

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

(Held at the Commission office on April 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.)

## **1. Call to Order ❖**

Chairman Pittman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **2. Roll Call ❖**

Commissioners present were Fairbanks and Kiely from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman and C. Reynolds from the City of Oroville, and Taggart from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Commissioner E. Reynolds was absent.

Staff present was Manager Scott Koch and Attorney Vance.

## **3. Salute to the Flag ❖**

Attorney Vance led Commissioners, staff and guests in the salute to the flag.

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

The Commission acknowledged the following visitors: Scott McCutcheon from LOAPUD, Jeremy Swarte & Wendy Bailey from FEMA, Ricky Patterson & James Ariail for Cal OES, and Casey Hatcher from Butte County.

## **5. Sewer Connections for FEMA Manufactured Housing Units (MHU's) at Rosewood and Orchard Crest Subdivisions ❖**

Jeremy Swarte, Logistics Section Chief for FEMA, spoke regarding fees and permit requirements for Rosewood and Orchard Crest Subdivisions. They did not realize there would be significant fees for sewer for these subdivisions, and would like to have the fees reduced and temporary licenses issued so that the projects can move forward allowing displaced Camp Fire victims to occupy the MHU's. FEMA stressed the sites are not permanent and that the project is intended to be temporary and last only up to 18 months with a possibility of extension to 24 months. After that, the MHU's will be removed and the site returned to the same or better condition as was found. James Ariail from Cal OES thanked the Commission for consideration in their request. Casey Hatcher spoke and said that the County is not charging impact fees because they don't apply to temporary uses. The County supports any creative solutions or applications to view the sites as temporary use.

Commissioner Kiely expressed concern for SC-OR's ability to handle the added capacity created by the projects, and suggested that the fees charged would assist SC-OR in obtaining a new pump station, which would allow SC-OR to handle the increased flows into the system. Concern was also expressed that if SC-OR's available EDU's are being used by temporary projects, those EDU's would not be available for

long-term projects, which would have a negative impact on the area, as it would not allow for growth. Commissioner Kiely said we are looking into putting in a new pump station this summer at a cost of \$4.5M. He believes that by reducing our connection fees by 50% for the next two years we could spur developers to build housing for single family units, which would pay for our pump station.

Manager Koch stated that SC-OR does not have policies or resolutions for temporary connections. He said while SC-OR recognizes the need for the policy, he and Attorney Vance would need direction from the board if they determine a policy is needed. Chairman Pittman said our consideration should be charges based on flows. He said the question is do we charge impact fees. He asked if the technology exists to put a flow meter in these subdivisions. Manager Koch said it does and it would be simple. After a comparison of the per EDU charge to the connection fees, it was determined that it may be more cost effective to pay the connection fees.

Manager Koch said that Cal OES has a grant program that came up because of these emergencies. We filed a notice of intent to build a new pump station and our project was accepted; however, an answer as to whether or not the grant will be awarded has not been received, and there is no way to know when or if it will be granted. The issue here is the temporary housing and connections; how do we want to deal with it and move forward. Commissioner Reynolds said that whatever reduced fees are agreed upon, if an extension is filed then those fees should increase.

Manager Koch said our issue is that we are at capacity. SC-OR can handle 180 units, but if we keep adding temporary units this facility will be out of capacity and we will not be able to accommodate growth. He said the impacts to our plant are already severe. Manager Koch asked Jeremy from FEMA if we went to a flow-based charge, is it possible to get a flow meter placed in the Rosewood Development? Jeremy could not answer that but did not see why not.

Commissioner Reynolds requested to be provided with the options available to SC-OR that would benefit FEMA, and what the cost to SC-OR would be. Manager Koch was directed to put together a memorandum that included options for the board to consider and have that memorandum available for a special meeting to be held next Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm. Manager Koch assured FEMA that SC-OR was not shutting down the project, and stated that he is confident the issues can be worked out.

## **6. Adjournment ❖**

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. to the special meeting scheduled for May 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



SCOTT J. KOCH, CLERK