

CSA7 Customer Advisory Committee
Dec. 12, 2020 – 45th meeting

By videoconference

Meeting called to order at 11:05 AM

Attendees: Chris Hunter, Cyrus Yocum, Dante Razzini, Eric Black, Fred Deubert, Heather McAvoy, Joanne Lehner, Lena Silberman at 11:06, Patricia O'Neal, Terry Adams at 11:08.

1) September quarterly meeting minutes

Heather moved to accept the minutes with the correction of a typo. Seconded by Joanne. All approved.

2) August/September/October budgets, first quarter capital improvement expense report, county funded capital expense report

The Board of Supervisors approved the new agreement with Bracewell on October 20, for the term of October 20, 2020 through October 19, 2023. The total cost will be \$850,000 (which includes CSA11).

Budgets were reviewed and it was noted that already after one quarter we have spent 73% of our yearly budget for public works engineering services. The budget for water system maintenance from last year to this year was increased by approximately 3%.

The capital reserve fund was charged for the purchase of a replacement pH probe for the chlorine analyzer and a flush line Y strainer hose bibb.

The county funded expense report was reviewed. It was noted that the County submitted an application to CalOES for \$140,000 through the Community Power Resiliency Allocation to Special Districts to help fund the installation of a permanent emergency generator at the CSA7 treatment plant in October 2020. The generator is already part of the Treatment Plant Improvements (Priority 2 Project) currently in design and this funding would preserve the County funding for other improvements if approved. CalOES anticipates notices of application approval to be provided sometime in December 2020. The committee extends its thanks to Mark for his ongoing efforts for us. There was some expression of surprise and dismay at the high cost of something as small as a backup generator, as well as the high cost of all of the various improvement projects. General discussion of this.

3) Capital Improvements, improvement schedule, compliance

Question whether we might get reimbursed or have some consideration for fees charged in finding a second drilling site for the secondary water source. Given the fact that the consultant

charged with finding a drilling site for the second water source failed to account for septic fields in his initial survey, which seems like a basic requirement in any water source drilling survey, might we not get the work of finding an alternative at a lower or no cost? Patricia will ask Mark about this.

Extensive expression of concern about the future cost of water to the 67 customers of CSA7, given the costs of upgrading and maintaining the new system. Consideration of any alternatives, including trying to incorporate and run it ourselves, etc. No alternatives seem realistic. There is some hope that we could apply for an infrastructure upgrade grant if the Federal Government ever passes an infrastructure funding plan. Discussion of what happens if over 50% of the customers reject proposed rate increases. The answer to this is unclear to any of the participants. Perhaps the PUC takes over and imposes the rates?

Reviewed the project scheduling and prioritization document. Noted progress on plant upgrade and design of the distribution system.

Noted that we have attained compliance with TTHM requirements.

4) Rate increase

Chris Hunter announced that Mark has sent the proposed rate increase schedules. Meeting participants opened and reviewed these spreadsheets. Noted that allowances have been included for paying off our \$40,000 loan and funding a \$30,000 contingency fund. After extensive discussion of the different options, Cyrus proposed adopting option 3, Eric seconded. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The committee explored the option of billing customers monthly rather than quarterly as being less onerous to customers. This should not involve more frequent meter readings, only the clerical task of dividing the quarterly charge by 3. Concern about the cost of clerical time and increased mailing. Patricia will ask Mark Chow about this.

Chris Hunter left at 12:17 pm

5) Water audit

No new information

6) Website

No new information

7) Meter mapping

David Bevin has concerns about riding with the meter reader during the pandemic. This would likely not be allowed in any case due to liability issues; he may have to use his own car.

8) Annual election of officers.

Heather moved that Patricia O'Neal continue as Chairperson, Joanne seconded, all in favor

Patricia moved that Heather continue as Vice Chairperson, Joanne seconded, all in favor

Patricia moved that Cyrus continue as Secretary, Joanne seconded, all in favor

Patricia moved that Joanne be back up Secretary, Heather seconded, all in favor

9) Public comment

None

Terry moved that we adjourn, Eric seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm

Minutes by Cyrus Yocum, Secretary