

WATER COMMITTEE
JANUARY 24, 2018
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James Preau, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

GUEST:

Lloyd Johnson, Jack Gotshaw,
Larry Peterson, Jackie Beck

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, Matt Bergen,
Carrie Gibby, Daphne Cousson

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2018.

Lee Pope made the motion and Commissioner Steve Brown seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 10, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION.

Attorney Dennis Davenport commented that several meetings back we were looking at an issue in a private subdivision, people were complaining about water pressure issues and supply of water. The Water Committee over the years has looked into the issue of being an emergency supplier of county water to private subdivisions. We have never really done anything formally, other than talk about it and throw some ideas back and forth. He said we have put these ideas in a draft ordinance form and tried to identify what we saw as the issues before the county and how we believe the county should resolve these issues. This is probably the second or third time we have looked at this, for some of us it may be the first time they have seen it. As you walk through the ordinance it describes the purpose and intent under the first provision. Why we are doing what we are recommending to do what we are doing. He said one thing we really wrestled with for quite some time is what is the threshold for providing emergency drinking water; and in the discussions he believes the conclusion was that only when water is not available. He said he does mean to be splitting the hairs too finely, but you really have to define what that means in your ordinance. If you don't, people will tell you "my water is not available". What does it mean for water to be available? The lack of drinking water from the source, when a private water system has no drinking water available, a private water system or well experiencing low pressure is not deemed to

have water unavailable. Low pressure is a mechanical issue with the system itself. Water unavailable is you don't have any source water, this is an emergency.

Mr. Davenport went on to say we also talked about the definition of contaminated water. Contaminated water concerns the county, but contaminated water is an issue of the system itself. The way to remedy contaminated water is to have proper chemicals put in the water. As long as the private system owner can resolve the issue with the system, the county would not consider that to be an emergency situation. As long as water is available, they can treat it and they can provide adequate pressure, then those are the definitions we came up with.

Mr. Davenport explained part of our process is to try and identify those systems in the county that are on private permits. If you are a private system, you have to have a permit with the State. He stated this is by no means an exclusive list of people that don't have county water; it is a list of people that we are aware of that have a state permit. Within that permit they are permitted to have a certain or maximum. He said there are 12 of them listed in Section 28-253. We have provided the permit number and the number of households for each permit. That number of households is a pertinent number because we use that to compute an activation fee for the provision of emergency water. That section also talks about the process of how to get the water. Request is made to the Water System Director and the process goes through.

Mr. Davenport said next we talk about supplying the water, because the other issue from the county's perspective is, if it is an emergency and if you have no water available, how do we get the water to you? We know in advance what those 12 systems are so we are telling you that you need to do something to prepare for an emergency. What we are trying to do is help you out and tell you what you need to do. For example, we tell you in Section 28-254 how close a tie in is to your private water system. For example, Fayette Mobile Home Park is 55 feet away. What we are saying is we need a tie in point on public property; typically it is going to be a right of way. As long as we find a point on public property that is as close to your system as we can, that is where these numbers come from in 254. Some of them are quite a distance away; a number of them are very close by. We are telling everybody on these systems, this is the distance you have to bridge in order to tie onto our system. There is another factor, which is the size of the waterlines within the private water system. The threshold is six inches; any water system that has waterlines six inches and larger in diameter, the county will require the installation of vault on the public property in order to tie in to the private system. The cost of a vault is considerable. Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Bergen for an estimate on a six inch vault. Mr. Bergen replied approximately \$50,000.00.

Mr. Davenport said we are trying to get that message out to the private system owners. If you are a private system, you are this close to us, but if you have six inch lines or larger, you are going to need to install a vault. We will do the installation, and we will bill you for the vault, \$50,000.00 or whatever the cost for the vault

needed. The only way to really prepare if I am a private water system with six inch lines or larger is go ahead and start the process of getting that vault installed somewhere; otherwise it is going to delay in getting water service in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Davenport explained the actual fees are in a different document, a Resolution. We say in the ordinance how we are going to charge you an activation fee, etc. The Resolution is a different document and it sets out the schedule of fees. The fees for each private water system are in that separate document. The reason it is a separate document is sometimes these fees are subject to change and it is a lot easier to change the schedule of fees than it is to change the ordinance itself in the code book.

Mr. Davenport stated the fees range from a low of \$250.00 for Wendell Coffee Golf Center; they are based upon number of households permitted on your state permit, up to a maximum of 6,000.00 for Four Seasons Mobile Home Park. He explained this is an activation fee and the activation fee is charged every time you activate the emergency water provisions of this ordinance. There are also some provisions in the ordinance dealing with how long you can receive supply from the county.

Emergencies are difficult to resolve sometimes. It might be resolved in 24 hours; it might take 2 weeks depending on the nature of the problem. He said we understand that, but we also said that in the course of resolving this emergency, we are not going to be a defacto water supplier to the private water system. We reach a point where you need to do something besides receive emergency water. One other issue, the actual water rate for the emergency water is triple the water rate for water system customers. The reason for that is because everybody receiving water on an emergency basis has not paid all the cost of this water. The people that are the Water System have paid all the cost of the water which is the sum cost for the pipes, the waterlines, the pump stations, everything. The people receiving the emergency water haven't paid any of that, so the emergency rate is triple the rate of the normal rate for a Water System customer. The duration of time is in the ordinance, a two to three week time frame; once you cross that threshold, we tell you that it is time to start making plans to tie onto the Water System. Because, your problem is more than just an emergency, it is a catastrophe, it is failure completely and you are not getting it done. Otherwise, someone could just sit back and receive this emergency supply, and as long as they are getting as much in fees from the individual customers of their system that pay the obligation to the county, this will wash as far as they are concerned. He said we are not interested in being that defacto water supplier. If in fact you reach the point, 30 consecutive days, it is time to start making plans to tie on. This is not us coming in and buying your system, this is you coming to us and showing us how you are going to upgrade your system to meet our minimum standards and then we will accept you into our system. That is a catastrophe. He said he thinks that is the extreme. We probably won't see that, but it is possible. It has already happened one time in our history, back in the mid to late 80's up in north county. It is possible to occur. We address that because it is possible.

Mr. Davenport stated he has covered a lot of information in a short amount of time. This is a brief context and history of how we are, where we are. He said he will ask the Board first if this is an accurate reflection, is there anything he needs to add or take away. He asked for their comments.

Mr. Rapson said Mr. Davenport did a really good job of explaining it to the point where we need to provide these minutes to the Board of Commissioners. They have seen a first pass draft of this and a lot of the questions he got back, especially from Vice Chairman Ognio relate and pertain to a lot of answers Mr. Davenport just went over. He said it would be very beneficial to share that with the Board of Commissioners prior to this becoming an agenda item. He thinks there is some misunderstanding in regards to the concerns he heard, that Mr. Davenport clearly articulated, being I am a private system and I want to connect to the county system. Concerns were who pays for the line to get there, who pays for the vault and there wasn't a clear understanding for some of the questions he was receiving; the county is not boring those costs, those will be borne by the private provider. He said he thought Mr. Davenport did a very good job of walking through those steps of the activation fee as well as the rates.

Mr. Pope commented that he thinks it is important for them to realize this is something we have worked on for almost a year. We have looked at these systems and tried to come up with a way to address it in a way that is fair and equitable for both us and the private systems. This is not some whimsical thing we did in one meeting. There has been a lot of work and background research to come to where we are at today.

Mr. Davenport said to address Mr. Rapson concerns, probably the best vehicle to have that conversation with the Board is to recommend something from this committee to the Board and let it get on an agenda. He said he does not expect their seeing it for the first time is going to mean an adoption of something. He said he thinks it is going to generate the kind of questions you are talking about and it may take several meetings; and it may take them saying send this back to the Water Committee to answer these questions or whatever the case may be. He said he sees this still as a process. He would be completely surprised if it goes to the Board of Commissioners and they vote that we are going to do this. He said he thinks there is going to be a lot more input from the Board.

Mr. Rapson agreed. He said we can put it on the Board agenda for February 22 and then we have these minutes; they will be adopted at the February 14 meeting. These minutes would be part of the agenda package on the 22nd. If they were to read the minutes, especially the overview we just provided, he thinks it would answer some of those questions. He said he thinks Mr. Davenport is right, he thinks there is a lot of dialogue. One of the concerns that he thinks we have kind of discussed a lot as a Board and come to an understanding on is the low pressure aspect of it. He said he thinks there are still some feelings out there that we should somehow address that concern. That will probably be something that comes up before the Commission.

Commissioner Brown suggested including the Committee minutes in the submission to the Board of Commissioners so they can have that background. The beautiful part about this is at least there are expectations now. If you are in a private system, you know what is going to happen, or you know what the situation is. Prior to this we could say yes or no, or anything we wanted to and that was pretty much it. No one had any expectations at all. At least now, there is something on the table and you have a good understanding of what it is going to take in the event that you have something happen.

Mr. Pope commented the State will look at this. When the State comes down and a system is having a problem, it is going to be important that we stayed ahead of the game and had a system in place for these systems. It is not like we just wandered through and we are making a decision in a minute. We have thought it out and have a clear process, before an event happens.

Mr. Rapson made a motion to request the Board of Commissioners to review the Private Water System Emergency Ordinance at the February 22 meeting, and that we include the ordinance, the resolution and the minutes from today's meeting. Mr. Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd Johnson commented that he has no concern about the strength of his system. They are fortunate to have a very dependable water supply. He said they have come to the meeting because they have a general interest and are curious about what is happening elsewhere. He said he owns the Fernwood system. They have the capacity of what they are using 12 times stronger; they have quite a reserve.

Jackie Beck, from Fayette Mobile Home Park said she noticed the number of household hookups is incorrect. She said she only has 34 spots. Mr. Pope explained we got that number from her permit on line. She said years ago that probably was the number of people, not hookups.

Mr. Davenport suggested if she wants to reflect that in this code she would need to have her permit amended downward for that number. Mrs. Beck said she has told EPD a number of times. She said hookups are permanent, you might have some empty spaces, but as far as the water hookup, that is going to stay the same, which is her maximum. Mr. Davenport stated what she has on her permit right now translates to a \$780.00 activation fee. What that means is if she has to have water, it is going to cost \$780.00 just for us to turn the switch on. Mrs. Beck stated she has 2 wells and they are connected to each, so if one well goes down she has the other to rely on.

Mr. Pope commented that we are fortunate we have not had anything happen with any of the systems; we just felt that it would be important to have a system in place, have you guys involved so you know that we are planning and we do have consideration for helping you guys if you have an emergency. To make sure we

have a system in place instead of all of a sudden we have an event and nobody has ever thought about what to do. That is what started this whole process.

Mr. Rapson said the activation fee is the mechanical mathematical equation, so if you get your permit regulated it will automatically adjust your rate. Mrs. Beck stated she would try one more time. Mr. Rapson said we could help by giving her the justification on why, because now there is actually an activation fee tied to it that may be just enough push to have EPD modify it.

Mr. Pope suggested sending a copy to Brian Boutelle to explain they are working with the county on an emergency plan; that directly affects their activation fee. Commissioner Brown commented the important thing is, even though they have strong systems; worst case scenario even with a strong system, for example if the well was contaminated, if the water quality degraded to the point you could not use it anymore, at least you now have a clear understanding of what we can do together collaboratively to get water to your people.

Larry Peterson stated he has an operational question, just for planning purposes. He asked about the minimum pressure of the system in the area of his system. Mr. Pope explained the minimum required in the distribution system is 20 for us, but we don't regulate, we don't have pressure zones, it is based on where you are located in our system. We don't operate our system based on pressures; we operate it based on volume of need. Mr. Pope asked Matt Bergen to give them a ballpark figure for the pressure in the area of Fayette Mobile Home Park on Rivers Road. Mr. Bergen said this is probably somewhere in the 70 psi range. Mr. Peterson explained the way the wells are set, they typically provide a minimum of 30 maximum and the pumps are set at 50. The reason to have them set there is some of the homes go back to the 60's, when they were first installed. He said he would hate to subject the plumbing supply in the home to higher pressure.

Mr. Pope said the vault we talked about earlier for those larger systems would have a pressure reducing valve so we can regulate the pressure going into the system for that very reason. In some areas we have 80 to 100 psi. That changes with the height of the water that is in the tank throughout the day.

III. MNGWPD REGIONAL MULTI-FAMILY TOILET REBATE PROGRAM.

Mr. Pope explained that Daphne Cousson researched and found there are nine, really ten systems that would qualify, but one system shows 22 units, she believes there are probably more than 30 toilets so they would probably also qualify. In calculating for the low flow it would cost about \$72,150.00 to allocate funds necessary. For the ultra-low flow toilets, it would be about \$123,825.00 to set aside funds if every one of these systems wanted to take advantage of the program. Wisdom Woods is the only one that we did not calculate because it shows them having 22 units, he said Mrs. Cousson will do further research. They may have more than 30 toilets which would mean they will qualify. It is basically \$50.00 for

the low flow toilets and \$75.00 for the ultra-low flow toilets; this is how the calculation came about. He said we multiplied that times the number of toilets.

Chairman Frisina asked if all these have been put on notice that this is available to them. Mr. Pope replied there will be outreach, the District will provide the materials and we will distribute them. They will be notified. Mr. Pope recommended that we put this in the budget for next year and have those funds set aside.

Mr. Rapson commented we have some funds set aside for the rebate toilet program. He said this type of funding goes hand in hand with not wasting water, it would be ironic to do a water waste ordinance and act accordingly, just make sure we budget for it.

Mr. Pope said what we generally do with the residential program is add funds as needed. If we want to set aside a certain amount in the budget next year to fund this and if, all of sudden they all chose to take advantage of it, then we would go before the Board and ask for more funds. Mr. Rapson commented the chances of all of them doing it at once are probably remote. It could be that if we have money set aside and no one reacts to it, the first three or four months, it might be okay to knock on one of the doors and do it over a series of years. There is a cost to the complex as well.

Mr. Pope commented the ultra-low flow toilets are about two hundred and something dollars apiece. They are only getting \$75.00 off. Commissioner Brown added they have the water savings.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to recommend this program to the Board of Commissioners. Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Mr. Pope reported we are taking care of a few minor items at the Crosstown Water Plant; we will plan to have a meeting at Crosstown in the near future so we can show off all the new technology that has been installed there. This has been approved by the Water Committee over the course of the last year. We are finally getting started on the Chemical System Improvements at the South Fayette Plant. Those are under design now for the Chlorine Dioxide. We are also looking at the Permanganate and the Carbon, the same systems we put in at Crosstown. At the South Fayette Plant we are reviewing some Solids Handling Equipment which will be a belt press. We are looking at some different equipment; CH is designing the task order to address that which was part of the CIP plan this year. We do have the final copy of the filter study at the South Fayette Plant. He said we can make that available to the Water Committee. We literally have just gotten that. CH is going through some transitions and Michael has left, so we will be getting a new project manager from them. He said that is why there is no one here from their organization today. He said we will bring that filter study back and show the

findings. There are not a lot of major issues to address in those filters; which is good news. We will need to do some media at that plant, but it won't be a half million dollar upgrade like we originally thought it might be. We will probably just have to do some media down there to get those filters up to speed.

Mr. Pope said at Crosstown everything is moving right along. Everything seems to be up and running; the Carbon feeder is on line and the final punch list items are being handled.

Commissioner Brown asked about Michael no longer being with CH. Mr. Rapson said he had an offer that was too good to pass by. He is going to coordinate a transition, so it won't be that he is completely out of the picture, but eventually, they will assign a new project manager to us.

Commissioner Brown commented he has been a great person to work with. There was some discussion about doing something to recognize him, a letter on behalf of the committee. Mr. Pope said he is still in the Atlanta area, so if we need him, he is still around and we could call him. He said he is a really good guy. He is excited to see him move forward.

Russell Ray added at Crosstown, one of the last items there IT has been helping us with. In order to use the tablets the technology that Lee mentioned and you will get to see IT had to go in and do some work with putting in a wireless device like we have here at McDonough Road. They had to work it out where the SCADA wireless is different from the regular wireless. They were working on that yesterday; hooking up the iPads and making progress to get that finished up.

V. DISCUSSION OF WATER COMMITTEE MEETING TIME.

Mr. Pope explained there is a list in the packet of proposed dates and meeting times. Mr. Rapson said Commissioner Rousseau had asked us to look at maybe changing like what they did on the Commissioners side. Having a meeting in the earlier part of the day, instead of the later part of day; for us to have a meeting in the later part of the day versus the early part of the day. He said what we tried to do is pick the same two months that were impacted by the change that we had with the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Rapson said we are proposing holding the meeting on April 25 at 6:30 p.m. which is different than 8:00 a.m., then having a meeting on October 8, Monday at 6:30 p.m. The Commissioners moved both those days to a Tuesday because they are all leaving that Tuesday which is why they moved it. Then we canceled the meetings we typically cancel anyway. He said if the committee is agreeable we will route this back to the Board of Commissioners, they approved the last calendar; then we will get all the calendars updated.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of a change in the Water Committee meeting dates and times to coincide

with the changes in the Board of Commissioners meeting changes. April 25 meeting time will change to 6:30 p.m. and October 10 meeting date and time will change to October 8 at 6:30 p.m. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Peterson stated they appreciate the opportunity to sit in and get to know everyone. They look forward to having a cooperative relationship. Mr. Pope said that we appreciate what they do taking care of the customers within their water systems. Mr. Rapson commented that we all stay in our respective lanes, but we are also doing the same thing, so if you need help, by all means pick up the phone. We have people over here that can help. Mr. Pope said he hopes they understand they don't have to be connected to our system; we help our neighboring counties. If there is an emergency, don't hesitate to contact us. He thinks being water purveyors, we all have to help one another. Mr. Rapson said if you are trying to figure out what am I doing, how can I fix this, it is always good to pick up somebody else who is doing the same thing that same day, somewhere else.

Mr. Lloyd mentioned a good way they have found is they often go out to lunch. They had a septic issue and it was something they could not figure out. They were interested if there was any technology in tracking down water leaks. He said they ran across your crew in American Deli and they learned a lot over lunch.

LAKE MCINTOSH PARK

Mr. Pope informed the committee that on February 21 Project Sanctuary is having a Field Day which is a special event for them at Lake McIntosh Park. They are doing kayaking, mountain biking and walking on the trails. They won't actually be in the water. Mr. Rapson commented we don't need EPD approval for any of that, but by the same token it is being held in our park and he asked Anita and it is not impacting the park where they are asking for hours to be reduced or to be closed. Whenever we hold an event at one of our parks in the water parks, we want the Board to know about it.

The question came up about how many people. Mr. Rapson said maybe 100. Commissioner Brown commented it will eat up the parking lot. Mr. Pope said we are not closing the park. Commissioner Brown commented for people who want to come that day, we might want to put out the sign board the week before.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING JANUARY 25, 2018.

Mr. Pope informed the Committee that Chip Conner will be recognized for his service on the Water Committee at the Board meeting Thursday night. Also, Danielle Mattesco will be recognized for his Eagle Scout project at Starr's Mill at that same meeting Thursday night.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Steve Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee January 24, 2018 meeting. Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 14th day of February, 2018.

Lisa Speegle