



City of LaVerkin

435 North Main St., LaVerkin Utah, 84745
(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104
www.laverkin.org

LAVERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 3:00 p.m.

435 North Main Street, LaVerkin, UT

Present: Kyle Gubler, Anna Andregg, John Valenti, Alan Olsen, Richard Hirschi, Derek Imlay, Kelly Wilson, Christy Ballard and Karl Wilson.

Richard Prince was excused.

I. Call to Order by Mayor Richard Hirschi at 3:02pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: June 26, 2019 minutes.

Motion was made by John Valenti to approve the June 26, 2019 minutes, second by Kelly Wilson. Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Hirschi-yes, Gubler-yes, Wilson-yes, Andregg-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports:

A. Water Contracts:

Kyle passed out a list of people that want to sell their shares and people that are currently past due on their assessment fees.

Kyle went over the procedure the City goes through when accounts are delinquent. There are two accounts that will lose their shares in November if the account is not paid.

Kelly asked if it would be advantageous for the City to purchase shares from people that want to sell.

Kyle replied the City basically owns all the water; shareholders have a water delivery contract. It is a little cheaper to have water shares than to rent water from the City.

All water share accounts must be current before they can be transferred to another person.

B. Financials:

Kyle passed out the irrigation and culinary water financials.

The irrigation will be out of the system on November 15th.

Kyle was hoping the culinary water revenue would have been higher this year. We are still within the budget, but because of the high water yield we had this past year the water usage has been down. However, if we don't get any rain that usage will go up.

The City is still on schedule with replacing all the culinary water meters to electronic read meters.

Anna would like to see the financial balance sheet in graph form at least once a year. It gives a clearer picture from beginning to end of each fiscal year.

Derek said he is in the process of creating a graph with that information.

Kyle reported the water rate increase went into effect last December. He thinks the revenue will be less than anticipated because of the high-water year last year. He did budget conservatively this fiscal year until we could see the numbers.

C. Culinary Water Management update

D. Irrigation Water Management update

Derek reported there have been minimal breaks so far this year and the water comes out November 15th. Most of the budget has been spent on maintenance parts for the filter station.

Mayor Hirschi asked if fixing the road settling on 200 North would come out of this budget.

Derek said it will probably be the drainage and street Funds that cover that repair.

Mayor Hirschi explained the location of the dip in the road. Ash Creek SSD will be repairing their line at the same location.

Derek said when 200 North was widened in 2006 the City had to do a lot of geogrid and rip rap because of the high-water table. The property owner to the north also over waters his field which doesn't help the situation.

There is a 40 x 37-foot area that will be replaced along with curb and gutter on the south side. They will also take some dirt and fill in the bottom of the field on the north side, so the water won't constantly be up against the road.

Staff will talk to the property owner again about the problems his over watering causes.

Derek is also considering installing a drop box there so the water can just go into the drainage system.

Allen Olsen arrived at 3:15pm

Anna mentioned over the summer her irrigation water pressure was 48 and her grandson on 160 West had 70. She wondered about the difference.

Kyle wanted to have this item on a future agenda. The Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) kept the water running through the power plant longer than normal. The City has no control over that, they are only required to give the City volume of water not certain pressure.

Staff spoke with Sunrise Engineering and for them to create a plan for the City it would cost approximately \$12,000.

This issue doesn't happen very often, but when it does it's unfair to the citizens.

When the District runs water into the power station the pressure coming into La Verkin is about 90 pounds and we need 110 pounds for citizens to use their sprinkling systems. Certain areas of town are affected more than others.

The money is not in the budget for the engineer, let alone what they recommend needs to be done, but when it's an issue, it's a big issue.

Derek said the Conservancy District is usually done running water into the power station in March but this year they ran it until the end of June.

Kyle continued; this is ultimately a City Council decision, but he would like input from the Water Board.

Derek explained Sunrise will need to look at the water pressure throughout the entire town. He would like to have the ability to run a pump full time to increase the water pressure for the areas of town with consistently low pressure.

The age of the irrigation system will also need to be considered when increasing the pressure.

John asked when the engineering of the system was last looked at.

Derek answered the Master Plan was done in 2009-2010.

Kyle reported the City was told then it was a substandard system.

There is nothing in the budget set aside for this so the money will need to come from other areas.

Kelly suggested looking for a grant, so the cost doesn't have to be passed on to the users.

Kyle asked the opinion of the Board members.

Anna was in favor of it.

She asked how the Conservancy District ended up with a contract that doesn't require a minimum amount of pressure.

Karl Wilson stated that is how it was written with the Canal Company.

Kyle explained it is a regional water delivery contract, not just with La Verkin City.

John asked if Hurricane City received help from the WCWCD when they installed their pump.

Kyle said he thought they did, but no, Hurricane installed the pumps.

He suggested asking the WCWCD if they would loan La Verkin the money at a low interest rate when the time comes.

Derek reported new developments must maintain 35psi for the secondary system. Sunset View Estates received an exception for irrigation water pressure because of the height of the development. The top road has 12psi and the next road has 25psi. The developer was willing to install a pump station, but the Engineer was concerned it would cause a vacuum on the existing system. The City Council approved the exception and the development has the lower pressure. This gives the properties some irrigation to keep the impact fees to the WCWCD down and helps with the soil issue in that area.

John pointed out the new developments, Sunset View Estates and Interstate Rocks Property, will bring additional revenue into the Water Fund.

Kyle mentioned all new developments will be required to put in a meter setter, so the City won't be responsible for it if the State requires us to start metering secondary water.

Anna asked how much additional revenue was generated per month from the last water rate increase.

Derek said the culinary water rate increase gave us an additional \$20,000 per month.

Kyle mentioned culinary water revenue cannot be used for the secondary water system.

Derek stated the irrigation paperwork he passed out has the secondary water usage highlighted in yellow. This does not include October or the two weeks in November.

E. Water Task Force meeting update-Kelly Wilson

Kelly reported the Water Task Force finally put a committee together to review SB52. The Committee has met one time and created a list of issues different communities have with metering secondary water systems.

That list was given to the Board members. The red lines are the changes La Verkin City is recommending.

Kelly went over those changes.

The projected population growth for Utah is that it will double by 2065. That is 6 million people. That is what is pushing this bill. They believe metering the water is a conservation method.

Kelly feels forcing people to put in meters is overboard. If a system needs to conserve water that should be up to the owner of the system to decide what needs to happen, not a State mandate.

Kyle reported staff estimated the cost of installing a city-wide metering system and they came up with approximately 3 million dollars. That doesn't include the maintenance of the system. There is more to it than just the initial cost.

Kelly continued going over the changes La Verkin would like to see.

There is currently not a meter with a warranty that can meter the water in the Virgin River.

The Weber Basin Water Company has been the model for this program. He has never understood how they could install this system and not increase the rates to the end user. He finally found out that they have taxed people to find new water sources and for them, this is a new water source from the conservation of saving water by metering.

We can't do that so the total cost will go to the end user.

Kyle reported the loan and grant paperwork states the meter must be warrantied to receive funding so La Verkin wouldn't be eligible for state money.

Alan said first, La Verkin has a usage chart, so we know what we are using. Second, building lots are smaller now so we will use less.

He drives around town and feels most people conserve water already. There are still several large fields around town but there are getting to be less of them.

Kyle stated the City is already metered when the water comes into the City.

Weber Water Basin takes water out of a reservoir and that is better water than Virgin River water.

Kelly said there is one more Committee meeting before they present the information to the Water Task Force. The Water Task Force will vote on it and then present their decision to the State Legislature for next year's consideration.

Kyle has sent this letter to them and will bring these issues up at the next Committee meeting.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

V. Board Member Concerns:

Anna asked if the City has supplies on hand for water maintenance.

Derek said the City does have industrial back-up motors, filters and pre-filter solenoids.

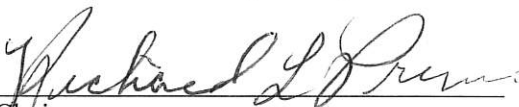
Kyle asked about the condition of the diversion dam.

Derek replied Interstate Rock has not had to do any dredging, which is the first time in several years.

VI. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Anna Andregg to adjourn, second by Kelly Wilson. Valenti-yes, Imlay-yes, Hirschi-yes, Andregg-yes, Olsen-yes, Wilson-yes, Gubler-yes. Motion carried at 3:54pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.


Chairman

