



City of La Verkin

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LA VERKIN CITY WATER BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

435 North Main Street, La Verkin, UT

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

I. Call to Order by Mayor Richard Hirschi at 3:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2019 minutes.

The motion was made by Kyle Gubler to approve the October 23, 2019 minutes, second by Anna Andregg. Olsen-yes, Imlay-yes, Valenti-yes, Hirschi-yes, Gubler-yes, Andregg-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Richard Prince arrived at 3:01 pm

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.

B. Financials:

Kyle passed out the irrigation and culinary water financials.

There is a revised budget of \$990,000. The City has already collected \$600,000 of that.

The expenditures show the actual budget and the revised budget. The actual budget is what the City has received, and the budget is what has been projected. The last column is the percentage that has been used. We are currently on budget. The year ends June 30, 2020.

The irrigation financials show a shortage under what has been collected, that is because the assessment goes out in March and is when most of the money is collected.

C. Culinary Water Management update

Derek passed out a copy of the 2019 Water Supply reporting requirements for the Division of Natural Resources.

The City had a 5.93% water slippage in 2019. Anything 10% and under is considered a healthy system. The City has had years where it was closer to 20% but Derek feels replacing the water meters and upgrading the system has helped.

This report has been submitted to the State.

D. Irrigation Water Management update

Derek passed out the Water Supply report for the secondary water system.

This report has a water use breakdown that shows the number of secondary water connections. It also lists the amount of water used each month.

This report has been submitted to the State.

The water will be in the system off and on beginning March 9th so the crew can fix any issues to be ready for March 15th.

Derek mentioned part of the state requirement was to determine a peak day demand. He went back to 2016 moving forward to pinpoint the exact day the City used the most amount of water for both water sources. It was a day in late July and the usage was almost 4 million gallons. These reports ended up costing the City a lot of money in engineering fees, but it must be done to prevent the City from getting points against the water system.

E. SB 51/Water Task Force meeting update

Kyle explained this bill is the same as SB52 from last year regarding metering secondary water. The Bill has passed the Senate and is with the House of Representatives, all indications say it's going to pass. The good news is La Verkin City is exempt because of water quality. Senator Andregg is the sponsor of the bill and was scheduled to attend the last Water Task Force meeting to explain the bill and never showed up.

The first amendment to the bill is the exemption based on availability of a warrantied water meter.

Kyle has asked why the determination was made by county class and not city classification. That question was never answered. This bill affects all 1st and 2nd class counties. Washington County is a 2nd class county-based largely on the population of St. George, Washington, and Santa Clara and not one of those communities has secondary systems.

It is just a matter of time before someone develops a meter they will warranty and when that happens La Verkin City will be required to meter irrigation water if this bill passes.

Currently, any new construction in La Verkin City is required to install a setter for a secondary water meter.

The estimated cost to install meters is 3-5 million dollars. The State is not providing any money, so we need to begin finding ways to pay for it.

Allen asked if citizens would have the ability to opt-out of using secondary water altogether.

Kyle answered that in the original bill it stated if secondary water was available it would be used regardless if culinary water was cheaper.

He did not know if you could terminate the irrigation line to your property and avoid the fee.

Kyle explained SB51 also requires a bill to go to the consumer once a month showing usage along with a separate mailing each month showing what the neighbors used. That is two mailings each month per household.

The City is going to have to pass the entire cost for this onto the citizens.

He has been in contact with our local representatives to let them know La Verkin City is opposed to this bill and they did vote against it.

The Water Task Force also opposed the bill.

Anna Andregg left the meeting at 3:27 pm

Alan Olsen mentioned the water is already metered; the proof is in the reports they require. La Verkin City residents cannot absorb this kind of cost.

Richard Prince asked if anyone else in the County was against the bill.

Kyle replied Hurricane has the same concern we do but St. George and Washington City all use culinary grade water. That is why he feels the decision should be based on the classification of cities, not counties.

There would still be reporting that will be required, even if we are not metering.

He hasn't heard what the penalty would be if you didn't participate in the program other than the City probably wouldn't get any grants or low-interest rate loans from the State.

IV. Public Concerns for Board Consideration:

No comments were made.

V. Board Member Concerns:

Kyle reported snowpack is 50% on Kolob from this time last year and the reservoirs are all full.

VI. Adjourn:

The motion was made by Derek Imlay to adjourn, second by Kyle Gubler. Valenti-yes, Imlay-yes, Hirschi-yes, Prince-yes, Olsen-yes, Wilson-yes, Gubler-yes. The motion carried at 3:43 pm.

Minutes were taken by Christy Ballard.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard M. Prince", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

