

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPRINGVILLE CITY WATER BOARD**

2
3 Tuesday, January 13, 2015
4 6:30 a.m.
5 110 South Main Street
6 Springville, Utah 84663
7



8
9 **ATTENDANCE**

10
11 Councilmember
12 Richard Child

Secretary
Marcie Clark

13
14 Board Members
15 Alton Beck
16 Nile Hatch
17 Calvin Crandall
18 Rollin Hotchkiss
19 Rod Andrew
20 Bernell Hutchings - excused
21

City Staff
Brad Stapley – Public Works Director
Shawn Barker – Water Superintendent

22 The minutes from the December 9, 2014 meetings were reviewed. Mr. Beck made the motion to approve the
23 minutes. Mr. Andrew seconded. All were in favor.

24
25 Mr. Stapley distributed a spreadsheet that showed a few typical Plat “A” irrigation user information, including
26 acreage, minutes of water, cost, proposed cost, and 2014 water bill information. Ms. Clark collected water bill
27 information on all 144 Plat “A” users, as well as some similar sized lots in Plat “A” that don’t receive irrigation
28 water.

29
30 The meeting scheduled for Thursday night is simply to let the residents see the difference between their bills and
31 water usage and those that don’t receive irrigation water. Each person that comes will receive a note that tells him
32 what he is currently paying for Plat “A” water for a season and the number of the actual cost of water.
33

34 Mr. Hotchkiss suggested we remove the word “new” on the spreadsheet where it says new billing, because that
35 implies we are proposing that amount. Change it to “billing based on total cost”. He gave some suggestions on how
36 to show the spreadsheet in the meeting, so the residents don’t get overwhelmed by the data.
37

38 Mr. Stapley received a phone call from one Plat “A” user, who is pretty prominent in the community. He is very
39 much against getting rid of irrigation water. He indicated that back in the olden days the residents had to give their
40 water shares to the City. Mr. Stapley had Brian Andrew from Hansen, Allen, and Luce research the issue. Mr.
41 Andrew found that the actual right is for 8 cfs; it was given to the City, priority date of 1851. There were never
42 shares sold; it was always a water right. It shows a diversion point in the water right. So, for the people who think
43 water was turned back to the City, there was never water to turn back in because it was always a City water right.
44

45 Cl. Child would like the users to realize how cheap they have been getting water. Be prepared to deal with people
46 that have chosen to live in Plat “A” because of the big gardens and an irrigated lot. Mr. Hotchkiss added that cities
47 have historic neighborhoods where zoning ordinances are different to retain a historical feel and flood irrigation is
48 going down in history and disappearing. It’s too bad we couldn’t have a demonstration plot to show youngsters and
49 future generations how it is done. Mr. Stapley knows there will be people there that cannot be convinced they don’t
50 have a right to the water.
51

52 Mr. Stapley indicated that the City Council raised the irrigation rates 20% in the past two years. But it wasn’t even
53 close to what it should have been.
54

55 Mr. Hotchkiss brought up the issue of liability. Mr. Hotchkiss asked if the City Attorney has been able to determine
56 how much the insurance rate would drop if the City took off irrigation liabilities. Mr. Stapley was not sure that

February 10, 2014
Approved

1 information has been found yet. Mr. Hotchkiss wondered if Mr. Stapley should present the issue of liability or
2 subsidy to the Plat "A" users. Mr. Stapley explained how the City has insurance and is covered under the Trust. Mr.
3 Barker is more concerned about safety liability over flooding a home or property. Mr. Crandall mentioned that the
4 liability will still be there. He doesn't believe the ditches will be filled in. And the crossings will still be there.
5 Insurance claims were discussed. We live in a different world today. Kids that used to fall in the ditch would get in
6 trouble by their parents. Today, the parents sue the city for having an open ditch where their kid "could have"
7 drowned. Mr. Andrew suggested gathering info on past claims - how much was spent on claims independent of
8 insurance claims.
9

10 Mr. Hotchkiss asked how the meeting on Thursday will be conducted. Mr. Stapley explained how every department
11 in the City is looking how to provide better service to the community as a whole and to decrease losses. We need to
12 look at how we are billing things and covering our cost. The City has already looked at facilities and functions, such
13 as the pool and library, and they are worth the money that is lost. Then he will explain how the number of Plat "A"
14 users has consistently decreased. Mr. Hotchkiss asked if we have the figures to support that statement. Mr. Crandall
15 talked about the cost of maintenance and labor has gone up over the years. Mr. Hatch suggested explaining how
16 costs will escalate when more users drop off. Mr. Hotchkiss suggested explaining the tiered water rate also. Mr.
17 Stapley mentioned he plans on explaining how the water shares will be used if Plat "A" irrigation goes away.
18

19 Mr. Hotchkiss described how the Canyon Water User's meeting went a few years ago - we had an agenda, but it
20 drifted quickly. Mr. Stapley stated he thinks the meeting will go in the direction the residents want it to go.
21

22 Mr. Stapley stated that we need to move quickly on this issue because the irrigation bills need to go out in the next
23 month. We can increase the rates another 20% with the budget process.
24

25 Cl. Child stated we should include other people in this meeting that are not getting irrigation. Mr. Hatch asked if any
26 council members live in Plat "A". Mr. Stapley answered no, but some have relatives that do. Mr. Hatch explained
27 the effectiveness of having a representation at meetings like this.
28

29 Mr. Hotchkiss reviewed the options the Board came up with last time:

- 30 • Raise rates
- 31 • Abandon the system
- 32 • Do nothing
- 33 • Put in PI in the near future
- 34 • One time subsidy (one time buy out, then go to culinary water rates)
- 35 • Phase out over time
- 36 • Add more customers to make it economically feasible
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38 There was discussion on how a one-time subsidy would be handled and how the City may get past irrigation users
39 wondering why they don't get a subsidy. There may be users that have taken a year or more off from irrigation, then
40 get back on it. Or what would happen if it went from 144 users to 900 users. Mr. Stapley stated that there are 954
41 parcels in Plat "A", only 144 are using irrigation - 15%. There was a question as to whether or not the City has
42 enough water rights to increase the users. Mr. Crandall thought that most of the 8 cfs is being used, even though the
43 usage has decreased over the past 50 years.
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45 Mr. Hatch moved to adjourn. Mr. Beck seconded. All were in favor.
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47 **Adjourn** – This meeting adjourned at 7:30 a.m.
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