



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT  
1220 Lakeway Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98229

## REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### Minutes *June 10, 2020*

Board President Laura Abele called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Commissioner Laura Abele\*                      General Manager Justin Clary\*  
Commissioner Todd Citron\*                                      District Engineer/Assistant GM Bill Hunter\*  
Commissioner Bruce Ford \*                                      Operations & Maintenance Manager Brent Winters\*  
Commissioner John Carter\*                                      Recording Secretary Rachael Hope\*  
District Legal Counsel Bob Carmichael\*

**Excused Absences:** Commissioner Leslie McRoberts

Also present was Dan Burwell\* of RH2 Engineering.

\*Attendees marked with an asterisk participated remotely by phone or video conferencing.

#### **Roll Call**

General Manager Justin Clary performed a roll call to identify those in attendance, and then verbally confirmed that the meeting was noticed in accordance with Resolution No. 859 allowing remote meeting attendance as well as in compliance with current statutory requirements. It was confirmed that all participants were able to be heard and hear each other clearly.

#### **Consent Agenda**

##### **Action Taken**

**Ford moved, Citron seconded, approval of:**

- **Minutes for the 5/27/20 Regular Board Meeting**
- **Payroll for Pay Period #11 (05/16/2020 through 05/29/2020) totaling \$44,379.32**
- **Payroll Benefits for Pay Period #11 totaling \$50,953.00**
- **Accounts Payable Vouchers totaling \$108,140.23**

**Motion passed.**

#### **Resolution No. 866 – Adoption of 2020 Update to the Comprehensive Sewer Plan**

Hunter recalled that at its February 12, 2020 regular meeting, the Board approved a revision of the 2020 Sewer Comprehensive Plan for issuance to review agencies (Washington State Department of Ecology, Whatcom County Health, Public Works, and Planning and Development Services departments,

and the city of Bellingham). The Plan has since been revised to incorporate agency comments. The next step in the process is for the Board to adopt the update via resolution so that it may be forwarded for final approval by the Whatcom County Council.

**Action Taken**

**Citron moved, Ford seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 866 as presented. Motion passed.**

**Resolution No. 867 – Approval of 2020-2024 Lake Whatcom Management Program Work Plan**

Clary explained that in 1998, due to observed deterioration of the water quality in Lake Whatcom, the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, city of Bellingham, and Whatcom County entered into an interlocal agreement that formally created the Lake Whatcom Management Program. The Program's primary goal is to improve lake water quality by jointly implementing programs affecting the Lake Whatcom watershed.

Since its creation, the Program partners have developed and implemented four five-year work plans focused on multiple program areas. With the most recent work plan (2015-2019) approaching expiration, the interjurisdictional coordinating team (ICT) of the Program developed a new work plan to reflect current conditions and regulatory requirements while maintaining the Program's overarching goal of continued improvement of lake water quality.

**Action Taken**

**Citron moved, Ford seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 867 as presented. Motion passed.**

**Dellesta and Edgewater Sewer Lift Station Improvements Contract Award**

Hunter indicated that the Dellesta and Edgewater Sewer Lift Station Improvements Project includes replacement of existing Smith & Loveless top-mounted lift stations with new-top mounted package sewer pumps, District-standard controls, and telemetry at two sites: Dellesta (installed in 1977) and Edgewater (installed in 1974). Work also includes construction of a new 4-inch diameter 66 lineal foot HDPE sewer force main from Edgewater Lift Station directly to the North Shore Gravity Sewer Interceptor.

An Advertisement for Bids was published in the Bellingham Herald on March 17, 2020. Bids were due and opened on May 28, 2020. Bid prices came in significantly more than the Engineer's Estimate and the funding allocated in the District's 2020 Budget. The approved 2020 Budget includes \$450,000 for the construction contract and the low bid amount was \$628,757.50 (including 8.5% sales tax) if all of the unit price work is performed. The difference between the 2020 Budget and low bid is \$178,757.50. Staff recommended making up the construction funding shortfall by allocating \$180,000 from approximately \$377,675 of extra unallocated sewer funds that were carried over from 2019 to 2020.

Dan Burwell of RH2 Engineering spoke to the Board about possible reasons for the discrepancies. The bulk of the cost difference cannot be reconciled to anyone component, but might be due to perceived risk by the contractor, late season bid opening (contractors already have work lined up), and/or contractor's current contracts on hold due to COVID-19 delays are still active resource commitments. Discussion followed.

**Action Taken**

**Citron moved, Ford seconded, to direct \$180,000 of the unallocated sewer capital funds carried over from 2019 towards the Edgewater and Dellesta Sewer Pump Station Improvements construction contract, for a total construction budget of \$630,000. Motion passed.**

**Citron moved, Ford seconded, to award the Edgewater and Dellesta Sewer Lift Stations Improvements contract to Ram Construction, Inc for a total contract price of \$628,757.50 including 8.5% sales tax and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract. Motion passed.**

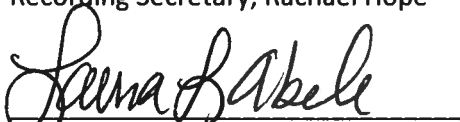
**General Manager's Report**

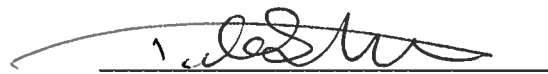
Clary provided updates on several topics to the Board, including creation of a District specific COVID exposure control plan, ongoing work with FEMA on grant funding to recover some costs related to the pandemic, and forward movement on the Camp Firwood wetwell project and Lakeview Street reservoir demolition. Discussion followed.


With no further business, Abele adjourned the Regular Session 7:22 p.m.

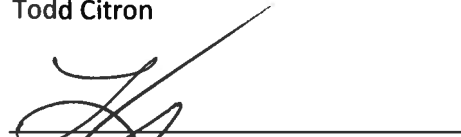
  
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Recording Secretary, Rachael Hope

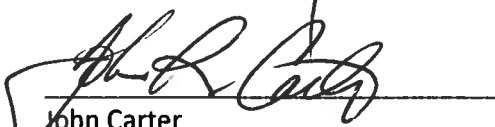
June 24, 2020  
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Date Minutes Approved

  
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Laura Abele

  
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Todd Citron

  
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Bruce R. Ford

  
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Leslie McRoberts

  
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John Carter