

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPRINGVILLE CITY WATER BOARD**

2
3 Tuesday, May 9, 2006
4 6:30 a.m.
5 Council Room
6 50 South Main
7 Springville, Utah 84663
8

9
10 **ATTENDANCE**

11
12 Councilmember
13 J. Niel Strong

Secretary
Marcie Clark

14 Board Members
15 Alton Beck
16 Lynn Panter
17 Gordon Wilson
18 Nile Hatch
19 Steve Oakey
20 Calvin Crandall - absent
21 Rick Child - absent

City Staff
Brad Stapley
Russell Vest - absent
Layne Long (7:00 am)

- 22
23
24 1. **Welcome and Review of Minutes** – the minutes from April 18, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Alton Beck
25 made a motion to approve, Gordon Wilson seconded. All were in favor (Brad Stapley and Layne Long
26 were not in the meeting at that time).
27

28 Cl. Strong reported that he told council the water board recommends the water rates stay the same. We
29 may need to entertain changing the summer structure and leave April and May at the \$1.05 flat rate. One
30 problem we’re finding is inconsistent readings.
31

32 **Reports from staff** – Brad Stapley reviewed the things the water department will be doing, such as well
33 maintenance, all PRV’s will be identified, valves, hydrants, air valves, leak detections. Mr. Wilson was
34 surprised the wells aren’t on – he has had good water pressure. The city has not had any complaints so far
35 this spring. Sewer collection – Cues will be coming tomorrow to demonstrate their TV Truck. We’ll also
36 look at Pierpoint to look at their equipment. The TV Truck we have now continues to break down – it’s an
37 old truck. We’re trying to set ourselves up to do routine maintenance instead of “putting out fires”. Mr.
38 Wilson asked if anyone does maintenance on man hole covers. Mr. Stapley responded, saying we don’t
39 have crews specifically assigned to do that. Mr. Wilson reported there are few covers or storm drains that
40 have gardens growing out of them on 1700 E (Hunter Valley, Mapleton Dip). Marcie will send a work
41 order out to the public works crews. Mr. Wilson suggested putting something in the newsletter to have
42 citizens clean them out by their property. Street sweeping is part of our program to keep drain inlets clean.
43

44 Cl. Strong talked about the possibility of having flat rate period and reducing the period of time we have
45 fluctuation. This would be a gesture to the citizens as to what they’re paying for water. We would
46 consider lengthening the flat rate and shortening the tiered rate. Nile Hatch mentioned the fact that 1% of
47 the meters are read wrong and have a credit the next month. It makes it hard to work with the data. April
48 and May together are comparable to June. Most residents probably don’t even know what rate they are
49 paying. It seems like just a few people who are paying the higher rate are driving the problem. We made
50 the rate structure due to them. Gordon Wilson suggested publicizing the impact of the fees. Nile Hatch
51 mentioned he had some of his students do a report on Springville Water Pricing Plan.
52

53 Layne Long discussed the proposals to deal with irregular meter readings. Mr. Long distributed a copy of
54 his staff report, including option 1) fully implement the smoothing function, 2) set a window, 3) only have
55 smoothing function above 30 days, 4) do not use a smoothing function, and 5) have a summer flat rate and

1 a winter flat rate. Nile Hatch stated that any kind of smoothing function has to be done. Full
2 implementation makes the most sense. Flat rates don't provide conservation incentives. Mr. Oakey asked
3 if the city has ever looked at electronic readings. Mr. Long said the city has, but the payoff is 30-40 years.
4 Mr. Stapley reported that the city is looking at hiring a company to read the meters, which would be about
5 \$2-3,000 less than having part-time employees do it. Mr. Hatch had always assumed a smoothing function
6 was being done. Cl. Strong agreed to recommend to council #1 smoothing function.
7

8 Mr. Long and Mr. Stapley presented the Water Fund FY 2006-07. They distributed spreadsheets, which
9 showed a snapshot of this year's budget. The water fund is in healthy shape. Nile Hatch pointed out that
10 Alpine/Highland numbers are wrong.
11

12 Springville doesn't have any storm drain costs, so our fees should show 0. Cl. Strong mentioned we are
13 working on fees now; it will probably be \$3-4/month, which is in line with other cities. There is so much
14 growth in the west fields and we're not getting storm drain impact fees on those yet. Mr. Wilson asked
15 who will drive the PR effort. Cl. Strong doesn't know yet. The newspapers are not reporting these issues.
16 Mr. Hatch stated we need to sell a total package of services. This handout does not show power costs.
17 Springville City is on the high end for power. When you blend in power, it really hurts it. Mr. Beck stated
18 we should point out to citizens that Springville has adjusted its rates and shouldn't change for a while,
19 while other cities will be increasing their rates, just like American Fork is doing.
20

21 Mr. Hatch thought it would be interesting to survey the residents and see how many of them have
22 responded to the Governor's Conservation request. We really need better public relations on this matter.
23 We need to let citizens know the water fees are going to water infrastructure (things that will make our
24 lives better) and not just tax revenue. We should couple conservation with PR on what our fees are being
25 used for. Mr. Long states that we can use the Annual Water Report to put these things in. South Jordan
26 Water District has a great web site to look at – they are the predecessors to "Slow the Flow".
27

28 We have 3.5 million costs to fix existing systems. We should be able to keep up with existing deficiencies
29 with current rate structure. Our impact fees are in higher mode. If we're too greedy with impact fees, it
30 may slow down growth and slow down revenue. Mr. Hatch stated that given the supply and demand, it will
31 be hard to change growth by impact fees. Impact fees will have little effect on that growth. Mr. Beck said
32 the city has to have impact rate fees that will make the city whole. Mr. Long said we're looking at 9
33 million over the next five years to cover existing deficiencies; new tank, new well, transmission lines.
34 Impact fees should cover most, if not all developer improvements. We have 1-2 council members now
35 shying away from bonding. Mr. Beck stated that if we don't bond, we'll go back to being reactive over
36 proactive.
37

38 City Council decides next Tuesday on sewer impact fees. In the next 1-5 years, we'll need \$4,689,500.
39 Currently, our impact fees can't support that. Citizens have benefited from low rates for a long time, but
40 we'll probably have to raise rates to cover the necessary improvements to the existing system. Cl. Strong
41 would rather bond than raise rates. Springville City doesn't have a system for "breaks" to low income
42 people. We could look at doing that. Alton Beck made a motion that if we're going to raise rates, we
43 should implement a program for rate deductions. Nile Hatch seconded the motion.
44

45 The board discussed past action items. Beneficial use should be back on the table this year. Layne Long
46 will be on the league (legislative committee). No action has been taken on getting a River Commissioner.
47 We're trying to get the state to help fund it. Mr. Stapley reported on Water Shed Issues. We just
48 completed a source protection plan and turned it into the state. The Meadows subdivision tied into the
49 sewer and is off septic now. Bartholomew is so high up in the mountains, there isn't anything around it,
50 which is a good thing. This item can come off the action list.
51

52 Cl. Strong will be out of town the second week in June.
53

54 *Adjourn* – This meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.