



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

REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

June 24, 2020

Board President Laura Abele called the Regular Session to order at 8:00 a.m.

Attendees: Commissioner Laura Abele
Commissioner Todd Citron
Commissioner Bruce Ford
Commissioner Leslie McRoberts
Commissioner John Carter
General Manager Justin Clary
District Engineer/Assistant GM Bill Hunter
Finance Manager/Treasurer Debi Denton
Operations & Maintenance Manager Brent Winters
Recording Secretary Rachael Hope
Consulting Engineer Melanie Mankamyer

Also in attendance were Ken Zangari, District Electrician; Rich Munson, District Engineering Technician; and Keith Stewart and Russ Porter of Gray & Osborne, Inc.

All attendees participated remotely by phone or video conferencing.

Roll Call

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

Consent Agenda

Action Taken

McRoberts moved, Citron seconded, approval of:

- Minutes for Minutes for the 6/10/20 Regular Board Meeting
- Payroll for Pay Period #12 (05/30/2020 through 06/12/2020) totaling \$46,018.56
- Payroll Benefits for Pay Period #12 totaling \$50,694.33
- Accounts Payable Vouchers totaling \$63,994.60

Motion passed.

Sudden Valley Water Treatment Plant Condition Assessment

Hunter explained that Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District contracted with Gray & Osborne, Inc. to perform a condition assessment for the existing Sudden Valley Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The condition assessment was Phase 1 in developing a 20-year facility improvement master plan. The purpose of the assessment was to investigate the integrity of the existing WTP from a structural, electrical, mechanical, architectural, and process perspective to guide the District's decisions on use and/or modifications at the WTP. Hunter introduced Keith Stewart of Gray and Osborne, who provided a presentation of the assessment findings.

Stewart gave a brief description of the project, history of the WTP, a summary of findings, and recommendations for next steps. He explained that the condition assessment identified several items for improvement, but did not find any significant structural, electrical, mechanical, or operational issues that would prevent the WTP from successful operation into the foreseeable future. In addition he highlighted a number of high-priority improvements that should be addressed to enhance efficiencies of operation of the facility in the future. Discussion followed.

Geneva Urban Growth Area Sewer Service Discussion

Clary recalled that the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District (District) was founded in 1968 to facilitate the conversion of on-site sewage disposal systems (OSDS or septic systems) within the watershed to public sewer connections, as well as to ensure that future development constructed in reasonable proximity to District sewers was connected rather than being served by an OSDS. District boundaries include the Geneva community, in which the District receives sewage from nearly all developed property.

In 1990 the Washington State Legislature adopted the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), which consists of a series of state statutes govern land use in the state. Whatcom County subsequently adopted a comprehensive plan, which included the designation of Geneva as an Urban Growth Area (UGA) that would one day be annexed into the city of Bellingham (City). Since that time, the City has included the Geneva UGA in its comprehensive planning process. In 2019, the City conducted the most recent of a number of analyses of the viability of annexing the Geneva UGA, among other city UGAs. They found that annexation remains unlikely to be supported by the Geneva residents. As a result, the City and County may, at some point in the relatively near future remove the UGA designation from Geneva.

With only two parcels in the entire Geneva UGA being identified as impacting the District's ability to require sewer service should the UGA designation be removed, and each of those parcels having likely limitations of the potential for future development as standalone residential homes, staff recommended that the District not invest resources in opposing any future actions by the County and/or City in removing the UGA designation from Geneva. Discussion followed

General Manager's Reports

Clary provided updates on several topics to the Board, including the pending Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellingham for the Scenic Intertie, new mask procedures following the mandate by Secretary of Health Wiesman, upcoming repairs on the Agate Creek Force Main crossing affected by winter storms, and FEMA grant updates. Discussion followed.

Engineering Department Report

Hunter gave a status update on items including increased water/sewer availability form requests, the Sudden Valley Area Z Developer Extension Agreement, and the Camp Firwood Wet Well restoration project. Discussion followed.

Finance Department Report

Denton presented financial information through the end of May 2020 and updated the Board on current state proclamations affecting late fees and service disconnects as well as courtesy past due reminders. Discussion followed.

Operations Department Report

Winters gave a brief update on operations and maintenance activities, including continued successful work under COVID-19 precautions, water treatment plant function, and biannual water line flushing. Discussion followed.

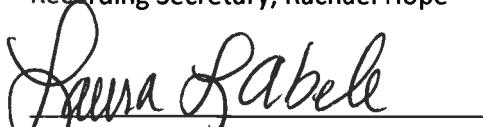
With no further business, Abele adjourned the Regular Session 9:31 a.m.



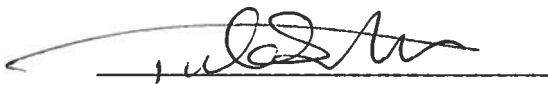
Recording Secretary, Rachael Hope

July 8, 2020

Date Minutes Approved



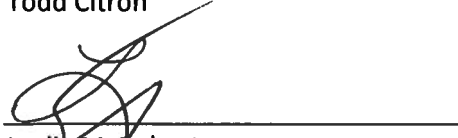
Laura Abele




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