

River Rock Water & Sewer Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2003
River Rock Community Center

Present: Smith, Sherlock, Buerkle, Carlson
Absent: None (one position vacant)
Minutes: Carlson

Minutes Approval:

- Meeting called to order at 7:07
- Davis not present, as he has resigned his position. The board will need to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.
- Smith moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Sherlock, unanimous approval.

Claims:

- Directors pay (\$320.00) with one vacancy and no secretary pay.
- Northwest Pipe Fittings – Meters for district.
- Potts Drilling - Late charge on pump bill over 30 days. Discussion: Jason Leep discussed original pump from them was out of warranty but hadn't been used very much prior to it's failure. Carlson stated that given the way the board is setup, presenting a claim at the meeting after it is received, then paying it at the next meeting, it is nearly impossible to pay a bill in 30 days.
- TD&H – Invoice for professional services rendered towards attaining a discharge permit from DEQ. State is reviewing application, no approval yet, no issues to report from DEQ, and no work is pending. It is very likely that DEQ will require additional info prior to issuing a decision. Smith questioned when annual fee was due – Jim Pierce (TD&H) stated it would be next year as this year fee was submitted with the application and billed to us through a TD&H invoice. District was overcharged for as-built plans 2 months ago. PC Development has corrected the over charge, owes the district \$95.29. Mr. Pierce asked when bills are normally paid by the District. Smith answered they are paid the night they are approved, usually sent the next day.
- Moved by Sherlock to approve claims with the exception of the interest for Potts Drilling. Seconded by Smith, unanimous approval.

Reports:

(Revenue Report – Christine)

- Revenue Summary Reports were presented for September and October. Stated that Landmark has paid it's outstanding balance to the district.
- Christine reads the meters for both River Rock and Landmark and bills out both as well. Takes here 6 ½ ^{hours} days to read River Rock. Difference between what is read at houses and the main meter is common space on Landmark, paid by the Landmark Property Owners Association.
- Sherlock questioned the Valley Meadows (rental lots) account. Christine reports they are current on their account.

- Smith asked about Stephanie Nelson overpayment of \$82.50. Christine has correct address and is refunding the payment.

(Operators Reports – Jason Leep and Ron Edwards)

- Jason Leep presented the board with a letter he had received on behalf of the board from Tony Kolnick. The letter stated that he had been told of a \$1,000,000 debt owed by the board to Golden Ventures, Inc, and had various questions regarding the supposed debt. Discussion followed. No debt is owed by the River Rock Water and Sewer District other than the bonds that the state of Montana holds. It was the consensus of the group that Mr. Kolnick had some misinformation and was probably referring to a loan held by the Property Owners Association. Jason Leep had a draft response to the letter, which was reviewed by the board. Smith moved to send the letter to Mr. Kolnick, seconded by Buerkle, unanimous approval.
- Ron Edwards submitted several reports including:
 - Average Daily Demand: back down to about 43,000
 - Pump run times: 5 pumps total. Well pumps 1 and 2 switch back and forth, when 1 goes off, 2 comes on
 - The tank level is never below 12 ft, the alarm condition is 10 ft.
- Smith asked about capacity of the system. Leep responded that the system has a sewer capacity of 374,000 gallons per day, 440 gallons per minute of water is what it was designed for, and 2,000 gal/min are what the wells are capable of.
- Coliform sampling May – September 2003. Leep replaced the chlorine tank as the old tank wasn't working properly. Replacement tank was paid for by PC Development. Discussion ensued regarding state regulations about sampling. If the district has one "hit" in a month, they then need to take 5 samples the next month until all are clean. If a system has 25 connections, it makes it a public system and subject to state regulations.
- Buerkle brought up concerns of water pressure problems on the east side of River Rock and asked if anything could be done. At one point he only had 20-25 psi at the school. Ron Edwards had moved the set points on the bigger pumps up and the school went back to 50-55 psi. Ron also stated that the pump pressure is at 60-62 psi, which is ideal.
- Carlson asked Ron Edwards if he had pursued any tests for leaks in the system as had been discussed in a previous meeting. He had done some checking and reported that he felt the system is "pretty tight".

Old Business:

- Copper Bloom – Letter from District outlining our expectations regarding their rules violations was not sent. Jason Leep will update existing draft and send. Copper Bloom is going to build a new building soon, so they need to be aware of the districts expectations. Jason Leep stated that they will need to fix the problem by installing one big meter at each building. The changes should be made by 1/15/2004.
- Sprinkler Meters – If we want to change the rates for the district, we could do so at any time. Must be at a properly noticed public hearing. Currently, vacant lots

do not pay anything, not even to the debt service portion of the district. Jason Leep stated that our current rates were set by the state, using an average of 10,000 gallons per month, and that at full build out, this would represent 125% of expected highest payment. Carlson stated he is opposed to removing sprinkler meters from the district, and making only changes to the rates for sprinkler meters would have little or no effect on the district as there are so few of them. If the district is going to make a change to the rates or the rate structure, it must effect all of the customers. Discussion followed. No action. Ron Edwards stated that the district could figure it's actual debt service per connection and change the rates to reflect that each month. Less dependent on usage, more of a flat rate structure. Discussion followed. Jason Leep said he will bring the bond payments to the next meeting so we can look into this option further if desired. Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

- Open Board Position – Steve Davis' position is vacant and needs to be filled. Smith said to bring any candidates to next meeting for a vote.
- Secretary Position – Current secretary, Ida Mae Pruitt, absent from meeting again, second straight meeting she has missed, and again, none of the board members had heard anything from her. Several members stated they are dissatisfied with the contents of the minutes she has been taking. Discussion followed. Sherlock moved to ask for her resignation. No second. Carlson moved to immediately dismiss her. Second by Buerkle, unanimous approval. Smith asked if the board would be interested in purchasing a tape recorder to help the next secretary get more of the discussion. Sherlock stated that he would want the tape erased after each usage. Discussion followed. No action. Smith said he will put notice in the community newsletter for December for any interested parties to come and apply at the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding whether the board should hire the new secretary as an employee or an independent contractor. No action taken, but consensus was the position should be an independent contractor.

Citizen Comments:

- No citizens present.

Smith moved to adjourn at 9:10. Second by Sherlock, unanimous approval.