

NASHVILLE UTILITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Commission members present in person: **Bob Willsey, Pam Gould, Dan Klaker** and **Bob Kirlin**. Alyn Brown was absent. Town Council member **Nancy Crocker** was present.

Opening the meeting: President Willsey called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

1. Roll Call

2 **Approval of Minutes:** Tabled

3: **CONSIDER ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS**

Pam Gould - Question about adjusting Residential vs. commercial adjusting for sewer, not for water? Member does not think it has been separated that it probably not written down, it is something that has been done that way for a long time, and was just something they has done.

Dax Norton- The Town of Nashville needs an adjustment Policy. You want a policy that water estimates residential. Commercial has an opportunity for a sewage Credit.

Discussion ensued. **Bob Willsey** suggested to title is Utility Adjustment request.

Pam Gould- Water usage adjustments made for residential customers only.

Board members continued discussing how an update could read for the adjustments policy. **Norton** wanted to confirm that residential could ask for water adjustment only but commercial could get sewer only. Discussion ensued. **Dax Norton** made a note of the policy as suggested by the board.

Adjustment Requests:

Bob Willsey – Robin in has approved all but one adjustment. He has an additional question on 2.

Bob Willsey asked about Christina Bety's request to receive a credit on grass watering. **Robin Willey** stated that it was difficult to come up with the amount of water she used to water her lawn. Discussion ensued about how to receive a true grass watering credit in the future.

Bob Willsey - How do we determine if they are eligible for that kind of credit? How do we determine if they are eligible for that kind of credit? How did you come up with the amount of \$76.28 for the adjustment?

Robin Willey- We do not know how much water she passed through to watering her lawn. He and the women in the office, we talking about it, and do not know how much was used. She did not use a meter or anything attached to the garden hose, which the office provides, so it left a question of which way this should go.

Bob Willsey- How did you come up with the \$76.28 credit?

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Robin Willey- I am not sure of that. This is what Darla had figured for the credit.

Bob Willsey- So unless someone has metered that, we have no way of knowing that. We do not normally approve that credit on a guess, correct?

Robin Willey- I would think so.

Dan Klaker- I would think so too. Let's make a motion to approve all the ones **Robin Willey** approved with the exception of the one for C. Bety. We cannot approve for lack of information on how we should credit. This is a no. Robin is saying he did not really know which way to go, so he asking for an answer from us, essentially.

Bob Willsey- So we are going to say no. We do not have enough information to give her a credit, if she wants to water her grass, in the future, with a meter, provided by the water utilities, she could do that to receive her credit.

Dax Norton – Other communities, in the summer, will give a watering credit off their sewer, and will do this automatic. In the summer, all sewer bills given a credit based on a formula that is an average of what people might be using in watering their lawns for a short period.

Phyllis Carr- I do not think enough people here, water their lawns.

Dax Norton- Probably not.

Bob Kirlin- Let's say right now that we do not do that.

Dax Norton- another Trend in Utilities, is to have two meters in the pit, one meter is just water for outside sources, like garages, and outside hoses, etc. Not hooked up to anything else. One meter runs everything on the outside, and one to run everything on the inside.

Bob Willsey- Motion needs made on adjustments.

Dan Kalker- Motion made to approve adjustments, for \$1,047.58.

Pam Gould- 2nd the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

4. Monthly Reports:

A. Budget/Revenue Management Report- Dax Norton

Dax Norton- Engineering Fees, on the Sanitary Sewer for Rehab, were coming out of your operating budget. Now coming out of Asset Management. You will see the sew utilities start coming out.

B. Updates on Water, Sanitary Sew and Asset Management Plans

Dax Norton- Water seem to have a mind of its own. A lot of that has to do with the rate. It has built a pro balance of 81,000, which is good for a water utility. At this point sanitary sewer side, where the engineering Fees are coming out, and we are waiting on SRF to give us the final word on funding, which predominately will be reversed. You all did a very good job creating this budget. Robin and his staff

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have found a tremendous amount of leaks and have repaired those. Very Big Job. They have done the repairs, with a very small staff. They need commended for that.

Dax Norton discussed the budget management documents. **Dax Norton** discussed the upcoming budget process and stated he would create a document that would allow the members to place numbers into the document.

Bob Willsey asked if we wanted to have a work session. Dax Norton suggested a work at the end of the next meeting. **Bob Willsey** asked if everyone was ok with a work session after the meeting. Pam Gould asked that Phyllis and Robin be present. **Bob Willsey** discussed again the moving of the meeting. Dax Norton confirmed that the moving of the meeting would be good. Discussion ensued. **Dan Klaker** suggested a budget work session in early September. **Bob Willsey** suggested Wednesday, September 7 at 12 noon. The board members concurred.

C. Operations/MRO Report-Robin Willey

Robin Willey– Ordered a meter to attach to the water lines to test certain areas.

Bob Willsey- For trying to detect where leaks are coming from?

Robin Willey- Yes, to help us isolate certain areas. Narrow it down. Next month work on aeration to get that updated. Maintenance work to be down. **Robin Willey** announced a new hire, Jarrod Bond, started last week. Another new Hire, Jacob Bird, will start on Monday.

Nancy Crocker- Where are the new employees finding out about these jobs?

Robin Willey- Jamie posted it on his Facebook page. That stirred quite a few applications.

Dax Norton- Robin and I are having a workday at the plant, going through things no longer needed and clean things up. Have things that are no longer in use. Would like a company to come and pick up the items. A place that handles this kind of thing. **Dax Norton** suggested the board members visit the plant. **Pam Gould** asked to let them know when would be a good time. **Nancy Crocker** suggested everyone meet at the plant at 11:30 on September 7. Discussion ensued.

Bob Kirlin- Hydrants, Where are we on Flushing them or checking and painting them?

Robin Willey– That will be coming up, not sure when, but before winter hits. It will be about two-week to do that. Painting them may take longer. Paint buildup on the Hydrants.

Bob Kirlin- Are you mandated to do that quarterly or yearly?

Discussion ensued about the draft water master plan.

D. Water Loss Report

Public guest and Board members discussing regionalization. Discussion ensued. Public guest likes the idea of Regionalization. She discussed grants and regionalization. She stated that she may write a 1 pager about regionalization. **Nancy Crocker** stated that the October Town Hall meeting would be about climate change. Discussion ensued.

Dax Norton asked the guest to review and ask questions about the water master plan draft.

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Dax Norton suggested that grants are hard to get. **Norton** stated that we are competing with all communities like Gary and South Bend. **Norton** stated that the EPA has a program, called the Readiness Program- Highest points going to communities that regionalize. More money given to them. Discussion ensued.

Dax Norton asked the Board Members to review plans, get feedback from you in September and turn a draft into a final.

Bob Willsey- Focused on two pages of the Report. Page 26 and 35, Water Loss is \$216,000 a year and \$21 Million for replacing all water Mains. Discussion ensued.

Dax Norton - Council is looking at \$ 1 million for ADA upgrades. The Board need to look at Sanitary Sewer plan and Water Master Plan and ask some questions.

Dax Norton suggested considering the following regarding the master plans. Do we need the projects that the master plans? Additional discussion ensued about regionalism. Discussion ensued about rates.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy Crocker suggested a lunch be purchased for the utility staff on the 7th.

Board Member- We need to make a Motion for Water Adjustment Policy

Pam Gould- Motion to adopt the policy as currently stated.

Bob Kirlin- 2nd

Policy Passes – 4-0

6. ADJOURN

President Willsey adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm.



President Pam Gould



Date