

Minutes of the Water Committee Budget Review Meeting

Bountiful City Water Department
April 12, 2021 (4:00 p.m.)

Present:

Committee Members:	Richard Higginson (acting chair), Chris Simonsen, Kate Bradshaw
City Manager:	Gary Hill (attending via telephone)
Assistant City Manager:	Galen Rasmussen
Other City Department Staff:	Kraig Christensen, Gerald Wilson, Tracy Hatch, Lloyd Cheney, Todd Christensen
Excused:	Kendalyn Harris

Official Notice of this meeting had been given by posting a written notice of same and an agenda at the City Hall and providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County Clipper, Standard Examiner, and on the Utah Public Notice Website.

Committee member Richard Higginson as acting chair called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

Kraig Christensen, Water Department Director, presented an overview of the Water Department operations along with the Major Roles and Critical Functions of the department. A question was asked by a committee member regarding how chemical treatments of wells are handled for various purposes and answers were provided by staff. In follow-up to a question on the status of the operating permit for the Treatment Plant, it was noted that the Treatment Plant now has an active operating permit. Additional questions were asked regarding options presented in the past from a study to improve energy efficiencies in the pumps and other system components. Selected findings from the study were cited and actions taken thus far (or those planned) were outlined for the committee.

A question was asked about the possibility of removing fluoridation from the water system given public inquiries. It was noted that some groups are of the opinion that fluoride should be removed for health purposes while others disagree with this opinion. Kraig Christensen responded that there are inquiries from time-to-time from residents and department representatives address questions raised. An additional question was asked regarding the option of painting hydrants at the Veterans' Park in red, white and blue. Discussion ensued with no indications of issues with painting the hydrants.

Comments were made by the committee members in support of the quality of service and timely response of the Water Department. Kraig Christensen noted that the staff continues to support goals that are in place for maintaining the system components for an expected 40-year lifecycle.

Fiscal Year Priorities were reviewed including:

- A SCADA system upgrade is scheduled to be completed by June 2023. The current system is operated using Windows 7 which is no longer a supported platform.
- Plans for rehabilitation of the Calder Well. This project will include a rebuild of the pump and replacement of other key components. The well is approximately 440 feet in total depth with the pump installed at 280 feet which is similar in design to other well sites in the City.
- Continued training of staff for certifications and re-certifications. This training is delivered both in-person and via virtual delivery.

A question was asked by a committee member as to why creek water is not used to replenish the system. Kraig Christensen and Lloyd Cheney, City Engineer, noted that usage of creek water is governed by water rights of which the City does not have to every location.

Budget line items and notable variances were reviewed in the personnel, operations and maintenance and capital areas. Specific comments were made on plans for changes in radio equipment; replacement of SCADA equipment; and fluoride pumps. It was noted that an additional purchase of water may be needed during the year given a possible shortage of available water in the City to meet demands during a drought period.

Lloyd Cheney noted that a recent presentation he attended at Weber Basin Water noted that average water runoff will usually supply two year's needs. However, this year, due to soil conditions a substantial share of runoff will likely be absorbed into the soil. Based on runoff and soil consumption Weber Basin noted that secondary water will need to be shut off by October 1st instead of October 15th as usual. Given these conditions, and currently observed consumption patterns on City resources, there may be a need for City staff to monitor usage Citywide and implement conservation measures in the future. It was suggested by the committee that City meetings with residents be held as a possibility to educate on water usage and encourage conservation. Several areas above Bountiful Boulevard were identified as high utilization areas of concern.

Operating income areas of the budget were reviewed including expected changes in volumes of water to be sold based on new developments. A discussion was held on need for a future rate increase versus expected net income or loss. Lloyd Cheney mentioned that he has reviewed an updated financial and operational analysis that was performed by the Engineering Department for tracking system replacement needs and funding operations. A need for increase in rates is not needed in the near term but may be needed within two or three years.

A review of the long-term capital plan was also made and larger project plans for the current and future years were discussed.

With no further comments or questions being raised, Committee member Simonsen made a motion to accept the tentative budget of the Water fund, as presented, and Committee member Higginson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Higginson and Simonsen voting "aye".

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m. on a motion made by Committee member Higginson and seconded by Committee member Simonsen. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Higginson and Simonson voting "aye".