

## **Choctaw Utilities Board of Trustees Meeting – October 3, 2016**

### **Substantive Motions Approved in this Meeting –**

Dave Lohrer made a motion for Choctaw Utilities to join the Ohio Rural Water Association. Tim Good seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Call to Order:**

The Board of Trustees meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the CLPOA Lodge.

Present: Ernie Sparks, Tim Good, Rick Hartnett, Dar Jones, Dave Lohrer and Greg O'Bryan.

Excused: John Foote

Jim Moran, Randy Stoll from IBI Group, and Craig Smith were also present.

Ernie Sparks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### **Property Owner's Time:**

There were approximately 15 property owners present.

Randy Stoll from IBI Group addressed the house and thanked them for allowing his firm to work with Choctaw. His company is studying the water treatment plant and the distribution system. They are planning to perform onsite water sampling of all the components at the plant to evaluate their effectiveness. They will be constructing a computer water model of the distribution system. They will be looking at water turnover. They will be scheduling workshops in October and November to communicate progress. He anticipates that the plan will be completed and presented by mid-December.

He was asked about a visual inspection of the current filtration media. He is planning to do that at the same time as the water sampling.

Sener Calis asked about the filter that may have been breached. Mr. Stoll stated that he has contacted a contractor to take a look at that specific filter and whether it can be repaired before the end of the study. Jim Moran reported that the contractor for the corrosion control changes will begin working tomorrow. This will allow for visual inspection on filter 4. He has a company ready to pull the media out of filter 4. In addition, filter 3 will be inspected the following week and he also has a company ready to pull the media out of filter 3.

Sener Calis asked about a timeframe for the solution. There was discussion about how effective and how soon results would be seen following maintenance on the filters. Jim stated that he would expect results in about two weeks.

There was discussion about reported findings gathered from Nextdoor. Mr. Stoll was asked whether better information could be provided to the engineering firm to help with their efforts. He would like information following work on the filters.

Mr. Stoll explained his plans for testing the water at various points in the system.

There was discussion about how healthy the water is to drink. Jim stated that our water has passed all the EPA tests. The EPA considers the orange colored water to be an aesthetic issue.

There was discussion about communicating updates on the filter findings. The Board agreed to provide updates to residents through *The Peace Pipe* and Nextdoor.

#### **Minutes:**

Dar Jones made a motion to approve the July minutes. Tim Good seconded. The Board approved the minutes.

#### **Financials:**

Dave Lohrer asked about what is included in several of the expense accounts such as professional fees and bank charges. The Board discussed the lack of equipment owned by the Utility company and the reliance on Jim to perform repairs with his backhoe. They also discussed training another plant operator for the day that Jim retires. Dave reported that the ORWA (Ohio Rural Water Association) is an organization that may be helpful for us based on a conversation with Tim Ballard. Dave Lohrer made a motion for Choctaw Utilities to join the Ohio Rural Water Association. Tim Good seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business:**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **Manager's Report:**

Jim Moran said there will be an addendum for the Emergency Confidence plan regarding monies in reserve to make repairs and who is authorized to spend it. He said that the material is here for the work on the corrosion control items. The contractor will begin tomorrow. Jim reviewed the procedure for certifying and replacing the filter media. Jim expects more flushing hydrants to be added in the future based on the engineering study. He discussed installing fire hydrants instead of flushing hydrants. The Board concurred that this would be a good idea. Jim reported there are two companies interested in adding water meters. There was a discussion on the costs and benefits of water meters. Jim reported on his conversations with the EPA concerning the copper issue and sampling locations. The Board discussed the water samples taken by residents and whether the procedure is being followed.

#### **New Business:**

The Board discussed whether water rates need to be increased at this time. It was decided to leave them where they are.

The meeting ended at 8:55 pm. The next meeting is set for Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm.