

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

(Held at the Commission office on December 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.)

1. Call to Order ❖

Chairman Pittman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call ❖

Commissioners present were Commissioners Mastelotto and Salvucci from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman from the City of Oroville, Koch and Clark from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Salsi; and attorney Ryan Jones. Commissioner Thomson arrived late at 11:13.

3. Salute to the Flag ❖

Commissioner Koch led the commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖

None

5. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 20, 2024 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Koch to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Salvucci, the minutes of the November 20, 2024 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

6. Authorization of Warrants ❖

Commissioner Clark met with Manager Sturdevant and reviewed the warrants earlier, and having found everything to be in order made a motion for their approval. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Mastelotto. Warrants 30095-30139 in the total amount of \$523,827.49, including employee paychecks, commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers, were unanimously approved and ordered paid.

7. Fiscal Reports ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated the November fiscal reports were included in the packets. There were no questions asked and nothing further to report.

8. After-Hours Standby Policy (Supervisors) No. 2712 ❖

Manager Sturdevant said that upon the request by the Commission to review the on-call policies and to bring back to a future meeting with recommendations, he is bringing the After-Hours Standby Policy (Supervisors), No. 2712 for consideration. He is recommending the same that was given to the operators in the last meeting of one hour of straight time per day on-call. This would add approximately \$20,000 per year to our payroll budget. They currently receive one week of administrative leave for being on-call, which would be eliminated, although he would like to continue to offer that to Plant Supervisor Salsi in lieu of the compensated overtime he receives for the overtime he works by coming to the board meetings. We can make coming to the meetings a requirement in his job description, as it is not currently a requirement, and in return he will receive one week of administrative leave.

Commissioner Koch felt that giving Mikah compensated time off is sufficient for coming to meetings, as he can accrue the compensated time off to use as paid time off.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salvucci to adopt the amended After-Hours Standby Policy (Supervisors) No. 2712. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mastelotto, and passed by the following vote: Mastelotto – Yes, Pittman – Yes, Koch – Yes.

9. Resolution 09-24 – A Resolution Maintaining Healthcare Benefits and Establishing Additional Funding to the Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement ❖

Commissioner Koch recused himself from this item, as he is covered under the SC-OR insurance benefits.

Manager Sturdevant said the City of Oroville changed their insurance policy and we are no longer able to piggyback with them for health insurance. We have not been able to find a gap health insurance policy similar that we had with the City. We determined a good replacement for that would be to add \$1,500 per employee to their Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement accounts per calendar year. There will be a \$3,249 increase if all of the HRA monies were to be used by each employee. The caveat is that most employees do not use all or much of their allotted monies. He believes it will actually save SC-OR money.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salvucci to authorize increasing the HRA by an additional \$1,500 per employee per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed by the following vote: Mastelotto – Yes, Pittman – Yes, Clark – Yes.

10. Resolution 11-24 – A Resolution to Accept Certain Wastewater from Out-of-Service-Area Septage Pumpers, and Revised Policy 3205 (Septage Dumper Requirements) ♦

Manager Sturdevant introduced this item by stating that Neal Road's septage facility has been out-of-service. We do not know if it is back in service. A resolution was adopted in the past that states we can accept out-of-area gray water from fire camps or during other emergency situations. This might be an opportunity for SC-OR to help the community if there is no place for septage pumpers to dump their trucks, and if people are unable to get their septic tanks pumped due to no place to take the septage. We are asking for permission to give the manager's the discretion to accept outside septage during certain events that may cause public health issues. If we are to take outside septage, the pumpers will have to follow the same SOP protocols that our current pumpers have to follow, and will have to fill out an application, have appropriate insurance, etc.

Along a similar line, there is an opportunity for SC-OR to make some revenue from Paradise's septage facility because they just had a change in their plans to bring their wastewater to Chico. Neal Road would like to get out of the septage business, so SC-OR could offer dumping services to Paradise and have another revenue stream. This is something for future consideration, but he wanted to bring it to their attention.

Commissioner Koch said that the reason SC-OR accepts septage from the greater Oroville Area is that when the founding fathers put SC-OR together they realized that not everyone was sewerred, so they made a provision for septic tanks to be pumped and the septage brought here. The way he looks at Paradise bringing septage here is that if they can remove the rocks, gravel and rags, then SC-OR is just treating liquid, and that is easy. They will have to install a screening system to remove those before we would allow them to bring it to our plant.

Commissioner Thomson asked if there was an estimate of how much water Paradise would need to bring to SC-OR. Manager Sturdevant said he had no idea. Commissioner Thomson said maybe he could find something out and bring back update an in six months.

Commissioner Mastelotto asked if Manager Sturdevant had the authorization to make a commonsense decision prior to a board meeting, and just reach out to the Chairman to get an okay? Manager Sturdevant said he did not, which is why he is bringing this resolution for consideration. He said if needed he would have called a special meeting, but this resolution would eliminate that need in the future. Commissioner Koch said that Manager Sturdevant knows the plant and would not allow something that could harm the plant to be brought in. SC-or has had issues where school septage systems have failed, and we could not allow kids to walk through septage, so we allowed their septage to be brought into the plant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salvucci to adopt Resolution 11-24 – A Resolution to Accept Certain Wastewater from Out-of-Service-Area Septage Pumpers, and Revised Policy 3205 (Septage Dumper Requirements) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed by the following vote: Mastelotto – Yes, Pittman – Yes, Koch – Yes.

11. Attorney's Report ❖

Attorney Ryan Jones stated that he had reviewed the resolution and policies that were just past and they looked good. He said he and staff coordinate before the meeting and he provides edits as necessary.

The update on the litigation is that a judge has been assigned; he is Judge Benson from Butte County Superior Court. The Colantuono firm feels good about that litigation. They did add a new attorney to help on this case, as another of the attorneys that was working on it moved out of the country. Next month we will have a closed session to update the board on the progress of the litigation.

13. Manager's Report ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported on the latest storm event stating we took in 22M gallons in one day. The reason that the flows report shows red for the City and LOAPUD is because we had a 12' X 2" diameter root ball that came down the LOAPUD line and got lodged in the Parshall flume and backed it up. The City does not have a flow meter, so we take the total flows and subtract TWSD's and LOAPUD's flows to get the City's total. Obviously, with an inaccurate number from LOAPUD, we could not get an accurate number for the City.

City of Oroville: Manager Sturdevant and Plant Supervisor Salsi attending a Bluebeam software demo at the City. Bluebeam is an Adobe program that is used to upload development plans that each entity who are linked to the software can make comments during the planning stages on developments, and stamp them as approved by their agency. He asked the City to be included in this process so that we can see the development that is coming into the City and be certain we get the necessary studies done and proper fees paid to us.

He and Mikah attended the LAFCO meeting, and assured them that with access to this Bluebeam software and the City's developments, we can close the deficiencies that exist between our agencies. Steve Lucas of LAFCO said he has never seen the cooperation as good between the JPA members in all of his time at LAFCO than he sees it now.

TWSD: During the first part of the storm one of our operators noticed that we got real muddy influent. We sent emails to the other three entity crews to search for where this mud was coming into the system. Within a half hour TWSD had found it and got it closed. A developer had opened a manhole to drain their property.

14. Visitor Comments ❖

None

15. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖

All commissioners wished one another a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Mastelotto said she noticed that the City was cleaning out the drains in front of City Hall which was a good thing. Chairman Pittman said that the Feather River Recovery Alliance Group and Seduko have gotten the Army Corps of Engineers to commit to doing a full inspection of the levee in Oroville. This is a big deal. We're hoping that if they find anything we will be in consideration for a grant to do repairs

Manager Sturdevant mentioned that this coming Thursday we will open the bids submitted for the Upgrade Project, Phase 1. There is potential for a special meeting once those have been opened. The Commission will need to consider the bid alternatives, how much money we are comfortable spending, etc.

Commissioner Salvucci asked for an update on Ruddy Creek. Manager Sturdevant said it is at 60% of design, so it is moving forward.

16. Adjournment ❖

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 5:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK