

Water/Utility Billing Committee Meeting June 4, 2015

Committee Members: Chairperson Rich Knaub, Tim Morgan, Al Heyman, Jim Wiley, and Bill Mosca

Severn Trent Guests: Shawn Walker, Rita Varona, Robert Edge, and Steve Vaughn

Guest: Denny Knaub

Minutes: The meeting minutes from May 7, 2015, were reviewed. One document correction was noted (the misspelling of Al Heyman's name). The motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Wiley; seconded by Al Heyman. Motion carried.

Agenda:

Chairperson Rich Knaub moved the Severn Trent issues to the top of the agenda because of the length of discussion time required.

Rich Knaub started the meeting with concerns of issues around potable water usage. A report of water usage from 1/24/14 through 5/15/15 was reviewed and discussed in great length by the committee and the Severn Trent reps.

Rich discussed billing issues with Duane Smith, CCU rep, and increases in usage spikes.

Rich and Bill will meet with S/T reps and CCU reps to check the accuracy of the meter reading for the main water supply line.

There were questions about how the water usage rate does not match the current billing data. A root cause study is needed to determine corrections and to restore a positive financial balance.

1. Is the master meter readings correct?
2. Do we have a major leak?
3. Is there unauthorized usage?
4. Review the six flush devices in Sawgrass to be investigated for usage/cycles/frequencies.
5. Is the 4" (red) line providing service to Riverwood?
6. Are all of the Riverwood residents' meters providing correct data?
7. Are there any tie-ins or valving issues in Riverwood that we are unaware of?
8. Are there any non-Riverwood customers using Riverwood's water?

9. What roles does S/T play in helping to solve these issues?

All S/T reps participated in a lengthy, in-depth discussion in all of the above-mentioned issues and responded positively to the committee's request for additional information.

Maintenance Report:

A coupling failure for Irrigation Pump #1 was reported by S/T to Water/Utility Billing Committee.

Tim Morgan questioned the S/T reps regarding the coupling failure. What are S/T's plans to prevent future failures? Tim recommended a root cause failure analysis to be conducted and the results to be shared with the committee. Tim strongly disagreed with S/T's explanation of the cause of the failure.

Flush Valves:

A total of six flush valves are in Sawgrass, and four of the valves need to be relocated because of drainage issues.

Rich requested four individual quotes from S/T for each of the valve relocation projects.

See attachment for quotes from S/T.

Per Rich's request, S/T is to check whether the multiple white pipes are to be shortened or capped.

Irrigation Water:

The 2016 proposed rate changes are as follows:

The current irrigation base rate is \$5.00/mo., the proposed rate will increase to \$10.00/mo.

The current irrigation usage rate schedule is:

0 gals – 15,000 gals - \$1.20/Tgals

15,001 or greater - \$2.40/Tgals

The proposed irrigation usage rate schedule is:

0 gals – 30,000 gals - \$0.80/Tgals

30,001 gals or greater - \$1.20/Tgals

The current potable water base rate is \$15.35/mo., the proposed rate will increase to \$17.35/mo.

The current 2015 potable water usage rate schedule is:

0 gals – 6,000 gals - \$3.80/Tgals

6,000 gals – 11,000 gals - \$4.03/Tgals

11,000 gals or greater - \$4.73/Tgals

The proposed 2016 potable water usage rate is:

0 gals – 6,000 gals - \$4.00/Tgals

6,000 gals – 11,000 gals - \$4.23/Tgals

11,000 gals or greater - \$4.93/Tgals

The total cost of the irrigation project exceeded the project's estimated cost. The final cost was approximately \$900,000 dollars. The Water/Utilities Committee has a debt of \$423,000, to be paid to the RCDD Sewer Reserve fund in the next five years. A lengthy discussion was held about basic management skills and the accountability needed for future projects, with many learning points acknowledged. The committee also discussed how to correct and how to adjust the rates to resolve this costly over-budget issue.

One goal of the Water/Utility Billing Committee is to provide an in-depth, long-range plan by utilizing past and present data to establish appropriate rates for a cost-effective irrigation system.

Rich Knaub will create two sub-committees to investigate high priority irrigation issues. The sub-committees will report to the committee members on a monthly basis as their assignments progress.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Tim Morgan

