

**WATER COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 10, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Frank Destadio, Vice Chairman  
Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Lee Pope, Water System Director  
James Preau  
Bill Holland

**ABSENT:**

Pete Frisina, Chairman  
Charles Oddo, Commissioner

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney  
Jason Bodwell, Jacobs

**OTHER STAFF:**

Russell Ray, Carrie Gibby

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Frank Destadio at 8:00 A.M.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON MARCH 27, 2019.**

Lee Pope made the motion and Bill Holland seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 27, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. WATER SELECTOR UPDATE.**

Lee Pope showed a picture of the Water Selector screen. He said the Water Selector is not officially live, it probably will go live today. They were utilizing it to make the gate selection 100% based on the parameters. He pointed out it was choosing gate 10.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked for clarification on being live. Mr. Pope replied today it should start selecting the gates. Tom at the water plant will start doing some jar tests in a few days after the pond turns over to see what kind of chemical adjustment is needed.

Mr. Pope said when he sent this to Mr. Rapson he texted him and told him “never in a million years would we have ever opened gate 10. It starts from 1 at the top and 12 at the bottom. This is almost near the lower end of the reservoir. But, at that time of the day, this is where the best quality of water was. That tells you in times past our water plant and really, any water plant out there is never pulling the best quality of water possible all the time. If you leave the top gate open all the time, every now and then that is probably going to be the right gate; but it is just hit or miss. The Water Selector is already working and we will start benefiting from that quality of water. He said he does not think it was too long after that everything changed and they had to go to a different gate. It is going to start making those

changes on its own, which means we will be pulling the best quality of water, but the point is we had three gates originally, we would have never pulled from gate 3 anytime of the day. That is because that is where everything settles, that is where the nastiest water is. Not true. This is a unit that calibrates itself so we know the units are correct. More than one parameter according to that gate; it is not like you can say the unit is reading that one parameter wrong. He said it can't be reading all those parameters wrong, it is calibrated.

Mr. Pope went on to say that he thinks what we will see in a week or so the onsite pond will turn over, it holds about 30 million gallons. It is going to be a few days before that gets flushed out and that pond officially turns over and we start benefiting from the quality of water. The key is, throughout the 24 hour day, this thing is going to adjust and make sure it is pulling the best quality of water possible. He said Mr. Rapson is already briefed on helping them track that. We know we are going to benefit from chemical savings, obviously the better quality of water the less chemicals we will need to treat it.

Mr. Pope commented the Water Selector is up and running now and it is working. Further discussion pertained to the standard design of the three gates at the reservoirs. Mr. Ray explained conductivity is related to the electrolytes, the salt content, because it measure electro potential in the water. It would be one indicator that you might have something coming into the water from an industrial or even a wastewater source.

Mr. Pope said soon we will be calculating those savings and then Mr. Rapson will help whomever fills his shoes to make the decision of when they start with Lake Horton. Mr. Rapson stated we promised the vendor we would track them for two months, then do an extrapolation of what those savings were, validate that and then give the notice to proceed.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked how long before we will be able to make significant savings. Mr. Rapson replied we will look at it on an annual basis. Mr. Pope said he thought we charged it out to an anticipated seven year return. Mr. Rapson said there is a seven year payback.

### **III. TANK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE.**

Mr. Bodwell reported they might be done this week. He said he drove by two weeks ago; the logo looks fantastic. You can see it from both directions. Mr. Pope said he thinks we can probably disinfect and put it on line next week. Once it gets done, they will hopefully have one invoice for both the demolition and the 92 tank. Get him paid and put him on the back burner until we revisit this in October.

Mr. Rapson commented this is a good press release, a couple of nice pictures of the new tanks with the new names. The tank behind the avenue will have a new logo with the Water System and the Peachtree City new logo.

Mr. Bodwell stated they popped the top on Crabapple and it looks good. Ellis Road tank will need the same activity as the Highway 92 tank; the underside of the dome, it is the same price, \$135,000.00 additional on Ellis Road as it was on Highway 92. Mr. Pope said this was included in the budget. He said we submitted a very wholesome budget for the department next year. He said he thinks there is enough money for whoever comes in to move this department forward.

Mr. Bodwell commented we have a total figure for all cost in the fall, which Lee has worked into the budget. He asked how that works. Mr. Rapson stated there are two different pieces, what he is talking about now is the M&O, which is the operating budget. Then there is the CIP 5 year plan; both of those will be formally adopted as part of the budget process, which will be voted on at the last meeting of June.

Vice Chairman Destadio commented the average is looking pretty steady since November. Mr. Ray said that is right, he explained on his graph he added 2017/2018. He did not have it on the previous chart he prepared in December. He added this information; 17/18 and 18/19 as it crosses over between years. He pointed out the total for both plants together.

Mr. Pope commented you can see the rainy months, this year is a little less than last year because of all the rain we received. Mr. Ray commented you see a little variation, but overall the pattern is steady and consistent.

#### **IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.**

Mr. Pope said he thinks the key is we are waiting for the CIP realignment which will take place tomorrow night. He said they emailed the Committee the proposed realignment of the CIP funds for this year. He said he does not see any issues with that. It is just a process we have to go through to make sure the Board understands that we are asking them to allow us to change what we originally asked them to place those funds. Once those funds are realigned, we will immediately move forward with the filter program because that is a sole source item, so we need to go ahead and get that started at South Fayette. Then we will initiate the bid process for the purate.

Jason Bodwell commented next week he will get with Ted and talk about the filter media replenishment, the low hanging fruit, a very inexpensive project that we can get Ted to release from a sole source perspective; reach out to the contractor and get that moving. The second, he thinks is the filter control change out, there is a little bit more complexity on that one, but we have a vendor and we have a proposal and sole source justification. Next is getting the chlorine dioxide bid out on the street, which is 100% done. We just need to get Natasha and Ted to approve their end of the bid document and get that on the street. He said while that is on the street, we

will give you a task order for doing the office engineering and construction management of that project, which they already have written.

Vice Chairman Destadio said some of them had to leave before Lee's presentation. He apologized for having to leave; the other presentation ran longer than he anticipated. He asked if there was a significant change in the CIP. Mr. Pope explained the presentation was on projects moving forward for next year. He said he thought they were received very well, he does not think there are going to be any issues. The key is the AMI Metering project is going to be pretty labor intensive for the County. That is a weighty decision, he does not think that is going to be anything you are going to make quickly. As that goes out for bid he told Mr. Rapson and the Board that he would make himself available to review the bids if they needed him to, or would like for him to assist them as they look at the AMI Metering project. He said he would make himself available free of charge, he is not asking for any funding if they want his expertise, he will be glad to assist them through that. That is a serious decision for this department; it will probably be the meter you will use for the next 20 or 30 years. It will probably be a 10plus million dollar decision.

Mr. Rapson said there are four task orders associated with the second presentation that day. One is the hydrology, which is doing all the mapping for the systems distribution. Then there is a long term forecast which we will probably end up getting Carl Vinson or somebody to initiate; they do those; that is their wheelhouse. Then, there is a rate analysis that has to be done, typically, whoever we pick is going to pick a Ralph Ellis or some type group to do that kind of scenario. The other one is the yield analysis. We will probably, at a minimum, put three of those task orders together in the long term forecast. What happens is Carl Vinson will take all of the comp plans for all the different cities and municipalities and they will extrapolate how many people. Then we will take all that data and give it to a consultant. The consultant will back fill with the forecast when you add water based on the number of people that you are going to have on the system.

Mr. Pope said he and Mr. Rapson had talked; water basins change, water systems change; so we need to update our yield analysis. The yield analysis we have on Lake McIntosh was projected, so we don't even have a real time. He said he and Mr. Rapson agreed that is something we need to do to make sure our yields are firm before we go to the Board and ask for anything, or the citizens and ask for anything moving forward.

Mr. Rapson commented it also gives you the numbers in regards to what it looks like under a bad drought year two and three; how much capacity do you have.

Vice Chairman Destadio asked if there was a CIP update at the County meeting. Mr. Rapson said it was really just greasing the wheel with the Board, so when they start seeing these task orders roll through, they kind of understand why we doing

that approach. Because there is no point in talking about connectivity without being able to answer all the questions they are going to ask. All those reports answer...

Mr. Bodwell commented he did not remember any questions from the Board about the interconnectivity. Mr. Rapson said there wasn't, he thinks most of them understand that is something we are going to have to look at and if we don't look at it ourselves, we are probably going to be asked to look at it.

Mr. Rapson said these four task are pretty standard type things you do in a water system; none of them are really outside that wheel house, but the question is we will probably spend more time deciding what meter we pick, because there are lots of different meters. There are meters that don't have mechanical parts. Mr. Pope said he explained you can go stainless, you can go ultrasonic, and you can out price yourself if you are not cautious. We need somebody to help us look at all those and decide what is really best for our system. He does not think that is a Daphne or a Director, or whatever, we need some professional assistance that can look at our situation compared to other systems.

Mr. Rapson said he will use it as an opportunity to grease the wheel with it is great when we implement technology, it is great when we do these meters and now we will be able to do it automated, but we are not talking about abolishing positions. A lot of times that is what the employees see; and he made a point of saying we will probably take all these folks that used to read meters and we will push them over and create another distribution maintenance team. We are not talking about eliminating jobs. That is usually how the vendors come in and say you can save all this money, and the tons of money they are talking about saving is eliminating jobs.

Mr. Pope said we actually addressed that with the re-org a couple of years ago, now we have Utility Services where we took the meter readers and customer service folks in the field and we took our locators and made them all one position. There are three positions now in that one department so those people are already learning how to do locates and to help with customer assistance. If we do tone down how many people we need out reading meters, they have already learned a couple of other jobs.

Vice Chairman Destadio stated he did the exact same thing at Shaw Airforce Base. They changed the meters. One, they saved water, you are treating water in the water plant and then you find out where you are losing water; you are losing money. Two, they had all the people they had reading meters now could go out and do all kinds of other things.

## **V. RECOGNITION OF LEE POPE'S SERVICE.**

Mr. Rapson said we want to officially recognize this is Lee's last week. They are having a get together tomorrow afternoon. We always like to recognize those folks who make a difference. He said we got him a plaque and he read the wording on the plaque – Director of Fayette County Water System, in appreciation for your

five years of outstanding leadership and unwavering support. You will be greatly missed. Fayette County Water Committee.

Mr. Pope said the system has come a long way, but that has been 65 employees. It is not him, we have righted a ship, he said he thinks it was from everybody's input. He has been received very well by Mr. Rapson and the Board, the folks here. Dennis has always been there to take a call when we needed him; and we have needed him unfortunately a lot of times. He said he thinks the system is headed in the right direction, he feels very confident that we have good staff in place that are trained. We have trained almost every position in this department so that they feel very confident in making the decisions out there every day. He said ya'll may think I sit back there and make decisions all day long, but actually we have a good group of folks that are making those decisions. He said he thinks you are going to find the system is going to move very smoothly forward. He does not think there is going to be any major issues in his absence. He said he told Steve he is available to take a call, if we have a crisis or something he is not going to ever turn his back, he still takes calls for Rockdale, he still takes calls for Newton because that is just the way he is and the way he is built. He is not going to just leave you without any support, but he thinks you are going to find that is going to be very limited. You have good folks here, you have great operators at the plants. We have the only training program in a water system that we actually can give training points to our operators for our in house training program. It has been recognized by the State, and he does not know of another water system that has that. That is something that was done by Staff. He does not think there will be any hiccups here; the citizens should not be concerned one bit. We are not a system of concern anymore, it is an award winning system, several awards are about to be presented to this department in the next few months. He said he thinks it will continue to be an award winning system.

Mr. Pope said he appreciates his time here, he has enjoyed it. It has been fun.

Mr. Rapson said Chuck, who is our elected official, had a conflict this morning; he want him to express his appreciation for what he has accomplished as well.

Vice Chairman Destadio said as a personal friend and longtime guy sitting over where Jason is, he would say that everything you said is the mark of a true leader. You put all the accolades on your staff, but it takes a true leader to be able to be there and mentor them and to help them along and to allow them to do their job. A true leader does that. Congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. Pope said thank you. Vice Chairman Destadio said best wishes from everybody here. Mr. Rapson commented that most of his tearful goodbyes was given during the Department Head meeting. It is very rare to get 26 of his department heads speechless around a table.

Mr. Pope said, with that said, even the department heads have been very supportive. He has leaned on a lot of the other departments; Mary has been very supportive in

the Finance Department, Ted in Purchasing, Phil Frieder in IT, Phil Mallon down in Public Works, and of course Lewis in HR. There are a lot of people around that table that has been a large part of the success of this department. It is not just the Water System alone, we are surrounded by... Steve has a really good team of department heads, they are wonderful people. This county really does not know how dedicated he thinks the other department heads are and they do a wonderful job. With that said, he has good support, even with his colleagues. It was pretty tough.

Mr. Rapson said sometimes it is good to pause and talk about where you have been, and we will have opportunities in the future. Like Lee said, we have good senior leaders up here that are going to keep everything on the tracks for us. We are in the process of looking for another director. It is posted and will be posted through the end of April. At that point, we will gather them up and take a look at the resumes and start going through them.

Mr. Rapson said thanks, life is full of changes and people sweeping in and out of your life. Never say never, you never know when you are going to sweep back into somebody's life.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Frank Destadio adjourned the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

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Frank Destadio

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

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Lisa Speegle

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 24, 2019