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MINUTES OF THE ASHLEY VALLEY SEWER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD May 14, 2024

# Regular Monthly Meeting

This regular scheduled meeting was held Tuesday May 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Ashley Valley Water Reclamation Facility. Board Members present were Chairman Richard Jolley, Randel Mills, Corey Foley, Max Haslem, Boyd Workman and Nolan Jackson. Employees in attendance were Dean Gibbs and Amiee Peterson.

Chairman, Richard Jolley, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

# Approval of April 9, 2024, Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Nolan Jackson makes the motion to approve the April 9, 2024, meeting minutes Boyd Workman seconded, and the motion passed with affirmative vote by Corey Foley, Randel Mills, Max Haslem, and Richard Jolley.

## Lift Station Project Update:

Dean Gibbs stated Bowen Collins & Associates had a site visit for the lift station project to acquire final measurements for piping and elevation grade on the property. Dean Gibbs stated Bowen Collins & Associates discussed installing a cement border with 6-foot chain link with privacy vinyl slates, upon approval from City of Naples. Bowen Collins & Associates discussed removal of roof and installing a new roof, new windows, new doors, removal of the concrete inlet channel and installation of pipe, installation of new cement in the grinder channel and possibility removal of the grinders. Dean Gibbs said he is hoping that final drawings will be available in June for approval and we can advertise a RFP in July.

## Manager's Report:

Facility Tour Updates:

Dean Gibbs stated the plant had two plant tours, the first tour was on May 2, 2024, for the Tri County Health Department and the second-was on May 14, 2024, for the Maeser Elementary 5th Grade classes. Dean Gibbs stated both tours went very well.

#### PEHP Health & Dental Insurance Renewal:

Dean Gibbs stated the Board received the PEHP Health and Dental Renewal rates. The Health Insurance rate increase was 5.1% and dental increase was 3%. Dean Gibbs stated one change in the current PEHP Plan is the deductible changed from \$3,000.00 to \$3,200.00 yearly, he stated the Board contributes the \$3,000,00 to each employees HSA Account yearly and would like the Board to consider changing the contribution for each employees HSA Account contribution to \$3,200.00 yearly.

Boyd Workman makes the motion to approve the PEHP Health and Dental renewal rates Nolan Jackson seconded, and the motion passed with affirmative vote by Randel Mills, Max Haslem, Corey Foley, and Richard Jolley.

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Corey Foley makes the motion to approve the contribution rate to \$3,200 for each employee to their HSA Account yearly Randel Mills seconded and the motion passed with affirmative roll call vote by Boyd Workman, Max Haslem, Nolan Jackson, and Richard Jolley.

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Capital Savings & User Rates:

Dean Gibbs reviewed the 5-year proposed rate plan for Residential, Commercial and Commercial Overage. Dean Gibbs explained the 5-year rate plan increase includes a 3.8% (\$0.56) increase for Residential, a 4.3% (\$0.84) increase for Commercial, and a 21.5% (\$0.35) increase for Commercial Overage starting in 2025. Dean Gibbs stated the annual increases for 2026 through 2029 would be for Residential \$0.36, Commercial \$0.48, and Commercial Overage will be \$0.35, \$0.34, \$0.06, & \$0.06. Dean Gibbs stated the increase to Commercial Overage will bring the charge up to the actual calculated expense to treat 1,000 gallons. Dean Gibbs reviewed the rates and any increases dating from 1999 to 2024. Dean Gibbs stated the rates in 1999 were prior to the plant being built and he explained that taking the 2001 rates with the cumulative inflation calculated the Residential/Multi-Unit rate would be \$19.87 and the current rate is \$14.74, the Commercial User Rate with inflation would be \$26.61 and current rate is \$19.56, and the Commercial Overage rate with inflation would be \$2.03 and current rate is \$1.63. Dean Gibbs explained the Board has been able to keep rates lower due to several major expense savings including the power savings project in 2013, the retirement of two senior pay scale employees and only replacing one of the employees, and the completion of the Plant Construction Bond Payments. Dean Gibbs stated revenue increases from both high growth rates from 2008-2014 and major collection system expansion by the entities have helped reduce rate increases over the past 20 years. Dean Gibbs stated the Joint Owned Sewer Collection System, Lift Station, and the Treatment Facility are all aging, and several large repair and replacement projects are scheduled in the next 10 years and the rate increases will help offset the increased O&M expenses along with being financially prepared for the major repair and replacement projects. Dean Gibbs stated the 5-year proposed rate could be approved with the ability to review it every year. Boyd Workman makes the motion to approve the 5-year proposed rate plan starting on January 1, 2025, with the ability to review the rate every year Corey Foley seconded, and the motion passed with affirmative roll call vote by Randel Mills, Nolan Jackson, Max Haslem, and Richard Jolley.

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Crack Seal Bid for Sludge Drying/Composting Pad:

Dean Gibbs stated he contacted Eckles Paving for a crack seal bid for the sludge drying/composting pad, Eckles Paving would not recommend crack sealing due to the excessive cost of the project, Eckles Paving suggested an overlay. Dean Gibbs recommends not proceeding with the project for now.

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Review Connections & Budget Report:

Dean Gibbs reviewed the updated Connections & Budget Report for 2024.

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Operations, Maintenance & Safety Update:

Dean Gibbs stated he would like to acquire a bid for an alternate Route to the Lagoons for Sludge Spreading, in the events of inclement weather the tractor spreads mud and debris on the roads coming into the treatment plant which creates a lot of man hours cleaning up the mud and debris.

Dean Gibbs stated the seal coating project will be finished the weekend of May 18-19, 2024, at the treatment plant. Dean Gibbs stated the operators will be renting a man lift for some projects around the plant.

**Approval of New Vendors:** 

Dean Gibbs stated one New Vendor for the Month of May, Home Turf Lawn Care Professionals. Corey Foley makes the Motion to approve the new vendor for the month of May, Home Turf Lawn Care Professionals, Nolan Jackson seconded, and the motion passed with affirmative vote by Randel Mills, Boyd Workman, Max Haslem, and Richard Jolley.

Approval of Bills:

Boyd Workman makes the motion to approve the monthly bills, Corey Foley seconded, and the motion passed with affirmative roll call vote by Nolan Jackson, Max Haslem, Randel Mills and Richard Jolley.

Adjourn Meeting:

Corey Foley makes the motion to adjourn, Randel Mills seconded, and the motion carried with an affirmative vote by Max Haslem, Nolan Jackson, Boyd Workman and Richard Jolley and the meeting adjourns at 6:02 pm.

Rankel Mills: Treasurer

Richard Jolley: Chairman

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Date Approved: June 11, 2024