

Special Choctaw Utilities Board of Trustees Meeting – November 16, 2016

Substantive Motions Approved in this Meeting –

Call to Order:

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

Present: Tim Good, Rick Hartnett, Dar Jones, Dave Lohrer, Greg O'Brien, Doug Orange and John Foote.

Excused: none

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

Dar Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Dar announced that due to Ernie Sparks' recent resignation from the Choctaw Utilities Board, CLPOA was advised by our attorney to appoint her as the interim leader until elections are held. She read a statement that the attorney advised. CLPOA Board of Trustees is not attempting to run the Choctaw Utilities Board and has no intent to do so now or in the future.

IBI Group:

There were approximately 20 property owners present.

Dar Jones announced that IBI is the engineering firm chosen by Choctaw Utilities Board to provide design services to evaluate and address the red water issues and the treatment, storage and distribution system of Choctaw Utilities drinking water. Dar introduced Tom Marshall and Randy Stoll with IBI. She also introduced Doug Orange as the new Board member.

Tom Marshall from IBI Group addressed the house and summarized his experience as a professional engineer and certified water plant operator. He explained that we have very good well water and our water contains dissolved metals. He talked about the treatment done to our water. The aeration system adds oxygen and removes carbon dioxide. This system is 45 years old and is past its useful life. He stated that the system is doing its job despite its years. Tom explained how the dissolved oxygen changes as the water flows through the system. He then discussed how reduced iron is oxidized and precipitated. He explained turbidity, which is a measure of cloudiness. Next, he talked about the filtration system. Two of the four filters are 45 years old and past their useful life. There are no instrumentation or controls on the filters and made it difficult to evaluate them. He said that the filters are performing well however he considers their condition to be fair.

He summarized that the water treatment system is well beyond its useful life and in need of attention. Good maintenance and operations have extended the life of the system. While it is

currently operating properly, there is increased risk of system failures. No process control makes identifying and correcting problems difficult.

Randy Stoll from IBI Group addressed the house and discussed the water distribution system. He discussed velocity of the system and areas where sediments deposit. He stated there are over 13 miles of main-line pipe containing 63,000 gallons of water. The total distribution system including the towers is 420,000 gallons. He reported that our average usage varies from 100,000 to 400,000 gallons per day. He showed graphics of water age in hours based on usage. He has looked at locations where flushing capability needs to be and showed a map of the lake indicating these locations.

Tom Marshall asked what is important to the community so he can prepare a complete report with technical and cost information.

Dave Lohrer asked about the anticipated lifespan of the system. Tom responded that we are on borrowed time and susceptible to another episode and a possible catastrophic failure. There was discussion on life of the existing plant, which items should be addressed first.

There was discussion on why we experienced the red water condition. Tom explained there was a filter failure where the media blew out and entered the system. He added that ortho-phosphate was entering a point that was not optimal along with some flow issues. He has seen this before and it is not uncommon.

There was discussion on the timing of implementing improvements. Tom explained the process with designing and getting EPA approval.

There was discussion on whether we converted to a non-profit corporation and whether there would be financing and grant funding available.

IBI Group stated they will put together a range of options and alternatives with regards to cost, reliability, quality, phased approach and sustainability.

The meeting moved into the conference room.

Election of Officers:

Dar Jones introduced Doug Orange as the new Utility Board member. The Board members introduced themselves to Doug.

Dar Jones asked for nominations for president. Tim Good nominated Dar Jones, Rick Hartnett seconded. Greg O'Neil nominated Dave Lohrer, Doug Orange seconded. Vote was taken, Dar Jones was elected.

Dar Jones asked for nominations for secretary/treasurer. Dar Jones nominated John Foote, Tim Good seconded. Greg O'Neil nominated Dave Lohrer, Doug Orange seconded. Vote was taken, John Foote was elected.

Formation of Committees:

John Foote, Dave Lohrer, Rick Hartnett and Greg O'Brien are serving on the existing water meter committee.

Doug Orange and Greg O'Brien agreed to serve on the committee looking into whether the utility should remain a profit corporation or become a non-profit.

Greg O'Brien agreed to serve on the IBI committee with Dar Jones, Rick Hartnett and Dave Lohrer.

Dave Lohrer, Tim Good, Rick Hartnett and John Foote agreed to serve on the rules and policy review committee.

Dave Lohrer and Tim Good agreed to serve on the communication committee.

The Board discussed the importance of communicating to the residents as a Board and not sending mixed signals. The Board discussed how to provide tonight's IBI presentation to the residents. Greg will ask IBI for an executive summary to share with the property owners. Dar Jones will make arrangements to have communications on Nextdoor come from the Board, not from individuals.

Jim Moran reported that testing has improved and the ortho-phosphate residual is starting to come back and will take care of the violation we have with corrosion control. Iron level is back to normal. He waiting to receive a plan from the EPA about copper in terms of testing and regulations. He will be testing the filters on a monthly basis for iron content. He expects things to be back to normal soon, they are nearly there now.

The meeting ended at 10:39 pm. The next regular meeting is set for Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm.