Chairman Monaghan had called that week and shared concerns within the agreement to perform the study. He noted a lot of requirements before the study is done that are put on CPW to make sure certain things are done or in place before they even come in here. They also quote \$3,000 per day as stand-by costs if anything we do causes them to stand-by and not be able to work. The biggest concern is that the study comes with no guarantee or certification of the results. We would pay \$53,000 for a study that comes in with no guarantee or certification of results, and then still would not know how much confidence we can have in that study. Manager Reeves stated that they had talked with the provider this week; they did make some changes. He further suggested going back to the provider again to find out if they would be agreeable to making additional changes in the contract that would provide some better level of guarantee or certification of the results so that we have more confidence in what they are doing. He thanked Mr. Chapman for his efforts in thinking outside the box and for being proactive with ways to assess the condition of our pipe without going in and digging up pipe. Manager Reeves continued that the condition of the cast iron pipe is not going to be good; and from a planning standpoint we know that slip-lining a pipe and maintaining the same size is not taking future growth into consideration. He stated that long term, we are better off looking at increasing pipe size with larger lines, even with the cons of having to disrupt service. Manager Reeves then proposed including \$1.5 million in the next bond issue to replace the line at that time. He stated that there are no immediate plans for a bond issue, but certainly we will be looking at one in the next three to four years. Chairman Monaghan asked if there were a situation where they had to go in and dig up a section for repairs, would we put in a TV robot to inspect down the street further, similar to Metro. Mr. Chapman responded that from a technical standpoint it could be done; financially it is not feasible because of having to

disinfect every stretch of camera and cable to introduce it into a potable drinking water line. Manager Reeves stated that if they can get the provider to rewrite the contract, we would come back to the Board with another recommendation. If not, we would move forward toward planning for future replacement. Mr. Chapman stated that the recommendation would be to do all of the Montague replacement at one time, with block by block construction progression, and issue the contract as a one-time project on that street. Another alternative is to work after hours to minimize the inconvenience to customers, which would increase labor costs by about 75%, costing about \$120,000 more. Commissioner Watts asked if the study was still needed. Manager Reeves responded that if they could get some level of guarantee on the study, then it would probably be a good idea; if not, long term these lines will need to be replaced anyway.

- C. Manager Reeves presented a recommendation to accept the bid for network storage upgrades from Data Network Solutions, at a cost of \$116,052.20. He noted that of the six bids received, all were "no bids", except Data Network Solutions, the incumbent, current provider. The manufacturer gives them a huge discount; the other vendors were aware of that discount and chose not to bid.

A motion to accept the bid as recommended was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Commissioner Hancock, and unanimously approved.

IV. Other Business:

1. Manager Reeves presented a request from the Chamber of Commerce for an early commitment to a table sponsorship, in the amount of \$650, for their annual banquet in January of 2013. The Commissioners agreed to the sponsorship.
2. Manager Reeves reported that the engineer had been looking at roof replacement for the main office building. He requested authorization to budget \$200,000 from the 2010 Bond Issue for this purpose. He added that this project is not currently listed in the Bond Issue. Commissioner Hancock asked if this could be done for \$200,000; Manager Reeves responded that the engineer has estimated \$130,000 for roof replacement, and \$55,000 for numerous other issues related to HVAC equipment. Manager Reeves noted that Rob Lyons with Lyons Engineering is the consultant working on the project.

A motion authorizing \$200,000 from the 2010 Bond Issue for roofing repairs was made by Commissioner Hancock, seconded by Commissioner Watts, and unanimously approved.

3. Commissioner Watts inquired about Promised Land; Mr. Noriega responded that they had successfully gone under the railroad tracks and were ready to start laying some pipe along that section. He added that a second crossing would be done around May or June.

V. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner Watts and seconded by Chairman Monaghan to go into *Executive Session* for personnel and contractual matters; the motion was unanimously approved.

- VI. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____, 2012

Secretary