

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD  
IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, OCTOBER 18,  
2011 AT 5:00 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Magidson, Commissioners Gingell, Patterson and Kennedy. City Manager Charlie Weston, Attorney Tom Gibson and City Clerk Jim Anderson were also present. Commissioner Buzzett was absent.

**Water:**

Mr. Weston indicated that we are trying hard to come up with a solution to our water quality issues. On August 6, 2010, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued the City a Consent Order on water. The City has started a Flushing Program, Mapping of our Distribution System and a Construction Plan for Phase I of the Infrastructure replacement. Anticipated cost of the Phase I project is \$2.3. The DEP has given the City 36 months to correct the problem.

Mr. Weston feels that we need to attack the water quality issue by: Infrastructure replacement, flushing & chemistry. We have approx. 24 miles of pipe that needs to be replaced at a total cost of approx. \$8M. We hope to break ground on phase I January of 2012.

**Flushing:**

Mr. Weston indicated that unidirectional flushing has been executed twice within the City Limits. We have had a high influx of complaints of water quality outside the City Limits. We also plan to replace approx. 500 Water Meters in the St Joe Beach and Beacon Hill areas by Thanksgiving.

**Chemistry:**

The general consensus is that the post precipitation of Iron & Manganese in the beaches area is due to low water flow. A 12" main needs to have 900 gallons of flow a minute. The average flow is probably a lot lower.

Independent sampling from the Chipola River throughout the Water Distribution System has been completed by the Water Spigot and no Iron Bacteria was found in the system.

The recommendation is to stay the course on the Infrastructure replacement, but we are not sure about the future of grants to fund the project. We plan to flush Oak Grove, White City and Highland View prior to November 21, 2011, the beaches by December 20, 2011 and complete the flushing program in January 2012. A lot is involved with the chemistry. The City is meeting the standards at the Surface Water Plant, but we are not meeting the standards of our customers.

Lynn Todd noted that the Surface Water Plant has no control over the quality of water once it hits the Water Distribution System. We can't treat every pipe. We have done everything we can.

Mayor Magidson asked, "What about the problem of precipitation?"

Lynn Todd responded, "The problem may or may not be biological."

Mayor Magidson noted that "Something is causing this stuff to form in the pipes. Let's go back to 2008, did we have this problem?"

Ms. Todd responded, "No, because we had scale forming water."

Mayor Magidson indicated that we didn't have a problem until the new Surface Water Plant came online and we switched from Ground Water to Surface Water.

Mayor Magidson asked, "Will the problem go away once the new pipes are in place?"

Ms. Todd noted that we will still have metal joints and pumps in the Water Distribution System. Low water flow could also still cause build-up.

Mayor Magidson asked, "Is the solution to flush every day?"

Ms. Todd responded, "It just depends on how bad it is."

Commissioner Kennedy asked, "When did we have our first flush?"

Mr. Grantland responded, "June 2010."

Commissioner Kennedy noted we had beautiful water after the first flush except for a few chronic areas. I don't know what has changed, but I had bad water over the weekend at my house. In my mind, after the Phase I Water Distribution System replacement, it will clear-up, but Long Avenue is a mess. I understand the Surface Water Plant is meeting its standard, but something has occurred and I don't have the answer."

Mr. Davis indicated that no question has been directed to him. "We had complaints after the last flushing of which no high pressure flushing was done. You can try and see, but I believe if we stop high pressure unidirectional flushing, it will just be a matter of time before the red water occurs."

Mayor Magidson asked, "Why are we not utilizing High Velocity Flushing?"

Mr. Grantland responded, "We did one in June."

Mayor Magidson responded, "Why are we not flushing when we get complaints? We need to do something different. People can't drink their water or wash their clothes. We have been working on this for two years and need to find a solution."

Mr. Weston noted that he has his doubts as to if the infrastructure replacement will correct the problem. CDM did give some options that range in cost from \$600K to \$3M. He would like an independent third party to review our options.

Mayor Magidson asked, "Why doesn't every City in the state have this problem?"

Mr. Davis indicated that Bay County has a good Unidirectional Flushing Program. John Pope from DEP has said he recommends a high speed flush as well.

Mayor Magidson noted that if flushing helps, we need to flush as much as possible.

Mr. Weston indicated that Commissioner Buzzett has suggested coming off the Corrosion Inhibitor.

Ms. Todd noted that the Corrosion Inhibitor is doing its job and coating the pipes.

Mayor Magidson indicated that we need to be creative. "I don't think the problem is at the Surface Water Plant. It seems the problem is the pipes."

Mr. Weston asked, "Can the problem be fixed with chemistry?"

Mr. Davis responded, "If you choose to stop using Corrosion Inhibitor, we will need to get permission from DEP and the water could get bad." He also noted that CDM is one of the top water companies in the world. We need for the water lines to scale over and flush the problematic areas.

Commissioner Kennedy noted that Glenn is absolutely correct, but we have areas that have not had problems.

Mr. Grantland indicated that typically we would try to tie the bad water to an event and he would call Mr. Davis to see if we had a problem. He does have the logs to review the complaints.

Mr. Weston noted that we need to take extraordinary measures to make sure the Water Distribution System is not upset. "We are trying to look at anything suspect, it's a complex issue."

Mayor Magidson asked, "What is the status of the pumps at the Chipola River?"

Mr. Weston responded, "The repairs are on hold at this time until we get through some of these other issues. We would like to invest in motors, the pumps are very expensive. One motor has already been pulled, but we would like to replace both of them. We don't want to have an issue of not being able to pump water."

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Do we have a back-up pump?"

Mr. Davis responded, "There are three total. We have one diesel operational and an electric back-up."

The workshop was adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2011.

  
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Mayor Magidson

  
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Jim Anderson, City Clerk