

PORT COSTA SANITARY COMMISSION

of the Crockett Community Services District

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairperson Surges. Present were Commissioners Cusack, List and Scheer, along with General Manager McDonald, Dept. Manager Barnhill and Asst. District Secretary Witschi. Also present were Directors Barassi and Kirker. Commissioner Klaiber arrived later.
2. AGENDA ORDER: There were no requests to hear agenda items out of order.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
4. PUBLIC HEARING: None
- 5.a. DISTRICT BOARD ACTIONS: Mr. McDonald reported on the actions taken by the District Board in July. The Board approved the purchase of Hossekus Chapel. He said the Board approved to collect the annual installment for sewer lateral repair work at 42 Canyon Lake, as agreed to by the Access and Repair Agreement with the property owner, on their next property tax roll. He said the Board wanted the picnic tables and barbeques at Alexander Park open for household living units, prohibition on large gatherings remain.
- 5.b. SELF-MONITORING REPORTS: Mr. Barnhill reported no exceedances in May or June.
- 6.a. FINANCIAL REPORT: The monthly statement of Department finances was examined by the Commission. No further report.
- 6.b. CAPITAL PROJECTS: Mr. Barnhill reported staff is seeking authorization to begin planning the previously budgeted Capital Projects for FY 2020/21. He said CCTV will be combined with smoke testing, depending on the location of the line and accessibility, to receive the most beneficial data. Mr. McDonald said the Board has already approved the Capital Projects for FY 2020/21 and this is just a formality that the Commission would authorize the planning of the items. Director Barassi asked how the budget is looking in terms of revenue since the hotel and restaurants are substantially closed. His specific concern is that it may not be prudent this year to authorize work such as CCTV and smoke testing which will open up additional work that needs to be done. He said he wants to keep costs in conformance with our anticipated financial situation. Mr. McDonald reported the County has granted an extension to special districts for filing assessments but at this moment there is no indication that sewer use charges due Port Costa will be delayed causing a cash shortage. The County has given no indication that they would hold off property tax assessment mailings. We have been guaranteed in the past that the County will allow Advance-on-Taxes to pay bills as the assessment amount is pending. The CCTV inspection is the largest capital expense but is the most critical and is a mandatory requirement by the state under our Sanitary Sewer Management Plan. We need to identify issues with the system in order to set future rates. He said we don't necessarily have to fix things immediately, but at least by next year we need to have a better understanding at our collection system. Commissioner Scheer said since the department was given direction by the Board to come up with a plan for inspection then it is needed in order to understand the system. Commissioners Scheer and Cusack

agree that they are for inspection. Commissioner List said the inspection is a good idea to see what exactly we have and what needs to be replaced. A motion to authorize previously identified and budgeted Capital Projects for FY 2020/21 carried unanimously (tc/tl).

7.a. REMOVAL OF SCUM LAYER: Mr. Barnhill reported that Valley Operators are monitoring the scum and sludge in the septic tank, it is 8-9 inches thick floating on the top. He said it is fats, oil and grease (FOG) and flushable wipes and it has to be removed. Mr. McDonald reached out to Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to see if they might be able to help but he has not heard back. Mr. Barnhill has reached out to three contractors and received one proposal for \$4,600. He asked Valley Operators to reach out to contractors as well. Commissioner List asked if the scum layer has only accumulated since it was cleaned out earlier this year. Mr. Barnhill said yes, it has accumulated since the full cleaning, it is about 6 months of accumulation. Commissioner List asked what requirements a contractor must meet to remove the scum. Mr. Barnhill said a licensed contractor is required and we need verification that the waste is accepted at a disposal facility and is disposed of properly. There is already a permit to dispose of the scum through the end of the year in Suisun which will save us money if we haul there. Valley Operators said the scum layer may have to be removed twice a year. Commissioner List asked if the material could be carried out through the main hatch. Mr. Barnhill said we could get the majority of it out of the main opening. He said we are seeing a large buildup of FOG and suspects it is most likely due to more people staying at home. He said that Valley Operators supported this thought and had informed Mr. Barnhill that they are seeing the same problem at other treatment plants. Mr. McDonald said that community outreach could be helpful. Commissioner Scheer said she has been approached by a resident publishing a community newspaper called "The Brick" and they want her to do an article about the sewer system. She could write an article and send to the Commission first to get comments and approval before sending it out. The Commission supported writing an article.

7.b. STATUS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS: Mr. Barnhill reported Bill's Underground CCTV'd the blockage on sewer segment P-03-12 to P-03-09 and found no obstruction. L.R. Paulsell installed a lighter weight, hinged, locking HDPE manhole cover at the influent sampling point. Commissioner List had mentioned the pipe condition in the wet well is poor, he had said rust has become an issue. He said when he worked on replacing water system pump #3 some of the pipes crumbled and we should consider using a plumber to replumb them. Mr. Barnhill said that the operators are responsible to identify issues, notify the sanitary department of the issues, contact services to receive proposals for approval, and to oversee projects.

7.c. CCTV INSPECTION AND SMOKE TESTING: Mr. Barnhill reported that some sewer lines in Port Costa that cannot be CCTV'd. Smoke testing would be ideal for the sewers under the Canyon Lake storm drain gutters. Mr. McDonald said the combo effort of CCTV and smoke is also done in Crockett. Staff is trying to find those line segments that we do not know anything about and would like to get it done before the wet season begins.

8.a. STAFF REPORT ON OPERATIONS: No further report. Mr. Barnhill thanked Commissioner List for taking care of the pump and providing assessment of the piping. He added that he is happy the new baffles are doing their job by containing the FOG in the first chamber of the septic tank.

8.b. STAFF REPORT ON GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS: None

8.c. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS: None

10. CONSENT CALENDAR: The consent item was approved unanimously (as/tc):

a. Approve Minutes of June 16, 2020.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:

Long-Range Planning Meeting.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioner List said that he was happy to be available and that the operators first call was to him and he was able to respond quickly. Mr. Barnhill said that the operators notified the sanitary department as well and said it is important that any information is reported to the sanitary department. Commissioner Klaiber joined in and asked about the status on a tap lateral connection at 23 South Street. Mr. Barnhill said he had already addressed that and will report on it at the next meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM until September 9, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Witschi

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September 4, 2020