

Choctaw Utilities Board of Trustees Meeting – January 9, 2017

Substantive Motions Approved in this Meeting –

Dave Lohrer made a motion to pass the 2017 budget so Choctaw Utilities can operate with a budget. John Foote seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones - yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien – yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote – yes. Motion carried.

Dave Lohrer made a motion to approve up to \$750 to talk to Mr. Albers about changing to a non-profit 61-19. John Foote seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones - yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien – yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote – yes. Motion carried.

John Foote made a motion to renew the storage agreement between Choctaw Utilities and L&R Excavating. Rick Hartnett seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones - yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien - yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote - yes. Motion carried.

Call to Order:

The Board of Trustees meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the CLPOA Lodge.

Present: Rick Hartnett, Dar Jones, Dave Lohrer, Greg O'Brien, Doug Orange (telecom) and John Foote.

Excused: Tim Good

Jim Moran and Craig Smith were also present.

There were approximately 20 property owners present.

Dar Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Property Owner's Time:

Ryan Peters (lot 0369) asked about comments made by the engineering firm regarding flushing hydrants with respect to the EPA. Jim Moran responded there has been no communication from the EPA concerning flushing hydrants. Dave Lohrer read the unidirectional flushing protocol recommendation from the Sanitary Survey from June. Ryan also recommended that option 2 from IBI be looked at in depth with all subsets of that option. Ryan expressed concern with the incorrect information on social media that has been directed toward Jim Moran and the Utility Board. Dave Lohrer stated the importance of pushing the information out to the property owners in a timely manner to prevent rumor and mistrust to fill the void.

Ron Aufderheide (lot 0009) stated that he has reviewed the report and options from IBI. He would like to see a study that shows the costs over a 10 or 15-year period.

Michael Leach (lot 0961) asked whether there are any residents not represented on the Board that can help. Dar Jones responded that is why we brought in the engineering firm. Greg O'Brien responded that we have joined ORWA (Ohio Rural Water Association) and we now have access to one of their experts.

Dave Mittelkamp (lots 0219 & 0220) asked about getting a copy of the IBI report. He was told that it is on Nextdoor.

Barb Niemeyer (lot 0735) asked about the protocol for making a decision and timeline. Dar responded that the IBI presentation was 4 days ago and the Board needs to process the information.

Minutes:

Rick Hartnett made a motion to approve the October and November meeting minutes as amended. John Foote seconded. The Board approved the minutes.

Financials:

John Foote reported that he and Dar Jones are set up with Huntington to sign checks. Both of them will sign for checks to Jim Moran. John reported on the money market accounts and being protected by FDIC. He said we may look into rolling some of it into CD's. Dar Jones reported that her and John Foote have been working on the 2017 budget. She distributed copies along with a list of the set-aside items and their balances. Sener Calis asked what is the total amount of aging accounts. Dar responded it is \$37,900. Dave Lohrer made a motion to pass the 2017 budget so Choctaw Utilities can operate with a budget. John Foote seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones - yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien – yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote – yes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Water Meter – Dave Lohrer reported on the water meter investigation. He discussed the current water meter technology and the problems associated with them. The committee is recommending that we should wait until the technology matures. Rick Hartnett explained to the house why the Board is looking into water meters. Meters will monitor usage and detect problems such as broken water lines. In addition, our billing system is random with respect to actual usage. Jim Moran stated that we now have a waste water treatment system that is dependent on our water usage.
- Profit vs Non-profit – Greg O'Brien reported that he has a meeting scheduled January 17 with Albers Law to discuss advantages of changing to a non-profit as a 61-19. Greg has spoken with Rachell at IBI and we do not qualify for any Federal grants due to our income. We may be able to qualify for State grants. Greg shared funding information he has researched. Dave Lohrer made a motion to approve up to \$750 to talk to Mr. Albers about changing to a non-profit 61-19. John Foote seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones - yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien – yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote – yes. Motion carried.

- IBI – Dave Lohrer reviewed the IBI executive summary. He discussed their statement that the aerator detention tank is operating in failure mode. They also stated that the overall condition is assessed as poor. He reviewed the 4 alternatives and costs presented in the report. Greg O'Brien shared his research on the Duolator system. He has spoken with 2 operators who said the Duolator is easier to operate and maintain than a tradition system. Dave presented some financial information he put together to possibly fund the project. Jim Moran explained that if there was a catastrophic failure, the worst-case scenario is that we would be without water for 48 hours. The Board agreed to look further into option 2 and also into option 3 presented by IBI. They scheduled a meeting for Wednesday Feb 1 to discuss the two options including financial considerations. The Board also discussed the distribution system upgrades IBI recommended in the executive summary. There was discussion about the benefits of installing fire hydrants where the blow off assemblies are currently located in the distribution system. The Board decided to distribute the IBI executive summary to the property owners.
- Rules & Policy Review – Greg O'Brien reported on research he has performed on other water boards.
- Communication – Dave Lohrer reported that he sent out a draft of the annual report.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

Manager's Report:

Jim Moran reported that the number 4 filter has been contracted to be repaired for 45 days and has been offline for 60 days. The EPA has received the information needed. The contractor is in the process of shipping the material for the filter. Jim stated that effluent for iron on all filters is now being tested monthly beginning November 2016; there have been no issues. The clear well replacement was approved by the EPA in July to be replaced and he is intending to begin in the spring. We are back in compliance with copper corrosion control. There will also be copper and lead sample testing required between January and June. Dave Lohrer explained that copper is going to the sewer treatment plant. Jim reported that ortho-phosphate testing takes several days because it is sent to a lab. He recently received approval from the EPA for him to perform daily testing instead of waiting on the lab. Jim updated the Board on recent communication with the EPA concerning 8 items including corrosion control, copper/lead, sanitary survey and the clear well. Jim is planning to perform a test on well pump number 3. He is not planning to resubmit the capacity increase request at this time.

New Business:

Dar Jones distributed a storage agreement between Choctaw Utilities and L&R Excavating. John Foote made a motion to renew the storage agreement between Choctaw Utilities and L&R Excavating. Rick Hartnett seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Rick Hartnett - yes, Dar Jones -

yes, Dave Lohrer - yes, Greg O'Brien - yes, Doug Orange - yes and John Foote - yes. Motion carried.

Dar Jones proposed creating a committee to develop a corporate code of conduct for Choctaw Utilities. John Foote agreed to head this committee.

Rick Hartnett requested that a committee with him and John Foote be set up to review how water rates are charged to the residents and businesses of Choctaw and bring back a report with recommendations. The Board concurred.

The meeting ended at 9:46 pm. The next regular meeting is set for Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm.