

# **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION - OROVILLE REGION**

(Held at the Commission office on July 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.)

## **1. Call to Order ❖**

Chairwoman Mastelotto called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## **2. Roll Call ❖**

Commissioners present were Commissioners Mastelotto from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Reynolds and Thomson from the City of Oroville, Wristen from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi. Commissioner Taggart and Attorney Scott Huber attended via Zoom. Commissioner Salvucci was absent.

## **3. Salute to the Flag ❖**

Chairman Mastelotto led the Commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

## **4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖**

None

## **5. Acknowledgment and Welcome of New Commissioners ❖**

Chairwoman Mastelotto welcomed new commissioner Taggart, representing T.W.S.D., to the SC-OR board, and reported that the new representative for LOAPUD, Rich Salvucci, was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but will be here next month.

## **6. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 28, 2022 ❖**

Upon motion by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Wristen, the minutes of the June 28, 2022 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

## **7. Employee Safety Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2022 ❖**

Upon motion by Commissioner Wristen to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds, the minutes of the July 22, 2022 employee safety meeting were unanimously approved.

## **8. Authorization of Warrants ❖**

Commissioner Thomson met with Manager Sturdevant and reviewed the warrants, and having found everything to be in order made a motion for their approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Warrants 27563-27618 in the total amount of \$3,686,446.94 from June 29 to July 26, 2022, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers, were unanimously approved and ordered paid.

## **9. Fiscal Reports ❖**

Manager Sturdevant reported that fiscal reports for June 2022 were in the packets for review. There were no questions and nothing further to report.

## **10. Corrected CalPERS contribution of the Unfunded Accrued Liability ❖**

Fiscal Officer Sturdevant reported that the amount presented at last months meeting for the total of the Unfunded Accrued Liability was incorrect, so we are bringing this item with the correct total back for authorization to pay. If we pay it as a lump sum for the fiscal year it will cost \$204,573.00, which will save SC-OR \$7,038.96, rather than as a monthly payment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to authorize the manager to pay the correct amount of CalPERS annual unfunded accrued liability in the sum of \$204,573.00. The motion was seconded by Chairwoman Mastelotto, and passed by the following vote: Wristen – Yes, Mastelotto – Yes, Reynolds – Yes.

## **11. Closed Session ❖**

Adjourned to closed session at 5:06 pm and reconvened to open session at 5:27 pm. Attorney Huber reported that there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

## **12. Attorney's Report ❖**

Reported under closed session.

## **13. Manager's Report ❖**

Manager Sturdevant reported that on June 28<sup>th</sup> we received a letter from our supplier of Sulfur Dioxide gas (SO<sub>2</sub>), which we use to remove the chlorine from the water after we disinfect it, stating they would no longer be manufacturing SO<sub>2</sub>. Part of our permit is we have to prove that we have disinfected our water and SO<sub>2</sub> is what we use to remove the chlorine from the water after disinfection. We cannot let chlorine go into the Feather River. Our options were to find another SO<sub>2</sub> supplier or switch to a liquid dichlorination solution, which would be to use Sodium Bisulfite. Sodium Bisulfite costs more, we would use a lot more of it, and we don't have the equipment to use it. Our best solution was to try to find someone else to purchase SO<sub>2</sub> from. There is only one other supplier west of the Rockies, which is JCI Jones Chemicals out of Torrance, CA. They will not deliver to Northern California because they were sued for a monopoly in the 1990's. They said they will sell

it to us, but we have to provide our own truck to transfer the chemical. We contacted some trucking companies, and we are going to make that happen. We ordered 6 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> gas, and it should be arriving in the next 10 days, which should last us around 3 months.

With the upcoming plant upgrade, for which we will be applying for funding in the near future, the plans have a liquid chlorine setup to handle process control in the plant. Much of that equipment is exactly the same equipment that a Sodium Bisulfite system would require. We think the next option might be to purchase that equipment now and repurpose it during the upgrade. Manager Sturdevant would like direction on whether the board would like staff to proceed with getting costs to do this. He stated that we would not fully switch over to a liquid setup, but would build a system to use Sodium Bisulfite, test it out, and continue buying and using SO<sub>2</sub>, as it is a lot cheaper and easier to use. He is concerned that the supply chain for the SO<sub>2</sub> may end because the regulations are getting more stringent, and California is pushing to get rid of the manufacturing of Chlorine and SO<sub>2</sub>. Commissioner Taggart asked if the 6 tons we are getting is as much as we can handle, to which Manager Sturdevant and Plant Supervisor Salsi affirmed. Commissioner Thomson asked if we were looking into ultra violet disinfection (UV). Manager Sturdevant confirmed that during the upgrade we will be switching to UV disinfection. That is why he would like to repurpose as much equipment as possible to use once the upgrade begins. UV does not have anything to dechlorinate, but we have to bridge at least a 5-year gap until the construction on the upgrade is completed. It was the consensus of the board for staff to get costs to purchase and setup a system to use Sodium Bisulfite, and bring it back for consideration.

Manager Sturdevant reported that he and Supervisor Salsi met with attorney Huber regarding the Ruddy Creek property SC-OR is trying to purchase, and Attorney Huber had some questions that we will need to get with Chairwoman Mastelotto to get answers. This is moving forward slowly, as is the east interceptor project. Staff doesn't want to get in over our heads with too many different projects going on at one time.

**15. Visitor Comments ❖**

None

**16. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖**

None

**15. Adjournment ❖**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for August 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK